



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Exeter
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2, 5 th year
Otago degree(s)	LLB and BA
Major(s)	BA majoring in Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Cyborg studies	English	300 level philosophy paper
Philosophy and race	English	300 level philosophy paper
Philosophy and psychedelics	English	300 level philosophy paper

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

Any comments about these papers?

The papers were incredibly interesting. The University of Exeter has a really good PPE programme and offers a wide range of philosophy papers. These papers were my top 3 preferences, and I got into them all. The lecturers were also really helpful and engaging.

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

I think the workload was similar but probably lighter than at Otago. The pass rate is 40%, I had no final exams (only 2 internal assignments per paper), and had 3 hours of contact time each week for each paper. However, they expect you to attend in person as at the University of Exeter you have lecture styles classes and seminar style classes (seminars are similar to tutorials). The class sizes are also a lot smaller than at Otago, which I enjoyed as I got to know people in my class.

Although it was better to attend class, all of my classes were recorded and posted online. Additionally, if I did miss a lecture or seminar, I found it very easy to catch up.

Accommodation

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

I stayed at James Owen Court – which I think is the only student accommodation you can apply to as a single semester exchange student. I would definitely recommend staying here as it is an easy and sure way to meet new people and make friends as there are hundreds of single semester exchange students in this accommodation.

The James Owen Court accommodation itself is satisfactory. Each student has a single room with an ensuite (toilet/shower). You share a flat with 3-7 others, who you also share a large kitchen and lounge with. I think it is similar to Unicol/Arana first year accommodation. This accommodation also has a good location - it is a 15 minute walk from campus and a 5 minute walk to town. It is also nextdoor to a Tesco Express which is convenient for groceries!

Applying for JOC – JOC operates on a first in, first served basis and spots are taken incredibly quickly. If you do want to get into this accommodation I would recommend submitting your application the minute applications open! Alternatively, I made friends who found spots open up in other student accommodation and who went into private houses who also really enjoyed their accommodation!

Money matters

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

Accommodation – approx. \$6000 NZ

Flights – approx. \$3,500 NZ (return)

Visa – I went to the UK on a visitor visa, no cost and no application as an NZ citizen.

Insurance - \$750 NZ for 6 months (including traveling)

Food – cost of food in Exeter is relatively similar to NZ. It is much more expensive to eat out though.

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 debit card which I would recommend (you can sign up to wise and open a bank account with them for free).

Visas & Insurance

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

As mentioned above, I went on a visitor visa which has not application process.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No – I used the insurance recommended by Otago University which was really good and gives you a discount.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were so many organised activities available! At Exeter, student societies are really popular. There are hundreds of societies, ranging from sports, academics, music, culture etc – really anything you can think of they have. Students at Exeter are really involved in their society and it's such a good way to meet people and make friends. You don't just do the organised activity with your society, but also go to organised social events and charity events. Lots of societies put on events at pubs/clubs which is great if you are keen to socialise in that environment.

I joined the touch rugby society which I absolutely loved. I met some incredible people – both locals and exchange students. I found it really easy to integrate into life at the university by doing this.

What was the university/ city like?

It is a campus university just out of the main town with a huge student population. Similar to Otago, it has a strong student culture.

Exeter city itself is nice but quite small. It has everything you need, and I would say that it is quite a similar size to Dunedin.

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

In Exeter – visit the quay, walk along the river, go to the exploding bakery, enjoy a few nights out at time piece bar, eat a chicken chip box or kebab at Effes, have a beer at all the great pubs especially the Imperial, enjoy the Christmas markets if you are there at that time!

Places to visit – The beach is about a 20-30 minute train ride from Exeter city and is beautiful on a sunny day! I would also recommend exploring the coast – there are lots of cute towns you can get to on the train. Bristol is only 45 minutes away and is a cool city. London is a must visit too. If you want to travel further, there are lots of cheap flights leaving from Bristol, which is very accessible via train. I went to Paris, Amsterdam and Marrakesh during my semester abroad.

Any tips for future students?

