



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Memorial University
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Fall 2025
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Arts and Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Indigenous Studies and Management

### Academics/ course load

*Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?*

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
ARCH/HIST 1005 CRW Indigenous Studies	English	18
ENGL 2160 North American Indigenous Literature	English	18
LING 2025 Introduction to Inuttitit I	English and Inuttitit	18
LING 2026 Introduction to Inuttitit II	English and Inuttitit	18

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

*Any comments about these papers?*

I enjoyed all of these courses and found them to be a great opportunity to learn another Indigenous language, explore Indigenous literature, and gain a deeper understanding of Canadian history from Indigenous perspectives. I highly recommend them to anyone interested in learning about the Indigenous peoples of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

I found the overall academic experience and workload quite manageable. There were periods when multiple assignments were due at the same time or when weekly tasks accumulated, which created some time pressure; however, most of these tasks contributed only a small portion to my overall grade.

ARCH/HIST 1005 and ENGL 2160 were both delivered online. While this offered more flexibility, it was more expensive due to additional online course fees (\$51 CAD per course). Both courses were heavily focused on reading and writing, such as weekly to fortnightly discussion posts, required course readings, and numerous assignments. ARCH/HIST 1005, in particular, is a Critical Reading and

Writing course which focuses on academic writing skills. I found this course helpful for covering the basics in academic writing and presentation.

LING 2025 and LING 2026 were in-person language courses and were manageable with regular practice and consistent attendance. Making connections with classmates was especially helpful for practicing Inuttitut in conversation. While there are some resources available to support reading, writing, and speaking, they are quite limited, as Inuttitut is a language currently undergoing revitalisation. Both courses were taught in half the length of a standard semester, meaning the material moved quickly. As a result, attending every class was vital, as missing one class was equivalent to missing an entire week of content.

A key difference from Otago was that papers are referred to as courses. The courses I took did not include tutorials, only lectures and weekly content to be completed independently. This structure required a high level of self-directed learning and discipline but also offered greater flexibility. Another difference was the online learning platform, it is easy to navigate as content was organised by week with all required materials clearly laid out, and in some courses, a progress bar indicated how much of the weekly material had been completed.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in Paton College, specifically in Rothermere/Hatcher House, in a single room on the 4th floor, which is designated as the quiet floor across all dorms. Rothermere and Hatcher House are two separate buildings but function as sister residences for mature or postgraduate students, meaning each resident has their own private room. Hatcher House rooms include a mini fridge, whereas Rothermere rooms do not.

My room was private and separate from a shared floor bathroom used by other female residents, although some floors have mixed-gender bathrooms. The accommodation was located on campus and was conveniently close to the dining hall. Lots of storage space and regular organised activities for residents. The residents were generally of a similar maturity level, and the quiet environment was ideal for studying. Both residences had a lounge or gaming room, an open communal space where residents could gather for activities, and a shared kitchen.

There were a few drawbacks to staying in Rothermere. The building does not have an elevator (Hatcher House does), there were occasional unpleasant smells due to the age of the buildings, and the mattress was quite firm, similar to a thick gym mat.

## Money matters

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

- Accommodation @ Paton College Single Room: \$2,310 CAD
- Flights including return: \$3,208 NZD + \$780.70 CAD
- eTA: \$7 CAD
- 7-day meal plan: \$2,945 CAD
- Insurance for Otago: \$575.25 NZD
- Insurance for MUN: \$261.59 CAD
- Online learning course fee: \$102 CAD

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

I used a Wise card and account, frequently transferring money from my Kiwibank account and converting it into Canadian currency. I recommend Wise because it offers low conversion fees compared to New Zealand banks. Having some cash on hand is useful for buses, tipping, vending machines, or other small expenses, but it's possible to manage without it.

## Visas & Insurance

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

No visa is required for stays in Canada less than six months. However, you do need to apply for an eTA (electronic travel authorization) to enter the country, which can be completed easily online.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

The university offered a variety of organised activities for students, including therapy dogs, crafts, volunteering, dancing, sports, quiz nights, and karaoke. The Hatcher Commons was also a great spot to study, use computers, rent the pool table, or play board games. I would recommend future exchange students take part in these activities, as they are a fun way to meet people and experience campus life beyond academics.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The university is quite spread out, with large but older buildings and lots of pine trees. The surrounding city has a similar feel, everything is spacious and less busy compared to New Zealand. To explore areas outside of campus, you'll generally need a bus pass, Uber, or a car. Overall, it's a unique environment that takes some adjustment but is enjoyable to experience.

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

I recommend visiting The Rooms, the GEO Centre, MUN Botanical Gardens, and Signal Hill for sightseeing. For fun activities, try an escape room downtown, catch a movie at the cinema, or watch an ice hockey game.

