



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	The University of Melbourne
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2 2025
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Science
<b>Major(s)</b>	Human Nutrition

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
<b>FINA20026 Painting Techniques</b>	English	Arts Unspecified 200 lvl
<b>NUTR30004 Advanced Topics in Nutrition</b>	English	HUNT 345/346
<b>PHYS30012 Physiology: Adapting to Challenges</b>	English	SPEX303

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

### Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed FINA20026, as visual arts papers are not available at Otago. NUTR20004 was great; we discussed pesticide exposure and chemical contaminants in the food supply, along with gut microbiome lectures, which I really enjoyed. I was initially concerned that PHYS30012 would be out of my depth, but the lecturers were extremely helpful with any questions I had.

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

The workload and teaching style seemed similar, but I found the content much more interesting and relevant to real-world issues.

## **Accommodation**

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

I found an apartment with people I didn't know through a Facebook page called "Fairy Floss". If you are finding accommodation outside of university, definitely use this; it is what everyone uses. I didn't stay in university accommodation because it was too expensive; however, this did mean that it was harder to meet other exchange students.

## **Money matters**

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

Accommodation was around \$270/week, which was expensive compared to Dunedin, but I worked alongside the university to fund this. Flights were cheap to Australia but very expensive coming back home in December. No visa was required, food is subjective, around \$50/week, and insurance was around \$200.

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

I used Wise to transfer money across from NZ to AUD if I needed it. I didn't need it much as I was earning AUD. You can use Wise to add NZD into your wallet, then transfer it directly to an Australian bank account for \$1.00, this means you avoid conversion fees.

## **Visas & Insurance**

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

No.

### *Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

No.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There are many activities and clubs available to students. I didn't join any, but I heard about a lot, similar to Otago, like run clubs, tramping clubs, debating clubs.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The city was extremely overwhelming at first. It is very busy, but I live in a great area in Brunswick East. Brunswick, Carlton, and Fitzroy are awesome areas to live in instead of the city. Melbourne is great when you get to know the place, there are great bars, people, coffee, shopping and an awesome music and arts scene.

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

Go to Fitzroy, Carlton, Brunswick area, there are so many cute coffee shops, shopping and wine bars. Rathdowne Street is great for cafes too. Use Restidant Advisor for gigs and events, follow "what's on Melbourne" for events and sign up to their mailing list.

*Any tips for future students?*

Take every opportunity that arises and try to meet Australian people. I've mostly met Australians through my flatmates, and they are super social, fun and awesome people.

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience.*

*Please include some photos!*

My experience was great overall! I chose Melbourne and to stay out of university accomodation because I knew that I wanted to stay here in Melbourne and find a job following my degree. If you are planning on doing the same, I would reccomend staying out of unversity accommodation, so you meet friends and people that are sticking around. Otherwise, if you want the full exchange experience, stay in university accommodation, and you will meet many other exchange students. I still made exchange friends from the open day, which was great. Melbourne is a massive city, and there is so much happening and so many people to meet. The Great Ocean Road is so close and so beautiful, too! I would highly recommend it.