As cliché as it sounds, getting involved is the most important tip I could give! While Exeter is not the coolest city in the UK/Europe, the University of Exeter has an awesome student culture and is a fantastic university. There are so many societies you can join which hold heaps of events, so if you get involved you will always be busy!

Overall Experience

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

I absolutely loved my exchange at the University of Exeter! Firstly, I loved the ability to explore the UK/Europe when I was away. I was fortunate to travel before starting my exchange and over the Christmas break. While I loved travelling, I was surprised by how much I loved my time at university. I made friends who I plan to keep in contact with and look forward to catching up with again – both local students and international students on exchange. Everyone I met was incredibly welcoming and through the societies I was able to integrate into Exeter life very easily. Although it was initially a bit daunting going to university in a new place, I could not recommend it enough!

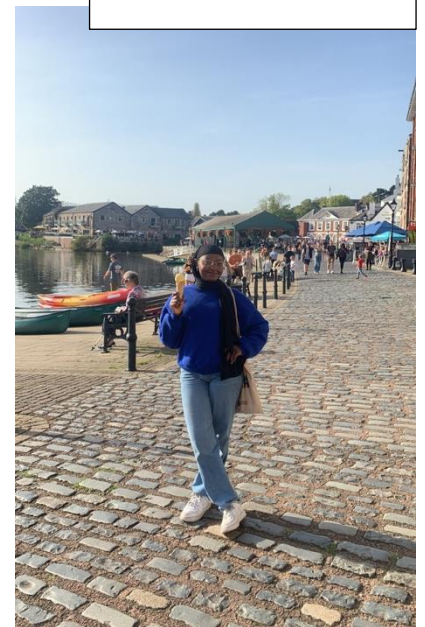
Academically, the lecturers were very passionate and helpful. I found my workload very manageable and enjoyed having the opportunity to take papers that are not offered at Otago. As a PPE student, it was great going to class surrounded by other PPE students (which I found unusual as PPE has a relatively small cohort in Otago).

I have included some photos below of my time in Exeter and while traveling.

My Exeter Uni touch team



Exeter Quay



Exeter Christmas Markets



Friendsgiving in James Owen Court



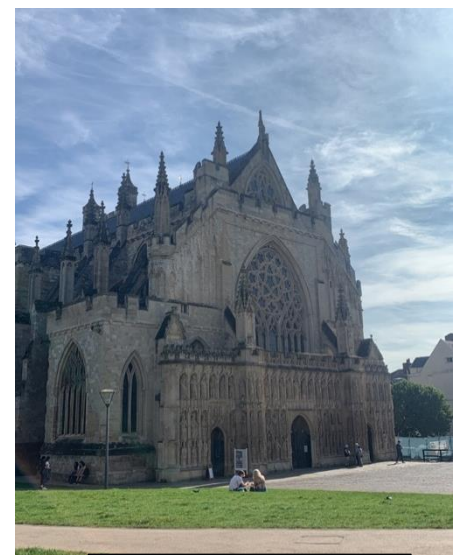
Bath – city near Exeter



Dawlish – a town near Exeter



The Exeter Cathedral





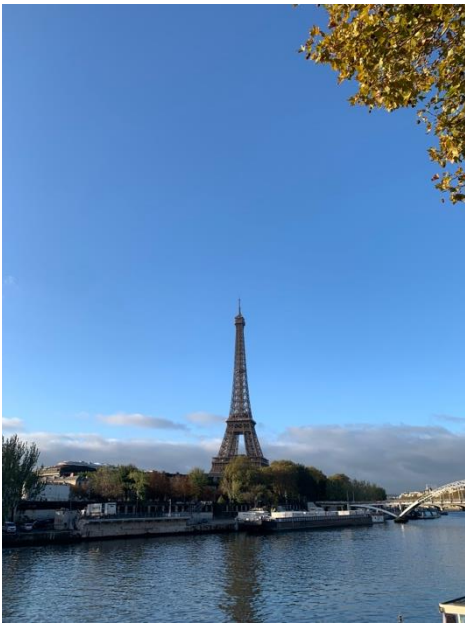
London at Christmas time



Lagos, Portugal



National Park in Croatia



Paris, France



Marrakesh, Morocco



Vatican City, Italy