



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Lund University
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	S2 2025
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Master of Planning, graduated with Bachelor of Science before
<b>Major(s)</b>	

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
<b>Foundations for Risk Assessment and Management – VRSN05</b>	English	15 points
<b>Critical Infrastructure Resilience – VRSN45</b>	English	15 points
<b>Smart City Governance: AI Ethics in a Spatial Context – VFTN75</b>	English	15 points
<b>Humanitarian Logistics – MTTN46</b>	English	15 points

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  60 points \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments about these papers?

All of these papers were super interesting. Very niche in comparison to Master-level papers offered at Otago, so it was a great opportunity to learn more about relevant subjects of interest. For future MPlan students looking to exchange to Lund, I've been told you can take papers within the Sustainable Urban Design Master programme if you graduated with a BA, including: Urban Quality and Urban Form, Sustainable Urban Dynamics, and Urban Dynamics - Theories and Tendencies.

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

The workload was pretty similar to Otago and the classes differed from each other quite a lot in how they were taught. Overall, the classes were super interesting and complimented the MPlan degree well. I think my favourite was Smart City Governance, I really recommend this one!

## Accommodation

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

I was living in private accommodation, an apartment in a co-housing development. I initially tried to get housing through AF Bostader, but got unlucky with my queue time. I then found this through a Facebook page. It was super nice living there, less than 10-minute bike ride to the LTH campus where my classes were. Ideally, I think you should go for housing through AF Bostader for the 'student experience', but don't worry if you don't get it, there are other options that are just as good!

## Money matters

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

My flight was about \$1500 NZD through China Eastern (surprisingly great service), and my accommodation was on the pricier end at \$230 NZD/week but you can definitely find cheaper such as through AF Bostader. Food was similar to NZ, of course it's much more expensive eating out so I mostly stuck to cooking meals at home. Insurance was \$640 NZD.

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

I used Revolut while living in Lund, where you can exchange \$2000 NZD a month for free, which was enough to live on for the most part.

## Visas & Insurance

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

You need to get a student visa, it's a bit of a pain but not too bad.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

No Lund didn't have mandatory insurance, I think they have insurance provided to all students.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

So many! The student nations are amazing (especially Sydsåkanska), if you're in LTH then the guilds are great and then there are actual clubs, I can recommend the extreme sports club.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The city is super nice, it feels like a similar size to Dunedin, and the university is beautiful as well. The university is all very close together but also separated into different campuses based on the curriculum.

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

I visited Abisko in the Arctic Circle and it was so sick, I can't recommend an experience more unique than this! Joining a nation and getting involved is also a must. There are also heaps of national parks around so if you're into exploring nature I would really recommend checking these out. I also recommend going to the Skåne Zoo, it's not well known by students but it's really nice!

*Any tips for future students?*

Prepare to ride a bike a lot – I went from struggling to ride a bike to doing it everyday. A tip from someone in the past was to try to stay in Lund and explore parts of the city one weekend and the next weekend explore some part of Skåne/Sweden/Denmark, and this worked really well for me!

## Overall Experience

Studying at Lund University has been an incredible once in a life time experience. I would highly recommend Lund as it is a university many many Europeans go to on exchange which means you will have no problem making other exchange friends. There are so many things to do and places to see not only in Lund but also nearby, like in Copenhagen and Skåne. I wouldn't change a thing about my exchange experience and I can't believe everything I got up to in just a few months, so sick!!!







