

GLASGOW 2022

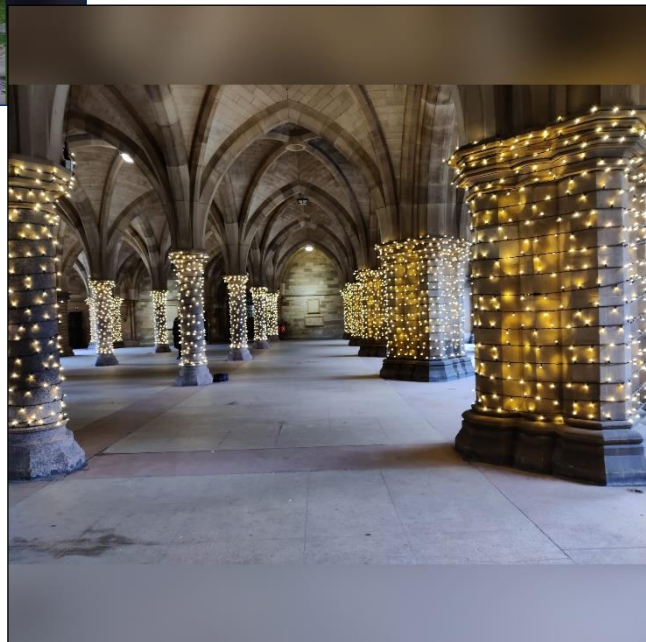
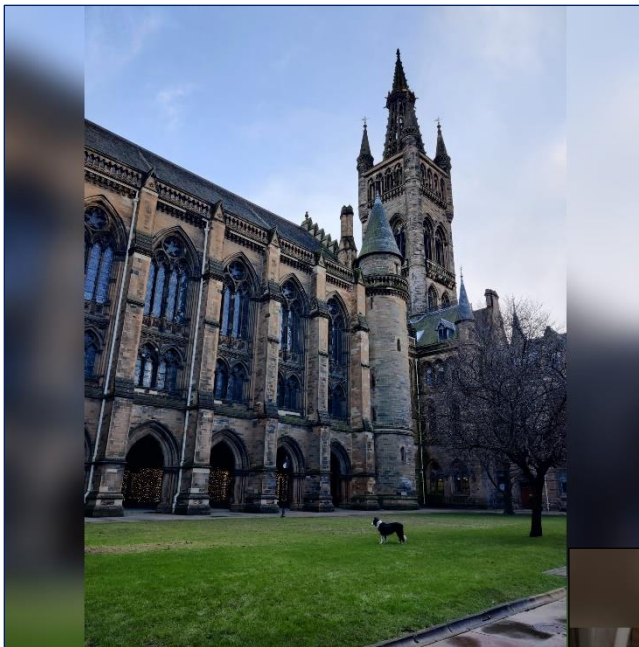
Helene Handsteiner

Term: summer term (10.01.2022 – 27.05.2022)

Stay: 06.01.2022 – 31.05.2022

Field of study: secondary education Biology/English

Email: helene.handsteiner@ph-ooe.at



Courses

I chose two biology courses and one English course at the University of Glasgow in advance of my stay. When I arrived in Scotland, however, the English course was not taking place this year and there was no other option to fit the course catalogue in Linz, which is why I only did two courses then and will catch up on the other content back in Linz. Therefore, **I suggest going abroad in third semester instead of the sixth, so you have enough options** to choose from in case something doesn't go as planned. Additionally, in case you don't want to be in the situation that you need more time for your studies caused by such things – **prepone some courses in Linz** that fit your schedule before you do Erasmus! (especially if you go in 6th semester) This way it doesn't matter so much if you need to make up for some courses after your stay abroad.

Accommodation

We, two colleagues and me, **had an AirBnB** a bit outside of the city centre in Glasgow which was cheaper than the **university accommodations**. There are several university housings, but they mostly **won't let you book for only one term, and if they do you need to pay one month extra**, which is why we decided to search for some private accommodation. **It's important that you start your search early** because there are so many students in Glasgow, so you should search for accommodation a few months earlier than your stay. Best would be half a year before I think.

University

The University of Glasgow (UoG) is **both an old jewel and a modern university** caring for all their students. On the one hand you will see the historic old buildings which are popular photo material and give you some kind of elite university feeling, but don't you worry – people are very kind and not the stereotypical rich people. On the other hand, the university just built a new Learning Hub, which is a huge building on campus with an amazing view on the old buildings and serves students to study without distractions or meet up with other students to discuss group projects.

