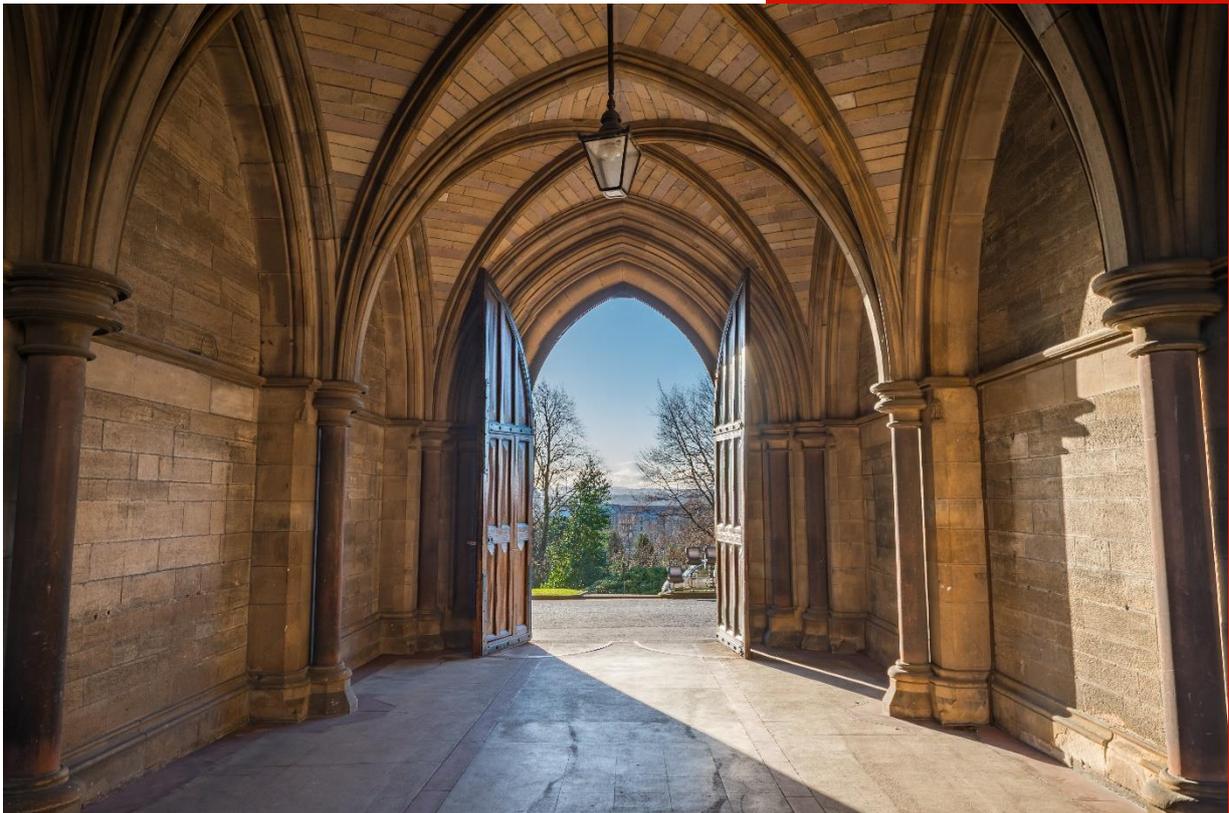


2017 Fall

Exchange Report



Ho-Hsin LIU

Year 3 Finance & Information System

Monthly Activity log

August:

I departed from Taipei on August 22nd and arrived at Glasgow on August 23rd. Me and my family took the Scot Rail for around one hour and stayed in Edinburgh for three days to join the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (I strongly recommend joining once if you have a chance 😊) It was the highlight of the Edinburgh International Festival taking place in August. After our short visit to Edinburgh, we took train back to Glasgow and start preparing for the start of the semester.



