

University of Ottawa Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

Institution Abroad: University of Strathclyde

Country: Scotland

Semester: Winter 2018

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

My program of study abroad at the University of Strathclyde is business. There is a total of 11 weeks of class for this semester alone. I am taking three courses while studying here since that is the equivalent to taking five courses at the University of Ottawa. The three courses that I am taking here are: HR303 – Employment Relations, MK212 – Services and Retail Marketing, and Z1218 – New Venture Planning.

To begin, **Employment Relations (HR303)** is the course I'm taking with the heaviest workload. The format of this course is lectures, workshops, and tutorials. There is one lecture a week that is two hours in length, one workshop a week that is two hours in length, and four tutorials in total during weeks 5,6,7 and 9. Therefore, there is about five hours of class per week during weeks 5,6,7 and 9, and four hours per week during the other weeks. The exact number of class hours for HR303 is 48 hours in 11 weeks. There are three assessments for this course which includes one 2,500-word individual essay worth 40% of your grade, two small group assignments that are each worth 10% of your grade (20%) in total, and one final exam that is worth 40% of your grade. There are readings that you are supposed to do before each tutorial and each lecture; however, they are not graded.

Secondly, **Services and Retail Marketing (MK212)** is a course that I am taking that seems to have a lot of class hours per week. The format of this course is lectures and tutorials. There are two lectures per week that are each two hours in length. There are also four, two-hour tutorials in total for this course, that take place during weeks 3,5,7 and 9. Therefore, there is about six hours of class in weeks 3,5,7 and 9, and four hours per week in the other weeks. The exact number of class hours for MK212 is 52 hours in 11 weeks. There are four assessments for this course which

includes one individual 1000-word essay worth 15% of your grade, one group assignment/report that is worth 25% of your grade, one group presentation that corresponds with the group assignment and is worth 10% of your mark, and finally one final exam worth 50% of your grade. In addition to these assessments, there are readings that you are supposed to do before each tutorial and each lecture; however, they are not graded.

Thirdly, **New Venture Planning (Z1218)** is a course that I am taking with the majority of the work being group work. The format of this course is lectures and tutorials. There is only one two-hour lecture per week, and four two-hour tutorials in total, which take place during weeks 3,5,7 and 9. Therefore, there is about four hours of class in weeks 3,5,7 and 9, and two hours per week for the other weeks. The exact number of class hours for Z1218 is 30 hours in 11 weeks. There are four assessments for this course which includes a trade show event worth 35% of your grade, one individual reflection on the trade show event worth 10% of your grade, one group project/report worth 30% of your grade, and one group video of the product/service you have created worth 25% of your grade. There is no final exam for this course. There are readings that you are supposed to do before each tutorial and each lecture; however, they are not graded.

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.

Second semester runs from January 15th until March 30th. Exams begin on April 23rd and officially end on May 18th. The academic calendar for Strathclyde for the 2017/2018 year is inserted below:

University of Strathclyde Academic Weeks' Calendar 2017-18

Date Week Commencing	University & Timetabling System Weeks	University Holidays		Academic Calendar
Mon 31/07/2017	1		Resit Exams	
Mon 07/08/2017	2			
Mon 14/08/2017	3			
Mon 21/08/2017	4			
Mon 28/08/2017	5			
Mon 04/09/2017	6			
Mon 11/09/2017	7		Welcome and Development Week	
Mon 18/09/2017	8		Semester 1	Wk 1
Mon 25/09/2017	9	Mon 25.09.17		Wk 2
Mon 02/10/2017	10			Wk 3
Mon 09/10/2017	11			Wk 4
Mon 16/10/2017	12			Wk 5
Mon 23/10/2017	13			Wk 6
Mon 30/10/2017	14			Wk 7
Mon 06/11/2017	15			Wk 8
Mon 13/11/2017	16			Wk 9
Mon 20/11/2017	17			Wk 10
Mon 27/11/2017	18			Wk 11
Mon 04/12/2017	19		Sem 1 Exams	
Mon 11/12/2017	20			
Mon 18/12/2017	21	Sat 23.12.17		Xmas Vacation
Mon 25/12/2017	22	to		Xmas Vacation
Mon 01/01/2018	23	Wed 03.01.18		Xmas Vacation
Mon 08/01/2018	24		Consolidation and Development Week	
Mon 15/01/2018	25		Semester 2	Wk 1
Mon 22/01/2018	26			Wk 2
Mon 29/01/2018	27			Wk 3
Mon 05/02/2018	28			Wk 4
Mon 12/02/2018	29			Wk 5
Mon 19/02/2018	30			Wk 6
Mon 26/02/2018	31			Wk 7
Mon 05/03/2018	32			Wk 8
Mon 12/03/2018	33			Wk 9
Mon 19/03/2018	34			Wk 10
Mon 26/03/2018	35	Fri 30.03.18		Wk 11
Mon 02/04/2018	36	Mon 02.04.18		Spring Break
Mon 09/04/2018	37			Spring Break
Mon 16/04/2018	38		Sem 2 Exams	
Mon 23/04/2018	39			
Mon 30/04/2018	40			
Mon 07/05/2018	41	Mon 07.05.18		
Mon 14/05/2018	42			
Mon 21/05/2018	43			
Mon 28/05/2018	44	Mon 28.05.18		
Mon 04/06/2018	45			
Mon 11/06/2018	46			
Mon 18/06/2018	47			
Mon 25/06/2018	48			
Mon 02/07/2018	49			
Mon 09/07/2018	50	Fri 13.07.18		
Mon 16/07/2018	51	Mon 16.07.18		
Mon 23/07/2018	52			