Concerning the studies: What I can say about the biology courses is that they used a hands-on approach given that we had labs every week to measure some physical stats, try out new things etc. The professors were mostly still working in research and presented the newest findings during the lectures, making them very interesting to listen to.

Something that's different from Linz is that the **UoG has a lot of student societies** which can be found on the University Website. Me and my friends did **Scottish Country Dancing**, which was amazing! We really got to know some parts of the Scottish Culture there and the people were lovely. We did a lot of group dances and they organized Ceilidhs (social gatherings where people dance accompanied by traditional Scottish folk music). After our exams we even did a subcrawl with the whole dance group – that's a thing in Glasgow because there's only one subway line going in a circle. You hop on and hop off, go to a pub, then hop on again. The people from the society even invited us to their flats and we did some sort of pub quizzes there which they had prepared for us.

The university itself also has a lot going on in terms of events. One day they had alpacas coming to the campus to help students destress during the exam period, and also handed out goodie bags with destress tea and chocolate.

Culture

In the very beginning of our stay the UoG had virtual offers for visiting students, where we saw, for instance, how to use a traditional **Scottish kilt** because there are different variations. People still wear them either for the weddings, **Highland Games** – another Scottish culture aspect, or simply in the city whenever they play **bagpipes**. We were also introduced to the TV series “Outlander” which was filmed in Scotland.

Generally, the Scottish people are very helpful, kind and will support you even though they don’t know you.

On one trip we did, we learned some **Scottish Gaelic** expressions of which the most important one is “Slàinte mhath!” (= Cheers!). Additionally, the water of life for Scots apparently is Whiskey. Whiskey, as well as Gin, is a big part of the culture in Scotland. Not only the drinks, but also pub quizzes play a major role. In case you want to partake, the **Pub called “Bag o’ Nails”** hosts very good **pub quizzes** and always has live music from local artists. The whole atmosphere plus food and drinks are great, too.

About art: **Museums in Scotland are mostly free** to visit because they care for people’s cultural education and want it to be available for everyone. In Glasgow you can already find a lot of them and if this isn’t enough for you, just catch a bus to Edinburgh and continue with your cultural journey.

Not only can you visit Museums for experiencing culture, but also a lot of castles all around the country. In cities and castles, you can often see unicorn statues, because the **unicorn is the national animal of Scotland**. You might wonder: why a unicorn? Well, given that there’s an ongoing dislike and quarrels between England and Scotland, Scotland chose the unicorn. The national animal of England is a lion and a unicorn is the only animal that can defeat a lion in a fight.

Cuisine

There’s not a lot to say about the Scottish cuisine. It basically consists of a lot of meat, potatoes and sauces. The best example is **Haggis**, which is the national meal, not to everyone’s liking knowing what is actually is.

As a typical dessert you can get a **fried Mars bar**, another Scottish idea, but a good one.

In case you want a sweet soft drink – **IrnBru** is the way to go for you. It tastes like bubble gum and has unimaginable amounts of sugar in it.

Advice

There's a **youngscotcard**, which you can get for free on the government website, that gives you a lot of discounts such as visiting the Edinburgh Castle for only one pound instead of 20 pounds. If you're **under the age of 22** – you should definitely get it for your stay as it grants you free bus travel in all of Scotland.

Concerning grocery shopping, a **Tesco Clubcard** is recommended, as you'll get groceries a lot cheaper in most cases. But: you need some kind of UK phone number.

The app "**TooGoodToGo**" exists in Glasgow as well and you get a whole meal for little money, definitely worth a try and groceries won't be thrown away.

On the bus you need Google Maps because they won't tell you what the next stop is, and you won't be able to read the signs in most cases. Almost every one of the FirstBus buses has free Wifi. If you buy bus tickets, have a look for which company they are valid! There are a lot of different companies.

When travelling to Edinburgh or any other destination, the **Megabus** company is the cheapest one and a lot cheaper than going by train!

If you're planning to do some sort of organized student tours – go with **ISTS (International Student Tours Scotland)** - the other one is called Viva and does not provide any information on the places you go to, whereas ISTS makes the trips very memorable plus you'll get insider knowledge for prices that aren't too high.

Places to see

- ❖ Glencoe
- ❖ Glenfinnan Viaduct (Harry Potter Bridge)
- ❖ Loch Shiel / Loch Lomond
- ❖ Isle of Skye
- ❖ Irvine Beach Dragon
- ❖ The Cobbler
- ❖ Alva Glen Waterfall

- ❖ Edinburgh
- ❖ Liverpool
- ❖ Dean Village
- ❖ Falkirk
- ❖ St. Abbs
- ❖ Rosslyn Chapel
- ❖ North Berwick Beach