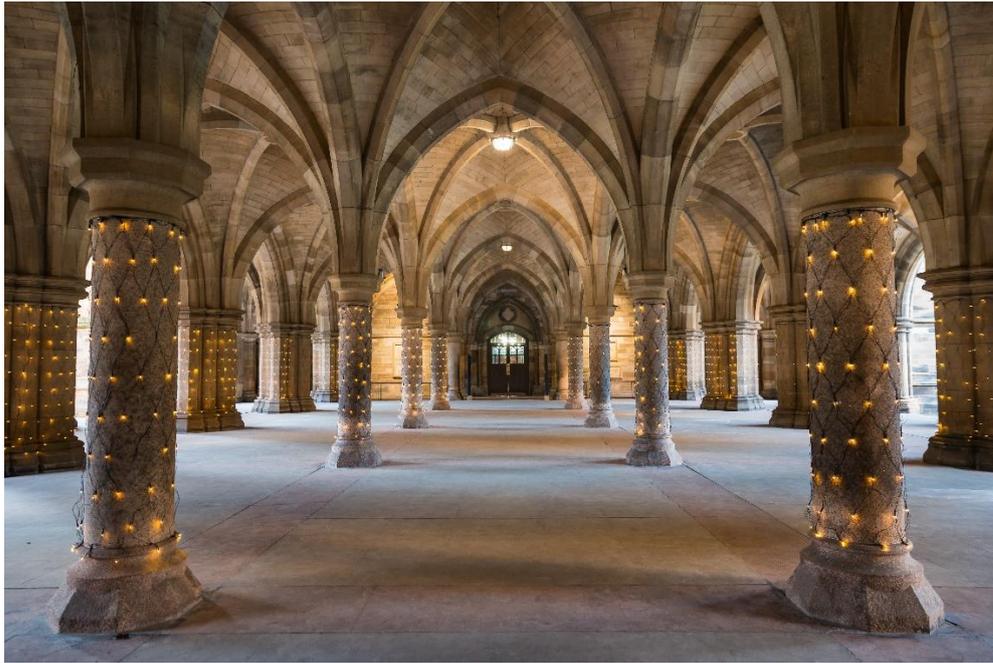
Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2017

September:

The official teaching period starts on the 18th of September; however, the school require international students to arrive at Glasgow no later than September 4th to participate in the mandatory orientation activities during September 5th to 8th. (The university accommodation allows checking-in after 2nd of September, however, it might vary each year).

During the break between the 8th and 18th, I spent time exploring the city and visited several museums including the Mackintosh House, The Kelvingrove Gallery, The Hunterian Museum which is also inside of the campus of University of Glasgow. There are a lot to see in this small city!

The school starts on the eighteenth and there are in total only 10-11 weeks in the fall semester with a short break after the 6th week. I didn't do much travelling to other cities this month as I am still adapting to the new school.



University of Glasgow Hall

October:

After two weeks of teaching period, I started to plan some travelling on the weekends, since I don't have day- offs, I decided to visit the cities nearby and eventually after the exchange, I went to all major cities in Scotland, all by taking the ScotRail. I also joined the ISUK international student tour, which you can find information on Facebook, they bring students around Scotland including Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Isle of Skye by coach buses. You can meet lots of new friends during the trip.

All the mid- term assignments were due near the end of this month so I started preparing after mid-October.

November:

There are more essays and assignment dues in this month as the end of the semester is approaching, so most of the time I spent on studying, reading in the library and writing essays. However, I still managed to visit Isle of Skye with a tour group when a friend of mine visited me in the beginning of November.



View on Isle of Skye

December:

The teaching period ends officially on the 30th of November, there is a short study break before the exam period. Since all my exams took place in the last few days of the exam period, I decided to visit my friend studying in Paris and spent time travelling for 7 days. It was unforgettable! The semester ends after the last exam on 15th of December, and I start my travel around the United Kingdom (London, Stratford, Birmingham, Belfast and also Dublin, Ireland) afterwards.



London Tower Bridge

General Exchange Information:

1) Visa Procedures

This part is very important! If you are holding Taiwanese passport or Hong Kong SAR passport, you will not need to apply for a visa. When you arrived at the immigration at any UK airport, you just need to present the official confirmation letter from University of Glasgow permitting your study. The immigration officer would give you a short- term student visa stamp on your passport which will allow you to stay in the UK for less than six months. However, every time you leave UK and return, the immigration will re-stamp your passport and you will need to show your confirmation letter once again.

*** On the letter, it will state your study period which is in my case from September 5th to December 15th. After this period, you are not allowed to leave the UK and return using this short- term student visa (with the confirmation letter from school), which means if you intend to go travelling, make sure to go and return before the last day of the permitted study period stated on your school confirmation letter, otherwise, the immigration officer might not let you in after that date (e.g. Dec 15th).

