



OTAGO GLOBAL

Student Exchange Programme

@otagoexchange

Otago Global Student Exchange

otago.ac.nz/study/studentexchange



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Copenhagen
Semester & Year of Exchange	S2 2022
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Accounting

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Danish Culture Course 1	English	15 points (7.5 ECTS)
Danish Culture Course 2	English	15 points (7.5 ECTS)
International Environmental Law	English	15 points (7.5 ECTS)

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points 45 _____

Any comments about these papers?

Danish Culture was awesome. Number 1 is purely participation based so you pass the paper if you show up to class and go to fun excursions on the weekend. Number 2 is one 1,500 word essay due before Christmas which only took me a week to do if you keep up to date with lectures. I made most of my friends in this class, it was a lot of fun. Huge class, similar to Otago lectures, no tutorials.

Int Env Law was a small interactive class. Super informal and you don't take a lot of notes but you spend the class discussing the regulations and frameworks. It is a Masters level paper but definitely easier than any Otago Law paper I have done. The exam is an oral exam which is a 15 minute conversation with your lecturer about the content. They give you the possible questions so there are no surprises and you can prepare well. I loved my lecturer. Super cool way of learning. Also the exam was in October (just after mid-term break) so I had no lectures for the rest of the semester (more time to travel!!).

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

Easier than Otago, less workload. Attendance much more important because there are no recordings, but class was super fun and a good way to meet people. I only had 7 hours of class per week (then 2 hours after my Int Env exam). More participation and discussion based.

Accommodation

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

BaseCamp City.

Pros: very very central, so good being close to everything, social with events every week, free gym, cinema room, self-contained rooms so own kitchen and ensuite gave privacy, building is super pretty, amazing walks around lakes and gardens near by.

Cons: because of self-contained rooms it is less social because you aren't really bumping into people in the kitchen and common rooms (I thought it would be UniCol/Arana/Selwyn vibes, it is not. The hallways are always empty), very expensive.

If I had my time again I would go to Mariendalsvej or Signallhuset which had 5 bedroom flat units with shared kitchen which were way more social (if you are lucky with flatmates) – only con about them is they are pretty far from the city centre – no problem if you enjoy cycling! If you are there for 1 year definitely go for Tietkenkolleget – my friends loved it there.

Money matters

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

Accommodation approx. \$440 NZD per week

Flights \$3,000 return

Visa \$1,500 one off

Food \$300 per week (ish... I enjoyed eating out, supermarkets cheaper than NZ)

Insurance \$800 one off

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

Wise card – so good, used the whole time, has every currency and low fees. Can use for online shopping and apply pay

I didn't get a Danish bank account because I didn't get a job there.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, there are very easy steps to follow online on the Danish Immigration website. You have to go to a biometric appointment in Auckland and they send your passport to Sydney to get verified. Can take up to 2 weeks to come back, give enough time for this. I had my biometrics done end of June after exams and left NZ mid July – it was stressful, don't leave it this late.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?
No, I just did the travel insurance required by Otago.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Studenterhuset is a student organisation, like OUSA but better. On your Uni orientation day they talk a lot about volunteering at the Student bar, joining language clubs etc. I was keen to do this but I travelled so much I couldn't commit to regular extra curric. I went to a lot of the events though which were super fun, e.g., quiz nights, sports game screenings.

Also look on Absalon!! It is a modern funky community house with such cool events every week such as yoga, pottery, community dinners, painting, dancing... and the list goes on.

What was the university/ city like?

AMAZING. Clean, new, beautiful, vibey. Always people out and about even in awful weather. I fell in love with the city,

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

THINGS TO DO IN SUMMER/WARM MONTHS: - Reffen (outdoor food market, such a vibe) - Amager beach and go on the big swimming structure called kastrup sobad - Picnic at Islands Bygge - La Banchina swimming and cafe - Basezone sandkaj swimming spot - picnic in Vestre Kirkegaard - Konditaget luders - day trip to Dragor - GoBoat rental to go around the canal with byo food and drink! - Broens Gadekokken outdoor food market.

THINGS TO DO IN GENERAL: - Nyhavn (famous colourful houses) - Christiania: freetown (it's literally lawless), a vibe on a nice day to just walk around or get a beer from their bar. - Amalienborg palace - Rosenborg castle - Botanical gardens - Kastellet and the little mermaid - Walk around the lakes (just put in Kaffesalonen which is a bar on the lakes to find it) - Frederiksberg gardens: right next to the zoo and can sometimes see elephants etc. its such a beautiful garden - Copenhagen opera house (tours are pretty cool and affordable but all operas are in danish) - Copenhill (you can ski down here as an activity but also nice for a picnic at the top) - Rundetarn tower for cool views - walk down Stroget for shopping - Dwarves house in the Deer Park (park is huge so take bike to ride around) and go to Bellevue beach at the same time - Louisiana art museum (amazing) - Tivoli Gardens (theme park) - Frederiksborg castle (also far away but soooo worth it) - Superkillen park – go to a football game at the stadium – Bakken (amusement park in the Deer Park) – get a sauna membership and go winter bathing in the canals by the sauna in winter – visit Aarhus (another city in Denmark).

