

I attended University of Strathclyde in Glasgow during my 5th semester of MLS and thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I would highly recommend it! Here are a few bits of information if you're considering Glasgow as an option for your Erasmus semester.

Accommodation

Be prepared, Glasgow is pricey! You should be ready to pay around 500euros per month for rent. The market is also very competitive. There are a large number of international students per semester and you will need to bring a little patience with you when searching for a room. I recommend using the website Spareroom (which is how I found my flat) or joining Facebook groups for Glasgow Student Housing. When signing up to study at Strathclyde it is possible to be put on a list for student accommodation on campus. The majority of Erasmus students I met lived on campus. There is definitely always something happening if you choose to live on campus but don't be fooled the bedrooms are tiny and you will be living with 4-6 other students.

I personally decided I didn't want to live on campus and found a great flat on the southside of the river which I shared with one other person and his cat. For me this was a great option however for those considering the southside be aware that the best way into the city centre from here is via the Subway (see 'Transport'). The north side of the river is where the university as well as the vast majority of attractions for students are located. So, whilst the rent is much cheaper in the southside you are a considerable distance from daily student life.

University

The University of Strathclyde is located in the center of Glasgow, only 10 minutes from Buchanan Street Subway station. Whilst I am unable to give much information on the University's interior as I took part in an online semester the campus is an interesting combination of beautiful all buildings with modern additions and overall has a very welcoming vibe. The student union, located on the main campus is open to all and contains large areas to study as well as a bar, café and common rooms for group activities. For more peace and quiet there is also a big library that has numerous rooms available for solo and group study and I found it to be very comfortable.

For MLS students you will belong to the Biomedical Sciences program and will have the option of 4 courses to fulfil your 5th Semester obligations of which you will only need to select two. I chose Immunology (BM325) and Biomedical Biochemistry (BM321). The remaining options would be Microbiology and Pharmacology. Strathclyde organizes their classes quite differently to Hamburg which I was not aware of upon arrival. The individual units are simply for theory. If you wish to take part in lab rotations during your semester abroad you need to enroll in Being a Biomolecular Scientist (BM327). BM327 gives 20CP and involves 5 individual labs for each theory unit as well as workshops throughout the semester and culminates in a graded report. It should be noted that whilst the exams for the theory units take place in December in the final week of the semester the report is not due until the second week of January.

The units BM321 and BM325 were conducted very differently to what I had been accustomed to in Hamburg. The lecture material is said to only be enough information to pass the unit but for grades beyond a pass extra reading must be completed. As the exams are in essay format this extra reading is assessed in terms of additional pieces of information added to essays not otherwise stated in the lecture material. The Biochemistry unit was very doable given the previous four semesters completed in Hamburg whereas Immunology required considerable additional study for me. Overall, I really appreciated the friendliness of the teaching staff and found the lecture material very enjoyable.

Leisure

By far my favourite moments in Scotland were exploring it's beautiful backyard. The scenery in Scotland is absolutely stunning. Whether you choose to go hiking, outdoor climbing, mountain biking or on a road trip it will be an absolute winner! I was very fortunate to be able to experience all the above listed options and just loved it. For those interested in hiking and climbing, I would recommend you join the Mountaineering Society in the Start Week as they go in regular weekend trips all around Scotland. Glasgow is located less than an hour away by train from Loch Lomond which is a great starting point for a chilly winter swim, beautiful views and the option for a gentle climb up Conich Hill.

The pub culture in Glasgow is definitely a lot of fun. There are pubs and bars for every type of mood. Old and rustic, modern and stylish, pubs for Celtics or Rangers Fans and many bars that verge on being clubs. For Whisky Drinkers or those wanting to become one there are endless options with barkeepers happy to give you advice. There are also many great restaurants for all pallets.

One thing I would highly recommend doing whilst in Glasgow is attending a Ceilidh. It is a traditional Scottish dance and I have to say it was one of the most fun experiences I had whilst there. It is a whole group event where everyone eventually dances with everyone and there is usually a large amount of beer involved. A recipe for a good night!

Transport

Albeit the biggest city in Scotland it is nonetheless relatively small with limited public transport in comparison to Hamburg. Glasgow has one underground train set up as a ring-system (the *Subway*) with half the stations on the north and half on the south side of the city. As mentioned under 'Accommodation' the University of Strathclyde as well as the vast majority of popular bars, and leisure activities are located on the north side of the river. It is very important to mention that the Subway runs only until 11pm on weekdays and until 6pm on Sundays. Local buses also do not operate past 11pm. These operating hours should be taken into consideration when looking into accommodation as taxis and Ubers are not a cheap option so to be able to make most of Glasgow's nightlife it is best to live on the north side.