



Student Exchange Program

International Student Services

Exchange Final Report

Student Information

Faculty at UVic	Social Sciences
Major/Minor	Environmental Studies and Political Science (DM)
Host University	University of Stirling
Host Country	Scotland, UK
Dates of Exchange	January - May

Overall Exchange Experience

Please Rate your Overall Exchange Experience

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience? Please outline any highlights.

Definitely traveling and meeting new people. I met people from all over the world and learned so much from them. Each person had different perspectives on the world, and it was very enlightening! You become friends very fast with the other exchange students and locals, and the adventures you have with them you will take with you forever.

As well, the classes I took at the University of Stirling were diverse and have a different perspective than UVIC. They were very rewarding and eye-opening. I took a class on Religion and learned a lot about the political and religious history of the Middle East (among other places) from a diverse group of professors. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

What was the greatest challenge during your exchange?

Making sure I could balance my schoolwork with friends and school activities.

Travel

Cost of air travel ~1600 Canadian round trip, to get to Stirling and back to Victoria

Cost of ground transportation (ex. monthly bus pass)

For a month, it was 30 pounds

Did host university representatives meet you at the airport?

Yes, if asked for

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university?

Yes, a shuttle bus; or you took the train and a cab

Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival?

There was a brief session at the beginning of semester that gave lots of helpful information.

How easy was it to find the info you needed to know upon arrival?

It was fairly easy.

What assistance did you receive from your host institution upon arrival?

Any I needed. I sent a few emails to the required people to make sure my classes were correct, and they answered fast and were very helpful.

Accommodation

Is on-campus accommodation available?

Yes

If yes, did you live on campus?

No

Would you recommend this to future students?

No

If you lived off-campus, how did you find housing?

It wasn't luxury, but you were in the middle of Stirling and the bus was only a minute away walking distance. If you lived on campus it was much harder to get into town or to the train station. Living on Union Street was great and I would recommend it to anyone who goes to Stirling. Rooms are nicely sized and the kitchen is cute. Two bathrooms per flat.

Approximately how much money would you budget per month for living, including accommodation and meals?

Accommodation I paid for in full upfront in the beginning of the semester. But not including accommodation, I used a minimum of 300 Canadian per week. That's not including the flights I bought to travel around and outside of the UK.

Language Programs

Is there a language program available either before or during the semester?

No

Is there an additional cost for the language training?

No

Academics

Was it possible for you to get all the courses that you wanted?

Yes

Please describe the course registration process

Very easy. Mostly done through UVIC.

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university

Great. There's multiple professors for each class so you get a more diverse learning experience. However, there is something called Listen Again, where each lecture is recorded, and you can watch it online. This is fantastic, but don't use it as an excuse to not go to class. It was very helpful though!

What do you feel is the greatest academic benefit you have gained personally from your exchange?

They grade much harder at this university, so it's made me think differently about my writing and has given me more critical writing skills. Also, more critical thinking skills.

Personal and Cultural Connections

How easy was it to adjust to the local culture? What (if any) cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Very easy. I loved how friendly everyone was. You walk into a pub and people will chat with you if your welcoming. The Scottish music in pubs was amazing, and the scenery was beautiful.

What was challenging about living in the UK was that it can be expensive, especially with the Canadian dollar exchange rate with the UK pound. Be aware of that before you apply.

They have a huge swimming pool and gym membership that is pretty nice. There are also lots of clubs to join that have tables available in the beginning of the year so you can learn about them. For example, there was a Harry Potter club as well as a Hiking club.

What kinds of cultural, athletic and social activities were available for students at your host institution?