



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	The University of Melbourne
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1, 2023
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Marketing and Management

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Managing for Competitive Advantage	English	MANT345
Retailing	English	MART304
Service and Relationship Marketing	English	MARTXXX
Business and Marketing Ethics	English	MART305

Total Otago credits gained: 72 points

Any comments about these papers?

Found that they went over really similar things and a lot of theory that we had already covered in depth at Otago, for me I felt like it made it a bit boring as I had already learnt a lot of it, the only difference was applying those theories to different contexts (i.e., retailing, service). However I loved the business and marketing ethics paper.

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

Okay workload, definitely manageable but for all the papers we had prep to do before tutorials so would definitely recommend organising yourself to have that done. The lectures were a lot more conversational which kept it fun and allowed you to think about theories in different ways from the ideas of others.

Accommodation

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

I flatted whilst I was in Melbourne as I found the halls to be out of my budget. The pro of this was that it was cheaper, I only shared a kitchen with one other, and allowed me to meet people that weren't just exchange students. The cons was that I didn't have as strong of a relationship with many exchange students and because I couldn't do their o-week due to covid I missed out on that important week of connecting with the exchange students.

Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$250

Flights: \$300 each way

Food: UoM had a food relief thing for exchange students so I took advantage of that, it was normally 3-5 meals a week and I was working so would get dinner at work, overall I think I would spend on average \$25 a week on extras

Insurance: I got the studentsafe one with no excess fee, this was just over \$1000. Came in handy bc on my way to Aus they cancelled my flight and I had to get a new one for the same day so that I could arrive before the mandatory exchange day. Also, my laptop broke a month before exams and I had to get a new one and the insurance paid for most of it

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

I used wise to transfer money from my NZ account and had a really good experience. I also had an Australian debit card which I needed as I was working. I went with ANZ.

Visas & Insurance

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

No

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

So many clubs are available and so many little shows, stalls, and markets are organised which keeps things exciting! Definitely keep an eye out on the unimelb emails to get all the info on what's happening each week.

What was the university/ city like?

Such an awesome and lively city! So many events, a highlight for me was the rising festival and also just walking around or getting the train to different places.

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

Definitely do the Great Ocean Road, it's so amazing and so fun! I did it in a campervan which was exciting and kept it at a low cost as we could cook and pretty much park anywhere. Definitely wake up early and watch the sunrise when you're there.

Go to Yo-Chi for frozen yogurt! There's one like 3 minutes from the uni and it's delicious! Great for a study break!!

Any tips for future students?

Immerse yourself in the Melbourne life because it really is exceptional. There's a good nightlife but take the time to go visit other suburbs, there's some hidden gems all around Melbourne. Go to the museums and art galleries and understand the culture of the aboriginals.

Overall Experience

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

Overall, my time in Melbourne was a treat! I was able to immerse myself with so many different people and learn so much about the city of Melbourne and other places from people all over the world. It was my first time living in a big city and the infrastructure of Melbourne made that an easy transition. I was able to immerse myself in the big city life through clubs, meeting Melbourne workers and also through a job. The city itself is so amazing with great culture, good food, and great people. It was definitely sad to leave but without a doubt I know I'll be back there someday. Make the most out of your time on exchange as it flies by and before you know it, you'll be back home or like myself, on my next exchange.

