

THE BASICS

Your first name: Kimberley

Your email address: kimellis@uvic.ca

Your partner university: University of Strathclyde

Your UVic major during the exchange: Pre-commerce

UVic session(s) during which you did your exchange: Fall 08 and Spring 09

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GENERAL EVALUATION

Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 5

Comments: Absolutely fantastic, although somethings of course went wrong the experience as a whole was brilliant!

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ARRIVAL

How satisfied were you with your experience of arriving in your host country or city? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3.5

Comments:

What assistance, if any, did you receive when you arrived at your exchange destination? There is a program run by all the universities in Glasgow that will arrange pick up at the airport and some cheap city tours in September which was very helpful

How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? Very very easy

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ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to students at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments: there is one meeting but it is very general

How easy was it to find information you needed to know right away? Not easy

What help did you receive from the international staff or office?

What was your impression of the international staff or office? They are very friendly but don't know much about registration, records or any of the individual departments.

What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one, and how well did it suit your needs? Just the one meeting

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site and were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?

HOUSING

How satisfied were you with the housing available to students? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 4

Comments: the residence itself was very good only complaint being that maintenance people were regularly entering our flat unannounced...I actually had one of them forget his jacket in my room

How early could students move in to housing at the beginning of term? I believe it was the weekend before classes began

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? Meal plans are available on the Jordanhill campus but on the main campus each flat has its own kitchen so it is generally shared with 4-6 ppl

How satisfied were you with the food? N/a

How close are the residences to the university? On campus

Could students stay in the residences during major holidays? yes

Which residence would you recommend to UVic students? I stayed in Forbes which was great, they are all different and based on price range. So it really depends on your budget

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? I didn't but there are a lot of independently run student buildings near campus.

What should future UVic exchange students know about living off-campus? It is more expensive. That's really all I know.

COURSE REGISTRATION

How satisfied were you with the registration process at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 1

Comments:

Classes they say they offer they don't offer. Also, they pre-registered us in the classes on our original applications, changing them is quite a hassle as you need to get your original and new professors to sign a form that then needs to go to registry. Doing this when you don't know where anything is and there are huge lines everywhere is not a fun experience. After the first couple days once your account is activated you can actually do this on Pegasus which is much better so it's probably better to wait until you have full access to the system. My classes weren't sorted properly until halfway through both semesters and a couple of my flatmates had similar problems.

Please describe the registration process at your partner university. See above

What kind of help was available?

International office knows nothing about registration, registry is too busy...but the professors are all very friendly and willing to help. A prof. in the stats dept. ended up doing mine with me even though it wasn't my faculty and I was only taking one stats class

How successful were you in registering for classes you wanted? It was about 50/50 really, I got the ones I needed but a lot that I wanted were not offered

What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your partner university?

Wait until your Pegasus is activated to change any classes. Find a professor to help you if you have problems with it.

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the academic program at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments: just a different teaching style, classes are much easier

How did the style of teaching at your partner university compare with that at UVic? It is very lecture oriented and the profs aren't to adaptable. If only 2 people show up they still deliver the same lecture and don't accept questions until the end (in most classes) which I found very strange.

How did the workload compare to what you would expect at UVic? Much lighter, typically one essay and one final per class

How many courses did you take in your first term abroad? 5

Your second term? 3

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other UVic students visiting your partner university? 4

What specific courses would you recommend to visiting UVic students? Dangerous drugs and magic bullets with James Mills, it is a harder class with a heavier workload simply because he has high expectations. Really interesting class, engaging lectures and a very approachable professor

Why? See above

If you studied in a non-English speaking country, what was the availability of courses offered in English? N/a

What advice would you give UVic students about succeeding academically at your partner university? Attend classes, it will seem odd because almost no one there will show up but the profs will appreciate and probably be nicer when marking your essay (also you will obviously learn more)

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your partner university? Good library and computer facilities, resnet is a bit complicated and doesn't support all programs but in general its all good

What electronic devices would you recommend a UVic student bring (laptop, PDA, etc.)? laptop, printer if possible

COSTS

Please indicate currency: pounds sterling

Books - per term: 100

Accommodation - per month: approx 65 pounds per week

Meals - per month: 80

Local transportation - per month: maybe 3 for the odd taxi

Health insurance - per term: n/a

Personal spending - per term: a lot

Communications (phone, etc.) - per term: [mobile 25 per month](#)
Other university related fees - per term: [n/a](#)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [5](#)

Comments:

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students? [Wide variety from politics to sports etc.](#)

What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students? [It really depends on your interests but don't miss the international student events](#)

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays? [Dya trips to other places in Scotland are great : Edinburgh, Stirling, always good to see London, Dublin etc. ryanair flights are quite cheap so just do some exploring!](#)

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus? [Not sure](#)

Off-campus? [Lots of pubs, clubs, shops and restaurants will hire students part-time, quite easy to find a job](#)

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students? [Not sure](#)

SAFETY AND HEALTH

How safe did you feel at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [4](#)

Comments: [Although Glasgow has a bit of a reputation for violence, I never once felt unsafe. Really just use common sense ie. Don't walk alone at night or start fights](#)

What are the biggest safety concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site? [Violence, typically soccer related, just don't get involved](#)

What are the biggest health concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site? [Apparently meningitis is a concern and they suggest a vaccination](#)

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends? [People were all very friendly especially in residence, but it is harder to make friends in classes as attendance is quite low](#)

How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students? [As I did have local students staying in my flat it was quite easy to meet and make friends with quite a few locals.](#)

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? [Not really a big adjustment](#)

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? [The accent is actually very difficult at first, slang as well](#)

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate? [The Scots take a lot of pride in their history, everyone seems to know the traditional songs and dances etc.](#)

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students? [Treated very well by everyone, a lot of people are interested in Canada and like to get to know international students. Locals are all very helpful if you ask for help...although they may seem intimidating at times.](#)

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university? [It is quite well equipped with lifts and they have assistants for disabled students that attend classes and help with things like laundry and food shopping](#)

For students who are visible minorities in your host country? [No real problems that I can think of](#)

TAKING STOCK

What are the three most important things for students to take with them when they go to your host country or region?

[Rain jacket or coat with a hood](#)
[Good sturdy umbrella \(that doesn't flip inside out easily\)](#)
[A good strong liver](#)

What are the three most important things you would tell a UVic student who is going to your partner university on exchange?

[Go on the tours organized by the chaplaincy and the international office](#)
[Don't worry too much about classes](#)
[It can get very windy at strathclyde!](#)

Is there any other information that you think might prove useful to UVic exchange students attending your host university?

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience? [All the friends I made from around the world.](#)

What was your greatest challenge on the exchange? [Academics- adjusting to the different style](#)

How has your perspective changed as a result of the exchange? [I wouldn't necessarily say my perspective has changed but it was an excellent experience and I will definitely be returning to Glasgow as much as possible.](#)

What else do you want to say about your exchange experience? It was a great experience! A really fun city to be in with lots of great interesting people!