



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Prague University of Economics and Business (VSE)
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2, 2023
<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>
Behavioural Economics	English	ECON 300
Introduction to Game Theory	English	ECON 300
Behavioural Economics and Public Policy	English	ECON 300
Drugs and Economics	English	ECON 300
Strategic Leadership and Management of the CSR	English	MANT 300
International Negotiation Strategies: Techniques and Simulations	English	MANT 300
Chapters in the History of the Cold War	English	HIST 200
Introduction to Law	English	LAWS 200/ BSNS200

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

*Any comments about these papers?*

Game Theory required the most work with regular homework's, assignments, mid-term and exam. CSR was very straight forward and had no exam. Both behavioural economics papers were very interesting and had good lecturers. Chapters in History of the Cold war is very interesting I would strongly advise taking if you have a free elective.

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

The classes were a lot more interactive and mostly smaller than lectures in Otago. The workload is not as intense especially during exams, therefore it is more manageable to do all your exams in a short time period.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in the Eislerova Dormitories, this is where most of the exchange students are placed so you have a varied mix of people from all over. I would advise you to make sure you apply for your room on time as it is first in first served and you would not want to be placed into a shared room.

*Pros*

- Affordable
- Good bathrooms and decks off the rooms

*Cons*

- The managers were not that reliable and helpful
- The location although not too far from Uni, is not central to most places
- Had to book and pay to use any common spaces, this meant you wouldn't bump into people in your dorm as often as you would at the halls in Otago

## Money matters

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

**Return Flights** \$3000-3500

**Dorm rooms:** \$2800 for shared room , \$3500 for single room

**Insurance:**

*Visa insurance:* Your visa requires you to have the most comprehensive medical insurance with a Czech company, this was: \$562.30NZD

*Student Safe Travel Insurance:* \$700-\$800

**Supermarkets and restaurants:** The majority of supermarkets were far cheaper than New Zealand ones with a much bigger range which made cooking during the week very affordable. Restaurants were mostly cheaper and alcohol was very inexpensive.

**Transport:** \$25nzd for a 3 month pass of unlimited transport on all trams, busses and metro undergrounds

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

I used a wise card which had cheaper transfer rates and free cash withdrawal from Raiffeisen Bank in Prague. This card is useful if you are travelling before or after your exchange as it has multiple currencies.

## Visas & Insurance

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

The visa process is extremely timely and can become quite costly as there is no Czech Embassy in New Zealand. Your passport has to be sent over with all your documents to Sydney therefore you want to get on to this process as soon as possible. Additionally your documents need to be translated to Czech therefore it is good to get in contact with an approved translator early. Use the below link to work through the step by step process.

[https://www.mzv.cz/sydney/en/visa\\_consular\\_information/visa\\_information/long\\_stay\\_visas/long\\_stay visa\\_students.html](https://www.mzv.cz/sydney/en/visa_consular_information/visa_information/long_stay_visas/long_stay visa_students.html)

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

The University did not but the Visa did as stated above.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

VSE offers many clubs, activities and events to be involved in. The ERASMUS student network organises various trips to surrounding countries and towns within the Czech Republic. There is also a student association called Nation2Nation that organises various social events every week which is a great way to meet new people and see new places in Prague.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The University itself feels very much like a big high school being made up of 4 large buildings so you are always walking past people. It is 10 minutes away from the city so very accessible to go exploring after classes. The city itself is absolutely incredible, it is filled with beautiful architecture, stunning parks and very trendy cafe and drink spots.

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

- *Královská obora Stromovka, Letna and Riegrovy* are all incredible parks to walk, run or have picnics in, some of them have beer gardens which are amazing during the warm weather and an inexpensive way to socialise.
- *Kro Kitchen* owns various cafes and restaurants around the city in very trendy neighbourhoods and delicious food. *Letka Cafe* is another great one and in a cool area with beautiful shops
- *Bohemian Switzerland* is a huge national park about an hour out of Prague with amazing hikes.
- *Naplavka Farmers Market* – this is every Saturday down by the water with beautiful local food, produce, flowers and other goodies
- *Popocafepetal in the Old town* – this is a fantastic underground bar which is usually filled with students and very inexpensive

*Any tips for future students?*

Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and meet new people while on exchange as it was the friends I made from all around the world which made my experience absolutely incredible.

## Overall Experience

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

I cannot emphasise enough that going on exchange was the best decision made to finish off my University experience. The people, places and overall European culture was absolutely incredible and a time in my life I will be forever fond of. Prague was the most ideal city for student life, it is affordable, lively and central to travel to so many countries if you wish to expand your travels. As I said before it is the people who made the experience so amazing and I now have lifelong friends in a range of countries to visit in the future , some of who I have even gone to visit this year already.