



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Manchester (Alliance Business School)
Semester & Year of Exchange	Otago S1 2025
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce and Science
Major(s)	Accounting and Computer Science

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
BMAN20072 Investment Analysis	English	
BMAN20242 Introduction to Corporate Finance and Financial Instruments	English	
BMAN24102 Mergers and Acquisitions: Financial Perspectives	English	
BMAN30242 Financial Engineering	English	
BMAN31792 Financial Market Microstructure	English	

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

Any comments about these papers?

My host department is ABMS, Im not quite sure if other departments works the same. Papers I took are 2nd and 3rd year finance, from my experience even the workload of each paper is smaller than a standard Otago paper, I find them more challenging because they are much more math heavy, and all the assessments are 100% based on final exams marks, which are closed book and doesn't allow a cheat sheet, from my experience it's also on average more difficult.

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

Overall the experience is very similar to Otago, other than It's mandatory to attend lectures/tutorials/workshops, attendance are checked and recorded, and when it's too low students

get warnings. There are recordings but not so regularly checked. Workload per semester are 50-60 points, in my case were 5 courses for 50 points, more courses made the exam season feel more intense.

Accommodation

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

I had an awesome time and met amazing people in Oak House in Fallowfield campus. It's the most sociable and cheapest hall of UoM. If you enjoy going out it's the best hall.

Manchester city has a rich pub culture and there were many pubs close the Fallowfield campus that have lower price than city centre. There is a student nightclub (called 256) just across the street makes it super easy to hang out. There weren't sub wardens, hall staffs don't really check in.

The Fallowfield campus is rather far from the university, bus takes about 20 min, I usually cycled, the city is very cycle-friendly, but bike theft is quite common. Oak house is self-catered, nearest supermarket is Sainsbury and about 7 min walk. You can find a lot of good and affordable middle eastern food in Curry mile. There is an on-campus stadium and gym. Platt field is the nearest park and 5 min away, it's great for a walk or chill time by the lake.

Unfortunately, the Oak House is getting torn down in Summer 2025. There are many other halls in Fallowfield and regular hall events to meet people too.

Money matters

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

I flew from China and a one way flight is around £500.

I had student safe insurance, \$435.00.

I shopped at Sainsbury, weekly groceries was around £40. Oak house is £133/week.

Bus is £2 for a single ride, £5 for a day pass. I had a 2nd hand bike for £60 and donated at the end of the semester, you might be able to sell it because many people cycle.

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

I used a visa card from bank in my home country; it didn't support apple pay and was a hassle when I lost the card during travels.

You can basically use contactless payment everywhere; I hadn't been anywhere that doesn't accept cards. Sottish pounds and Irish pounds notes are widely accepted in England too.

Visas & Insurance

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

NZ citizen doesn't need a visa. I did tho.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No. but I needed one for my visa.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There are loads of fun socs that hold amazing events, my personal favourites were gigs from the rock society, and socials of salsa & bachata society. The international society offer some day trips for 30-60 pounds. The halls regularly hold events too. It's also a good idea to keep an eye on the uni and SU events page.

What was the university/ city like?

As an alt and queer person, Manchester is by far THE BEST city I have spent time in, its very vibrant and diverse and you can always easily find your people.

The night life is great, many good pubs, there are always gigs concerts and festivals to go to.

It rains often, during February there could be no sunshine in weeks, it gets better after March.

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

Unfortunately I needed a visa for EU and I couldn't get one this time. If you also need a visa make sure to apply before you come to UK, because many countries don't give visa for short term residents. If you can definitely go explore, Barcelona Warsaw Berlin etc, all just an extremely cheap flight away.

Cardiff, Dublin, Liverpool, Edinburgh, London in UK.

Also loads of amazing places to spend time in Manchester, Northern Quarter, Gay Village, haus in Fallowfield, and definitely GO TO SPOONS

Any tips for future students?

Tavel, go out, make friends, explore places.

Do remember to study too.

Overall Experience

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

My overall experience was truly unreal. The unfamiliar educational system, cities, culture are challenging, and also exciting. Put yourself out there, explore and enjoy.



