

The academic teaching style at The University of Edinburgh is one which is very different to the approach taken in University College Dublin. At Edinburgh there was clearly much more of an emphasis on self-directed studies, With approximately two thirds the number of contact hours in comparison to UCD. This approach required one to have the ability to teach oneself complicated topics in order to succeed in their University System. Tutorials within The University of Edinburgh are also structured in a different manner. Tutorials in Edinburgh primarily focused on student collaborating by having students sit in circular tables working in groups to discuss and solve problems, this is in contrast to the majority of tutorials within UCD which tend to act more like lectures. There is also much less emphasis on continuous assessment at the University of Edinburgh with the majority of my final exams being worth 95 to 100 percent of the entire module in comparison to 70% which is the standard within the maths department in UCD.

Whilst on exchange I made sure to try and experience as much of the Scottish culture and learn as much about their history as possible. Fortunately I had the opportunity to go on a tour of the Scottish highlands stopping off at notable locations such as Glencoe and Loch Ness all whilst being informed of the history and context of the local landscape through which I travelled.



In terms of the local culture Edinburgh has a great reputation of walking tours through the cities narrow alleyways also known as closes which open into spacious squares hidden on all sides by the distinctive buildings of the oldtown of Edinburgh, this was an experience I was delighted to have experienced, making it even better was it had taken place during the weekend of Halloween adding to the overall experience.



Edinburgh is also home to a world-famous Christmas market which spans the valley running alongside Edinburgh's iconic hilltop castle, this was truly an excellent way to finish my exchange.

The University of Edinburgh also has an extremely diverse and International population. Throughout my time in Edinburgh, many of the close friends I made during the semester had travelled from countries all over Europe to also take part in their Erasmus exchange at The

University. Getting to know these people was truly a great experience and I have certainly made some lifelong friends from different countries during my Erasmus period.

Prior to my semester abroad I would have considered myself quiet the home bird finding comfort working in familiar environments. However having the ability to spend a semester abroad has made me to realise how much more there is to see in the world outside of Ireland and has been a major factor in me deciding to apply to a large number of International Internships for the subsequent summer. Whilst on exchange I made sure to



use the resources provided to me, the most valuable of which I found was to get advice from lecturers who had travelled long distances to work at The University of Edinburgh. Once I have finished my Undergraduate Degree, I intend on perusing a Phd and a number of these lecturers provided me with some exceptional advice on which Universities may best suit my interests and also outlined the importance of working internationally at the beginning of your Academic career as you develop your network, advice which I am sure will be invaluable in my future endeavours.

Part of the reason I was able to enjoy my time in Edinburgh so fully was thanks to the fact that the Academy was able to secure me campus accommodation for semester 2. This was a great relief as finding single semester accommodation off campus whilst living in a different country would have been an extremely difficult task one which I am very grateful to the academy I did not have to undertake.

Overall, I had an outstanding time during my exchange, and I would happily recommend any student go on exchange if possible.

