



# Student Exchange Program

International Student Services

## Exchange Final Report

### Student Information

Faculty at UVic	Humanities
Major/Minor	Religious Studies/Film Studies
Host University	University of Stirling
Host Country	Scotland
Dates of Exchange	Fall 2018 (Sep - Dec)

### 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.

For me, personally, returning to my home country which I knew little of, and connecting with my heritage was very rewarding. Joining clubs and using them as a vehicle to explore the country helped me do that.

I had a lot of amazing moments - one of them was probably surfing on the isle of Tiree with a very friendly seal!

What was the greatest challenge during your exchange?

I applied late to student housing and so was living off campus - I really had to put myself out there, join clubs, and do my best to socialize. The first week or two were the toughest feeling isolated.

Cost of air travel N/a

### Travel

Cost of ground transportation (ex. monthly bus pass) \$50

Did host university representatives meet you at the airport? No

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university?

Yes - Train and then bus

## Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival?

Not upon arrival necessarily, but the first few days.

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

The orientation session was quite helpful, but the buildings are poorly designed and easy to get lost in. I usually relied on people I met/knew rather than going to the university staff.

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

Very standard stuff, academic and mental health support etc.

## Accommodation

Is on-campus accommodation available? Yes

If yes, did you live on campus? No

Would you recommend this to future students? Depends - I saved about \$800 and had a better room off-campus.

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

Extremely difficult to find someone willing to let for a single semester. I messaged various AirBnB hosts and eventually found an actual BnB in a good location willing to let me a room. That being said, my room was much bigger than student accommodation, I had a private full bath, and was closer to the downtown area.

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

\$1200-1500 (depending on your housing situation and how often you go out or travel).

## Language Programs

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

Unsure

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Is there an additional cost for the language training?

Unsure

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## Academics

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

there.

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No - some were not offered the term I was

Please describe the course registration process

Once accepted, they send you a catalogue of courses (which they call modules) available to you. You pick three, as well as three backups, and then submit in a document to the international exchange coordinator from Stirling. They then inform you if they are available etc. You can only register for seminar times in September once you've enrolled and gotten your student card from the university, so you probably won't get the timeslot you want.

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university

Very student-centered learning, for the most part very high quality. All the instructors were respectful, and never demanded too much.

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

For me, branching out into a subject (Screenwriting) that I had little experience with was a great challenge and is something I would not have been able to do at UVic.

## 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?

It wasn't too different from Victoria - people (students) are generally quite friendly, and there is a large population of internationals at the school. The biggest difference is probably how often they go to pubs and clubs during the weekdays.

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

The first two weeks were a lot of "social" events (mostly pub crawls), hosted by the different athletic and social clubs. They had ones specifically designed for freshers and international students (ceilidh etc.) who were interested in Scottish culture.