**My Story — Nathan Walmer**

**My Glasgow:** Since moving into the Maclay residences a short walk from Uni, there has never been a dull moment. I've heard from locals that “West end is best end” and so far couldn’t agree more between beautiful strolls through the Main Campus and Kelvingrove Park, outstanding restaurants, and nights out on and around Ashton Lane.

Beyond the west end I love riding bikes along the Clyde river, exploring the City Centre and Glasgow Green, and checking out the music scene be it local acts or shows at the SSE Hydro!

**My Scottish Experience:**
- My first night out in Glasgow was the University of Glasgow ‘Welcome Ceilidh’ where I was given a crash course in Scottish culture. My first trip outside Glasgow was with the GU Malt Whisky Society touring two distilleries near Perthshire and learning the rich history of one of Scotland’s most popular exports.
- Edinburgh’s Hogmanay was a unique, amazing experience I took part in over New Years with family. I am now a regular at Oran Mòr’s “A Play, A Pie and a Pint”. As a vegetarian I’ve sampled and come to love vegetarian haggis—washed down with Irn-Bru of course.

**My Friends:**
My flatmates all hit it off immediately despite our different cultural backgrounds. Hailing from Norway, Ecuador, United States, and China, we’ve all had a blast throwing “Taco Fridays” and joining in activities like miniature golf and bar trivia. As a Media and Communications student, I have grown from hearing their diverse perspectives on politics and the media culture in their respective countries.

My fellow classmates are also quite close and have met outside class for anything from potlucks of native dishes to celebrating Chinese New Year. One U.K. classmate I even stayed and celebrated the Winter Solstice with at Stonehenge.

**My Travels:**
I’ve had the great pleasure of experiencing numerous sights that Scotland has to offer with both friends and family. Highlights so far have included riding the Jacobite Steam Train over the world-famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, better known as the “Harry Potter bridge”, as well as taking in the incredible features of Glen Coe.

I’ve also rode bikes with my girlfriend along the length of the Great Cumbrae and visited the towns of Oban, Mallaig, Fort William, Pitlochry, Callander, Largs, and Edinburgh as well as toured both Doune and Stirling castles. The Isles of Arran and Skye are next on my list.

**Advice for New Students:**
Take every opportunity possible to hit the ground running and attend introductory fairs and club meetings at the beginning of each semester. Joining clubs and sport groups have allowed me to build a solid network of friends that have helped me feel ingrained in the community. Depending on the group, these societies can help you in your academic projects and programmes and allow you to gain valuable skills teaching others to succeed while assuming leadership roles in the group.