



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Glasgow University
Semester & Year of Exchange	Second semester, 2019
Otago degree(s)	BaSci
Major(s)	Zoology and Anthropology

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
BIOL2039	English	Zool 200-level, unspecified	18
ARCH 2004	English	Anthro 200-level	18
HIST1022	English	Interest paper	-

Any comments about these papers?

I am unsure about how many credits my HIST1022 paper would be as it was an interest paper. When I got it approved by Glenn in the Anthropology department, he said that I would not be able to use it towards my Anthropology degree, but was still able to take it as an interest paper.

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

In general, the teaching experience and workload was very similar to Otago. For my Biology paper, I had lectures 4 times a week as well as a 4-hour hands-on lab. The Anthropology paper had 2 lectures a week as well as tutorials. The only clear difference between Glasgow and Otago was that it seemed as if Glasgow had more assessments throughout the semester.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in an Airbnb with my sister. The apartment was very close to the university and it was nice to have our own space to relax. The only negative point may be that you couldn't meet other students (like you might be able to if you flatted or went in a hall of residence). But I found that it was easy enough to meet people/students since we were located in the student hub.

Money matters

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

I did not require a visa. Food costs on average was 25 pounds per person/ week. Accommodation cost approximately 750 pounds per month.

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

I mainly used cash passport.

Visas & Insurance

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

No.

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?

There was a large range of clubs available, as well as weekly gatherings where all of the international students could mingle.

What was the university/ city like?

My university was amazing! The architecture of the building and history of the city was wonderful. It was practically the old version of Dunedin. There was always something to do/ never a dull moment.

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

For animal lovers, I would recommend going into the city and visiting the cat café. However, if you prefer staying near the University then there is a lovely café called Kothel nearby that is a perfect study spot. Furthermore, the Botanic gardens are a must see! I always used to study in the glasshouses on cold wintery days- since it's nice and warm there.

Although I loved Kelvingrove museum, one of the best museums I visited was the Zoology museum. It's also a perfect study spot! Nice and quiet, especially around exam time.

Every week we went to a nice basement jazz bar called 'Swing'. You'll find Glasgow's best cocktails here as well as an amazing atmosphere!

If you're in the city during Winter, make sure you visit all of the Christmas markets (George Square is the biggest, but St Enoch's is also nice!). Furthermore, if you can take the 30-minute train down to Edinburgh and visit their Christmas market.

Ashton Lane is a really nice little street with plenty of pubs and restaurants on it. It's only a 2-minute walk from the university and a perfect place to relax after a hard day of study.

Any tips for future students?

Make sure you join plenty of university clubs and go out into the city! There's so much to do and experience so make sure you make the most of it!

Overall Experience

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

Going to Scotland had always been a dream of mine, so being able to go to Glasgow and attend Glasgow University was amazing! My main goals for my exchange were to experience a different culture and explore as much as I could of my host country. Luckily, Glasgow University provided plenty of opportunities to see Scotland by hosting trips to the highlands and holding events for International students in order to give us an opportunity to see Glasgow and meet new people. Since Glasgow University and Otago University are very similar, I immediately felt at home in Glasgow and was swept away by the big city. I particularly loved how connected Glasgow was with the rest of the UK and Europe, allowing me to not only explore Glasgow but also discover the rest of Europe!