BARS/ NIGHTCLUBS: download Resident Advisor and look for gigs/concerts - Hangaren (favourite club) - Jolene (techno) - Baggen (techno) - Hive and Chapel motel for more mainstream but still so fun - Gothersgade street are cheap and cringey bars but still fun - Social Pub for quiz night - Den Anden Side (alternative/underground vibes) - Culture Box (techno) - Southern Cross Pub or Lenowskis for sport

FOOD: - Skt Peders bageri - Torvehallerne food market - Bastard cafe (boardgame cafe and cheap prices) - Daellekatesen for best sammies and salads - Copenhagen hotdog deli is traditional -

Kebabery for best kebab I've ever had (go after a night out at like 4am) - Apotek 57 cafe - Atalier September cafe - Fabro (delicious cheap Italian) - Andersen Bakery - Andersen and Maillard – Juno Bakery - Minas Kaffebar (best cheap coffee, food, and evening drinks spot) - Poulette fried chicken - Pico pizza - Livingstone (brunch) – Wild Kiwi Pies for a taste of home.

FANCY RESTAURANTS: - Delphine - Pluto - Dumbo - Host – Gemini.

Any tips for future students?

Hire a bike from Swapfiets – book your spot early so you can get it within your first week of arrival.

Download Too Good to Go and order for cheap supermarket food at the end of the day.

Download Rista for a coffee subscription!!! \$45 per month and you get a barista coffee from any of the connecting cafes every day. Otherwise you will pay \$10 for one coffee (yes, I know, it's crazy).

Go on Tipster website for half price vouchers to boujee restaurants. The food in Copenhagen is amazing but so expensive to dine out. Kind of like GrabOne for food.

Buy tickets to ANY AND ALL orientation, parties, bbqs, dinners, uni orientations etc in the first few weeks. That is where I basically made all of my friends in the first few weeks.

Apply for CPR number and book appointment asap for free healthcare. Get NemID/ MitID if you want to get a job otherwise you can't open a Danish bank acc.

Utilise your mentor as much as possible! making Danish friends is hard but so worth it if you put in the effort. Danes are initially pretty closed off. I was the only one who made one good Danish friend and I had the coolest experience being invited to do things with him and his mates. It's so easy to just stick with exchange students.

Get a Reisjekort card for the metro.

Take papers that have no class on a Monday or Friday so you can travel.

FlixBus and Trainline are great apps for transport.

Overall Experience

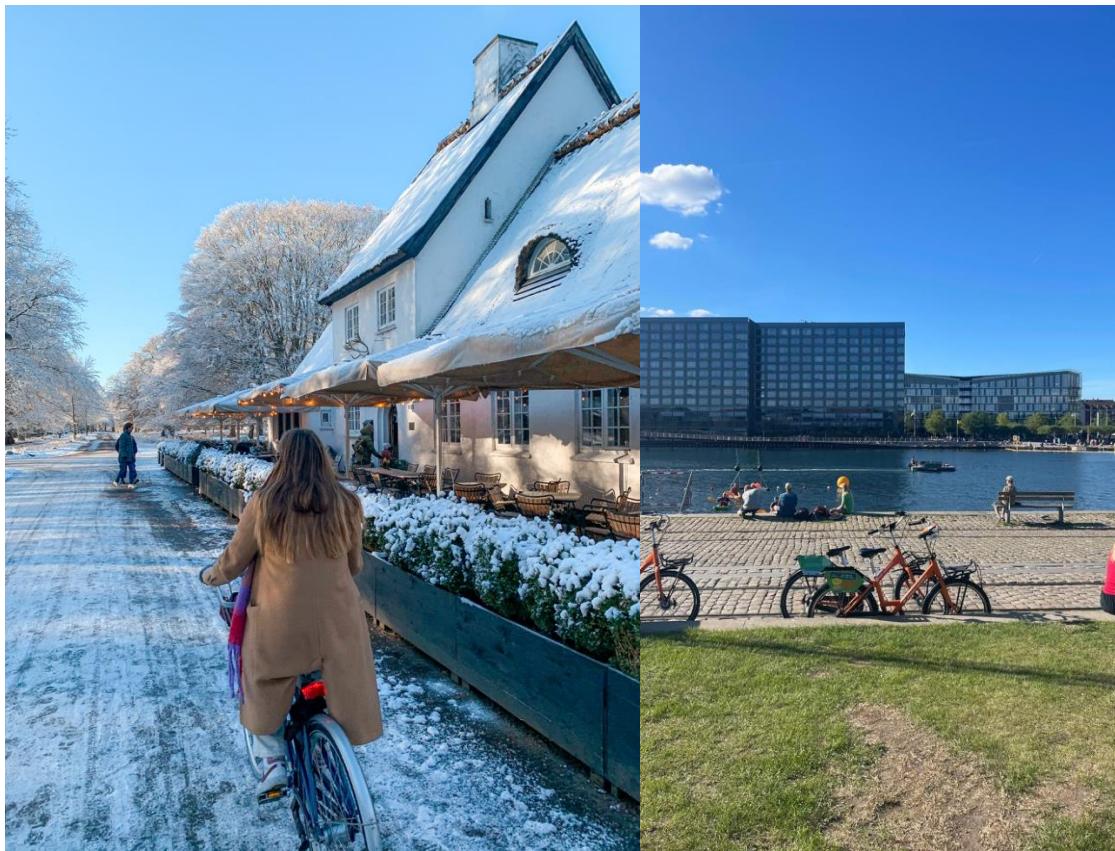
Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

