



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	BSc	Major(s)	Geology
Host University	University of Exeter	Semester & Year of Exchange	2017 S2/2018 S1 - Sep-June

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Sedimentology and stratigraphy	English		36
Structure and tectonics	English		36
Geophysics	English		18
GIS Geology	English		18
Field mapping year 3	English		18
Energy resources	English		18
Hydrogeology	English		18

Any comments about these papers?

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago? Very similar except 2nd year papers have 2 hr long labs not 3 hour long. The host Geo students are better than Otago Geo students in the field because they have done a lot more than us at year 1.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation? I lived in a farm cottage built in the 1800s with my partner, 1600 NZD per month. Most common flats (Otago equivalent) cost about 800 NZD pp per month bills included.

Money matters

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

Accommodation 700-900

Flights 1500 return

Visa 500

Insurance 550

Food 100 per week

Note I am at the Camborne School of Mines in Falmouth which is more expensive than Exeter by about 10%

Transport: busses cost 1 pound per trip and are very handy around Falmouth and Penryn

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.) I set up a bank account with HSBC in England when I arrived. I also have a NZ credit card (not essential), a Air New Zealand Travel card. Best option is to set up a bank account when you arrive.

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process? Yes, presses can be stressful so ensure you get onto it as soon as you have received your CAS from host Uni. My passport came 2 days after my flight was scheduled because it got lost in the post meaning I had to re book my flight. Insurance did not cover this because they said it was passport issue when really it was post issue. Therefore, make sure you apply for visa on the day your CAS arrives and have all your documents ready such as driving record etc. Also be very selective with travel insurance there are some companies that will weasel their way out of anything.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance? No but they do for overseas field trips. This is covered by them.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students? I didn't really take part in much activity outside of Uni except for the gym which is good and cheap, ~400 for the year with Les Mills classes included. I played the odd game of rugby. If you are studying geology then you will be very busy.

What was the university/ city like? It is a small town with lots of restaurants/bars, parks, walking tracks, beaches and festivals. It is not a big city but if you want to get to London it is only a trip on a train away.

Any tips for future students?

It's a great experience and good way to get a taste of the different geology in England and Spain.

Overall Experience

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

My one-year exchange experience was full of challenges and excitement and I enjoyed every moment of it. During my exchange, I have met new friends and have discovered new opportunities for further study and my working career. At the Camborne School of Mines I have been able to take part in papers that are not offered at Otago which has given me the opportunity to learn more about geology in specific areas in which I am interested in, these include: Structural Geology (full year), Geophysics, Applied Field Geology in Spain, Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, GIS for Geologists, Hydrogeology and Energy Resource Geology.

The university I went to costs around \$40,000 NZD (fees) per year. However, the exchange program meant I was only required to pay Otago fees. Not only did these fees pay for the nine papers I was enrolled in it also included field trips and field gear. The field trips comprised of 10 days in Dorset on the Jurassic Coast, 10 days in southern Spain with transport included and 3 days around Cornwall looking at structural geology. Overall, the exchange program is a wise financial investment.

I have now completed my degree leaving me with 3 months left on my visa to travel. Before I return to NZ I will visit 12 countries in Europe with my friend and partner, an experience I would have never done if I had stayed in Dunedin.

If you are feeling like you need a change, challenge, or an adventure that you will never forget then applying for an exchange is the best decision you can make.

Photos of Triassic cost in Dorset on a Sedimentology field trip term 1. Duration 10 days



Sherwood Sandstone oil and gas reservoir rock



Large ammonite observed in the Blue Lias. Pencil for scale 100 mm



Upper Perbeck Group. Three interbedded sedimentary lithologies tilted to a near vertical dip.



The Bridport Sand Formation observed at a cliff face at West Bay, Dorset.

(Below) Spain field trip third year mapping term 2 duration 10 days



Mapping in the field. Looking out at the Mediterranean sea. This part of the trip involved 3 days of speed mapping.



View from apartment where the class (60 geology students) stayed for the 10 nights. This is all inclusive in the exchange including return flights from Bristol airport.



Area where we did an assessment which involved doing a group poster.



Pure Geology class. When we go on field trips the geology class is split into pure geologists, geotechnical engineers and mining geologists. There are about 20 students in each group.



Area we did individual poster.



Individual poster area (within a strike slip basin)

More random pics around the area I was living



Porthleven 10 min drive from where my partner and I lived. Looking at the Atlantic.



Porthleven



Snow day with a stray cat. Uni was closed for the day.



Loe Poor, good running/walking track I would like to do in the early hours of the morning.



Me at the Lizard out exploring with my friends