



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	The University of Edinburgh
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2, Fifth year
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	LLB, BCom
<b>Major(s)</b>	Economics

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Mind, Matter and Language	English	PHIL200
Business Economics	English	ECON300
Economics 2	English	ECON300

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

Any comments about these papers?

I chose the Philosophy paper as an elective course but it was super interesting!

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

The teaching style and workload was similar to Otago. Two papers were 100% internal, but one had an 80% exam which was slightly stressful. The Economics courses seemed to be more “maths-heavy” than those I’ve done at Otago. But, overall the papers shared many similarities with their Otago equivalents.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in Riego Street accommodation. It is a self-catered hall situated just below the famous Edinburgh Castle! George Square (where all my lectures were) was a brief ten-minute walk, and there were supermarkets within two minutes. I was lucky enough to be placed in a flat with other exchange students, but this isn't guaranteed. The accommodation is far less social than halls in Otago, so you have to put yourself out there to meet people. Overall, I enjoyed living at Riego Street.

## Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$4,500, Flights: \$2,500, Visa: \$0, Food: \$50/week, Insurance: \$700.

If you plan to travel throughout the semester I would recommend having more saved up.

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

I opened a *Wise* bank account which allowed me to easily exchange currencies at next to no cost. I used a *Wise* card everywhere I went.

## Visas & Insurance

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

No. As I was studying in the UK for less than 6 months, I qualified for the standard visitor Visa. You don't need to apply for this.

*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?*

The University has a countless number of clubs and societies to join from Harry Potter to Gaelic Football! I joined the hillwalking society which was a great way to explore the highlands, while meeting people and keeping fit. I would recommend signing up for anything that interests you, although don't overcommit as you'll want time to simply enjoy Edinburgh and travel around. A group of us tried stand-up comedy which was great fun and pushed me out of my comfort zone. Make the most of the experience and try new things!

*What was the university/ city like?*

Edinburgh is one of the most amazing cities I've ever been to. The winding streets and old buildings create a town that wouldn't look out of place in a movie. Hundreds of alleyways connect streets, culminating in a maze-like area. I've been here 4 months and still find new gems each day in the Old

Town. The University is also very nice. Unlike Otago, the campus is scattered throughout the city, but everything is only a walk or a short bus away!

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

**Places to visit:** Royal Mile, Arthurs Seat, Edinburgh Castle, The Pentlands, Circus Lane, Rose Street, Christmas Markets in Princes Street Gardens, Dean's Village.

Arthur's Seat in particular was my favourite spot in Edinburgh. It lies in the middle of the city and provides a 360 view of everything. I loved heading up there for a walk to stretch the legs and get some fresh air!

*Any tips for future students?*

If you're on the fence about applying to Edinburgh, do it! It has been the best thing I've done at University, I don't think you could study at a nicer place than Edinburgh.

## Overall Experience

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

My experience has been life-changing. I met some great people, made friends for life, and saw a good chunk of the world while I was at it. I travelled Europe for six weeks before the semester began, and took a few more trips throughout. I certainly learnt more outside of the classroom than inside, which is what exchange is all about. Now that it's finishing, I am ready to return to beautiful New Zealand, but I will be back!



*Looking up at Edinburgh Castle*



*Otago students enjoying the pub culture*