To begin, you must register with **Mobility Online**, which is Strathclyde's online mobility system.

This application must be completed by October 15th for semester 2, and it is here where you select the courses that you would like to take (you don't get to see the times that they are offered though so technically the school makes your timetable for you unless you change it upon arrival).

Following this, you must register on PEGASUS (university online portal similar to uoZone) at least 7 days before the start date of your programme.

The orientation week at Strathclyde is called "**welcome week**", and it runs from January 8th until January 12th. There are numerous events during welcome week that are worth attending since it

gives you the opportunity to meet lots of people and find out about the ongoing events and trips throughout the semester. The university will send you an email with the dates of these events before arrival.

Classes begin January 15th and end March 30th. Exams begin April 23rd and officially end on May 18th. I booked my flight home before leaving for May 19th just to be safe, since the exam timetables do not get released until the end of February. At the University of Strathclyde, there is one holiday/break that runs from April 2nd until April 13th. During this time, there are no classes or exams, so you are free to do anything during this time. It provides a great chance to travel outside of the UK. There are two semesters at Strathclyde. The first semester runs from September until December and the second semester runs from January until May.

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.

Before you arrive in Glasgow, you can register for an airport meet and greet, where a Strathclyde student meets you at the airport and calls you a taxi to take you to your accommodation free of charge. Upon arrival, you can either use this service, pay for your own taxi, which will cost approximately 25 pounds, or you can take a bus to the city centre (5-minute walk to the university) for around 8 pounds.

Once you arrive at the university, you have to go to the accommodation office to pick up the keys for your flat. You can also pick up your student card from the McCance building on campus after you unpack and settle in.

Registration and course selection is completed before arriving at Strathclyde and is due on October 15th for Semester 2. You have to choose various courses that you are interested in taking, even though you are only required to take three courses when you arrive. The school sends you a course catalogue with instructions on how to choose the right courses to take on exchange. Strathclyde will send you the courses you are enrolled in before you arrive, and you will be able to look them up on Strathclyde's timetable search tool to see the days and times that these courses are running. If you need to make any changes to your schedule upon arrival, then you have to contact someone at the SBS undergraduate office or request an amendment to your curriculum on PEGASUS (they will explain all of this at the welcome meeting on your second day). Be careful if you decide to do this yourself, because you can only make one change every 48 hours, which can become a problem once tutorial slots start filling up.

In order to do laundry, you have to purchase a laundry card from the laundry room beside the village office. In order to top-up your laundry card, you have to go online and put it on your visa. There are numerous social activities during welcome week such as a scavenger hunt, a free walk around Glasgow with Gary (the best tour guide ever), and a pub night where you learn the Scottish accent.

There are also various services offered by the International Exchange Office and the school in general which are listed below:

- Advise and support services which can be reached at:
<http://www.strath.ac.uk/sees/infoint/>
- ERASMUS Student Network which can be reached at
<http://www.strathstudents.com/esn>

- IT Help Desk which can be reached at <http://www.strath.ac.uk/ithelpdesk/> or on the 1st floor of the library
- Students Association which can be reached at www.strathstudents.com
- The Exchange Team which can be found at the Graham Hills Building on campus

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

The cost of my round-trip flight from Toronto to Glasgow, and then from Glasgow to Toronto was just over \$1,000.00. Housing costs for one semester in the Birkbeck Court residence is 2,295.00 pounds. Since the university is small, there are no daily travel expenses if you live in residence. Additionally, textbooks for the majority of classes can be found at the university library. You can either take them out on a short-term loan for a day, or sometimes you have the option to take them out for a one-week loan with the option to renew the textbook for up to six weeks. I did however have to buy one textbook for my New Venture Planning course since there were no copies of this textbook available at the library. This textbook costed me 16.00 pounds on Amazon. Furthermore, I typically get groceries once every week and this usually costs me around 15.00 pounds. Eating out can range in price like everywhere; however, I typically spend between 5-10 pounds each time I eat out in Glasgow.