In my case, I plan my travelling inside of UK so that I don't have to pass the immigration after December 15th and stay longer.

(These information could also be found on the UK immigration website, please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>)

2) Orientation Activities

The orientation activities arranged by the University of Glasgow is worth-participating. The international orientation last for 4 days, on the first day, incoming students from other institutions would join an academic registration orientation to learn how to officially register a course and complete both the financial and academic registration if you haven't done so before your arrival.

In the rest of the orientation, you would join several campus tours about the history of the school, and the surroundings such as food to eat and bars to have a drink.

The student union is an important entity in the university, it serves as the bridge between the school and students. There are Students elected their student representative in the start of the academic year and the promotion period takes place throughout the first few weeks of the semester.

There will also be a club fair during the orientation period where you can sign up to become a member, and join all the activities they held for free.

3) International Services & Activities

You could always consult the student advisor in the Fraser Building in the main campus for enquires. They are all willing to help.

There is an airport pick-up for new students arriving at Glasgow and also free round trip to IKEA to purchase housewares.

4) Accommodations

There are several university accommodation choices for students depend on your preference (single room/ double room/ shared kitchen etc.), most of the accommodation are near campus (within 15-minute walk). The rent in the UK is generally more expensive than living in the UST halls. The school will send you links after you complete the online application for accommodation.

*** For students like us (half- year exchange student), I suggest staying in the accommodation the university provides, as we are just staying for a short term, the searching cost for accommodation outside would be too high. However, if you are lucky enough to find a homestay family in a local residence's house, that would be a very unforgettable experience since you are able to learn most of the local culture and be like a Glaswegian!

5) Courses Registration

The course registration would start before you arrived at Glasgow. However, not until you participate the academic registration upon arrival will you be able to finalize your timetable. It is okay that you haven't enroll in any courses before you arrive, yet it is important that you search for courses that you intend to take online through the course catalog.

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/coursecatalogue/browsebysubjectarea/>

It is important to note that before you enroll in any of the courses you will need to send an email to the course coordinator for approval if you intend to take courses that are above 1000 level. They will ask for the transcript and the course history of yours to make sure you are eligible to take the courses here. For my Finance Major, the school offers FINA3203 equivalent course, derivative securities. There are other courses that you need to seek for equivalency on the course catalog, and note that some courses are only offered in the first or second semester.

(Note: University of Glasgow offers no Information System courses)

Because of the limited availability of course I could take, I decided to take some humanities courses that is not offered in UST to fulfill my common core requirements. These courses are:

- PHIL 1K** Knowledge and the World
- SCOTLIT1A** Approaching Scottish literature
- ESH1A** Towards Globalization, c1750-1914

Course Title	Scottish Literature 1A	Philosophy 1K
Full name	Approaching Scottish Literatu	Knowledge and the World
Lecture timetable/per week	3 x 1 hour lecture 1 hour seminar	4 x 1 hour lecture 1 hour seminar
Total Contact hours (11 weeks)	40 hr	50 hr
Assignment - during semester	Close Reading Assignment	Seminar Quiz
Assessment- Mid-term (Main)	Essay - 2000 words	Essay- 1500 words
Assessment - Final (Exam)	Essay (1.5 hr) - 2 long questio	Essay (1.5 hr) - 3 short questions
SCOTCAT credits	20 SCOTCAT	20 SCOTCAT
Equivalent to UST credits	3 credits	3 credits

Course Title	Economic & Social History 1A
Full name	Towards Globalisation, c1750-1914
Lecture timetable/per week	3 x 1 hour lecture 1 hour seminar
Total Contact hours (11 weeks)	40 hr
Assignment - during semester	Critical Review Essay- 1000 words
Assessment- Mid-term (Main)	Essay - 2000 words
Assessment - Final (Exam)	Essay (2 hr) - 2 long questions
SCOTCAT credits	20 SCOTCAT
Equivalent to UST credits	3 credits

******* A reminder: If you intend to transfer a lot of major requirement credits back to UST, this university didn't offer that many, and the requirements for taking the 2000 and above level courses are quite high.

However, after the exchange, I am thankful to have taken these humanities courses and really learned something that I haven't have a chance to learn in UST. Don't think that those courses will be easy by its level, these courses require lots of time and effort to get a good score.

