



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	The University of Exeter
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	S2 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Accounting

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
BEA2019: Financial Accounting A	English	ACCT211: Financial Accounting and Reporting
BEA2018: Corporate Finance	English	FINC206: Fundamentals of Corporate Finance
BEA2010: Managerial Accounting	English	ACCT222: Cost and Management Accounting
BEA3026: Financial Modelling	English	FINC 300 level elective

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

Any comments about these papers?

My module allocation email came through about two weeks before lectures started, and I had unfortunately not been allocated a module that I required as a prerequisite for a compulsory third year paper. However, the module change process was very straightforward to follow and I just had to fill out an online form and then get in touch with the Module Convener (lecturer in charge of the module), who approved my request to take the module. I was able to go through this process in just one day, so don't stress if there is a problem with your modules. The International Student Support team also ran Study drop-in sessions during Welcome Week for students who were having difficulty with their modules and timetables.

I found that the content in BEA2018 followed on from what I had learnt in ACCT233 and FINC202.

BEA2019 differed from previous accounting papers that I had done as the focus was on certain standards within the IFRS. Nonetheless, I thoroughly enjoyed this module and thought that both the lecturers were very good at explaining concepts and making the lectures and tutorials engaging.

BEA3026 was an enjoyable module as it drew on concepts that I had learnt in previous finance papers and portrayed how these could be modelled in Excel. You don't need to be an expert in using Excel to do this module.

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

I did find the style of teaching different to Otago in that I had less contact hours in terms of lectures, seminars, and tutorials, but more formative assessments and resources to engage with on the university's online learning platform, ELE2. These formative assessments included quizzes, tutorial questions and review questions, and didn't count towards my final mark but were very helpful in terms of practicing what was taught in the lectures. In terms of the workload, I found it to be similar to that of Otago papers.

## Accommodation

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

Fortunately, I was offered a place in James Owen Court, one of the University's Halls of Residence. I would recommend applying for university accommodation as soon as possible because there is a limited number of spaces available. However, I was in a situation where I was delayed in applying for this and I was sceptical about being offered a place, but in the end I did receive an offer, so even if you may think you are too late in applying, put an application in just in case.

James Owen Court is located close to the city centre and is only a 15-minute walk away from the Streatham Campus and a 10-minute walk away from the St Luke's Campus. As it is close to the city centre, there is a good variety of shops available that are only a couple of minutes' walk away.

The residents at James Owen Court are divided into Blocks, with each Block containing a certain number of bedrooms and one kitchen/common area. I had an ensuite bedroom in Block E, which I shared with 4 other international students. This is self-catered accommodation, so you are responsible for providing your own food, bedding, and cutlery/kitchen utensils.

The block that I was in had only international students and I was able to meet a range of other students from different countries quite easily. The hall is also home to local students, so there is a good mix of local and international people to interact with.

## Money matters

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

Accommodation: NZ\$6000

Flights: NZ\$3000

Insurance: NZ\$460

Food: NZ\$60 per week

Visa: I didn't need one as you can study in the UK for 6 months or less without one if you have a NZ Passport

*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, of which I had an electronic card on my phone through the app and a physical card as well (cost of physical card was NZ\$10).

I found the Wise card quite straightforward to use, as I was able to top it up with the currencies that I needed through the app, either through a bank transfer or using a credit/debit card. This was very useful when I was on my travels as I could just convert the GBP I had in my account to whatever currency I needed for the country that I was in, and the transfer is instantaneous.

## Visas & Insurance

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

I didn't require any visa as you can study in the UK without one for 6 months or less if you have a NZ Passport.

