



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Melbourne
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 2022 & Semester 1 2023
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc)
Major(s)	Music and Neuroscience

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Real and Artificial Neural Networks	English	300-level Neuroscience
Drugs Affecting the Nervous System	English	300-level Neuroscience
Music and Health	English	200-level Music
Music Research	English	300-level Music
Music History 3	English	300-level Music
Biomedical Research Project	English	300-level Neuroscience
Philosophy: The Big Questions	English	100-level Philosophy

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points 126

Any comments about these papers?

They were all super interesting, Real and Artificial Neural Networks was so unbelievably challenging.

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

The overall academic experience was very similar, I would say that the expectations for time commitment and assessment quality were slightly higher. The lectures were definitely designed to engage and interest and the assessments weren't always directly related to content, as they would involve independent learning.

Accommodation

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

I was staying in a flat/sharehouse. This was good as the space, and house and neighbourhood were super nice and calming. It was a great way to make some friends and really integrate into the local life. The only bad parts were missing out on meeting fellow exchange and other uni students and engaging in those activities. It was also a bit further away from campus.

Money matters

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

The main costs were flights, rent, and living costs, as well as the compulsory insurance.

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

I opened an Australian bank account immediately, and used a mix of my Australian and New Zealand cards.

Visas & Insurance

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

I didn't have to apply for a visa

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 so many activities and parties and things to do. I would definitely recommend getting amongst all of it. PROSH is something every exchange student should do.

What was the university/ city like?

The campus was super posh and beautiful; super amazing facilities and buildings. The city is just incredible. So much to see and do, so much culture and food and music etc. Very modern and arts focused.

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

Walk down Brunswick Street, Fitzroy to go op shopping and have nice coffee. Study in the State Library of Victoria (The Dome room is breathtaking). Try and take a couple days out to drive the Great Ocean Road.

Any tips for future students?

Definitely put yourself out there socially, the Melbournians are a little closed off, so making real friends can be quite challenging. Get a social job, join a sports group or some clubs and persevere.

Overall Experience

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

This exchange was the best thing I have ever done. It taught me so much about what I'm capable of. It definitely wasn't easy and there were some pretty tough times but I'm so glad I did it. I've met so many cool people and made my own little community here. The uni side of things was really cool, being at a new uni in a new city completely motivated me and got me really excited to study and learn. Exploring the city has been amazing and really opened my mind. I feel like I was so sheltered in NZ and didn't realise how much was out there and how much the world had to offer.