

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

CATHERINE MCSORLEY

Program: University of Glasgow Exchange, Fall

Catherine's Majors: Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science

Academic Life: The courses that I took were all traditional classroom instruction, which I was used to experiencing at UW-Madison. The students in my classes were a real mix. I took a course that was very popular among the European exchange students, and got to meet classmates from all over the world. I also chose to take a class that is not traditionally open to "visiting students," and in that course I was with a lot of students from Scotland and around the UK. The main thing to note about academics is that nearly all the grades are based on final exams or assignments.

Advice for Someone Considering Glasgow: Glasgow is incredibly unique; it has so much culture and life, and is a hidden gem compared to other European destinations. I loved that aspect of Glasgow: fewer tourists and more locals made me really feel like a local early on. The University is world-renowned and I know it's cheesy but it really does feel like Hogwarts. You can get the magic of going to school in a castle while also being in a modern, working city full of life.

Housing: I lived in a residence hall, in a flat with 5 bedrooms. All my flatmates were on exchange as well, from Australia, Canada, and the U.S. The hall was a 20-minute walk from the campus, but I had a beautiful stroll through the Glasgow Botanic Gardens on the way, so I didn't mind the commute.

New Perspectives: When I first arrived in Glasgow I had a bit of trouble with the local accent. I didn't really notice that I began to understand the dialect until I had some friends I'd met while travelling come to stay with me. I realized that I was able to communicate comfortably and understand things that my friends who had only just arrived found unintelligible. It was rewarding and really made me feel like a part of the Glasgow community.



Catherine at Urquhart Castle in the Scottish Highlands.

"I am much more happy exploring and learning on my own without a safety net. I can't buy or learn that in a classroom."

