



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University college dublin
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 2018
Otago degree(s)	Commerce
Major(s)	Marketing

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Digital business solutions	English		12
Consumer & buyer behaviour			12
Marketing research			12
Strategic marketing management			12
Responsible marketing			12
Brand management			12

Any comments about these papers?

Nope

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

Because a full course load is six papers rather than four, there is much less required for one paper in terms of assessments. I found it difficult to manage so many papers as it's hard to distinguish them from each other and remember what content came from which paper.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I missed out on campus accommodation and so arrived in Ireland with no where to go. I lived in a hostel for about a week before I managed to find an Irish family through a distant relative back home that had a spare bedroom that I could live in. This was cheaper than finding a flat or campus accommodation, but it was a long way from campus and so I had a 1.5-2 hour bus ride each way everyday for class. This also limited me on how much I could hang out with friends or go to other social events because I had to be able to get home via bus.

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

I paid €100 per week including food and bills. I did not buy a direct flight to Dublin, but my flight home from London to Auckland cost me \$1100. I didn't have a visa as I'm an Irish citizen and didn't have insurance for my exchange.

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

I opened an Irish bank account to pay rent and deposited some cash in there, but because of the cost for international bank transfers, I ended up just using my NZ bank card. Currency conversion charges aren't that much, and because my studylink was being paid into my NZ account, it was easier to spend from there.

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

No, just applied for my Irish passport before leaving NZ

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

There were a lot of events for international students to meet and get to know each other, but not so much for meeting locals. It's definitely worth getting involved in a sports club or something similar to meet new people.

What was the university/ city like?

Dublin is very expensive, but the people and the culture is awesome to be in. People are so friendly and welcoming. UCD Has an incredible campus, with walking tracks, sports grounds and 3 lakes (that I found, there might be more) to explore,

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

It's well worth exploring the campus itself. There are train services nearby that can take you to meat beaches or areas outside of Dublin city.

Any tips for future students?

Be organised with accommodation! Also, get involved with everything you can.

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

I am so glad I did it, but I would do so many things differently given the chance. I think that having to live so far away meant that I didn't get involved in extracurricular activities as much as I would have liked to. I loved the University and the way things ran, the campus was beautiful and I found people much more friendly and approachable than at Otago. I think the best part about being in Ireland is the cheap flights that can get you to anywhere in Europe. While there, I visited Amsterdam and ran in the Amsterdam marathon with 45,000 other people, I went to Morocco and rode camels into the Atlas Mountains, visited the south of France, skied in Andorra and flew to London a few times to visit people there. As well as this, I got to go and visit the towns/villages in Ireland where my great grandparents lived before migrating to New Zealand, and found out so much about where my name came from and the history behind it.

Overall, my exchange was great but my bad luck with accommodation meant that I felt very isolated other than the times that I traveled away from Dublin on weekends etc.

