

Exchange Term at the University of Glasgow during Fall 2024

1. Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

My program is Bachelor of Commerce with Options in Human Resource Management and Accounting. At the University of Glasgow, I enrolled in four business courses.

MGT4038 Managing Equality in Orgs

Credits: 15 ECTS

Format: Recurring two-hour lectures one day a week, plus an additional two-hour lecture on another day of the week for just the first three weeks of the term; reading week in mid-October

Assignments: There are two summative assessments in this course. The video explainer assessment (30%) is a six-minute recorded presentation where pairs pick a concept learned in class and apply relevant examples that support the idea. This is due early October. The reflective diary assessment (70%) is a visual piece that encourages students to write entries supported by images of events that form their opinions regarding EDI. This is due late November.

MGT4054 Consumer Behaviour

Credits: 15 ECTS

Format: One two-hour lecture per week; reading week in late October

Assignments: There are two summative assessments in this course. The individual reflective essay (60%) is a 1,800-word writing piece where students talk about two consumption practices and apply theories learned in class wherever applicable. This is due late October. The group evaluative essay (40%) is to be completed in groups of around five members. The essay requires groups to select a contemporary change in consumer behaviour and analyze it using relevant theories. This is due early December, just before exam season.

MGT4108 Art of Influencing

Credits: 15 ECTS

Format: One two-hour lecture per week; no reading week

Assignments: There is one summative assessment, a 3,000-word written assignment (100%). Three options are given to students to choose from, each of which puts the student in a scenario where they are to leverage influencing methods learned in class. This is due early December, just before exam season.

MGT 4114 Building and Managing INVs

Credits: 15 ECTS

Format: Weekly one-hour lecture and two-hour workshops, two tutorial sessions within the semester; no reading week

Assignments: There are three summative assessments, two of which require group work. Groups are around 4-6 members. The first assignment (25%) and the second assignment (25%)

are group work and connected, the first being the submission of documents, while the second is the oral evaluation of the group presentations. The group work objective is to pitch an entrepreneurial idea that integrates technology in a specified location. Both assignments are due late November. The third assignment is a 1,500-word individual reflective essay (50%) which asks students to reflect on the group project, dynamics, challenges, and lessons learned. This is due early December, just before exam season.

2. The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.).

September 13 – Earliest arrival if you have UofG Accommodation

September 16-20 – Freshers week and welcome events. It's best to arrive 1-2 weeks before the semester starts to familiarize yourself with the school, the city, and its people. The International Exchange Office at the school hosts many events as well. I took part in many traditional Scottish cultural opportunities, including trying their food (e.g. haggis) and taking part in ceilidhs, a traditional Scottish dance. There are also many taster events to try, which are generally free sessions to see what a club does before joining (as most require a small fee for members).

September 16 – Visiting student orientation session – Induction Talk

September 17 – ISS International Student Welcome – Introduction Talk event

September 23 – The first day of Fall semester classes

September 29 – Last day to enrol and confirm your classes. Typically course enrolment results will be distributed 1-2 weeks before the start of the semester. If you find you don't meet the credits requirement, consult with the visiting students committee at the University of Glasgow.

October 7 – Last day you need to be physically on campus

December 9-20 – Exam session

December 20 – Last day of the Fall semester. Students are free to make travel plans from December 21 onwards.

3. Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

Registration

During the months leading to September, the International Exchange Office will send emails regarding registration and enrolment to courses. There is an academic registration and a financial registration to be completed before you can enrol in courses. Eventually, they will send you your student ID and your corresponding email address. In addition, they will prompt you to register for a visa appointment which you need to attend in person once you arrive in Glasgow.

Visa Appointment

The visa appointment is where staff will verify your boarding passes, and will also be where you pick up your student card. You are required to attend the appointment whether you're staying for just a semester or longer. As I was only staying for a semester, I did not need to register for a visa. However, if you are staying for over six months, generally you would need to register for one ahead of time. It's best to consult with the International Exchange Office if you are unsure.

