EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Arts and Social Sciences
Major/Minor: International Studies
Host university: University of Stirling
Host Country: Scotland
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) January/2015 to (month/year) May/2015

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1600
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $100
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please describe:

VISAS

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian
Did you need a student visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost? Free upon arrival
If yes, what documentation was needed? Letter from SFU and from host university
Did you need a visitor visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost?
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Where was your immigration documentation processed?
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit?
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please comment:

AIRPORT RECEPTION

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? □ No □ Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: Stirling Direct can take you from Edinburgh or Glasgow to campus for a fee. Otherwise you can take a bus from either airport to the train station and a train to Stirling.

What is the closest airport to the host university? Edinburgh and Glasgow airports are the same distance

ORIENTATION

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? □ No □ Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session? □ No □ Yes, how much? 
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: They give your student ID to you and show you around the main campus facilities. They can also give you helpful information such as bus routes into town, etc.
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, how long is it?__________________________________________
Is there an additional cost for language training?  □ No  □ Yes: How much?________________________
Please comment:__________________________________________________________

ACCOMMODATION & LIVING
Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, please describe: Beech Court if you can afford it
What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  $650
Is there a meal plan?  □ No  □ Yes: How much is it?________________________
If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  □ No  □ Yes
How far is your dormitory from the main campus? About a 15 minute walk (from Alexander Court)
Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
  Wireless internet is included in your rent. There are no phones.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this? They can take bank transfers or credit card payments.
Is off-campus housing easily available?  □ No  □ Yes
Please comment on off-campus housing:
  There are a few off-campus dorms you can live in. Other than that you can try to find a flat to rent but I don't know of anyone who did that.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals?  $850
Any other comments on accommodation:
  I lived in Alexander Court which is quite far from the main campus, and the buses only go there in the evenings. I don't recommend it unless you don't mind quite a bit of walking. Living off-campus is nice because you can walk to the grocery store, restaurants and mall, but have to take the bus to school unless you don't mind the approx. 30 minute walk. Likewise if you are on campus you have to take the bus into town. If you want to live on-campus, I recommend one of the halls closer to the main campus building, which has most of the classrooms, the library and the stores/food.
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? □ No □ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)
I only brought enough cash to last me the trip there and the first few days. After that I took money out of the ATM on campus. My bank charged for this so I mostly used my credit card to make purchases while on exchange because I didn’t net charged for that.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? □ Cash □ Debit □ Credit card
Please comment: Most places take credit cards but I always had at least some cash on me just in case.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No □ Yes
Please describe the course registration procedure:
Before you arrive, they ask you for a list of courses that you would like to take, ranked in order of preference. Then the school registers you in the ones that are available for you to take, and emails you to let you know which classes they are.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? International Relations / History
What is the language of instruction in your courses? English
If not English, are English-taught courses available? 
Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.
Most classes are a combination of lecture and seminar. However, all of my courses were seminar only. About 15 people per class, and mostly discussion. There is a lot of prep work (reading) and participation expected for seminars.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
Exposure to a different system of education taught me a lot but mostly just being in a completely new environment and learning how to meet new people and function on your own. The networking opportunities are also great with meeting people from all over the world.

Submission Instructions:
1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire – [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.