



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	WU Vienna
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2, 2022
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Laws and Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Finance

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Sustainable Tourism	English	
Responsible Global Leadership	English	
Diversity Management in Practice	English	
Introduction to Supply Chain Management	English	

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

Any comments about these papers?

Each of these course were worth 6 ECTS points. These four papers equalled the equivalent of three Otago papers.

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

I had a very positive academic experience. The papers were interesting and the style of teaching at WU is very engaging. At least 80% of classes need to be attended or you are deregistered from the course, so that is something to keep in mind. The style of teaching is very different from Otago. Classes are small and it is more of a tutorial format. In a lot of the courses you can gain 30% for the

paper by just actively participating, this is in the form of asking questions, participating in discussions and giving your opinion on topics. I found there were a lot of presentations as well, which was something I never did a lot of at Otago. I enjoyed them it was a good way to meet others and easy points. I preferred the style of teaching I thought it made me engage more in the topics.

The workload for the courses I took was less than Otago. However attendance is compulsory and classes are long. They ranged from 2-4 hours however would only have one a week.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in OEAD Guest Housing – Molkerstrasse

- Pros
  - Cheap: 510 euro per month.
  - Close to campus: 10 minute walk.
  - Close to the U1 and U2 train stops (the main undergrounds used to get into the city) it is only about four stops on the U1 and you can be right in the centre city square. So very easy to get around.
  - Kez and I (other Otago student) had our own apartment. Had a kitchen and bathroom to ourselves.
  - A lot exchange students in the hall.
  - Party room on bottom floor.
  - Gym.
  - Good supermarket directly below the building.
  - A lot of other halls close by so amongst where most exchange students are.
  - Fully furnished, comes with kitchen equipment as well.
  - Cleaned weekly.
  
- Cons
  - Not as social as I thought.
  - Older and not as nice as some of the other accommodation (this is reflected in the price)
  - Do not lose your key, it is 200 euro to replace.

Overall the accommodation is good. There is definitely nicer student housing but it is much more expensive. Some of my friends were in housing called Milestone and Campus Studios, which were also popular amongst exchange students, however they payed 800ish euro per month which is a lot more expensive.

There is another accommodation called Gassasse which is very popular with exchange students as well. A lot of people stayed there, however it is far away from campus (30 min on the underground). I think molke was more convenient than Gassasse, however Gassasse seemed a bit more modern.

There are a lot of options, a lot of people also got their own apartments.

## Money matters

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

Flights: Christchurch London - \$1,400.00

Accommodation: \$860.00 (510 Euro)p/m

Visa: \$420.00

Travel Insurance: \$1,150.00 (zero excess)

WU Orientation weeks: \$543.83

Hall deposit (get back): \$1,750.00

Food: Supermarket prices are similar to New Zealand. Europeans love going out for meals/drinks – budget for this as can be very expensive. Drinks out are about the same as New Zealand. Going to clubs is expensive, entry fee averages about \$20, however what you will do most weekends.

*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 Wise Account. This gives you an EBAN so I could use it for my Austrian phone plan and make my hall payments with it. There is a lower transaction fee using a wise account as opposed to NZ one. It was very easy to set up and use, highly recommend. Also much lower withdrawal fees at ATM's

Austria still loves to use cash so I recommend always having cash on you. Some places only take cash or have minimum spend before you can use your card. This caught me out a lot.

## Visas & Insurance

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

Yes you have to apply for a Visa. Get onto it early it is a long process. I applied for an Austrian Class D Visa. There is no Austrian Embassy in NZ so your passport needs to be sent to Canberra. Before this can be done you need to go to Auckland to get all your documents approved. It is a long and expensive process.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes there is mandatory insurance. I got the one recommended from Otago

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

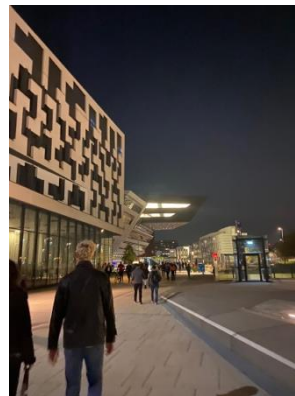
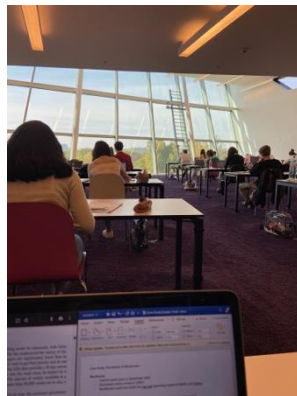
EBN (Erasmus Buddy Network) is an organisation that WU runs for exchange students. You can sign up and get a WU Buddy. Then join the whatsapp Chat and every week they post events they have on for exchange students.

They also plan a lot of trips to the countries close by (Krakow, Budapest etc). I went on the ski trip to Zell am See and it was amazing. Highly recommend. They are well run and a good way to meet other students. In the first couple of weeks they host a lot of events, welcome parties/dinners/sports tournament. I think it is very important to go to these. They are super fun and where you will make your friends.

I also strongly recommend the two orientation weeks before the semester starts – this is not EBN but run still run by the Uni. They are a great way to see the main attractions of the city, but most importantly, again, where you will make your friends. Most of my friends I met in these first two weeks through this programme.

*What was the university/ city like?*

I loved Vienna. I thought it was the most beautiful city and so easy to get around. The university was great as well. A very new and modern campus, the library building is incredible. Classes were interesting and all the students were lovely. Vienna is quite an upper class city, everyone dresses immaculate when going to class, which I really liked. The students there are also so passionate about their studies.



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

*Any tips for future students?*

## Overall Experience

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

I am so grateful for my time in Vienna and am so pleased I chose a European city. The people you meet are incredible, you will make friends from all over the world. It is such an exciting experience having a life in a different city. Vienna is so central as well so makes trips to other places very easy. E.g. Budapest, Krakow, Munich, Slovenia, not to mention other places in Austria like Innsbruck,

Salzburg, Hallstatt, the Alps. There is so much close by to see and do and Austria has the most amazing trains and public transport so it is very easy to get around.

