



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Western Australia
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester One 2023
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Laws & Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Law & Marketing Management

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
INDG1150 Aboriginal Encounters: Strangers in our backyard	English	MAOR120
MKTG2305 Marketing Research	English	MART212
LAWS3328 International Commercial Law	English	Similar to LAWS407
LAWS3317 Social Media and the Law	English	Similar to LAWS428

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points 66 points

Any comments about these papers?

INDG1150 and LAWS3317 had no exam (all internally assessed). INDG1150 is probably the most relaxed paper I have ever taken and is a good one to fill up an optional paper slot.

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

There were a lot more assignments than Otago and less of an emphasis on exams, I think my 2 exams were worth 30% and 60%. The style of teaching was pretty similar with lecture slides, readings, and recordings. Each paper had 1 2-hour lecture per week and a 1-hour tutorial (apart from INDG1150 which had a 1-hour lecture and tutorial).

Accommodation

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

I was living in a studio room in Perth City at a building called The Switch. It was a mix of mostly international students and young professionals. The studio room was quite expensive \$449 AUD per week, I was sharing with my boyfriend so it made it a bit more manageable. The building was great because our rent included access to the on-site gym, unlimited washing/drying, and was a very central location which made public transport super easy. Although, the building wasn't very social, if you want a more social experience the halls like St Catherine's and Trinity had more of a drinking culture. I personally felt I was a bit old for the halls (being 23) because it was mostly first years, but it was actually quite popular for international students to also stay in the halls and majority of international students were over 20.

Money matters

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

My rent was \$449 AUD per week which included wifi, water, power, washing, and a gym membership. I paid around \$600 NZD for my flight to Perth with a stopover in Sydney around the middle of Feb 2023. I found groceries to be a bit cheaper than in NZ, Woolworths is similar to Countdown and Coles is similar to New World. I would roughly spend \$60 per week on food. My insurance was \$260 with AA for the whole 4 months I was in Perth.

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

Once I arrived in Perth I set up an Australian bank account with Commonwealth Bank. Although, I mostly used my NZ bank card to pay for things and it would automatically adopt the exchange rate. I would take cash out of my NZ account and deposit it to my Australian account to pay rent and avoid the international bank transfer fees. Near the end of my trip I got a Wise travel card which was super easy to deposit money and convert the currency.

Visas & Insurance

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

You don't need to apply for a visa if you are going to Australia with an NZ passport, when you go through customs they automatically issue you a student visa.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

UWA did not have mandatory insurance, but insurance was a requirement to receive the travel grant from Otago so I had to get it anyway. I chose AA insurance because they were the cheapest for \$260 which included travel and health insurance.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

During O-week the Uni organised a few events specifically for international students to meet up and get to know each other. Because I was staying in the city and not in a hall, I wasn't super involved at

the uni. Most social things I went to were through Facebook/Instagram to meet people who were at uni, working, from Perth, or from overseas. A lot of people from Europe come over to Perth on working visas and they are very social so there is always things to do/people to meet! I would 100% recommend trying social things outside of uni, this is where I made most of my friends and the local people can tell you about places you wouldn't have known about.

The university also has lots of clubs you can join, I joined the Outdoor club which organises weekly activities such as walks, hikes, kayaking, and pretty much any other outdoor activity for beginners to experts. The faculty clubs (like law/commerce etc) did not have as many social events as Otago, so there was not much point joining.

What was the university/ city like?

The campus was very green with lots of trees and grassy areas which was nice and it had a mix of old and modern buildings. I found the people at uni to be friendly and all the lecturers/tutors were very helpful.

In terms of Perth as a city, it is a lot bigger than what I thought before I went there. The beaches are AMAZING, bright white sand and clear blue water at every beach you go to. The city has a lot to offer just like any city really, but Western Australia has some of the nicest scenery if you are able to drive an hour or two out of the city. Public transport here is really easy to use (and reliable), if you get a TransPerth card the student fares are discounted.

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

If you are coming to Perth/Western Australia there are so many things I can recommend!

- AFL game
- Western Force (rugby) game
- Beaches: Cottesloe beach, Scarborough beach, City beach, Trigg beach, Swanbourne beach
- Scarborough night markets
- Fremantle markets
- Heirisson Island (kangaroos)
- Rottnest Island (quokkas)
- Kings Park Botanical Gardens (& outdoor cinema)
- Any bars in Northbridge
- Caversham Wildlife park
- Serpentine Falls
- Port Gregory Pink Lake (5hr drive North)
- Kalbarri National Park (6hr drive North)
- Pinnacles Desert (2hr drive North)
- Exmouth (2hr flight North)
- Esperance (8hr drive or 1.5 hr flight South)

Any tips for future students?

I went to Perth around the 20th Feb and it was very hot but I would recommend going earlier if you can because the summer months are the best (Dec/Jan/Feb) in terms of weather and things to do.

Look out for cheap flights to Bali, over Easter weekend there were return flights for \$350 AUD.

Overall Experience

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

Originally Perth was not on my radar for an exchange, but I am so glad I chose to go here!! In terms of expenses, I would say overall it is roughly the same as living in Dunedin, but you also get to experience so many new things. If you are looking for a super social experience then I would recommend going into a hall, otherwise living in a share house (what they call flatting) or apartment is great if you want a bit more independence and to meet people outside of University. If you are worried about being away from home, don't worry! I was only overseas for 3 ½ months which was the perfect amount of time to experience a new place but also not feel too outside of my comfort zone. Whether you choose Perth or anywhere else for exchange it is 100% worth it! It is such a nice change from Dunedin, you feel like you're on holiday while also completing your degree on the side.



