

# Exchange Report



University  
of Glasgow

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## I. Monthly Activity Log

### **September 2018:**

I arrived Glasgow on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The orientation activities began from 7<sup>th</sup> September, most of the activities were not compulsory and registration was required, like the Scavenger Hunt and Walking Tour. From 10<sup>th</sup> September, the Freshers' Week also began where there were different societies' booths and evening events organized by GUU and QMU to join. The teaching period began on 17<sup>th</sup> September, before the teaching started I joined some visiting tours to Edinburgh, Perth and St. Andrews. At the beginning of the semester, I joined some student society taster activities and gathering to meet new people. During the weekends, I just stay in Glasgow to explore the city.

### **October 2018:**

In the early October, the workload was still manageable, so during the weekend I joined tours to visit Inverness and Isle of Skye, which the landscape in Scotland was worth to visit. I also went to Paisley Halloween Festival, which was a fun and enjoyable time. In the late October, there were in-course exam and group presentation, so starting from the mid-October I was busy with the group meeting and preparation for exams.

### **November 2018:**

In November, it was nearly all the deadline for the assignments and presentation so I did not go travel. But I just visit around Glasgow. On the Bonfire Night, I went out to see the firework with friends. In this month, some Christmas markets opened, other than rushing for deadline, I still manage to visit the Christmas markets with friends.

### **December 2018:**

The exam period started from 5<sup>th</sup> December, where there was only few days study break after the official teaching period ended on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Since I have to submit essay between the exam period and my last exam took place till the last day of the exam period, so I just started to travel around Europe after the end of the exam.



## **II. General Exchange Information**

### **1. Visa Procedures**

If you are holding the HKSAR passport and study for less than 6 months, you just need to apply for the short-term visa by submitting the required document when arrival. For other passport holder, you can check the need for study visa in the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>. It is important to ensure that you have the study stamp on the passport as the university will check it.

### **2. Orientation Activities**

The orientation activities lasted from 7<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> September, there were a range of activities that you can choose. An email was sent in August that you have to register before arrival. Since the seats are limited, it is better to apply for those activities as soon as possible.

The Freshers' Week began from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> September, there were some promotion booths of different student society that you can sign up for the society and activities organized by the 2 students' unions (GUU & QMU) every night, you can check their activities schedule online or through the mobile app. Some people have bought the Fresher Wristband, which allows them to participate in different activities organized by GUU and QMU during the Fresher Week.

### **3. International Services & Activities**

To have any enquiry, you can visit the Student Enquiry Office or make an appointment in MyGlasgow to meet with the Study Abroad and Exchange Advisors.

### **4. Accommodations**

The university provides different accommodations near the campus. In the application, you can submit up to 6 choices. According to the accommodation office, it is allocated by first-come first serve, so you can try to submit the application earlier.

I lived in the Student Apartment, which is just 5 minutes' walk away from the University Avenue, so it is convenient to go out for lessons. The Living Support Team organized few activities each month for the resident, e.g. movie night.

### **5. Courses Registration**

For exchange student, you need to take up to 60 credits course (mostly 15-20 credits per course), for extra credit you will need approval from HKUST. The Study Aboard Team will help to enroll in courses that approved by the school according to your application form before the orientation, but we are not allow to enroll in by ourselves. Since approval from the course coordinators is required and the Study Aboard Team will help to enroll the courses after they received the approval. So it is better to submit courses you would like to study in your application in order to finalize your timetable earlier.

## **6. Teaching & Assessment Methods**

The teaching and assessment method is similar to HKUST, for most of my courses there were just lectures and tutorials. The tutorials are mainly the time for discussion, so it is important to read the reading before attend and attendance for tutorials are required.

## **7. Sports & Recreation Facilities**

The university have gym room, swimming pool and other sports facilities equipped in the Stevenson Building. For the resident of the university accommodation, you will have the GU sports membership. The sports center organized some course for members, which you can refer to the detail online.

## **8. Finance & Banking**

I have opened a bank account in Glasgow, so I did not have to carry all the cash with me and it is quite convenient to make payment with the debit card. To open the bank account in Glasgow, it requires a bank letter from the university to verify your study and term address, you can print it from My Student Center but I suggest getting a copy from the Student Services Enquiry Team in Fraser Building instead since they provide the copy with the university stamp, which the bank may ask for the stamp to verify it as an original copy.

I stayed in the double room which costed around £1200 for 4 months and the Cathay Pacific Airway offered discount tickets for HKUST exchange students, it costed around \$8000 for the return flight tickets between HK and London.

## **9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

During the Freshers' Week, there was the Freshers' Fair and Sports Fayre, where different student clubs and sports society will have a promotion booth that you can visit and join different society.

Some society offered some gathering activities at nights, where you can meet some new people. To know about these events, you can visit the society's Facebook pages for information.

## **10. Health & Safety**

The National Health Service (NHS) is free for short term staying student. During the Welcome Talk, the university have provided the information about the NHS which you have to register with a GP doctor before visit. There is a clinic in Fraser Building, but you can also register with the doctor near your accommodation.

## **11. Food**

In UK, eating out can be quite expensive, so I cook most of the meals. There are several supermarkets around the university, so it is convenient to buy food you need. If you want some Chinese food, you may visit the shop in China City or a small shop near the university that selling Asian food.

## **12. Transportation**

The university is near to the subway station, which takes around 10 minutes to travel to city center by subway. You can apply a free Smartcard online, which offers a lower fare than buying the single or return ticket every time. You can also travel between the university and city center by bus, if you plan to travel by bus frequently, you can buy the weekly/monthly ticket which offers unlimited time of travel within the period.

## **13. Climate**

In Glasgow, the weather is windy and unstable that it may rain suddenly, so it is better to bring an umbrella or raincoat when you go out. Starting from November, the temperature may drop to 0°C but there were heaters indoors, so you may not need so many thick clothes.

## **14. Communication**

In UK, people speak English, but some people in Glasgow have Scottish accent that may need some time to get familiar with.

Different telecom in UK offered it the Pay as You Go SIM that you can choose the plan based on your needs and charge up every 30 days. For most of the telecom companies they provide free roaming in some of countries in Europe in the plan, so you may not need an extra mobile card to travel around European countries.

## **15. Cautionary measures**

Glasgow is a safe city, but the street may be a bit quiet and dark during night time so it is better not to go out alone during night time.

## **III. Items to Bring**

- Laptop & charges
- Letter to apply Short-term Visa
- Passport & some copies
- Return flight ticket
- Stationary
- Travel Adaptor (if you plan to travel outside UK)
- Umbrella/ Water-proof jacket
- Warm Clothes & Jackets

## **IV. Useful Links and Contacts**

MyGlasgow:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/students/>

Course Catalogue:

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

Accommodation Services:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/accommodation/>

Orientation:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/international/support/before/orientation/>

Class timetable & room finder:

<https://frontdoor.spa.gla.ac.uk/spacett/login.m>

Useful Apps – New Student Welcome App:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/apps/>