

October 31, 2019  
Exchange Term for Fall 2019  
Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

Telfer School of Management  
University of Ottawa

Please describe your experience and comment on the following:

A. *Your program of study (courses, assignment, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.*

I'm currently enrolled in the International Management program at the Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa. During my term here at the University of Glasgow I am enrolled in 65 credits. The courses I'm taking are:

- Management in the Public Sector (15 credits, once a week for two hours)
- Performance Management and Simulation (15 credits, once a week for two hours)
- Marketing Communications (15 credits, twice a week, two hours each)
- Spanish Beginners (20 credits, 4 times a week, 50 minutes each)

**Management in the Public Sector:** the course is mainly lecture based (of around 80 students), and requires pre-session readings weekly. The assessment for the course consists of two 1,500 research reports, each worth 50%. There is occasional in class group work and interactive discussions on weekly political headlines.

**Performance Management and Simulation:** the course is mainly lecture based (of around 30 students), and requires pre-session readings weekly. The assessment for the course consists of two different assessments: one group report (40%) and one individual report (60%). Every week, the instructor allows the last 30 minutes of class to be dedicated to the group work. The course is interactive during lectures and tackles different real-life cases on performance management in the service industry.

**Marketing Communication:** the course is mainly lecture based (of around 90 students), and is mainly based on knowledge learned in ADM2320 course at Telfer. The assessment is one report due at the end of the term (100% and research based). The course is taught by three different instructors which is interesting to learn from different point of views.

**Spanish Beginners:** the course is mainly built to be similar to a DGD with a class of 10-15 people. Three of the four lectures are mainly vocabulary based and very interactive, and the fourth lecture is a grammar class. For exchange students, you have two assignments (not

graded), one written test (80%) and an oral test (20%). The class is very useful for those that are beginners at learning Spanish and interactive.

As an exchange student, you are only permitted to take **level 4 classes which all weigh 15 credits** and most beginner language courses **weight for 20 credits**. This led me to overloading to 65 credits rather than taking the required 60 credits. Both institutions allow students to overload but not underload.

*B. The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the **precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.***

The Fall semester begins from September 23 and ends on December 20. I arrived on September 8 which allowed me a good amount of time to attend different social events, get my apartment furnished, and start getting accustomed to the public transport in the city. It is best if you are there two to three weeks before your classes begin as the mandatory orientation for international students was on September 13.

The registration for the course begins prior to your arrival at the university. One to two months before you arrive, you must log onto the university (Glasgow) website and register for classes yourself. I highly recommend that you choose as many classes as you can that are approved by the uOttawa office. Make sure that the classes you do end up choosing are all level 4. Later on, the university (Glasgow) will inform you if you have been approved for the classes or not. If not, then you will have to wait till you arrive to get sorted out.

The host institution will reach out to you around a month before your arrival to confirm your registration online and to upload a photo for your student ID. Then, you are required to register online for a mandatory international student orientation (they will send an email). This orientation is really important and will give you a lot of guidelines on how to adapt to your new environment, social events, and student tours. If you had issues with your class registration, this info session will also be helpful on the next steps.

The university will offer several social orientation events for international students that you would be able to register for prior to your arrival. The events take place two weeks before the semester starts.

I do not have exams but I do have a final test and reports due towards the end of the term. The exam period usually runs from December 9 to December 20, which is also around the time all your reports are due. During the Fall semester, there are no holidays or days-off, unfortunately. You are only off when the semester ends for Christmas and New Years.

- C. *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.*

### **Mandatory International Students Orientation**

Ten days before the semester began, we were required to attend a mandatory exchange information session that will help guide us on any issues we may have had with the course selection, information on Glasgow, social events, etc. The registration for this info session will be available prior to your arrival (they will send an email to remind you register).

### **Public Transport and Go-to's**

Upon your arrival, I highly recommend you familiarize yourself with your surroundings. I noted down any pharmacies near me, the closest grocery store, the distance from my accommodation to the university and the distance to the nearest bus stop. As the university is not really located in the city centre, most of the time I had to take the bus to go downtown. You can easily do that by downloading the "FirstBus" app, and purchasing your bus tickets online. Once you're on the bus, all you have to do is scan! I usually planned out my bus trips via Google Maps. I suggest purchases beddings and any home-decor from Primark (located in the city centre), kitchen utensils from Morrisons, and daily groceries from either Tesco or Sainsburys. My accommodations hosted Ikea bus trips during September which were useful if you were not able to find the things you needed from the other stores.

Using public transport and walking are the best ways to get anywhere in the city (and the most cost-efficient). Uber is available in Glasgow, but it is also priced the same way as taxi's here - so if you're looking to get a lift anywhere, taxi's and Uber are reasonably priced as well.

### **Class Registration**

If your classes were not approved before you arrived in Glasgow, it is usually handled between September 13 to October 4. It is a very complicated and tiring process, however, I assure you that it will be solved. The office here is very inefficient with this process and the international students were not informed it was going to be this complicated before arriving.

