

My life in Scotland, Sarah Gu

My journey to Scotland started from a working offer provided by the West Lothian Council in the year of 2009, when I was invited to be a Mandarin teaching assistant and also to help business links between Scotland and China from Nov 1, 2009 to Apr 24, 2010.

Those days which I enjoyed very much, turned to be the most beautiful memory in my early 20s. And because of this working experience and my effort, I got unconditional offer from the Business School of the University of Edinburgh. After one year's working in Shenzhen, China, I started my postgraduate study in Edinburgh in Sep, 2011 and I just graduated a couple of months ago in 2012.

Thinking of the first time coming to Scotland, I still get excited. Not only because of its astonishing fresh air and old history, more importantly, this is my first time being aboard and Scotland gave me a big welcome in many ways. I had my first landlady whose name is Linda in the very cold winter of 2009. She made me English breakfast every morning and drove me home from work each night. To reward her, I tried my best to make her family Chinese dim sum and other traditional Chinese dishes. Two weeks later, I was transferred to another kind lady Grace who lives in Livingston. I stayed at her place until my last day of my first journey in Scotland and she is now my British Mom since she took care of me just like my mom. Another thing is that I never lived with any pet before I came to Scotland, but I fell in love with dogs and cats, especially cats, during the days in Livingston. This was a great change on me because being the only child in a family in a town of China, usually there are no pets and most children don't know how to live with them.

The second time is much easier, for I'm so used to this country and I always look Scotland as my second hometown. I love this place, its people, culture, history, language and everything I touched. I still don't get the reason, but if I have a choice, I would like to spend all my life here with my beloved family and friends.

The university is amazing in all aspects. I almost got lost in the library, and I worked overnights for assignments and dissertation. Those days were crazy, with all joys and 66 smiling faces from 28 countries. We fight together, we trusted each other, and we laughed together. I did several projects during my master study and also achieved success in the end. When I started to concentrate on my dissertation, I also chose to work for my third landlady to earn some money to cover some living costs. It lasted for 5 months and I looked after her three sons. During that period, I learnt how to make British food and European food, and also to share Chinese food with them, too.

Now coming back to China, I miss the days in Scotland very much and it has become a very important and special place around the world inside my heart. I appreciate all the help from those lovely Scottish people, and I also cherish my twice experience in Scotland as they are so beautiful and has changed my life from then on.