



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

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| Host University | Bristol University |
| Semester & Year of Exchange | S1 2023 |
| Otago degree(s) | Bachelor of Science |
| Major(s) | Computer Science and Information Science |

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

| Course title | Language of instruction | Otago equivalent |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CGI - COMS30059 | English | NA |
| Interactive Devices – COMS30055 | English | NA |
| Introduction to Data Science – EMAT20011 | English | INFO204? |
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Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

The two computer science papers were very different to anything Otago offered. They were both very interesting and gave me more exposure within the Computer Science space.

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

As usual there were weekly lectures and labs but not as many as in Otago. Most papers/units only had 1 or 2 classes per week which was surprising. However, especially with my 3rd year papers at Bristol they expected more work to be done out of class. The workload was definitely very manageable.

Accommodation

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

I was in Catered Badock Hall which is in the North Village. I got extremely lucky and was put with a good group of lads that I got along with well. Originally I wanted to be in Self-Catered but I am glad I ended up in Catered. It was good not having to worry about cooking and the dining hall was an awesome place to meet new people. Being in North Village is also a big bonus as everyone is very social and is easy to meet people from other halls. The downside is that you have to catch a bus to uni which took a bit to get used to but overall wasn't a big deal

Money matters

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

Flights - \$2600

Accommodation – \$9000.00 (roughly) Included food

Insurance - \$870.00 (Student Safe NZ)

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

I highly recommend using a Wise Card. They are an international currency card that allows you to have up to 50 different currencies on it at one time. Wise also has the lowest transfer fees, however, I would say that it would be best to put all your money on the card at the start instead of doing what I did and putting little bits each time as fees do add up with each transaction

Visas & Insurance

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

I was studying for 6 months or less so therefore you don't need a visa in the UK which is a bonus.

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?

I would highly recommend getting into whatever society you are interested in. In Bristol they have a wide variety of different society's and every Wednesday they host society night which is good fun. I was involved in the Snowsports Society and we went to the pub every Wednesday. I also highly recommend going on the Uni Ski Trip. It is organised by the uni and it is a full week in the French Alps skiing and partying!

What was the university/ city like?

I found Bristol university an awesome place to do an exchange. It is a student based city with something always happening. It's got good night life as well as things to do during the day. The university is also really good with plenty of study spaces and libraries to go to.

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

- Bath (30 min Train)
- Steam (Good pub)
- Lakota (Good club)
- The White Lion (Good pub with amazing views)

Any tips for future students?

Don't be afraid to go on exchange. It can be a daunting thing but be yourself and once you meet some cool people, you'll have the best time ever.

Overall Experience

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

Overall, my time in Bristol was unbelievable. I've made life long mates that are scattered all around the world that I will definitely bump into again. I highly recommend going to Bristol, the university is great, the city is amazing and the people are cool. Being in the UK is also a really cool experience, I found we have similar cultures and everyone loves to have fun.