



There and back again –
Story of two
exchange students in Scotland
spring 2009

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WWW = Where Were We

- City of Paisley:
www.paisley.org.uk
- University of the West of Scotland,
Paisley campus
(4 in total)
- Thornly Park
Residence (5km)



Arrangements in Finland

- Paper work to Erasmus and to both schools (Valtteri-tasks, choosing courses, writing applications, arranging accommodation etc.)
- Paper work and fights with Kela 😊
- Journey planning & tickets (with Ryanair travelling is cheap but may take a while...or 26 hours)
- Independent studies and arrangements concerning few courses at home university

Arrival

- No help from local school (no tutors)
- 1st had to buy pillows,duvets and bed linen
- Welcome ceremony to exchange students & welcome packs
- Enrollment, time tables & student cards



Getting to know

- Basics of Scottish "English"
- City of Paisley & Glasgow
- New flatmates
- Campus life
- Transportation
- School building
- Students Union (restaurant, "cinema", bar etc.)



Living in a new culture

- No big cultural shock
- Different kitchen
- Dialect
- Strict fire regulations
- Different holidays
- Paisley dangerous at night
- Politeness
- Different nature & landscape



School

- Industrial studies (10 ECTS)
 - Exam, essay, CV, cover letter, job interview
- Surveying & field week (10 ECTS)
 - Exam, field week, labs, a lot of calculations
- Independent study module (10 ECTS)
 - Report (max. 5000 word) + AutoCAD drawings ect.



- One subject per one day
- Level of studies not as high as in Finland
- School started on 2nd of February and ended in the beginning of April (Civil engineers, 2nd and 3rd year)
- School building = labyrinth



Free time activities

- Sports centre (@TPR)
- Different groups (hobbits, hill walking etc.)
- Trips for exchange students (Edinburgh, the Cobbler hill walk)
- Students Union
- Travelling
- Student life @ TPR 😊



Exchange student life @ Paisley

- Parties at the Students Union (Mo-Fri)
- Parties at the TPR 24/7
- Clubs at Glasgow
- Rich social life



Money, money, money, must be funny..

- Price level ~ Finland (Pound was weak)
- Erasmus money, money from department and Kela
- Insurance from school
- Money left for travelling also



From the experience we got

- Language skills
- More courage
- A lot of friends around the world
- New food and cultural experiences
- Appreciation towards Finland (cleanness)



Tips

- Not very suitable for house building & renovation students
- Doesn't lessen the amount of studies in Finland
- To get more friends, choose student residence
- Be ready to buy some basic things (drying rack, pots, coffee maker etc.)
- The student residences are NOT 5 star hotels...
- Travelling cheap, trains expensive



For further information don't hesitate to contact us

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