

University of Glasgow

I choose University of Glasgow because of three reasons. First, I wanted to improve my English, which is easier to do in a country where it's the main language. Second, my grades were average, so my chances for Australia or the United States were slim. Third, I wanted to go to a university with a bit of history. University of Glasgow therefore checks all three, and who wouldn't want to go to the fourth oldest university in the English speaking world.

I went away on my exchange thinking I would meet new interesting people and experience a similar but not exactly the same culture as in Sweden. I did meet new interesting people but not where I thought I would. For me, who was not that active in the activities that was offered, the people I lived with became my closest friends.

So housing is a big and important step for the kind of experience you want. Since we only go for a semester, finding a place to stay could be trying since the university doesn't provide accommodation for us. I would urge you not to panic! The private student accommodations often release rooms for shorter stays/half year about two weeks before the terms begins. Although I went for a private room accommodation, the people that I met that stayed at a student accommodation were really pleased. I found my private room accommodation at spareroom.com, in the outskirts of west end, where the university is situated. It was a bit irritating taking the bus, but since the living expenses went down I thought it was worth it. Although, if I would go again I would stay within walking distance to the university. Just a reminder, in Scotland you have to wave to the busses to make them stop at the bus stop.

The teaching at University of Glasgow is fairly similar to SU, there is lectures and seminars with in-course work and then a big exam on the end. A word of caution though: do not fall behind! Since you have all the courses parallel and the exams might end up on the same day it is good to stay ahead and plan your studies. The library is excellent, but you need to be there quite early if you want a good seat. There are some other libraries where one can study, but there aren't enough for every student, so make sure that you can study at your accommodation.

The orientation/welcome program was really good. It's a good way to get some friends that studies different things than you and the events were really funny. During the semester there are a lot of activities to do and a lot of societies to join. The Harry Potter society, for example, holds Harry Potter quizzes and real life Quidditch matches.

My best memories would be the trips to other parts of Scotland and the wonderful buildings at the university. Since Scotland is even smaller than Södermanland, there is a lot of trips that one can do in a day or two days. One last tip, I took a class in Scottish history which I highly recommend to take since you learn so much about both the country and the people in it.