

A) I am studying International Management at the University of Ottawa. At the University of Strathclyde I am taking 3 business courses:

1. MK212. – Service and Retail Marketing

This course consists of two two-hour lecture every week and a two-hour tutorial every other week. You are assessed through an individual essay (15%), a group report (25%), a group presentation (10%) relating to the report and a two-hour exam (50%).

2. Z1218 – New Venture Planning

This course consists of one two-hour lecture every week and a two-hour tutorial every other week. You are assessed through a tradeshow style group presentation (35%) based off of a business concept you create, followed by an individual reflection (10%) on the tradeshow, a group report (30%) and a group product promotion video (25%). There is no final exam.

3. HR208 – Work Psychology for Human Resources

This course consists of one two-hour lecture every week, a two-hour tutorial every other week and a two-hour workshop on alternating weeks with the tutorials. You are assessed through a group presentation (12.5%) with a group report (25%), an individual assignment (12.5%) and an exam (50%).

B) The residences opened on Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. On Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, there was an orientation for all exchange students. That first week classes did not run, and different faculties had different dates set for orientations. Classes started on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Classes ended on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 right before Easter. Afterwards there is a two week break before the exam period started on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the exam period ends on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. You are able to stay in housing till June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

C) Before your arrival, the University of Strathclyde will send out an e-mail with the option to register to be greeted by school representatives upon your arrival. Doing this will allow you to take advantage of a free cab ride arranged by the school.

Preliminary course selection will be done before you leave through an online portal. Any changes that you would like made once you have arrived needs to be done through the undergraduate office and required approval.

Every Wednesday, the international society hosts a pub night. There is also a lot of clubs and sports teams to choose from if you wanted to get involved in the school.

D) The conversion rate between the Canadian Dollar and the British pound was always approximately double (\$1 = £0.50/£0.55)

**Plane Ticket** round trip through British Airways = \$1,538.37

Housing - Birkbeck Court	Pounds	Canadian Dollars
Deposit	£400	\$730.10
First Payment	£530	\$967.39
Second Payment	£1365.00	\$2491.48

Groceries	Pounds	Canadian Dollar
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2L Milk (skimmed)	£0.96	\$1.76
Eggs (10)	£0.85	\$1.56
Bread	£0.63	\$1.16
Apples	£2.00/kg	\$3.67
Avocados (pack of 4)	£1.85	\$3.39
Chicken (4 breasts)	£4.25	\$7.80
Pasta (1kg bag)	£1.20	\$2.20
Medium Coffee	£2.00	\$3.67

A roundtrip ticket on the subway costs £3.10 (\$5.66)

The bus system is run by many companies'; therefore, pricing will differ depending on the bus you take. The most popular company is First Bus.

Express trip to the airport with first bus is £8.00 (\$14.60) one way.

If you live on campus, there is no need to take public transportation to get to your class and because the campus is located in the city centre everything you need is within walking distance.

When booking weekend trips, the earlier you book the better the price will be. Prices will also vary depending on the location. If you are looking for the cheapest mode of transportation into a surrounding country, the bus is the best option.

For accommodations when travelling, Hostel World is a great website (and app) that will show you all the hostels in the city, most of the time this is a cheaper than Airbnb if travelling with a small group, although there has been times where splitting the cost of an apartment for 2 people is cheaper than each paying the room fee at a hostel.

I did not buy any textbooks so I wouldn't have to worry about carrying them back home. The library had all my needed textbooks, but if you do choose to buy them, the school bookstore offers the option to buy them back from you.

- E) Before your arrival Strathclyde will send you your official acceptance letter along with access to an information portal to fill out. This is where you will provide the school with your contact information, which residence you'd like to live in, and which classes you'd like to take. Once all the information provided to them gets approved by the school you will then be given access to Pegasus, their equivalent to UOzone.

A little while before your departure, the school will send you your accommodations contract which you will need to sign and pay the £400 deposit by a week before your arrival. The costs of the residence is outlined above in D.

If you are planning on staying in Scotland for less than 6 months you do not NEED to apply for a student visa, as you will receive a visa stamp at customs when you arrive.

When you leave for Scotland you should bring with you a printed copy of your official acceptance letter, a copy of your residence agreement and a copy of your insurance. If you choose not to apply for a visa, it's recommended carry these documents with you every time you leave the country and plan to re-enter. It is also recommended that you have a photo copy of your passport, driver's license and health card in case of emergencies.

- F) I spent the semester in Birkbeck Court.  
105 Cathedral St.

Glasgow, Scotland  
G4 0NP

Each flat has 6 bedrooms, two shared bathrooms, and shared kitchen/living space. It cost £105 (\$192.56) per month, payment details are outlined above. There were many exchange students living in Birkbeck. A few downsides are the lack of a mirror in the rooms and very little space to keep clothes.

H) Some useful things to note.

Aldis and Sainsbury's (grocery stores) are both approximately a 10min walk away and are very inexpensive. Boots (similar to Shopper's Drugmart) is also a 10 min walk away. Poundland (similar to Dollarama) has multiple close locations.

Once you arrive, I recommend getting a phone plan with a provider here. The one I went with is Vodafone (10min away); they have affordable monthly sim card plans where data and minutes roll over to the next month if not used. I chose a £30 with unlimited text, 3000minutes and 20GB of data, there are cheaper options.

There is a great tour group with a great tour guide called StudentToursScotland offers affordable tours around surrounding cities in Scotland such as Edinburgh and to Loch Ness.

Once you arrive you will need to buy kitchen things, Poundland will have dishes, or you can look at TK Maxx (similar to Winners/Homesense). The school also has a small student store that sells second hand items collected from past exchange students that were going to throw them away (can be found in the Student Union) I don't know what it is called since we were told this after buying all our things but if you go up the main stairwell it is in front of the stairs next to a barber shop.

A thing to note is the grading scheme here is also skewed, 40% is a pass at Strathclyde and 60%-70% is considered an excellent.

Here are useful links: <http://studenttoursscotland.com/> (tour company) <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/accommodation/> (accommodations)  
<https://www.hostelworld.com/> (website for Hostels)  
<https://www.skyscanner.net/> (website to find the cheapest flights)  
<https://www.goeuro.co.uk/> (website go book buses)

I) It's important to remember that you are here on exchange and the school offers a lot interesting courses, but this is an experience of a lifetime to be in Europe and have the ability to travel the world and meet a wide variety of new people. Enjoy the experience, try not to stress too much about school and get as involved as possible with the school and outside of school, and go out and experience as much as possible. Make friends, travel lots and create as many memories as you can.

## Pictures



Group of exchange students gone laser tagging



On a group tour in Edinburgh



On a hike



A Ceilidh organized by the International Society.



A Pub Night