I also travelled to Ireland (Dublin), Italy, the Vatican City, Greece, Hungary, Amsterdam and Belgium and did not have to apply for a Visa to travel to these countries.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

I used InsuranceSafeNZ which was recommended by Otago Uni. This insurance covered me for the time that I spent in Exeter, as well as the time I spent away travelling around the UK and Europe. When I applied, it gave me an option to specify if I was going to travel outside of the UK during my stay and it was here that I was able to put down the number of days that I intended to be travelling around Europe for. I was even able to change this number of days when I realised that I would be travelling for longer than I had initially planned. It was an easy process in which I just contacted InsuranceSafeNZ and they were able to help me through extending my travel days.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

During Welcome Week (Freshers Week), all the University's clubs and societies hold 'taster' events where you can go and take part in activities and learn more about what it's like to be a part of the club/society. There is something for everyone, as there are clubs/societies that fall under the categories of; academic, active, support, appreciation, community volunteering, theatre, and film, and cultural (just to name a few). As well as this, there are a variety of trips that are organised by the University for exchange students, such as going on a boat tour around the Jurassic Coast, and day trips to Exmouth and even to Wales. I would recommend looking out for the tickets to these events, which should be available prior to Freshers Week.

Throughout the semester, the Student's Guild also organised a variety of *Give It a Go* events that took place during the week. I attended an event where we had the chance to make mosaics.

I decided to join the Cool Runnings Club and the Baking Society. Through the running society I had the option of participating in 6 runs a week, each varying in distance and start time, and then the baking society had a weekly baking class. Each club/society also had social events, such as pub runs, quizzes and dessert nights.

I also signed up for the Term 1 gym membership, which cost approximately NZ\$160. This membership enabled me to use both the gym on the St Lukes campus and the Streatham campus, and gave me a discounted price on swims (indoor pool at the St Lukes Campus).

*What was the university/ city like?*

Exeter is quite similar to Dunedin in that it is a student city, with lots of young people from all over the world. James Owen Court is on Sidwell Street, which is basically the city centre as most of the shops can be found in close proximity. The University campuses (Streatham and St Luke's) are both out of the city centre, especially Streatham campus, which is located up on a hill overlooking the city. I quite liked that the campus was set away from the busy city centre as it was set in a beautiful area and there was plenty of green space.

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

In Exeter, I would recommend going down to the Exeter Quay, as it is quite pretty and there are a range of shops, cafes, and restaurants/pubs, as well as going to see Exeter Cathedral. If you are going to be at Exeter during Term 1 (September to January), you must definitely go to the Christmas Market that takes place outside the Cathedral from mid-November to mid-December.

If you are looking for a good pub, I would suggest going to The Black Horse, which isn't far from James Owen Court. It is quite a popular place, and I went there quite often with friends to watch sport and take part in the weekly Thursday night quiz.

Exeter is close to quite a few beautiful places that are easily accessible via train. During my first week, I took the train with a couple of friends to Exmouth, which is a town on the coast that has a lovely beach that is great to visit on a sunny day. I also went to Bath for a day trip, which I would highly recommend as it is a city filled with beautiful architecture and doesn't take long to get to if you take the train.

I was able to head away to Dublin over a weekend and got in a trip to a few European countries over the Reading week (Mid-term break), as well as a trip to Amsterdam and Belgium just before Christmas.

Here are some of the places/activities from my travels that I would recommend:

- Glendalough (just outside of Dublin): beautiful place to go hiking and there are ancient monastic ruins that you can walk to
- Lake Como (just outside of Milan): I did the Greenway walk, which started in Como and ended in Menaggio – the views were stunning, and the lake wasn't too cold for a swim either!
- Venice: Boat ride out to the islands of Burano, Murano and Torcello

- The Vatican City
- Budapest: Castle District

*Any tips for future students?*

My first tip would be to get a 16-25 Rail card, which costs approximately 30 pounds, but saves you a third of the cost on train tickets within the UK. Another way to save money is to get a loyalty card for the grocery shops – I got the Nectar card for Sainsbury's and was able to pay the lower Nectar prices available for certain products.

If you are planning to travel to Europe, I would recommend planning these trips as early as you can so that you not only save money on air fares/train tickets, but that you also ensure that you get to see the countries on your list – time really does fly by! I did most of my travels with a Canadian girl from my floor and found that most of the other exchange students also wanted to travel, so it is not difficult to find others to travel with. On all my trips I flew out from Bristol airport, which I found to be the cheapest and closest option, so I would recommend flying out from here if you are looking to travel.

