



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Strathclyde
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	2019 S2
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Accounting and Finance

### Academics/ course load

*Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?*

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>	<b>Otago credit value</b>
AG309 Governance and Accounting Ethics	English	ACCT300 level	18 points
AG310 Contemporary Management Accounting	English	ACCT307	18 points
AG312 Advanced Corporate Finance and Financial Markets	English	ACCT300 level	18 points
MS361 Understanding and Optimising Business Systems	English	Together with ACCT307	18 points with ACCT307

*Any comments about these papers?*

Papers were relatively interesting and I personally really enjoyed AG309 as it was the ethics course and the lecturer was really knowledgeable. The papers all worked in well together and it was good to learn for my two majors.

*How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?*

The workload was a lot less than Otago, this was because they only have classes once a week for most courses, the semester was only 10 weeks long and the last week was always a revision lecture. There are no midterms and each course had one essay and a final exam which were all relatively easy to study for. However, keep in mind a mark above 60% in the UK is considered good (like a B+ and above to them) and a pass mark is 40% so there was never any stress about passing. All classes were similar though as they had a lecture and tutorial for most classes like Otago.

## Accommodation

*What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?*

I stayed at Birkbeck Court which is on campus accommodation for students. I think it is 100% worth doing because there is no stress as you're guaranteed a spot if you're from Otago as long as you apply on time. It was the cheapest hall and rooms were small but it was fine just for the semester. Being so close to town and the uni was amazing. The people in my flat were all from different places and they all became some of my best friends on my exchange.

## Money matters

*Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance*

Accommodation was £1750 approx for the one semester. As I was already in Europe for a previous semester I can't really comment on how much my flights were but when I flew to Europe it was about \$900 one way. Insurance was from sta travel and for the whole year it was just over \$1,000. The UK is expensive in general and when I was there the nzd was really bad compared to the pound so be prepared for bad exchange rates making everything seem more expensive. They have Aldi which is the cheapest supermarket which I found shopping there saved a lot of money, normally I would spend £15-20 a week. If you stay at a hall contents insurance is included in the cost. You don't have to pay for a visa if you are going for less than 6 months as you get the visa stamped in your passport when you arrive. Also, Scottish university students get free healthcare and prescriptions and we come under that so that's a big plus as well! In the semester I also went to Ireland, Iceland, Germany and Luxembourg while travelling around Scotland and this could be done super cheap with the likes of Ryanair and Easyjet, the Edinburgh airport is also very close to Glasgow but make sure you sign up for the student discount! Everything in Scotland has student discount nearly so always be sure to ask :)

*What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)*

I signed up for Monzo and Transferwise banks and transferred my money over to pounds when the rate was good which I highly recommend doing as my bank at home ANZ charge 2.2% on every transaction which does add up.

## Visas & Insurance

*Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?*

As a NZ passport holder you can go to the UK for up to 6 months on a short term study visa so no need to apply for a visa.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

There was no mandatory insurance, only Otago's policy to have insurance.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

*What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?*

If you live at the halls you get a free Strathclyde Sport membership. This is amazing as the gym is only one year old and super modern. They have ESN as well however I never went to any of the events but heard they were fun! Also they have international student tours which were cheap and amazing to do and explore Scotland. I highly recommend doing the one to Isle of Skye (a must do!)

*What was the university/ city like?*

The university was really nice, the classes were easy to find and the students really nice to talk to and make friends in the courses. I loved Glasgow, it was so much fun with so many activities to do. Being only an hour by bus or train from Edinburgh it was prime to visit and having the City Centre and West End being very different but both beautiful I really enjoyed living here.

*Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?*

So many nice food places, Barsoba has 50% off food if you sign up for the student deal and the food was amazing! Paesano is a pizza place which I went to about once every two weeks! It was also super affordable! TGI Fridays was also a great restaurant. I also always went to this place called Deesserts where they sell every single type of dessert you could think of! Weatherspoons is a chain pub but is heaven as it is cheap and you're bound to make some memories here.

*Any tips for future students?*

Make sure you say yes to nearly everything you're invited too! Its' great to make friends and make deeper connections with people. Do all your university work in the weekdays and go to lectures, it's so much easier to have it all done so you can party and explore with your friends in the weekend.

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos! I*

had the best semester of my life, it made me change so much as a person. I felt like I made lifelong friends and I was so upset to be leaving. I now have best friends from 6 different countries that I will be able to go visit again soon. I learnt some new things in my classes and made sure to have all my work done for them which I think will really help me back at Otago. I had so much fun and even though I was at university it felt like a gap year!



Glasgow Christmas Market



Flat 6C



Isle of Arran



Above: Isle of Skye

Left: Buchanan Street (Main street of Glasgow)



Northern Lights in Iceland



Scottish Highlands



Edinburgh Arthurs Seat



Isle of Skye