



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Durham University
Semester & Year of Exchange	2019 Semester 2, 2020 Semester 1 (interrupted)
Otago degree(s)	BA
Major(s)	Classics, Archaeology

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Archaeology of Medieval and Post-Medieval Britain in its European Context	English	ANTH 200
Advanced Skills in Archaeology	English	ANTH 200
Specialized Aspects of Archaeology	English	ANTH 300
Museum Representation	English	ANTH 300
Roman Syria	English	CLAS 300
Greeks and Persians (c 560-336 BC)	English	CLAS 300

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

Challenging but fun would recommend Museum representation as you get to travel as part of the course as well as the skills paper because Durham has world class facilities to learn some of them

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

A hands off experience that has your head down in a book instead of in a classroom, self-drive is required for the Durham university student

Accommodation

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

University provided accommodation at a randomly assigned college, this was a fantastic choice if you wanted to fully immerse yourself in the college experience as Erasmus students are also assigned to college and you get to meet lots of different people and are provided a platform to participate in all manner of activities from sports to social events,

Money matters

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

\$7000 GBP approximately for accommodation, one way flight \$1000 NZD, college provided food

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

I set up a bank account in the country which was difficult and something you should look to do immediately as all the banks that offer special deals for international students do not apply these to exchange students and so a long wait time could ensue if you don't do it immediately

Visas & Insurance

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

No

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?

Do at least one sport it was a great way to get involved and meet new people, organised activities included balls, formals, trips, sports, plays, quiz, bingo and more

What was the university/city like?

Durham is old and full of character but small and homely like Dunedin, it has a vibrant night life and massive student culture

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

Trip up to Newcastle was fantastic day trip, Weatherspoons is a cheap and fun place to eat but any of the small cafes around the town always provided a fantastic brunch meal

Any tips for future students?

Don't be afraid, it may seem like a hell of a long way away and that got to me but it was only a single day before that was well behind me and I was loving my exchange experience

Overall Experience

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

Without a doubt one of the best decisions I have made in my life so far. The learning experiences I got and the field experts I met will allow for me to continue to benefit from my experience long after I have actually left. While my original intentions were driven solely by my academics coming out the other side it was everything else that makes me want to go back. The people the atmosphere and the places were amazing. I met people from across the globe and the only bad thing about it was having to say goodbye at the end. I participated in rowing and frisbee, made it to a lacrosse final in my first year and made it on to the university rifle team as an amateur. I learned from the people and the people learned from me. The places I went blew me away from Durham itself the beautiful cathedral city to the shores of the Mediterranean in Spain and the Forum of ancient Rome. This was a one of a kind experience that I cannot stress enough has changed my life for the better, forever.



Figure 1 My first Christmas away from home and without family spent in Belgium, this photo taken in Le Grand Place in the centre of Brussels



Figure 2 A proper English experience with my exchange brother Toby, this photo taken at a Newcastle home game vs Chelsea (We won 1-0 in the 93rd minute, Howay the Lads)



Figure 3 Making proper decisions on exchange was crucial such as when and where to travel, little did I know my exchange would be over 2 weeks after taking this photo of an empty Rome amid the Coronavirus outbreak.



Figure 4 Getting involved in sports was something I cherished most on this exchange and this photo was taken during a full bore rifle shooting event with the Durham University rifle team which I managed to earn a spot on



Figure 5 The people were the best thing I experienced during exchange, many lifelong friends were made and even a brother, this photo was taken at one of our underground whiskey's society meetings with the committee members