## Overall Experience

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

The University of Exeter was a very welcoming and supportive place that I really enjoyed being a part of for a semester. I thoroughly enjoyed all my modules and appreciated how passionate the lecturers were about what they were teaching and about ensuring that the students understood the content and felt supported in their learning. The variety of clubs and societies that were on offer by the university's Student Guild was very impressive and I feel like there was something for everyone. I was able to meet lots of local students through the Running Club and the Baking Society, as well as take part in some fun weekly runs, social events, and baking classes.

I can honestly say that going on exchange to the University of Exeter has been one of the best opportunities that I have ever had! Not only did I get the chance to explore a different country and experience a new way of teaching at an overseas university, but I also had the privilege of meeting the most amazing people from all over the world. Together we experienced Exeter and all that it had to offer for the first time. These new connections are invaluable, and I know that I will keep in touch with the majority of the people that I met in the years to come.



St Luke's Campus



Streatham Campus – The Great Hall



Streatham Campus – The Business School



Exmouth



Exeter Quay



Alumni Auditorium Lecture Theatre



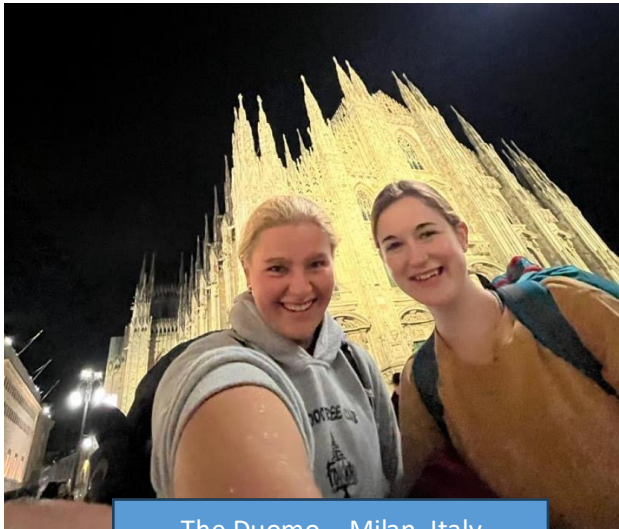
Glendalough - Ireland



