



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Melbourne
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 1, 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Arts
<b>Major(s)</b>	Philosophy, Politics and 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>
Economics of the Law	English	ECON300
Campaigns & Elections	English	POLS300
American Politics	English	POLS300

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

Any comments about these papers?

I loved all the classes I took!

Economics of the Law is a great choice if you are interested in competition and consumer law, or government policy more generally, with a focus on qualitative over quantitative analysis.

Campaigns and Elections was very applied and had lots of interesting case studies. The major assessment task was creating a political campaign strategy for an Australian federal electorate seat. Many of the students in this class had worked on campaigns in a professional capacity which was great to hear about.

American Politics was run in a similar style to Otago Politics classes. There were a few research essays to write, as well as required attendance at weekly tutorials to go over the course's key themes.

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

The academic experience at Unimelb was excellent! The University has a great reputation in Australia and abroad. The lecturers and tutors are really knowledgeable about each subject area. I also found that the students taking the classes were really engaged which made the tutorials useful and often full of great debate.

I would recommend familiarising yourself with each papers 'hurdle' requirements at the start of the Semester. These are additional requirements that must be met to pass the course, such as attending 75% of tutorials or passing the final exam.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed at a University of Melbourne owned apartment building in Parkville (same suburb as the Uni). It was considerably more expensive than private flatting but it was an awesome way to meet heaps of other exchange, international and domestic students! I lived with 3 other exchange students - from Ireland, France and Luxembourg. There was a great sense of community in the building with heaps of communal areas including a gym, music room and study spaces.

For a less expensive option, the best way to find private flats would be on the Fairy Floss Facebook Group - I had also applied to a few flats near the Uni but had no luck because 50+ people would apply. Carlton, Brunswick or Fitzroy all seemed to be suburbs close to the University that could have been good options!

## Money matters

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

Uni accommodation is 390 p/w + but many private flats in good locations from people I met were on offer from around 200+ p/w.

Flights were 800 return

Food was slightly cheaper than in NZ, Aldi is the most value option I found, otherwise there is Woolworths which is like Countdown.

Insurance was \$100 because New Zealanders are able to receive some healthcare in Australia under a reciprocal agreement. If you are doing a full-year exchange I would look into applying for a Medicare card though because I often was asked for this whilst carrying out other administrative tasks.

Working in Australia has great pay conditions. I worked at the Melbourne Cricket Ground throughout my exchange for Delaware North in the corporate boxes. The stadium hires hundreds of workers each year for the AFL season and you pick your shifts via an app.

*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 with Commonwealth Bank, and used Wise to transfer funds between NZD and AUD - they had the lowest fees.

## Visas & Insurance

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

-

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Unsure, but Otago did - I just selected the recommended provider which was around 100 dollars overall.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

I played Tennis with the Melbourne University Tennis Club, they had a few sessions per week, competitions, and lots of great social events too.

The Commerce and Arts student societies had great bar crawl events during O Week and other cool events during the semester.

The exchange student society was cool with a big party during O Week.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Great ! Very spread out with many inner-city suburbs having a lot going on. Lots of sports games, interesting bars and music events happening in particular. The public transport system was great to get from place to place.

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

For nightlife in Melbourne - Workers on Monday was great for cheap drinks. The Retreat Hotel did a great pub quiz every Tuesday. A few of the bars I liked near the uni were Queensberry hotel, the Clyde, and Prince Alfred. Otherwise the nightlife on Chapel St was a bit further away but was also cool. For clubs, New Guernica had some good events, and Fitzroy Beer Garden across the road seemed to have a promo running the whole semester for free vodka red bulls.

**For sightseeing** I would recommend seeing the Great Ocean Road which is a few hours out of Melbourne (along the Coast of Victoria), we rented a car and saw some great sights.

I also went to Byron Bay and Gold Coast which was an awesome trip, with Summer weather even though we were in the middle of winter.

*Any tips for future students?*

I would recommend going to the Clubs day in O Week to find out about all the clubs on offer, there's something for everyone.

## Overall Experience

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

If you are considering doing an exchange you should 100% do it! It was an awesome semester filled with new people, places and memories. I made lots of new friends, experienced life in a big city and found heaps of new areas of interest in my major through studying a range of new topics.