



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of East Anglia
Semester & Year of Exchange	2 nd Semester, 2019
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Science
Major(s)	Ecology (minor in Botany)

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Biological Oceanography And Marine Ecology	English	MARI301 Marine Ecology	18
Biodiversity Conservation and Human Society	English	ZOOL319 Conservation Biology	18
Introduction to Cultural Studies	English		

Any comments about these papers?

I only needed two papers to complete my degree so the 'Introduction to Cultural Studies' paper was an optional extra.

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

One main difference I noticed in the papers I did at UEA compared to Otago is that the examples were mainly England and Europe based (for obvious reasons). As the flora and fauna of Europe and the UK is completely different to New Zealand, this also changes their approach to conservation so it was interesting to see this different approach. I found my papers to be more lecture based and contained less practical work and field work than at Otago. Also, two of my three courses had 100% assessments which I found to be a challenge in terms of time management. I preferred the assessment style at Otago which for me has been more spread out across a range of different assignments, allowing me to showcase different skills.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Wolfson Close which was university accommodation. The pros of this accommodation was that it was cheaper than the other university accommodation options and reasonably cheap compared to flats. It was also right on campus so I only had to walk 5 minutes to most of my classes. Lastly it was easy to organise and facilitated only staying one semester, whereas trying to find a flat for one semester and not knowing anyone would have been quite difficult. One downside was that this accommodation was very basic, I didn't find the bed very comfortable and the kitchen didn't have a proper oven. In future I would pay more to stay in one of the different university accommodation areas. Another downside was that most of the people in this accommodation were around 18 and in their first year of study which wasn't too bad but I felt that I was at a slightly different life stage to them and ended up making most of my friends elsewhere.

Money matters

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

Accommodation was \$2612 for the whole semester including unlimited power and WiFi. Flights to London were approximately \$1600 return. As I was only in England for one semester I didn't need to get a visa and was authorised with a short term study visa stamp on entry into England. Food varied depending on how much I went out or went to the supermarket but averaged at about \$40 per week. I booked comprehensive travel insurance through 'Zoom' which was \$350 for just over three months.

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

I just used my normal card as my bank didn't charge overseas fees. I would, however, recommend getting a UK bank account with Monzo which you can set up easily online as you will save money if you are spending in pounds rather than NZD.

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 were loads of activities available to the exchange students in order to meet and socialize especially in the first week or so. I found this super helpful and everyone was very friendly as we were all in the same boat. UEA also had a huge range of sports clubs and other societies that you could join and I found everyone in these very welcoming and friendly.

What was the university/ city like?

The university is known for its friendliness and this was very evident to me. Everyone generally seemed very kind and respectful and this was reflected in how LGBTQ friendly, vegan friendly etc.

the university was. The staff were also very friendly, approachable and helpful. The city was a short bus ride from the university which was nice as it meant the university was in a quieter area with a nice lake and walks around it. I loved the city of Norwich. It had lots of culture, a great market, lots of good food places and great art and music venues. It is also full of cute English cobbled streets and old buildings.

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

As London is only an hour and a half train ride away I went there fairly often which was amazing. There are loads of lovely places to eat within Norwich as well. I would definitely recommend going to the market which is on every day except Sunday as there are amazing second hand vintage clothing stalls as well as very nice food stalls. I'd also recommend checking out some of the many cathedrals, notably Norwich Cathedral which is huge and stunning. There are some great pubs too, my favourite being playhouse.

Any tips for future students?

Keep up with your work but also take as many opportunities as you can. The time will go by quickly so join all the clubs you want to join, take part, make new friends, travel around and really make the most of your time there. Everyone is really friendly and as a bonus people love that you're from NZ so don't be worried about going to things where you don't know anyone because people will probably make an effort to talk to you! On a side note be mindful of the weather if you're there in winter. It gets very grey and you won't see much sun or sky. On top of that the sun starts to go down around 3:30pm and it's dark by 4pm during this time. This can be difficult so make sure you talk to someone if it makes you feel down.

Overall Experience

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

Going on exchange is definitely something I would recommend to everyone. I gained a new perspective living in England which, while similar to New Zealand, is also very different in a lot of ways. One of the main reasons I chose to go on exchange to England was for the music scene and I was not disappointed. There were constantly many talented bands playing in Norwich that I was lucky enough to see. On top of that, being only a 1.5 hour train ride from London I went there a lot and saw many of my favourite bands as well as getting to explore the massive city. Living in a different country has made me so much more confident as a person and allowed me to make some lifelong friends across the globe in the process. Being in England also made it easy to do a lot of travel while I was there and I went to Scotland, Ireland, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin. There is so much public transport available all over the UK and Europe which makes traveling very easy. One of the best experiences of my life!