Hands down the best experience of my life. Throw yourself into every opportunity because Copenhagen has so SO much to offer. Whether you are artsy, sporty, creative, nerdy, into fashion, love food, like to party, or don't, Copenhagen is a place for you. There is no language barrier because everyone speaks English, the Danes are lovely and kind people, the city is SO accessible – you walk and cycle everywhere (I caught 2 taxis the whole 5 months, there is no Uber), it is beautiful and filled with culture and life. The only downside is the cold winter months but you just stay indoors and get cozy at nice cafes (or travel somewhere warmer every odd weekend!). The city is so international so you don't feel out of place. I made amazing friends from all over the world. It is expensive, but so worth it.

I used the opportunity to travel over the summer July-September, moved to Copenhagen September- end of Jan, then travelled Feb-March, which made it an amazing extended exchange (or mini OE). I visited 45 cities in 22 countries in this time – start saving now so you can do the same!!! The airport is SO accessible and easy to book flights anywhere last minute for weekends. One thing I

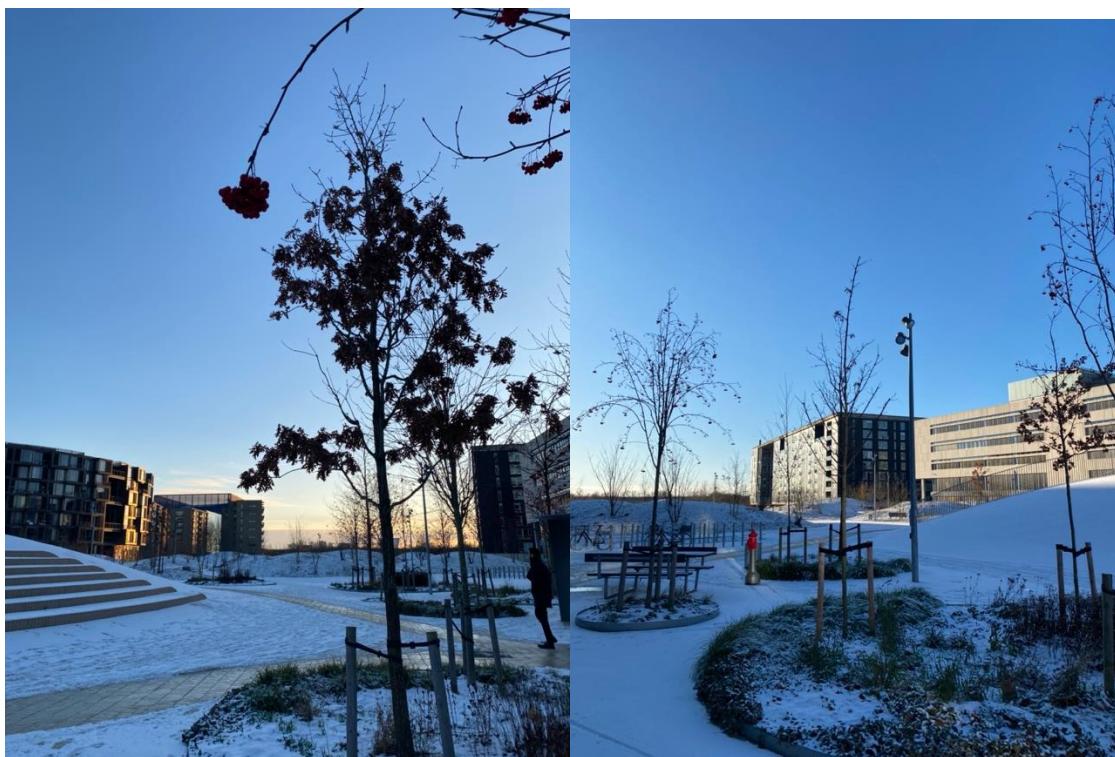
would change is coming to Copenhagen early or mid August to experience their warmer months for longer.

I hope you found this helpful! If you are deciding between Copenhagen and somewhere else, this is your sign to pick Copenhagen – I hope you fall in love with the place like I did.



Deer Park

Islands Brygge



Uni (south campus)



Uni (south campus)



Bellvue beach



Absalon football game



Tivoli at Christmas



Deer Park



Friendsmas dinner at Mariendalsvej



Nyhavn Christmas Markets



Kastellet park (near little mermaid)



Tivoli at Halloween



Frederiksbor Castle



The lakes



Superkillen park



Frederiksberg gardens



BYO Nyhavn canal tour

view from tower



Nyhavn

Reffen



BaseCamp City