

# **Student Report:**

Fall 2016 Exchange in Scotland

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW  
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM  
SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2016 TO DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2016  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIE

- 3) Different types of jackets
- 4) A backpack for day trips
- 5) All-weather boots (I barely wore any other of my many shoes because it was always raining)

## Schedule

August 30, 2016 | Flight YVR to EWR | 9:05am to 5:05pm  
August 30-31, 2016 | Flight EWR to GLA | 7:45pm to 7:30am  
September 3, 2016 | Accommodation Move  
September 5-9, 2016 | Orientation  
September 19, 2016 | Classes Begin

I planned to arrive early so that I could visit with my family in Scotland. It was great to get over jet lag and get familiar with the city before classes began.

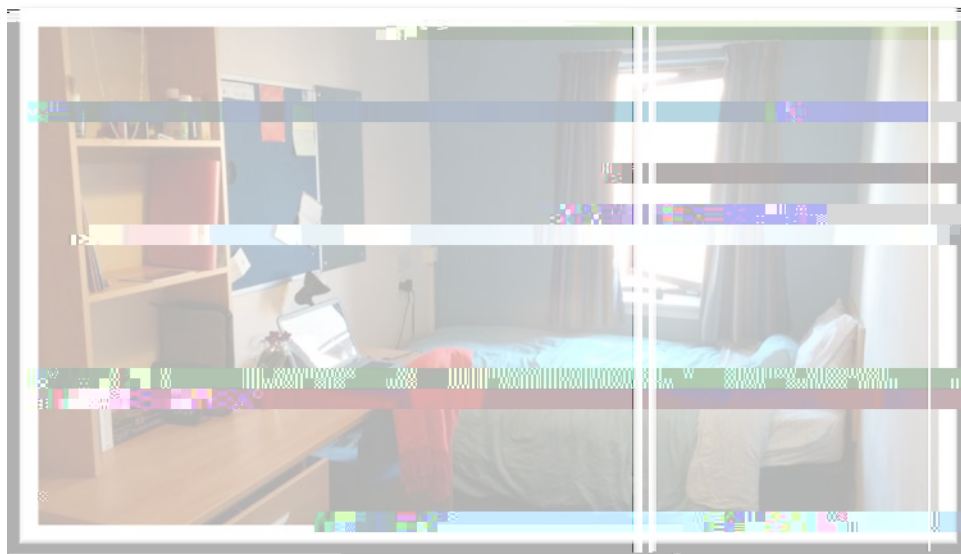
## DURING EXCHANGE

### Accommodation

I stayed in Student Residence arranged through the exchange program. With the University of Glasgow it is extremely important to list multiple choices. I got my 5<sup>th</sup> choice. I was in a three bedroom flat with a shared bathroom and kitchen. The other two girls, who were my flatmates, were international students. The rooms were spacious, with a desk, an armoire and a single bed. The bathroom shower was absolutely tiny, at 6' I barely fit in it.

There are no meal plans in most of the residences so it is important to consider the cost of buying kitchen and eating utensils. I recommend taking advantage of the Accommodation arranged IKEA trip at the beginning of the term. If you are need of blankets or a mattress toper, Argos offers a good price and you can arrange delivery.

My Residence was in the West End of Glasgow, near the Kelvingrove Art Museum. It was a 15 minute walk to the centre of campus. Around the campus is the famous Ashton Lane, the Botanic Gardens and lots of food options.





UK Adventure. I went to the National Gallery in London and spent hours looking at some of my favourite artists including JMW Turner. I also attended the English National Ballet's production of the Nutcracker which was a magical experience. I spent the majority of my days wandering around Hyde Park.

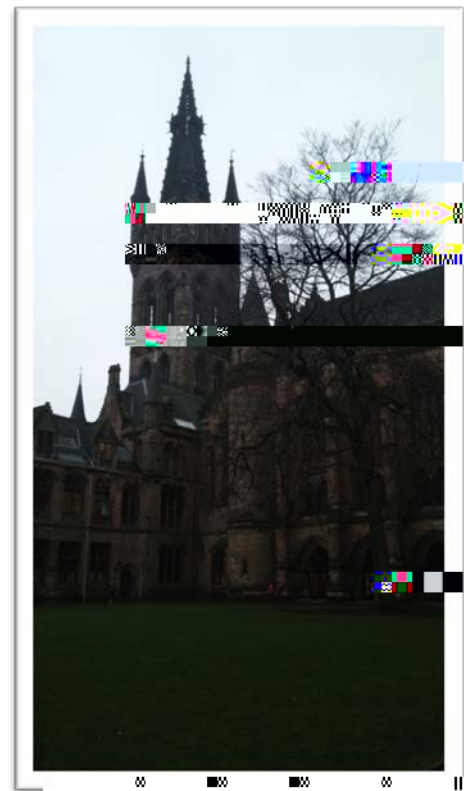


When I was in Glasgow, I window shopped and attended quiz nights at the local pub. The University of Glasgow has two excellent student unions.

## Academic

The academic structure is significantly different at the University of Glasgow. You are only in class six hours a week at the most (with a full course load of three Upper Division classes). I took three classes: two 400 level Politics classes and a 400 level Philosophy course. I did not know what my class schedule would be until orientation. This is apparently normal. However, I was unable to get into the classes I needed because they were full. If the classes you put on your application are offered you will be automatically enrolled if you meet the requirements. I recommend putting all the classes you would like to take (don't just limit to three) in the application. It is easier to drop then to have to wait to enroll.

For my 400 level courses, I had one to two major assignments that were worth the entirety of my grade. During the semester it is reading intensive, but with limited contact hours you can do your readings while you travel around. In the final two weeks of the semester it gets insanely busy. It is nearly impossible to get an extension and all assignments within each discipline are due



on the same day. Start your papers early, they are worth a lot. If your course offers an exam during a different semester then you are attending for than you will either get another paper or have the exam moved. This can make the period even busier for you.

The grading scale is a 22 point scale divided into first honours (A1-A5), upper second honours (B1-B3), lower second honours (C1-3), third (D1-E3), and fail (F1-G2).

## REFLECTION

By the end of my four month exchange, I was getting quite homesick. Christmas was coming up and I had planned to travel Europe over Christmas. After Exam period, I just wanted to be home and celebrate Christmas with my family. The problem was that my flights weren't until January. If I had thought about how lonely it would be to be by yourself at Christmas I would have booked an earlier flight. I ended up paying nearly a thousand dollars to cancel my old flight and rebook a new flight/hotel through London. I got home on Christmas Eve and was able to celebrate with my entire family. It was an unexpected expense that I had not prepared for and I am still paying it off, but it was worth it.

Overall my exchange was great. I learned that I could be truly independent and adaptive. I determined that while I enjoyed Scotland, I would not move there to do my Masters. The University of Glasgow is beautiful but its style of instruction does not suit what I want from my education. I wish I had been able to save more money so that I could have traveled more. Money was really tight and non-existent by the time I was finished. After I save up some

