



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Manchester
Semester & Year of Exchange	Otago Semester 1 2023
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts
Major(s)	Law and Psychology

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
LAWS20732- Principles of Law, Medicine and Ethics	English	
LAWS21062- Miscarriages of Justice	English	
PSYC11412- Foundations in Mental Health and Distress	English	
PSYC11512- Foundations of Health Psychology	English	

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

Any comments about these papers?

Principles of Law, Medicine and Ethics is a super enjoyable and a relatively simple paper. It was my favourite of the semester. Miscarriages of Justice is a little more intense with more preparation needed. It has heaps of guest lecturers so if you enjoy meeting some experienced people it could be interesting for you. The differences between UK and NZ law were not really a problem for me. I found comparing the two very interesting which made the content more enjoyable. The two psychology papers were fine, definitely easier than those at Otago. The law ones were probably easier than Otago's too.

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

Overall the learning experience is very similar to Otago you won't need to make any major adjustments. In my experience there were more internal assessments as oppose to exams. Even when it seems there is an exam it often turns out to be an open book exam that can be worked on for a few days or weeks.

Accommodation

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

I stayed at Oak House on the Fallowfield campus. If you enjoy socialising then Oak is BY FAR the best accommodation option for you. The rest seemed to be significantly less lively whereas the people and social culture at Oak made it super easy to make friends. There really is no other Manchester hall that comes close.

Oak house is self-catered and consists of 8 person mixed flats (girls upstairs, boys downstairs). Even though most people were first years, it's not unusual for people to take multiple gap years so they were not all 18 year olds like it seems to be at Otago. My flatmates were all 18-20 however there were older people around too, it did not matter. People happily mingle with a wider range of ages at UoM in comparison to UoO.

Oak House is significantly cheaper than the other options. This is reflected in the quality of the accommodation but the flats are still perfectly liveable.

There are people drinking most nights and they head to the clubs a lot later than what's normal at home and therefore stay out a lot later too. If you are a light sleeper and don't enjoy going out then Oak House probably isn't the best choice for you. I would still recommend staying in Fallowfield as there are other halls that are less sociable in the area but are easier for meeting people than City Campus or Victoria Park.

Fallowfield is further away from campus than the other two but this really is outweighed by the great people in the area. I usually walked to University which took around 30-45 minutes. A lot of people bus, this takes around 15-20 minutes and they come super regularly.

Money matter

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

The semesters accommodation was around **\$4860**.

Flights ended up at **\$2,600** return, it was very difficult to find affordable tickets home though. I ended up having to book flights to Sydney then book a different airline home from there which brought down the price significantly.

A 6 months visitor visa is free.

When I shopped at Aldi, Tesco or Lidl I would have a week's food for around **\$40**. It got a bit more expensive when I shopped at Sainsburys which is the most convenient from Fallowfield.

I got student safe insurance. I did around 6 months with 30 days in Europe for **\$657.75**.

Bus's around Manchester or to campus are around **\$4**. You can get a bus pass but it's not that cheap and for me it wasn't worth it.

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

I used Wise. Super easy to use and significantly cheaper than using your NZ cards.

Visas & Insurance

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

No

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

I don't know

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

The international society holds a lot of events. I went to a few but I didn't really meet that many people at them although they are a good way to see England. There definitely are HEAPS of clubs if you want to get involved in them.

What was the university/ city like?

In my opinion Manchester is definitely the student capital of England. You can't get a better nightlife and culture. The campus was super nice and the city centres gorgeous. Get out and explore as much as you can.

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

The Northern Quarter, Squirrels bar, Alton Towers theme park, any thrift shops.

Any tips for future students?

Go to Manchester its heaps of fun.

Overall Experience

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

I had the best time and made some great friends. I met very few people through my course so Oak House really was my saving grace. There were highs and lows but going on exchange was easily one of the best decisions I've ever made. It basically felt like one giant holiday because grades did not matter so I spent all my time hanging out with my new friends and adventuring Manchester. Weekends, mid sem break and time before or after the semester is also the perfect opportunity for some euro travel. I did weekend trips to Wales and Northern Ireland, did a Contiki around Europe in the mid sem and travelled Amsterdam, London, Valencia and Madrid with friends after uni finished. Flights to and from Europe are ridiculously cheap especially during non-peak periods. Take advantage of it!!