

University of Glasgow

When I first started browsing among the different options that were viable for exchange I hadn't considered going to Scotland. In hindsight, I can honestly say that I am happy I did. Seeing the small city of Glasgow for the first time was an amazing experience. The atmosphere, its people, and the culture captivated me and I felt relaxed and at ease, mostly due to how fast the city allowed me to adapt, and how friendly my environment was.

I studied at the University of Glasgow, a prestigious university with an impressive world ranking. It was located in the “finer” parts of Glasgow, namely, the West End. All throughout my exchange, and those very first days, the campus never once ceased to impress me. The architecture and feel of that place was indeed captivating, and it almost felt like I was in a dream, or part of a Harry Potter movie. Whilst at the university I studied at their Adam Smith Business School Faculty, where I solely focused on courses related to management. These were Project Management, Strategy, Uneven Development and the Global Economy, and lastly Digital Marketing Strategy. The teachers that I had the pleasure of interacting with all seemed to have genuine interest and love for their work, and were often very helpful whenever concerns arose. The seminars and lessons were carried out at a faster pace than I was normally used to, this was first worrying, but I shortly after adopted the pace, and the studies were not overwhelming as I had first assumed.

When it came to housing, I managed to find it online and thus everything was already sorted out before I arrived. I rented a room at a student complex, that was not related to my university. It was a convenient accommodation with walking distance from the city centre. At first I had tried renting a flat, but as I was only staying for four months, and scottish law dictating that the minimum time for renting is six months, it was an option that lacked credibility.

Being in Glasgow was such a different experience in a good way. The supermarkets were cheaper than Stockholm, restaurants and pubs had great quality when it came to food and alcohol, whilst still being relatively affordable. It was also common to stumble across buskers in the street, and every time I went to a pub there was a band or solo musician performing live, which contributed to the magic feeling that Glasgow had. The city was also overall not that expensive, and it was easy to indulge oneself without greater costs.

The gym that existed on campus had recently been renovated and was extremely impressive. It was comprised of 5 floors, swimming pool, basketball courts, a floor dedicated

to cardio, and another floor for weight lifting. It was truly the best gym I had ever been to, and it only costed me £75 for one semester.

The way they teach at the University of Glasgow differs from what we are used to at Stockholm Business School. We were required to read all of our semester's courses simultaneously for a period stretching over 3 months, and at the end of that timespan, I had to write exams and assignments all within the last three weeks. Though this may seem difficult and taxing, it was surprisingly manageable, and as long as you planned your studying and allocated time effectively, it wasn't that different in regards to stress we feel at SBS when assignments are due, and exams are incoming.

This exchange semester has taught me to look outside of what I am used to, and broaden my perspective, and I have also gained a better understanding of how different cultures interact and vary by nature. Though some may deem an exchange semester as unnecessary, or something that separates one from the everyday life they are used to, I have to say that the amount of experiences that you gain, the friends that you make from all over the world, and the broadening of your perspective on the world is something that will leave an everlasting impression on you, and I can guarantee that you will surely grow as a person and after your exchange maybe know a little bit more about yourself.