



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Manchester
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	S2 2024/S1 2025
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	BSc
<b>Major(s)</b>	Economics, Genetics

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Post-genome Biology	English	Unspecified GENE300
Gene Regulation & Disease	English	Unspecified GENE300
Human Genetics & Evolution	English	GENE312
Climate Change Economics & Policy	English	Unspecified ECON300
Microeconomics 3	English	Unspecified ECON300
Macroeconomics 3	English	Unspecified ECON300
Topics in Economic History	English	Unspecified ECON300
Role of Diagnostics in Medicine	English	Unspecified GENE300
Introduction to Cancer	English	Unspecified GENE300

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  120

Any comments about these papers?

They were all very interesting and there was definitely more options for final year economic papers at UoM.

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

Attending class was compulsory which was a bit of a change but it is good for meeting people. Workload was similar to Otago but most assessments for Economics including exams were online which was generally easier. One thing for science to note is that the papers (or modules as they say) don't have labs associated with them at least for final year papers and I think for second year papers it is a separate thing you enrol in.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in the Richmond Park university accommodation on the Fallowfield campus. I was in an 8 person flat with an ensuite bathroom. It was generally pretty nice accommodation and had a large kitchen and was always warm although it was more expensive than accommodation at Otago. Most students live on/around Fallowfield campus but one thing to note is that most students in the uni accommodation are first years. The Fallowfield campus is also 30-40mins walk and about 15-20mins bus from the main campus where classes are but the buses come every 5-10 minutes during the day and getting home at night from in the city is also very easy as there are about three night buses that go past.

## Money matters

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

Accommodation: 192 pounds a week

Food: 40 pounds per week (this is if I wasn't eating out but do note that eating out is quite expensive)

Flights: About 3000NZD return through Singapore

Visa: About 1500NZD, including the visa application fee and paying for NHS

Insurance: 900NZD this was full cover and covered me for travel in Europe

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

I used Wise which allowed me to open a UK bank account.

## Visas & Insurance

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

Yes I had a student visa which I applied for online and then went to Christchurch for the biometrics appointment. After the appointment you then had to post your passport to Auckland and it took a couple weeks to get it back.

*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?*

I joined various clubs and would definitely recommend checking these out as UoM has a very wide variety. I would also recommend joining a sports team as this is a great way to meet people.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Manchester is an amazing city! It has a great music scene and night life. There are many food options and plenty of shopping as well. The university has a lovely community feel which helps with the transition to a big city and makes meeting people really easy. I found everyone to be very welcoming and fitted into university life there very easily. For more sporty people there is a wide variety of sports teams and there is a hiking society. Manchester is also a short train ride from the lakes and peaks districts so getting out of the city is pretty easy and there is some lovely small towns and walks in these areas.

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

There are a heap of cafes in the city which are all great and if you're looking for a decent coffee I'd recommend just between friends. For dinner/drinks/live music I'd go to Diecast and if you're ever looking for a taste of home Federal is a NZ/AUS café. I would also highly recommend taking the time to leave the city and visit the lakes and peaks districts and visiting Liverpool and York.

*Any tips for future students?*

Just make the most of your time there and say yes to everything! The time will go quicker than you expect!

## Overall Experience

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

My experience doing a student exchange at the University of Manchester was incredibly rewarding and unforgettable. From the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed by the vibrant, diverse atmosphere of both the university and the city. Academically, the exchange gave me access to a wide range of courses, including several that aren't offered here at Otago. Outside the classroom, I made close friends with people from England and across the world, giving me a deeper appreciation for different cultures and perspectives. Manchester itself has so much to offer—it's a multicultural hub with incredible music, arts, and food scenes. The Northern quarter in particular was a cool area of Manchester.

Manchester also has a big airport and using trains you have easy access to Scotland, Wales and southern England making travel easy. I was able to travel extensively across the UK and to several European cities during weekends and breaks, which added a whole other dimension to the exchange experience. Looking back, my time in Manchester helped me grow academically, socially, and personally, and it's an experience I'll always cherish.