

Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Xiaoyun Tan

Massey Degree: Bachelor of Business (Accountancy)

Host university: The University of Edinburgh

Semester and year of exchange: Semester 2, 2017

- **Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?**
Exploring another part of the world - Europe has been one of my dream. This exchange programme provides me a special opportunity to be able to stay in a new city for a few months. The U.K. has glorious history and unique culture. The University of Edinburgh has been known as a top university in the world with very long history and beautiful campus. These reasons attract me to choose Edinburgh.
- **Did it meet your expectations?**
It is definitely worth it. Edinburgh is an amazing city, with the old town and new town split by a main street. Imagining you are walking on the road which hundreds of years ago people walked through the same road, this can be achieved in Edinburgh. And Edinburgh is very kind city with friendly people. It cannot be more comfortable than living in Edinburgh.
- **What courses did you study while on exchange? Would you recommend them?**
For the semester while in Edinburgh University, I studied three papers, including Auditing, Business Research Method, and Business Economics. I would definitely recommend them. The lecturers are nice and willing to answer students' questions. One lecturer gave me extra guidance on how to write a good assignment. I learned a lot from that and now I got more ideas about how I should write an essay.
- **Were there differences in the teaching methods and academic environment at your host university, compared to Massey University? If so, what kind of differences?**
The teaching methods are not so different at Edinburgh University, compared to Massey University. There are lectures, workshops, tutorials every week and assessments are also made up with assignments and final exams. However, Edinburgh University offers some short courses to students focusing on various areas, such as language studies, European cultural introductions. It is a great chance for students to expand our view.
- **Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like?**
I stayed in the university accommodation during my exchange. The hall is well-organised, with a very welcoming reception and convenient facilities. I stayed in a six persons flat with my own room and a shared kitchen. The kitchen is well designed for more than six people. I had lots of warm and unforgettable memories in the hall.
- **How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?**
My living expenses in Edinburgh are similar as in Auckland. It is a lot cheaper than staying in London.

- **What extra-curricular activities did you participate in at the host university?**
I participated in an activity advertising my home university to future exchange students in Edinburgh. And I spent lot of my free time to explore Scotland's highland and England.
- **What's one thing you learnt about your host country or culture?**
Now I have more knowledge about Scotland, knowing their traditional dressing is plaid skirts, traditional Scottish food is haggis and Scottish bagpipe can play pleasing music.
- **What were some of the highlights of your exchange experience?**
The highlights of my exchange experience were that I made lots of friends who are from different countries in the world. I cannot forget the chatting with flatmates from England and America, playing games together in the common room, and the group meetings for group assignment.
- **What did you find challenging?**
Getting used to local food is one thing I found most challenging for me. Fortunately I could find various restaurant serving other countries' food in Edinburgh. And I can sometimes cook by myself in the flat.
- **What do you feel you have learnt or gained from going on exchange?**
I think I have gained not only academic knowledge, but also more ideas about what I should do in the future. After seeing more of the world, I know that there are so many possibilities in our life. Now I'm able to consider more, and have more positive attitude to life.
- **Do you have any tips for future students intending to travel to the same country or university?**
For future students intending to travel to Edinburgh, I would definitely recommend them to open their mind, and make friends in the new city. It is a very important way to quickly get used to the new environment and start enjoying your exchange.
- **Do you have any comments on the support provided to you by Massey University and/or by the host university before/during/after your exchange?**
Thanks for all the support to me during applying the exchange. The exchange team always answered my questions very quickly and provided many useful suggestions for my exchange.

