My Erasmus journey just would not be complete without my second internship in Europe right before my graduation. Thanks to the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR), my time spent in Glasgow counts as a big bonus, adding both hands-on experience and social connections, to the whole study programme.

**INTERNING IN SCCJR**

My internship in SCCJR focused mainly on two tasks. First, I assisted in analysing the qualitative data solicited from a comparative research on youth leisure in Hong Kong and Scotland. Reading through transcripts and triangulating stories served as an opportunity for polishing up my research skills, a part of the skillset necessary for further studies, as well as the possible pursuance of an academic career. Second, I also helped in coordinating an academic event on ethnography. As the occasion drew collaborative effort of both the SCCJR team and intellectuals who are skilled in utilizing the methodology on human biography, it provided an eye-opening reminder on stories of people who might easily be forgotten.

For sure interning in SCCJR was not only about work, as I was embraced by my friendly colleagues during my stay in Glasgow. In fact, I felt more like being a guest of theirs as they walked me through the Scottish local experience. Besides, the authentic exchange of insights on local affairs contributed as the precious plus for my time in SCCJR. Equally important was some first-hand information on how to prepare for an academic career in the United Kingdom.
ACCOMMODATION

As we all know, life in the United Kingdom is expensive in general, but it could still be an easy one with appropriate budgeting and the help of Erasmus funding. Similar to most other student exchange, finding affordable accommodation was the task with priority. Fortunately, Glasgow is slightly less expensive compared to most of the other major cities. In addition, one does not need to worry about communicating with flat owners as English is the official language here.

A big tip here would be to make use of websites like Gumtree and SpareRoom to find accommodation. I was lucky enough to get in touch with my landlady, who kindly introduced me to her all-inclusive shared flat for 330 pounds per month. It turned out that I stayed there with my other two friendly flatmates. I was also surprised by the fact that many offers on the website were actually cheaper than the student dorms.

BUDGET LIVING

I ended up living close by Maryhill in a neighbourhood with a nice blend of a few ethnic communities. Despite a place slightly away from the town centre, there are a variety of shops and business run by some ethnic minority groups. This favoured my budget living in Glasgow – who can imagine having a haircut for just 7 pounds in the UK?

Everyday life in the university area could be of good value of money if one looks for student services. Eating at the University Union and Fraser Building would be the choice, while there are also a few nice options around for occasional self-rewarding treats.

TRANSPORTATION AND MORE ON TRAVELLING

Glasgow has a well-developed transportation system for everyday commuting. A key point here is to make use of the student status, if possible, to get the right discount for one to move about. Still, if I am to make one complaint here, it would be the buses missing out of schedule.

Travelling around Scotland for leisure is a must-do. While Glasgow fascinates with the post-industrial scenery of Scotland, Edinburgh preserves much of its medieval vibe. I also happened to follow one of my colleagues visit the World Pipe Band Championships at Dumbarton. By proportion,
Scotland at large consists of considerable green coverage, which guarantees some enjoyable time for the nature drillers. All in all, there are a lot to see in Scotland as most places are easily accessible.

POOR WEATHER

One has to be aware of the cold and rainy weather in Scotland. Arriving in June and staying over July, my experience there posed a great contrast against the heat wave in Continental Europe. Temperature in the early summer usually ranged below twenty, and with abundant wind, clouds and rains, one could be quite discouraged from going for outdoor activities. As a matter of fact, I pulled out my summer clothes not until the last week of July.

Another interesting thing here is that Glaswegian tends to talk about weather to open a conversation, but be careful that poor weather might also terminate a dialogue, as everyone knows it is the source of all glooms!