Class Registration

Around 1-2 weeks before you arrive in Glasgow, you should be updated on the status of your course enrolments. Overloading above 60 ECTS for full-time studies is permitted, however, underloading is not. Changes to your courses cannot be made until you arrive in Glasgow, therefore, you will need to consult with the International Exchange Office and submit the necessary course request forms upon your arrival. While I didn't have any issues with underloading, I had friends who went through the process and it can be quite stressful trying to find space in rapidly filling courses. When submitting course approval requests early during the summer, I suggest submitting more classes for review and overloading credits. If an overloading number of credits is approved, it gives them more flexibility when building your timetable since one of the common issues for underloading is clashing class times. After all, you can drop any additional courses. If you do end up confirmed for an underloading number of credits, ask the International Exchange Office what the process is, and submit as many courses as possible for approval. As of Fall 2024, the international team at the University of Glasgow consists of around four people, therefore some delays can be expected. However, they will aim to sort your timetable out by Week 2 of the semester.

Social Activities

The International Exchange Office offers a variety of international events, which you'll be prompted to register for through an email sent sometime before you arrive in Glasgow. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Glasgow and Scottish culture, as well as meet other international students. I made the mistake of only starting to register for these events when I arrived in Glasgow in mid-September when nearly all of them were full. However, I still attended many events and taster sessions by finding them on the SRC app at the University of Glasgow—I highly recommend downloading the "My SRC" app to stay informed on what events

are happening; there were events practically every day leading to the start of the Fall semester from my experience, hosted by many student clubs.

4. Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Airplane tickets

From Toronto to Glasgow (Connecting in Dublin) CAD \$1,000

I'm originally from the GTA and was home when I left for Glasgow

From Glasgow to Toronto (Connecting in London) CAD \$1,000

Housing expenses

Monthly rent (GBP £600 x 4 months) GBP £2,400

Average monthly electricity expense (GBP £30 x 4 months) GBP £120

Transportation expenses

Subway 28-day season ticket (x 3) GBP £156

Bus rides (usually on Sundays since the Subway closes early) GBP £2-5/ride

School materials

Textbooks GBP £60-80

Printing at the University GBP £1

Food

Approximate spending of groceries every 10-15 days GBP £30-50

Vacation expenses within the UK

Isle of Skye and Highlands Weekend Trip (2 days) GBP £145.69

Loch Lomond, cost is only to use ScotRail (1 day) GBP £7

Stirling Castle Tour (1 day) GBP £17.50

Trip to Edinburgh (2 days) GBP £110

5. Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Visa Deadlines

My international exchange duration is just a semester long (4 months), therefore I didn't need a visa. At this time, generally, if you'll be staying for less than 6 months, you do not need to register for a visa. If you'll be staying for more than 6 months, you do need to register for a visa as early as you can. I am not familiar with the visa registration process, but the University of Glasgow does remind you about visa requirements quite early on via your uOttawa email. As of

2025, the UK government is replacing Biometric Residence Cards with eVisas, which may be something of relevance to you depending on the length of your stay.

The school mandates all international students who are not nationals of the UK or Ireland—whether they have a visa or not—to register for a visa appointment with the school to allow staff to verify attendance at the University. Bring your boarding passes and passport as well as any other relevant documents related to your visa, if applicable. You will also receive your student card during this appointment.

Course Registration

The University of Glasgow will provide you with a course list you can choose from early on through your uOttawa email. Generally, as a Telfer student, uOttawa will only permit enrolment in business and language classes (excludes French). Once you've selected a few courses (make sure to select more than 60 ECTS to avoid potentially being underloaded in credits due to class time clashes), there is a course request form to complete and send to uOttawa's Telfer International Exchange committee. After obtaining approval, you can proceed with requesting courses from the University of Glasgow through the course enrolment process. Refer to Question 3 - "Class Registration" for more information.

