



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Exeter
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	S2 2022
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Laws and Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Accounting

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
BEM1019 Marketing	English	100 level elective
GEO1106 Geographies of Global Change	English	100 level elective
BEM3060 Managing Entrepreneurially	English	300 level accounting

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

Any comments about these papers?

I found these papers interesting and they didn't require an intense workload which was nice when on exchange. The two 100 level papers touched on the basic concepts of their respective topics. The managing entrepreneurially paper was taught online via their learning platform (similar to blackboard). I found there was no paper similar to it in the Otago curriculum, therefore it was interesting to learn about and was more intellectually challenging than the other two papers. All three papers had take home assignments instead of exams. I found this extremely helpful because Exeter's exam period is in the beginning of January and it meant I was able to complete the assignments before the semester finished in December and didn't have to return to Exeter to sit them.

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

As I have alluded to, the workload was less than what I was use to at Otago. This is mainly because two of the papers were 100 level papers. The style of teaching was the same, classes were taught in lecture theatres and the Uni is campus based rather than spread over the city. However, the grade barriers differ significantly. To pass 40% is required and to achieve an A 70% is required.

## Accommodation

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

I was fortunate enough to have been given a place in a hall of residence. The Uni offers roughly 80 beds for 450 exchange students on a first in first served basis so it's important to apply ASAP. The condition of the hall was good. There are 6 people to a floor and we would share a kitchen and lounge area. The kitchen was good and was able to cater for everyone comfortably. Being in the hall was a great way to meet the exchange cohort at the beginning. I met an Australian exchange student who missed out of university accommodation signed a flat with local Exeter students for the semester. The conditions weren't as nice but he still had a great time and found living with the locals a cool experience. Would definitely opt for the halls if you can though!

## Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$5100

Flights: \$2880

Didn't need a visa as can study in the UK for 6 months or less without one.

Food: \$70 per week

Insurance: \$900

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

I purchased a WISE card which allows you to open a bank account in any country and then I transferred my NZ money onto the card in NZ dollars and would then convert it to the currency I was using at the time. It was very easy to use and I would recommend it. I was able to transfer foreigners in their local currency for little to no fees.

## Visas & Insurance

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

N/A

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

I used InsuranceSafeNZ which was recommended by Otago Uni.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Exeter had a great student culture and their systems make it very easy to fit in and meet people. The societies are a big part of the culture and everyone joins 2-3 (but there is no limit). Examples include the surf society, ski society, finance society, and there are some more niche ones such as Disney society etc... so there is something for everyone. They are a great way to meet local students as they host social events every week. The committee members love exchange students and always made me feel welcome.

As well as social events they organise trips. For example, I was part of the surf and ski society. The surf had weekly weekend trips and a trip to Morocco and the ski society organised a week long ski trip to Andorra.

On top of the societies, the uni hosts a few events. For example, there is a big rugby game against Exeter's biggest rival held in the stadium and all students go. It is very fun and has great atmosphere (similar to the ZOO).

*What was the university/ city like?*

Exeter City is similar in size to Dunedin with a population of about 100,000 people. It is a lot smaller than a lot of other options given for exchange. However, there are perks with this. It is a student town so I never felt lost or out of place. I spent little money on public transport as I walked to and from uni and it was a 10 minute walk into town. All the flats are very close together and close to the pubs.

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

The main street of Exeter had the best eateries and their local meals are roasts and fish and chips. They are a must.

Exeter is located in Devon and there are a lot of nice beach towns a short bus ride away. These include, Exmouth, Sidmouth and Topsham. Another cool area with great beaches is Cornwall where the surf society spends a lot of time. It is rated one of the nicest parts of the UK. Of course, London is a great spot to visit and spend some time in. I did 5 trips to London and always found myself doing something new and exciting. London is roughly a 2 and a half hour train ride from Exeter.

*Any tips for future students?*

Buy a trainline pass as it discounts the price for trains. Your local airport for quick trips is Bristol which is about a 2hr bus away. But use London for longer hauls.

Get involved with societies, try them all out on their try out days to get a feel for them.

## Overall Experience

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

Overall, my exchange experience was fantastic. Initially, before arriving at Exeter I was a little sceptical of my choice as there are so many cool cities in Europe to choose from, however, once I got there and settled in I had a great time. I was very grateful for meeting the Aussie bloke who was

living with locals as I got really close with his flat and they introduced us to their mates and always invited us out, whether it was to the pub or golfing during the week.

Exeter was a really fun student town, it always had heaps going on and there was never a dull time. The Uni staff and students were very helpful if I ever had issues with my application, papers and so on they responded quick and were kind and friendly.

Exeter is located in a great position for local travel down the bottom part of the UK (which is arguably the most beautiful). I had many trips to the national park and also to all the beach towns nearby. Moreover, as I have alluded to, London is nearby and a great place to visit and immerse myself into the hustle and bustle which it has.

Lastly, the societies made it really easy to fit in and make friends. I found people with similar interests and they were all so welcoming. If it wasn't for the societies I wouldn't have explored as much of south UK (Cornwall) as I did. Also, it took me to Andorra to ski which I didn't even know existed before going.

So, overall I had a great time and I would definitely recommend an exchange to everyone who has the opportunity. It might appear unnerving and expensive but it is unbelievable and there is so much to see. The travels I did, the adventures I experienced and the people I met were worth every cent.