



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Glasgow
Semester & Year of Exchange	Glasgow semester 1 2019
Otago degree(s)	LLB/Bcom
Major(s)	Law and Finance

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Roman Law of Property and Obligations	English	2 unspecified law papers	30
Psychology and Financial Markets	English	FINC Unspecified 300	18
Econometric Methods for Accounting & Finance	English	FINC 308 equivalent	18

Any comments about these papers?

The law paper was similar to Otago, in the way that it was a 100% end of semester exam but the law was a little different as Scots law is a mixed legal system containing both common law and civil law elements. This tripped me up a few times but other than that it was relatively easy.

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

Firstly the semester is set up a little differently, without a mid-semester break and a 3-4week break after study and before exams. Otherwise it was pretty similar teaching wise, with 2-3 hours of lectures a week + labs and tutorials for some of the papers. The workload was also quite similar. My finance classes were much smaller and lectures took place in tutorial (like) rooms as opposed to lecture theatres.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Murano, the biggest and most social hall of residence. I lived in a building with 3 floors, 12 people each floor and so we had a massive group of friends. Our building was all international exchange students so even though Murano is technically a first year hall, majority of the people I lived with were over 20 years old. Although the hall isn't the newest or nicest to choose from, it had everything I really needed. Because it is a first year (party) hall similar to Unicol there is quite a bit of noise at night and early in the morning, I personally didn't care but may be something to bear in mind.

Money matters

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

I paid for my hall as a lump sum at the beginning of the year and it was around \$4,000, which I would recommend doing if you can as it means you can budget for the rest of the trip. My flights cost around \$3,000 return but if you get onto it early you may find some good deals for around \$2,500. I spent around \$30-\$40 on food per week although expect to spend more if you are eating out. My insurance cost around \$500.

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

I would recommend Monzo and transfer wise

Visas & Insurance

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

I originally applied for my visa online however I canceled it as the process was going to take too long. If you want to be safe then I recommend you apply for your visa as early as possible, but otherwise you can just turn up at the UK border with all your documents e.g. Acceptance letter from Glasgow University, learning agreement, proof of accommodation and any other documents you think relevant (look at the check list on the UK immigration website)

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Many clubs and social activities were available to students and cost approximately \$40 to sign up for. I would recommend going to the one of the weekly club pub nights of the clubs you are interested in joining before signing up. Also go to the gym as it has a pool, work out rooms and free classes (you get a free membership if you are in a hall)

What was the university/ city like?

The West End where the University is located is very cool with lots of vintage shops, cafes and bars/restaurants. There are also two parks (Kelvingrove & the botanical gardens) and a couple of museums around the University area.

To get into the city you can either catch a bus or walk (Buchanan street & Sauchiehall street are where all the shops and clubs are)
Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

Go to all the touristy type places like the Glasgow cathedral, the necropolis, see the highland cows, go to the various museums, do a whiskey tour, do a day trip to Loch Lomond, Stirling and Edinburgh. Also enjoy the night life!

(Also I would recommend getting your coffee from the Gardner on Ashton lane for a quid.)
Any tips for future students?

Bring a raincoat and a good attitude

Overall Experience

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

I loved Glasgow, much more than I thought I would, as it is a vibrant city and a good base for exploring the UK and Europe. I met so many fun and like minded people from all over the world, many of whom will be friends for life. Although the weather is shit (I'm not going to beat around the bush) the excitement of being in a city on the other side of the world tends to make even the gloomiest day a little sunnier. I went on many adventures around Scotland, I tried Haggis, visited Castles and went for hikes in the Highlands.

Glasgow used to be quite a hard and industrial city but it has since developed a more artistic culture, with great music, pubs/clubs, museums and art nouveau architecture. There is always something on, be it gigs at the famous King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Drag Queen Bingo, or a traditional Scottish cèilidh. Glasgow is also less touristy than Edinburgh and feels much more like a city.

Another plus is that the main University building looks like Hogwarts... :)