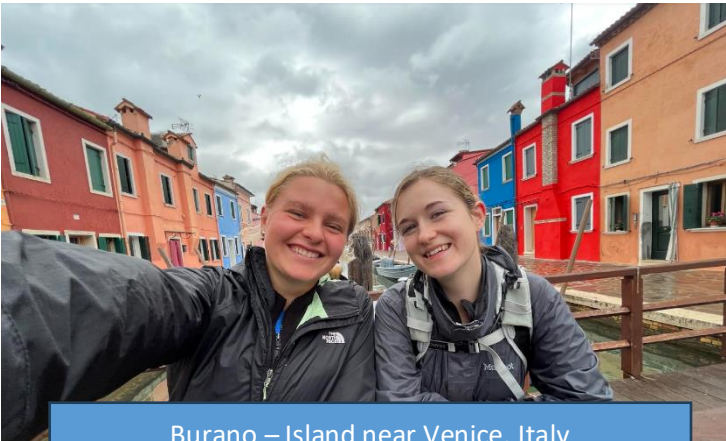
Howth - Ireland



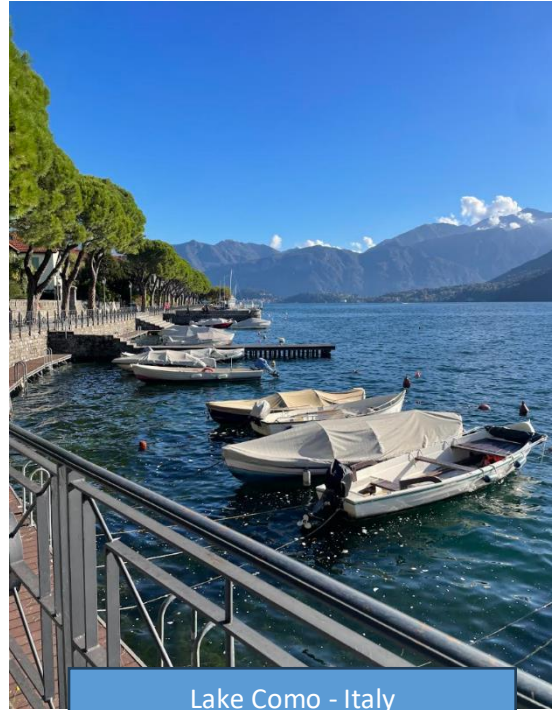
Baking Society bakes



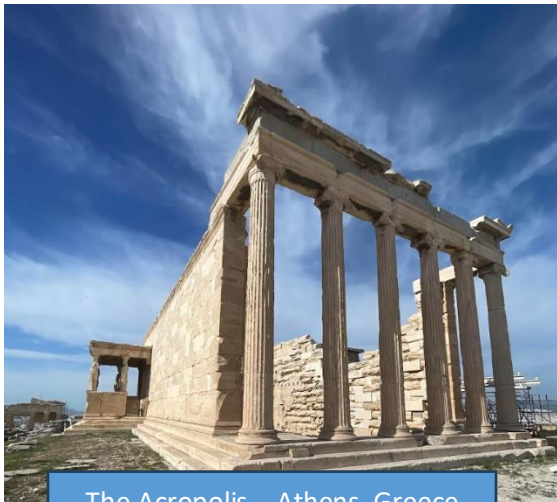
The Duomo – Milan, Italy



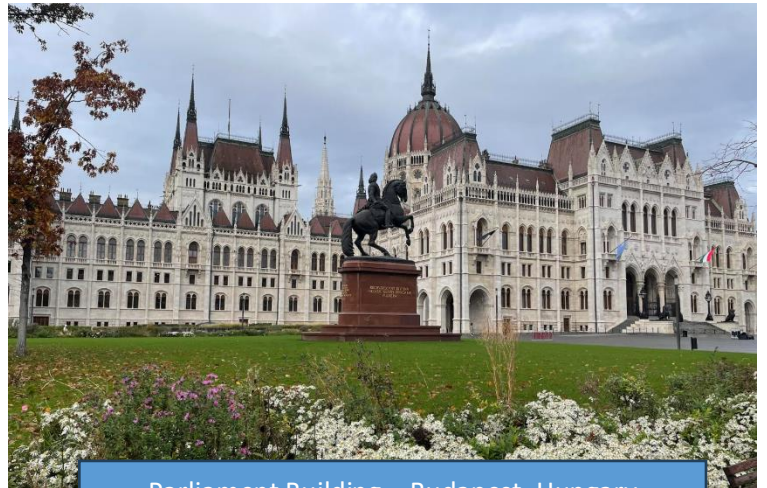
Burano – Island near Venice, Italy



Lake Como - Italy

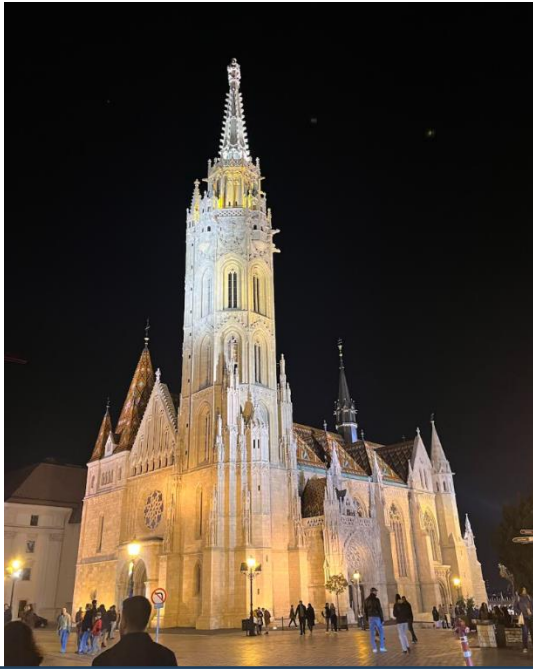


The Acropolis – Athens, Greece

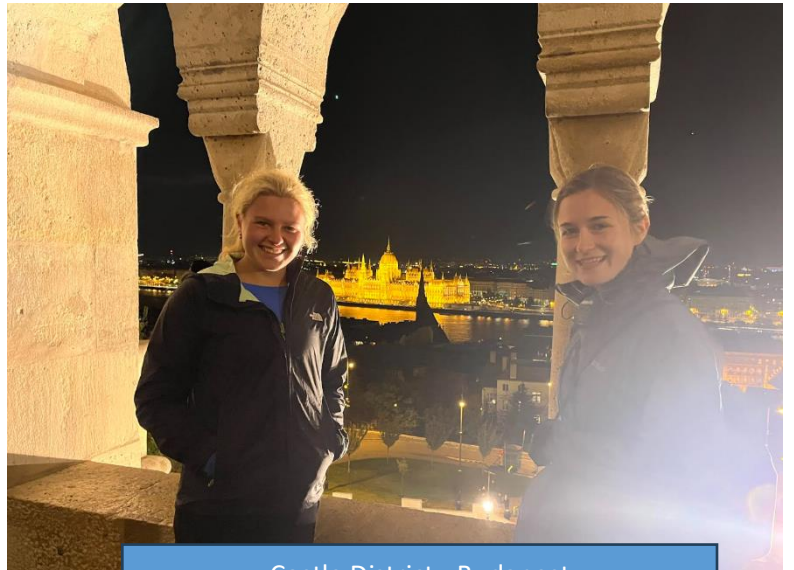


Parliament Building – Budapest, Hungary





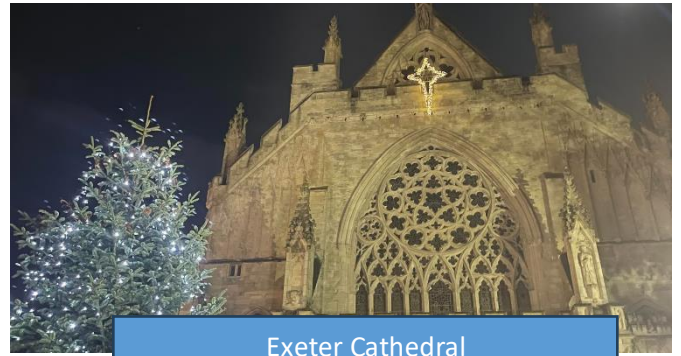
Matthias Church – Castle District, Budapest



Castle District - Budapest



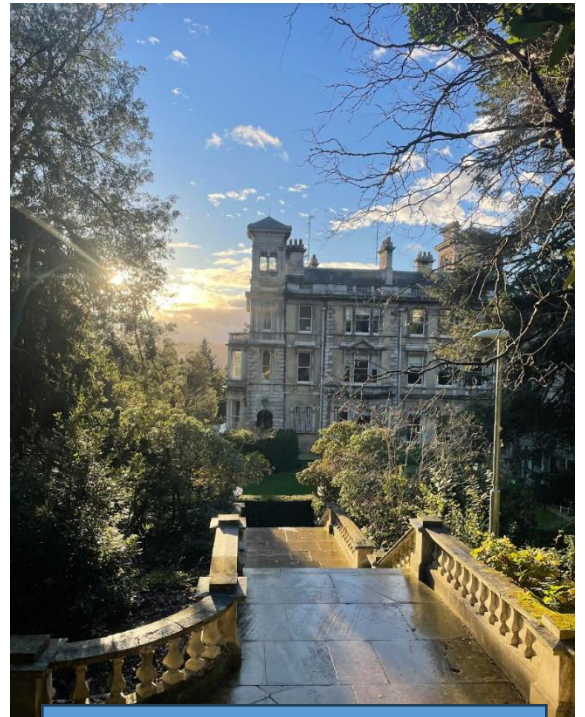
Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market



Exeter Cathedral



Christmas decorations in Exeter



Reed Hall – Streatham Campus