



## Student Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	Major(s)
Bachelor of Commerce	Accounting
Host University	Semester & Year of Exchange
University of Strathclyde	S2 2017

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

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

Any comments about these papers?

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

The style of teaching was very relaxed and seemed to be less intensive than at Otago, teaching less content in total (although also note that my semester was 2 weeks shorter). Teachers and students alike weren't worried about being early or on time. Also, 2 hour lectures were standard with a 10 minute break inbetween.

Overall workload was less, however this is because exams were more heavily weighted with only one assessment during the semester. These assessments were more theoretical in an essay format rather than as problem questions as it is at home.

### **Accommodation**

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

Birkbeck Court – the cheapest option. It's not far removed from what you would see in Unicol, for example. Just don't expect luxury and you'll be fine!

Pros: It's the cheapest. It's central as it's the closest hall to the library. It's very social and also has a combination of flats with international and UK-based students. It's got its own laundry available as well as the central accommodation laundry. You're also provided with a pillow and blanket for the bed!

Cons: Smaller rooms than other halls (though it was easily enough room for me), so if you don't mind paying more for more space then go for it.

### **Money matters**

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

→ I prepaid my accommodation and insurance, so along with flights to Glasgow these were my biggest costs initially.

→ After that, my regular expenses were simply other living and travel expenses.

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

→ I used a cash passport throughout my entire trip. I can't recall a time that it charged me extra to use this card at a store or ATM within the UK or Europe so it was all I needed.

### **Visas & Insurance**

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

→ I didn't need to for one semester.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

→ Yes I was required to have comprehensive insurance. Also, my accommodation provided basic contents insurance.

### **Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

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

→ Plenty of day or weekend trips run by organisations on behalf or outside of the University, going all around Scotland and even in to Manchester. It is also incredibly easy to fly, train or bus to other cities within the UK and Europe. For example, I made it to London, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, and the Faroe Islands (look them up – or go to Iceland!) during the semester alone. Most flights are cheaper out of Edinburgh though, so you need to consider another hour of travel to get there, though buses run every 30 minutes.

→ Also within the University, there are International and ERASMUS societies that run regular events at bars or cultural activities such as a Ceilidh.

What was the university/ city like?

→ The city was a bigger scale version of Dunedin with much more history and constant activity. The city can be divided in to East and West, with the West end being the older city with beautiful buildings, great food and nightlife, and museums and gardens to see. The East end, where the University is, is newer but features also features a lot of activity being so close (5-10 minute walk) to the main street of the city. The weather isn't as bad as everyone says, I think it's more consistently colder in Dunedin!

→ The University was a divide between modern and old buildings, but the campus is laid out similarly to Dunedin where it is centrally focused near the library but leads into the city. The University accommodation is close to all buildings, and everyone had a very laid-back attitude. The library was great but filled up very quickly when exams started to loom.

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

→ If you appreciate a good beer go to a bar called Waxy O'Connor's for an (almost) Hobbit-like experience, or even Doghouse for a more modern vibe. Merchant Square is also a great setup for a drink and bar food.

→ Dunkin' Donuts. Enough said.

→ Bars or clubs in the West End are fantastic.

→ Do the mural trail around Glasgow.

→ Glasgow University, Kelvingrove Park and most of the West End is a must-see. It's similar to Edinburgh but different again.

→ Search for events and pages on Facebook – they actually have them with regular events on over here.

→ If you like live music there are venues/bars nearby: O2 ABC and the Howlin' Wolf, or Edinburgh has a big scene for it as well!

Any tips for future students?

→ LOOK OUT FOR FREE FOOD EVERYWHERE IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS. Go for a walk and familiarise yourself with the city, but keep your eyes out for posters in the windows of bars and restaurants.

→ Call your family.

- Make the absolute most of being able to travel so easily, both during and before/after your semester.
- Go to the events that might seem cringeworthy at the start of the semester. You never know who you will meet.
- Just don't get stuck in your room! There's too much going on out there, even if it's cold.

### Overall Experience

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

My exchange has been an incredible experience – it takes the idea of ‘work hard play hard’ to another extreme because it pushes you to do as much as possible in a short space of time. The challenge comes from being able to sleep only when you need it and making the most of every other moment, whether that means travelling or cooking international food with friends and flatmates. There is so much to explore and equally as much to learn from the people around you. I have made friends from all over the world and, even if I can’t convince them to fly down to New Zealand, I’ll have contacts I can see when I hopefully return to Europe. I can honestly say I’ll never forget the crazy adventures I went on or the people I did them with, so I can’t recommend it enough!



On the Isle of Skye - looking out over the Sound of Raasay with The Storr behind the person taking the photo.



My flatmates from Italy, China, France, Chile, and Germany.



A weekend in Edinburgh!