For food, definitely try Mary Brown's with a Diet Pepsi to get the full Newfoundland experience, it can be greasy but delicious! Poutine is also a classic dish worth trying while you're there.

*Any tips for future students?*

- A mattress cover is a good investment in comfort for student residence beds.
- Fall semester, bring summer clothes for the first few weeks and winter clothes for the rest.
- Find your community; having a supportive group will greatly enhance your experience.

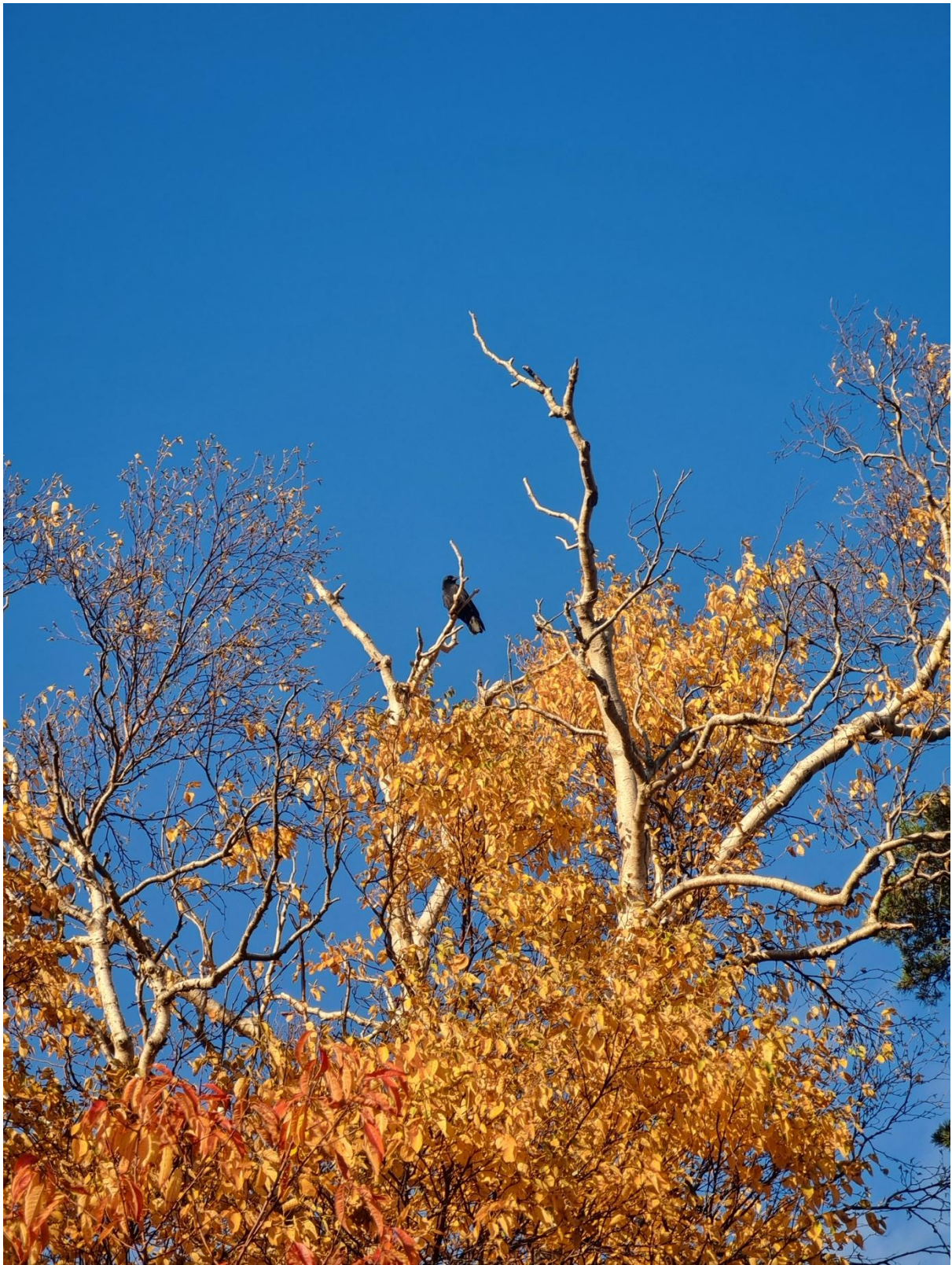
## Overall Experience

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

I thoroughly enjoyed my exchange at Memorial University. There was an adjustment period at the start due to the time zone and cultural differences, but once I found my community, the experience fell into place. I did experience a period of homesickness, as being the only one from your culture can feel isolating, so finding a sense of community was essential. For me, this took the form of Juniper House, the Indigenous Resource Centre at Memorial. From my first day, they were welcoming, kind, respectful, and always willing to help with any concerns or offer recommendations. They were curious to learn about te ao Māori and New Zealand, just as I was eager to learn about their cultures. I feel very honoured to have been part of their space and relied heavily on their support throughout my exchange. Their manaakitanga kept me grounded, and over time, Juniper House became a second home.