Traveling around Scotland with the tour company called Student Tours Scotland is definitely the cheapest option that I could find. Depending on where the tour is, tickets usually range from 20-30 pounds for day trips. Vacationing outside of Scotland varies greatly, and it usually costs around 20.00 pounds to get to the airport by taxi, and 8.00 pounds to get there by bus. The cheapest airline that I have been able to find is called Ryanair, and I highly recommend that every student

studying abroad should use Ryanair if they are able to. There is also a cheap bus company called Megabus that you can take to various places in the UK, including Edinburgh and even London. I took Megabus from Glasgow to London for 14.00 pounds round-trip.

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

As of right now, if you are Canadian, you do not need a visa to study abroad in the United Kingdom; therefore, you do not need to apply for a visa to study at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. This is conditional with the only requirements being that you are from Canada and that you are studying in the United Kingdom for six months or less.

In order to get through customs and enter the country you do need to bring the following documentation: a letter of acceptance from the University of Strathclyde, bank statements to show that you are able to fund your stay in the UK, and a return ticket showing that you intend to leave the UK at the end of your exchange. You also need to be able to present where you intend to stay while studying abroad (ex: the address of your residence or your residence agreement/contract).

Perhaps the most important information that will be useful if you intend to travel outside of the United Kingdom at any point during your exchange (ex: travel around Europe), is that you must bring all of this documentation with you at all times so that you can get back into the UK. For example, if you go to Spain for a weekend, you will need to bring all of the documents listed above to get back into the UK at the end of the weekend. You must register for courses before you leave to come to Scotland. You have until October 15th to complete course registration for semester 2.

Additionally, you have to pay a housing deposit before arriving in Scotland as well. This deposit likely differs depending on what residence you stay in; however, my deposit for Birkbeck Court was 400 pounds, and it was due on December 11th, 2017 for the winter 2018 semester abroad.

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

The residence that I am staying in is called Birkbeck Court at the address of this residence is 105 Cathedral Street, Glasgow, G40NP. This is the cheapest and most recently renovated accommodation option at Strathclyde. Birkbeck is an apartment-style residence, where each flat (apartment) has six people in it. Each person in the apartment has their own individual room; however, the kitchen/living room and two bathrooms are shared among all roommates. The kitchen does not come with any utensils, pots, pans, etc., so you need to buy everything when you arrive. It does however have a panini press, a kettle, oven, stovetop, microwave, a full-sized fridge, and a full-sized freezer. As stated previously, there was a rent prepayment of 400 pounds that was due on December 11th. In addition to this prepayment, the first payment day is on February 10th, 2018, and a total of 530.00 pounds was due on this day. The second payment date is April 10th, and a total of 1,365.00 pounds will be due on this day. This means that the total cost for one semester living in Birkbeck Court is 2,295.00 pounds. The residence agreement for Birkbeck Court is for 21 weeks and 6 days (longer than the semester), so if you want to stay and travel more after exams are over you have your accommodation paid for already. Other accommodation's housing costs, descriptions, and pictures can be found on the University of Strathclyde's website.

G) Work term (if applicable).

N/A.

H) Other comments or recommendations.

Do not forget to bring the travel documentation that I listed in section E of this report every time you travel in and out of the United Kingdom while on exchange. Although you do not need a visa to study in the UK for six months or under, you do need to bring this information with you to get in and out of the country. I also recommend that you do not buy the ESN discount card upon arrival because it is not worth the savings in my opinion.

I ended up joining the International Society upon arrival and it has been a great way to get involved and meet other exchange students. If you join this club, you also get to organize trips around Scotland which you can go on for free if you are one of the main organizers. Furthermore, the tour company called Student Tours Scotland is a great way to see Scotland at a very low cost. These tours are not just for students, but they are directed at students, so it also gives you a great chance to meet lots of people. The tour guide, Gary, is also a great guide who is both funny and interesting to say the least.

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

So far, my experience studying abroad in Scotland has been unforgettable. My flatmates and I get along really well, and we are all exchange students, so it makes it more comfortable knowing that you are not alone in this great but sometimes overwhelming experience. I have managed to travel a lot in Scotland while being here, and I plan to see a lot more of it. I have gone to Isle of Skye, Loch Lomond, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Glencoe, and Fort Williams. I have also gone to

Valencia, Spain and London. For the two-week break I am going back to London, and am also going to Paris, Barcelona, Florence, and Berlin. I also plan on going to Ireland and maybe even Malta before leaving for home on the 19th of May.

Photos of Exchange in Scotland:









