



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

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| Host University | University of Glasgow |
| Semester & Year of Exchange | Semester Two 2020 |
| Otago degree(s) | Bachelor of Arts |
| Major(s) | English, Classics |

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

| Course title | Language of instruction | Otago equivalent | Otago credit value |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| From the Gracchi to Sulla | English | - | 18 points |
| Religion in Ancient Greece | English | - | 18 points |
| Literature and Medicine | English | - | 18 points |
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Any comments about these papers?

I found the content interesting and I chose them because they were on topics not taught at Otago. That is the beauty of going somewhere else, after all – different points of view, different opportunities!

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

The workload and style of teaching didn't differ significantly from my Otago experience. They were generally taught through lectures every week, and then seminars (which were like tutorials at Otago). In some courses, seminars were opportunities for students to present their own seminars, rather than tutorials led by lecturers or tutors.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in an AirBnB. It was only a 10 minute walk away from the university and just off the main road in the West End of Glasgow. The only con I can think of is that it can be a bit difficult to negotiate a flat from a distance, but it wasn't too much trouble in my experience. It was nice to have a peaceful place to come back to every evening.

Money matters

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

Paid for flights, accommodation, food, travel around the city and around the UK for extra trips, textbooks.

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. Didn't really have any issues – it worked anywhere they accepted MasterCard.

Visas & Insurance

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

I didn't apply for a visa as I used my Dutch passport.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

I don't believe so.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were plenty of societies and clubs available to join, some of which were different to what is available at Otago. I guess unless you have something you are very passionate about, it could be a good idea to try something new which you won't have the chance to try once you're back home.

What was the university/ city like?

The university itself was very beautiful. Glaswegians are very, very friendly and willing to help. The city is easily accessible – there is a very easy to use Subway system which connects you with most of the city, and otherwise many buses or bikes. Lots of cafes and coffee shops (especially in the West End where the university was) and shops. Glasgow is known for its live music, so there were also plenty of opportunities to go out and listen to bands or singers.

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

Just explore! There are the touristy things to do, like the museums (which are all free) or the Cathedral (where you can take beautiful photos) and Buchanan Street (for shopping). If you are there in December, they have lots of beautiful Christmas Markets to visit which will get you feeling very festive. My sister and I went to a little jazz/blues club called Swing every week, which was a nice way to get out of the flat and listen to some live music.

Any tips for future students?

Don't be afraid. Glasgow is a wonderful city, even if it can be grey and rainy. It's also very close to Edinburgh, which is a much more aesthetically beautiful city (although I would much rather live in Glasgow – the people are kinder, and it seems a bit more laid back and less full of tourists). The university is very, very good in my experience and there is plenty of support for international students, so you will definitely find the help you need if you need it.

Overall Experience

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