



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Manchester
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester One 2019
Otago degree(s)	LLB/BSc
Major(s)	Geography

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
GEOG32022: Environmental Restoration			20
GEOG20302: Environmental Change and the Human Past			20
LAWS31182: Sport and the Law			20

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

I actually found that my workload was much lighter at Manchester – likely because I only took three papers. I also found that the geography papers were much less lab based, which gave me lots of free time!

Accommodation

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

For accommodation, I stayed in Ashburne Hall (one of the halls in the Fallowfield campus). I couldn't recommend staying in halls more – they are fun, easy and good way to meet lots of people. Most of the exchange kids in my year stayed in halls too, which made being in halls super fun. Manchester also tends to have a lot of exchange students so there is bound to be at least one other exchange student in your hall – whatever hall you go for!

Money matters

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

I found that the actual costs of living in Manchester were similar to that at home. My hall was catered in terms of food so the only cost I really had was that of my hall. However, most of the halls in Manchester do not provide lunch or food in the weekends, so you will likely have to spend a little here. I think most of my money went towards travelling so if you aren't planning on doing much of that, you can probably get by without spending that much more than you would in Dunedin.

My flights were between \$1500 and \$2000 return. I would definitely recommend getting onto flights as early as you can as you can save quite a lot of money here. The multi flex flight passes are also a good option if you are not 100% sure on your travel dates.

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

I opened a UK bank account with HSBC as soon as I arrived in Manchester. However, this proved a very lengthy process and I still paid a hefty international transaction fee in order to transfer money into my UK account. I think the best option in terms of finances is a cash passport. These are especially good if you are planning on travelling as you can load money in different currencies all on the one card.

Visas & Insurance

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

N/a

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

N/a

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There are so many activities and events on offer at Manchester. There should be a clubs day early on in the Semester so I would encourage you to get involved and sign up for anything you may be interested in.

What was the university/ city like?

Manchester is such a fun city to live as a student. Manchester University is one of the largest universities in the UK which means there is a large student population and there is almost ALWAYS something on. Manchester also tends to have quite a lot of exchange students so there will always be someone wanting to go out and do something.

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

Manchester has a really good selection of second hand shops – I would definitely recommend checking those out. In terms of food, Rudy's has the BEST pizza and I couldn't recommend it more!

Any tips for future students?

Just get involved and make the most of all your opportunities. If your exchange is anything like mine it will be over in a flash – so just make the most of everything. I also would recommend getting involved in all of the activities on offer during the international o week. This is where you will meet all of the other exchange students and make friends!

Overall Experience

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

My exchange semester was easily one of the best decisions I have ever made! Being an exchange student is such a good experience and I guarantee you won't regret it. You will learn SO much and make friends from all over the world. Another big positive is that your grades don't count and you only have to pass your papers – so it is a semester where you can literally spend your time travelling (especially being so close to Europe) and having fun. You probably won't ever get an opportunity like this again as a student - so just make the most of being in this fun city!

If there is anything more specific you want to know about living in Manchester, just ask the exchange office for my email – I am more than happy to help out!