

# Study Aboard Report

----- University of Glasgow

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Year: Year 3

## **January**

I headed to UofG about a week before the semester started. In the first week, I attended the orientation activities arranged by school and went to many grocery store to get things prepared for school. I mainly explored the places in the city during the first months. Kelvingrove museum is a lovely place in the city. one of the most popular museums near to the university. It is also excited to know that most of the museums in Glasgow are free. Kelvingrove museum is only a 5-minute walk away from the university and I could spend a quick visit during my school time. It is huge and it has countless exhibitions ranging from art to archaeology and botanicas, so I always find something interesting and stay there for a couple of hours. I also like a museum of modern art located in the city center. I found many interesting and aesthetic works there which gave me a lot of inspiring ideas.



## February

I went to highlands with my schoolmates. In February, I only had the chance to visit places in Scotland and Scotland is famous for its view of highlands. I feel closer to the nature after my trips. I realized that I am a huge lover of nature and animals. The fluffy Scottish highland cow became my favorite animals in the world. I have gone through a long search and finally found those fluffy beasts in the wild. There are also many stunning views in the tranquil and serene nature. I feel blessed when I saw these present from the god. It is also interesting to know many legends and folklore in Scotland. Coupled with the beautiful view, I had been taken to the old days in Scotland with these myths

and legend which were carried down through generations. For example, I went to Pucks Glen which is named after the mischievous sprite in Shakespeare's 'A midsummer Night's Dream' and that it only fitting for a place that is quite magical. Local people told me that this place is known as the birthplace of fairies.



Spending time in nature is also a good way for me to reconnect and step out of chaos after Covid-19 broke out in Scotland. I was quite anxious and upset when I heard the unexpected incident happened. 2020 has really been a tough year for me in more ways than one. It almost ruined all my plans for life and study at that time. However, after a few days of self-adjusting, I was able to embrace the reality and go on. When I looked back again, I learnt the most from it. I learnt how to deal with the bad days and how to stay positive under the pressure. I believe this unusual experience is a gift from my exchange journey. I highly recommend you explore the beauty and variety of nature and wildlife in Scotland.

### **March**

Unfortunately, my exchange was interrupted when the coronavirus broke out in the city and I returned to my home country in early March. There are some reflections on my exchange journey. When I was in HKUST, there was not many essay assignments. I cannot believe I finished almost 10 essays in this semester. I got to know how to collect the information and construct a well-developed academic argument. Besides, the classroom hours in the university of Glasgow is very short. We only have 20-hour class for each course. The school requires us to have enough self-studying. It helped me to be a more self-disciplinary person who can utilize the time efficiently. It is proved to be a

valuable way for me as I can control the study pace and further explore the topics that I am interested in.



Interaction with people is the most precious part during my study abroad. I made a lot of friends coming from different countries of the world. I chose to live in the traditional dormitory so that I can know more people that are different from my backgrounds. I shared the same kitchen with about 10 people, and they all became my close friends. I keep myself open to all kinds of conversations and participate in the activities. In addition, I joined a drawing

society where I met friends who have the same interests as me. The weather in Scotland is frosty and the wind is always chilling. There are many homeless people sitting or lying on the street (usually outside the grocery stores or restaurants). I also worked as a volunteer in a school organization and joined a project during the semester. I went to city center and provided help to the homeless people with other volunteers. Helping others is a delightful experience even though I was not in my own city. More importantly, this is a chance for me to know more about the Glasgow and adapt myself to the local community.



## **1. Visa Procedures**

As for hkid card holders, we do not need to go to the embassy, simply get your passport ready and you will be allowed to stay in UK for 6 months.

## **2. Orientation Activities**

There is a series of orientation activities arranged by the school, including campus tour, party night, and social activities.

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

There will be some workshops and tours (around 3-4/month). To get the notification from them, you need to subscribe their email list.

## **4. Accommodations**

There are a wide range of accommodations type from dormitory to apartment.

Some of the residential even provides dinner service.

## **5. Courses Registration**

I strongly suggest you to do some research on the course list for your study term before applying for the exchange. There are around half of the courses are not available for exchange/visiting students.

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

My courses are mostly assessed by essays. The teaching hour is short and they encouraged you to learn by yourself. I only have 5 hours lecture a week.

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

If you apply for the accommodation in the school, you will get a gym pass automatically. In addition, there are a lot of sports class running through the semester, for example, tennis and yoga. You can enrol in these courses and it costs around 10 pounds only.

### **8. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

I estimated my spending is around 70000hkd for 3 months due to coronavirus.

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

There are clubs recruiting members from the start of the semester. My roommate joined a sport club and she went for training every weekend.

### **10. Health & Safety**

Generally speaking, Glasgow is a safe city, but it's better to have some accompany with you when you come back late at night.

### **11. Food**

There are many good Italian restaurants and steak houses. You can also visit boba tea shops and Chinese restaurants there. I cooked by myself and it's convenient to buy the ingredients in the supermarket. I usually went to lidl and tesco, they are way cheaper than dining out.

### **12. Transportation**

I travelled by train in UK. A student railcard (30 pounds) gives you a decent discount, even though I only got to use twice, but the money saved is more than 30 pounds. In the city, I downloaded a bus app ('first bus') to pay.

### **13. Climate**

Climate in spring is cold and windy. Never use an umbrella in a rainy day. You will need to bring a water proof coat. It gets warmer from April, but I don't have the chance to experience that 😊

- Other notes (if applicable)

**not much information can be provided due to COVID-19**