After the information session you will be given all the needed information to fix this issue. The first step is to get the class approved by the course coordinators at the host institution. Once that is done, you must email Veronique to get the classes approved by her. Finally, you must send them to the international student office for them to enroll you. You will not be doing any of the enrolling yourself. This is just a basic summary of what will be needed from you, but the information session will be very useful when it comes to this. If your

classes were approved and you've been successfully enrolled in them, then you will not need to worry about this. I highly recommend you stick with your schedule and not try to alternate last minute as it can become hectic.

## **Social Events**

Glasgow is such a beautiful city with so many events taking place almost everyday of the year. The university offers a lot of social events for you to attend, but the students usually take it upon themselves to host different gatherings. I suggest you join the exchange student Facebook groups as everyone is always ready to meet new people and hang-out. Most of the events I attended were not hosted by the university but rather by the students in the Facebook group.

The university offers several events that you can register for prior to your arrival that you can take part in such campus tours, student life talks, treasure hunts, and more!

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

**Airplane Ticket:** Ottawa to Glasgow (via Air Canada) was \$510. I booked this in May 2019 which was four months before I travel. My flight back to Ottawa (via IcelandAir) costs \$1,200. I booked this in September 2019 which is four months before I travel as well. This was the cheapest price as December - January flights are all expensive. This was the cheapest and only option.

**Health Insurance:** I purchased travel insurance from CAA with a \$500 USD premium that cost a total of \$520 CAD.

**Housing:** I chose to live in a private accommodation rather than one offered by the University. Based on reviews and student experiences, the dorms here are not that good and some are too far from campus. I am currently living at Tramworks (located on Kelvinhaugh Street) which is under United Students, a student housing program. I live in a flat with four other people and have my own ensuite. We only share the common room and the kitchen. I pay roughly 640 pounds a month. My accommodation offers a laundry room, a gym, a common room, two study rooms and a short-term accommodation. It is very rare to find short-term accommodation in Glasgow but Unite Students offers two different housing options for exchange students at a reasonable price. My walk to campus everyday is 10-15 minutes and you also have the option to use the public bike service.

**Public Transport:** I usually only use public transport once to twice a week when I need to go to the city centre. I purchase online 5-single use tickets for 11 pounds. I purchase this once every month as most of my trips are done by walking.

**Textbooks:** I was only required to purchase one textbook for my Spanish course which was 22 pounds. My other courses offer a reading list that can be accessed easily online.

**Meals:** My flatmates and I generally go every other Sunday to grocery stores to purchase the necessary items for the next two weeks. During these trips we generally spend 15 to 20 pounds each. During the week, however, I sometimes do go to Tesco occasionally and will only spend five to seven pounds. I highly recommend that you meal prep through-out the week and to be very mindful with the money you spend outside. It can start getting really exciting when you first arrive in the city, however, you'll notice that most of the money you spend is gone towards food. Please budget yourself before entering any store, and keep that restriction in mind.

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

As a Canadian citizen, you are not required to prepare a visa before you arrive. You can complete it at the airport when you arrive in the United Kingdom (no fees). They require to see your housing information and your acceptance letter. Make sure you have those printed out for them to confirm and issue you a short-term stay visa. The university also sends you a document that states you are a student at the host institution. They did not require it of me at the airport, but I had it available nonetheless. Once you do get your visa, the host institution will offer students two different days to register your visa at the university. All you need to take with you is your passport.

I was required to pay rent on September 1 for my accommodation prior to my arrival. Information on course registration is in previous sections.

*F. Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.*

My address is:  
Tramoworks  
107 Kelvinhaugh Street  
Flat G01  
G3 8PX  
United Kingdom

You can find more information on my student housing via the Unite Students website as well as other housing options they offer in the city. I pay approx. 640 pounds every month (for four months) for rent. I do my laundry every week which costs me around 4 pounds to both wash and dry. My room is an ensuite room with my own private bathroom, a  $\frac{3}{4}$  bed, a desk, a closet, a lot of storage room. It is located 10 to 15 away from the university (by walk), and 2-3 minutes away from Tesco and Sainsburys grocery stores. It is also 10 to 15 minutes away from the city centre by bus, and 20 minute walk

to the West End. The area I live in is mainly students, near the Kelvingrove Art Museum and in the heart of all the good food Glasgow has to offer.

*G. Work-term*

I'm currently working part-time mobility. I completed my first CO-OP work-term during the summer before travelling, and chose to continue working abroad for the same company. It is mostly administrative work done easily online.

If you are CO-OP student and expect to have a work-term the semester you come back from your exchange, you can easily complete all your interviews online via Skype. You just need to let the CO-OP office and they will arrange everything.

*H. Other comments or recommendations*

I highly recommend you set budgets for yourself and make enough time to clean, do laundry, and cook. It will be hard to adjust at the beginning, but the best way to do so is to attend different events hosted by the students. It is a good way to meet others on exchange as well and exchange information.

*I. Five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.*

I'm very grateful to have been given this opportunity to take my studies abroad and to experience a different culture, I've never been familiar with. I have had the chance to travel to different areas of the United Kingdom and explore the beautiful scenery. Glasgow has offered me a wide range of diverse food cuisines to try, exciting events, and amazing traditions to immerse myself in. I've had the chance to make friends from all over the world such as Australia, Chile, the Netherlands and more! This experience has definitely shown me that I am able to live on my own and to learn how to make decisions for myself on a daily basis.