These courses would train your critical thinking and negotiation skills, and also stimulate you to think about questions about humanities.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

There are lectures and seminars in each week, most of the seminars require you to do the readings materials and review for the questions given for discussion.

(Please refer to the table I made above for assessment style.) There are no mid-term exams for these courses, most of the assessment are from reports and essays.

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a school gym on campus and if you stayed in the university accommodation, it will be free to use the facilities.

8) Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I spent around 7000pounds in total for accommodation, return flight tickets, daily expenses and travelling allowance.

	In Pounds	In HKD
Return Flight Ticket	1000	10000
Accommodation (4 month)	1500	15000
Travelling expense (1 month)	2500	25000
Daily expense (4 month)	500pound * 4 = 2000	20000
Total	7000	700000 (approx.)

******* Important: To open a bank account with your stay less than six-month is getting harder now. Since there were no collaborating banks with University of Glasgow, students generally don't open a bank account in the UK if their exchange is only for six months instead of one year. However, since I brought a lot of cash with me, I need to deposit money with a bank account. What to do is to go to the branch of Santander bank in University of Strathclyde or Glasgow Caledonian University (Two other Universities in Glasgow). They are able to help students staying less than 6 months to open an account. The account name is Basic current account. You will receive a visa debit card that you can pay with and a bank card to deposit and withdraw money. It takes around 2~3week for you to get the cards. Link: <https://www.santander.co.uk/uk/current-accounts/basic-current-account>

However, if you do have a bank account in Hong Kong with a Visa or Mastercard debit card, you can easily withdraw money in any of the UK bank with low transaction fees.

9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

You could join the student union (QMU or GUU) for many student activities including movie nights and clubbing events. For me, most of the friends I met were girls from the same accommodation and also friends I met from the church. The church next to the student accommodation – Kelvinhaugh Place named Sandyford Memorial church is a really caring and warm one, they held several student activities throughout the week. During Christmas and New Year's Eve, they invited students to dinner gathering.

10) Health & Safety

You can apply for NHS- National Health Service with the school clinic. It is for free to see the doctor in UK for student in University of Glasgow.

It could be very cold in the winter in Glasgow, (-1 degree ~-3 degree), make sure you bring enough clothes and medicine with you.

11) Food

Eating in the UK is very expensive, therefore I cooked everyday throughout my stay. The cost of eating could be significantly reduced if you could on your own.

*** You couldn't find rice in Scotland's supermarket, and the Chinese restaurant are generally not desirable. Therefore, you should bring as many Asian ingredients in case you have some home taste.

12) Transportation

Glasgow is a small city compare to Hong Kong, you can walk or take bus within the city. There is also a subway in the city. However, transportation in UK is very expensive (e.g. 2.2pound per ride on bus), I would recommend people walk.

13) Climate

It is widely known that the weather in UK is very unstable and it rains a lot, actually, the good thing about Scotland is that, even it rains several times in a day, you could always see the sun coming out during daytime for at least two ~three hours in total. You just need to get used to the sudden rain anytime in a day. Make sure to purchase a rainboot and rain coat if you hate getting wet in the rain.

14) Communication

In Scotland, the official language is English (with a strong Scottish Accent), you would need some time to get used to it, however, it is not that hard.

I used Three Mobile when I was in the UK, it allows you to use 5G data and 3000minutes phones calls with 15 pounds. There were better plans if you register with a bank account.

15) Final Reminder:



The beautiful Campus of University of Glasgow

I would say Scotland is a very good place to choose for your exchange, the Scottish people are the kindest and friendliest in the world. You feel very safe living in this place. Glasgow is not a big city yet it has all the facilities you will need and since it isn't big, it is easy to navigate and you won't get lost in this place. Scotland is also a place with rich history cultural background, and you will realize the lasting history of the relationship between Scotland and England:) And more importantly, the daily living cost in Scotland is generally cheaper than in England, also the accommodation fees are way cheaper as well.

Lastly, if you are fond of art, history and other humanities studies, University of Glasgow will be a good choice for you. On the other hand, for people who are a fan of Economics, the Adam Smith (Father of Economics) business school would also be the reason why you put this 600-year-old university as your number one choice! The learning here would be a lifetime experience that you would never forget 😊



P.s Do join some highland tours! The views are super amazing!

If you have any questions about University of Glasgow or Scotland, please feel free to contact me through email: hliuau@connect.ust.hk