I also had the privilege of connecting with the Inuit community, and as Indigenous peoples, we shared a unique understanding of what it means to be Indigenous on our own land. These connections allowed for meaningful knowledge exchange. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to form relationships, learn the Inuit language, experience their storytelling and way of life. It was a humbling experience both academically and personally. This experience will be cherished forever and passed on to future generations within my communities.

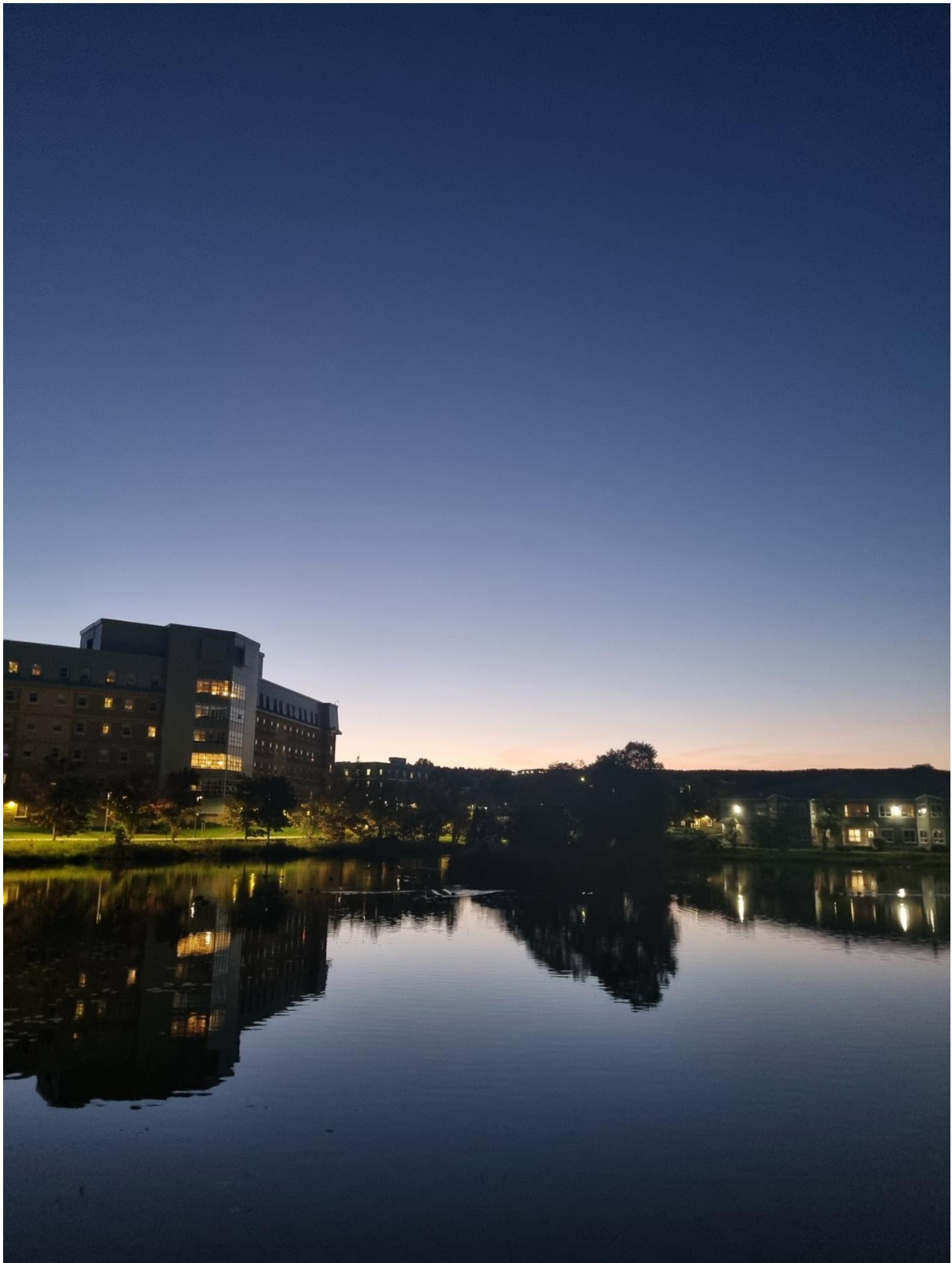




American crow sitting in a tree during fall



A walk around Long Pond close to campus



Pond on campus during the sunset