

**Strathclyde University**  
**Semester Two – 2016**  
**Commerce – Accounting and Finance**

Going into this exchange in Scotland I really didn't know what to expect. I was extremely excited but also so nervous about what it would be like. But I can positively say that the whole experience was the best time of my life.



From this experience, I have made so many amazing friends from across the world and have seen so many amazing things that I never would have expected to at the age of 19.

With the difference in semester dates between NZ and Scotland, I was able to leave New Zealand two months earlier before I was set to start the semester abroad. This allowed me to backpack Europe for 2 months before finally making my way over to Glasgow – Scotland. Throughout the entire experience I was able to travel to and explore 16 different countries.

The hardest part about the exchange was definitely leaving, and having to say goodbye to my friends who had basically become my family over there. However we all continue to remain in contact and are already planning trips to visit each other in the near future.

So here's just a brief breakdown of the incredible experience.

**Accommodation:**



The accommodation that I stayed in was in the University Residences. I managed to secure a place in the Birkbeck Court. These residences comprise of many individual apartment styled houses. I was surprised at how amazingly clean and modern these apartments were.

In my flat there were 5 other female exchange students; 2 from America, 1 from Germany, 1 from Norway, and 1 from China. We all instantly got along so well, probably because we were all quite far from home in an unfamiliar city.

The Location of the accommodation was absolutely amazing. All of my lectures were max. 5 minutes walk, and the supermarket and city centre were only a 15-minute walk away too.

### **Course Load:**

Within the first few days of arriving at Strathclyde University, we were required to attend a sort of 'academic meeting', which was for all of the exchange students. They basically told us what to expect and what they expect of us. The staff were all very encouraging in regards to making the most of the experience by going out and exploring and not hiding away to study the entire time, but of course to try our hardest to succeed in our classes.

Luckily all the university facilities were super close so it allowed me to head to the library in no more than a 2 minute walk from my residences.

### **Weather**

After telling a few friends and family of the location of my exchange (Glasgow) they all warned me to pack heaps of warm clothes as well as water proof ones. They all told me that Glasgow weather was basically only ever rain.



Although there were more than your usual drizzly days, the weather was never a problem for me. As well as the rainy days, there was plenty of sunshine too. However the temperature started to get super chilly towards the end of my stay, but you would just have to ensure that you left the house prepared (with a scarf, gloves, and heaps of layers of clothing) then you would never have a problem.

### **Things to do/Places to visit:**

The university was super accommodating to international students, in the sense that they always organised events and trips away for us all. As soon as I arrived they encouraged us all to join a certain Facebook page where they posted all the information about these things - Through this, I visited the Isle of Skye, Inverness, and had an extremely entertaining tour around Glasgow.

However these weren't the only trips that I did. I managed to meet an amazing group of friends (also international students) who shared the same eagerness to explore. With them I was able to travel to Edinburgh, Dublin, England, Barcelona, and Budapest. We went on these trips over weekends during the semester, which timed in well with our classes and course work. You would think that booking to go to all these amazing places would be so extremely pricey but we

were all so surprised at how cheap they actually were! Our trip to Barcelona only cost us £50 for flights + accommodation for 3 nights.

### Places in Glasgow to go:

- Bread Meets Bread – this place is the most amazing burger place in town!
- Dessertz – they do the most amazing waffles and crepes
- Hidden Lane Tearoom – most beautiful spot for a High Tea which is a must do in Scotland
- Glasgow Green – it is such a beautiful place to go for walks/run, or even pack a picnic for a sunset dinner.
- Glasgow University – walking around it makes you feel like you're in Hogwarts
- Christmas Markets – if you're in Glasgow over the winter period then definitely go and check out their Christmas Markets, they serve the most amazing food and drink there
- Edinburgh – being only a hour bus ride from Glasgow and only £12 return, definitely find time to take a trip there (or two) – they also have an amazing Christmas Market that is HUGE



### Tips:

- Attend as many international student events as possible (especially when you first arrive) – it's the best place to meet amazing people to share your experience with. For me the people I met definitely made the whole journey an unforgettable one.
- Keep an eye on Ryan Air deals – they had so many deals for super cheap return flights for over your weekends to various different destinations in the UK and Europe.
- Keep on top of your schoolwork – it's really not hard to do and it allows you to go on stress free trips with your friends, knowing that you're not coming home to several incomplete assignments.



For a closer look at a few of the things I experienced with the amazing people that I met – there is a small video on the link below:

<https://vimeo.com/206342718>