Housing

I stayed in a private accommodation where I shared a semi-attached house with the landlord. I found the accommodation in OpenRent, which is known to be a reliable site to visit. Other sites I used were Rightmove, SpareRoom, and Zoopla. Practice caution and make sure to ask for the landlord's Scottish registration number to verify they are legally permitted to rent out living spaces. I also paid a deposit to secure the private accommodation, which will be refunded after the tenancy ends if no damages occur.

Student accommodation is also available. For the best chance to secure an offer, apply as early as possible. International exchange students are not prioritized when requesting student accommodation, so spaces will be limited.

6. Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

I lived at 19 Milnpark Gardens, Glasgow, Scotland, G41 1DN. The address is in a safe and quiet suburb called Kinning Park. Most houses in this suburb are either semi-detached with one another, or apartments/flats. The cost of rent can be found in the budget breakdown in Question 4.

The only minor downside is that this address is relatively far from the University of Glasgow, restaurants, stores, and other amenities. Fortunately, there is a subway station close by called Kinning Park station, where you can ride to St. Enoch station to reach necessities at City Centre or ride to Hillhead station to reach the University of Glasgow. Thankfully, the Subway routes are a continuous circle, meaning there is no "wrong way," but rather a "faster way."

7. Other comments or recommendations.

Class Registration

Underloading your credits is a stressful experience. To avoid it as best as you can, please refer to my comments under Question 3 on this topic.

Recommended Grocery Stores

Almost immediately when you look through Glasgow, there are no bulk stores such as Walmart, Food Basics, Farm Boy, Shoppers Drug Mart, etc. There is a Costco, but it's quite far. Generally in the UK, there are no bulk stores, in which they instead have more local store options. I recommend Tesco and Sainsbury's as your main grocery store go-to's; they are practically everywhere in Glasgow, so you can't miss it. For Tesco, you should register for their free club membership which allows members to save a few pounds on certain purchases. To do so, you need to download the Tesco app—make sure to change your App Store/Google Play region to the UK first, or you won't find it.

For a Shoppers Drug Mart replacement, the UK has Boots, a health and beauty store with a pharmacy chain. Register for a Boots Advantage Card to accumulate points and receive offers if you visit there frequently.

Recommended (Italian) Restaurants

I'm afraid I may be a little biased, but I'm a big fan of Italian food, so naturally the top restaurants on my list are Italian. If you're also a pasta fan, some restaurants you should try include Little Italy, La Vita Spuntini, and Santa Lucia Ristorante.

Scottish Culture

If you're like me and this is your first time in Glasgow, and perhaps even Scotland, it's only common sense to learn and explore their culture!

In Scotland, they're big on sausage rolls (particularly from Greggs), haggis (if you search this up, don't let the cooking process disturb you, it's actually quite good!), and potato-filled dishes. Of course, fish and chips are also something the locals may usher you to try. There is also a popular drink in Scotland called "Irn Bru," which tastes like an orange fizzy drink. If you attend any events that offer food, you're guaranteed to find at least one of these items from the list.

Ceilidhs—you probably pronounced this wrong (don't worry, I've done so too many times to count). Pronounced as "kay-lees" these are traditional Scottish dances that are very lively and overall lots of fun to take part in. Although they are more commonly found during Christmas, many international events during the welcome week will give lots of opportunities for you to try it out. Minor warning, you *will* sweat a lot, but that's okay, because everyone will be tired!

Whisky and beer is a big part of Scottish culture. In Glasgow, you will often find the nights to be very lively even on weekdays, especially at around 11PM and onward. There are many pubs in

Glasgow you can have a great time around campus, just make sure to stay safe and protect your drink.

8. Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

So far, my experience in Glasgow, Scotland has been incredible. The locals are incredibly friendly and are always quite curious when they meet people from overseas. Glasgow is also generally a very walkable city, allowing me to really admire the architecture. From the Scottish foods to the rich culture, there isn't a dull moment when exploring Glasgow. The University of Glasgow is also quite diverse, leading me to make friends with people all over the world, such as from Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and more! I've had so much fun exploring the city, and would definitely revisit it in the future!