



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	UTAS – University of Tasmania
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1 2023
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Science
Major(s)	Marine Science

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
KSM308	Marine Ecology	MARI301
KSA324	Oceanographic Methods	MARI322
JFA533	Marine Protected Area Management	GEOG307
CXA322	Food, Health and Environment	Unspecified 300-level Science Credits

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

Any comments about these papers?

KSM308 had an awesome week long field trip at the start of the semester at Maria Island involving snorkelling, hiking and camping, which was epic, and I meet a lot of people and friends through this trip. – Would highly recommend this unit. JFA533 also had an awesome field trip up the east Coast for 3 days. I would highly recommend taking units which have field trips, as it is a great way to meet other students and also explore Tassie cheaply and with a like-minded group of friends.

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

Similar style of teaching to Otago. Most of my lectures were online which was a bit of a shame as uni wasn't quite as social as I had hoped for. However, the field trips and tutorials were a great chance to meet and hang out with other students.

Accommodation

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

I organised a flat (known as a share-house in Aus) before coming over to Tas. The flatmates website (<https://flatmates.com.au/>) is a great place to look for share-houses to rent, and is the platform I used to find my room. I flatmated in Sandy Bay, a nice location close to the main campus. However my uni courses were based out of IMAS in Salamanca so I drove to uni, as it is too far to walk.

I was super lucky to move into an awesome flat, with 4 awesome flatmates. I knew no one in Tasmania when moving over, and my flatmates were great at introducing me to their local friends and involved me in activities.

Some of my friends I meet over here who were also on exchange, went to the uni accommodation and seemed to enjoy that. However, I enjoy being independent and cooking and so a share-house was definitely a better option for me. But chose what best suits you!!

Money matters

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

I did most of my grocery shopping at Hill st in Sandy Bay (a relatively expensive grocery store) Expensive for dried goods, but they have the best fresh, cheap and local fruit and vege! I would say I spent about \$100 a week on groceries.

Flights are typically \$400 one way from Auckland to Hobart. I travelled home for my birthday during the exam period, and flew back again, its pretty easy traveling to and fro (3hr flight). My parents came and visited during the Mid Sem Break and was a great chance to roadie around the island with them.

I got a part time job as a deckhand working at Pennicott Wilderness Journeys based out of Bruny Island, The Tasman Peninsula and Coles Bay. This job was awesome, as it gave me the opportunity to see different parts of Tassie as well as meet some epic locals, and spend time on the water. This also meant I was earning money in AUD, and used this to support my weekly expenses over here.

My flat cost \$165 a week, \$100 on food a week, \$15 for unlimited data on my mobile phone (Belong is the best service provider- I would defiantly recommended buying one of their sim cards when you first arrive) a month. And \$60 a week on petrol. Everything is a similar price to NZ I would say.

I went for the student safe bound insurance that was recommended by Otago, can't quite remember what it cost but it was around \$300 I think.

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 Westpac bank account pretty much as soon as I arrived. This was super easy, and I just transferred over a lump sum from NZ at the start of the semester.

Visas & Insurance

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

No visa needed for NZ residents to AUS :)

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Nope.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

I didn't really get involved with any activities through the uni, (the exchange office at UTAS didn't host many activities I don't think) but I enjoyed socialising with my flatmates and other people studying at IMAS. I was lucky enough to jump on a sailboat once a week at the local yacht club and enjoyed meeting like-minded people through my interests (Tas Uni dive club is epic!!)

What was the university/ city like?

If you're into the outdoors (Tramping, Diving, MTB, sailing, Bushwalking, Rock Climbing or even just exploring) Tassie is an epic place for that! I would 100% recommend getting a car while being here. I bought one when I moved over and was a great investment as it allowed me to go the beach, up Mt Wellington and to explore the East Coast and the rest of the state. Without a car or without knowing someone with a car it's a lot harder to explore the island and you may end up being stuck in the city for most of your time here! IMAS is the coolest campus, located on the water front and is where the marine students hang out. I really enjoyed studying here, free coffee upstairs!!

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

The Freycinet Peninsula, Maria Island Bruny Island and the Tasman Peninsula are some of my fav places. Try to explore the whole of Tasmania, the West coast is super wild and epic, and the east Coast has some amazing beaches. I enjoyed Hobart, however I defiantly preferred heading out of the city on the weekends. The farmers market on Sunday is wicked so be sure to check it out!

Any tips for future students?

If you enjoy being outdoors, I would highly recommend bringing over any camping gear, walking equipment and outdoor gear as you will be bound to use it over here. This will save you having to hire a tent or gear for any outdoor missions. I bought a tent, and my free diving gear (wetsuit, mask, fins) all of which got lots of use during the semester!

Overall Experience

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

Overall, I really enjoyed my time in Tasmania. It is an awesome place for outdoor adventures. It was a great first step to living overseas as I felt close to home, but was still a great experience living in another country. I would defiantly recommend a share-house over the uni accommodation if you can find a share house that suits your vibe. If you are into diving or snorkelling, I would recommend bringing over your gear, as there are so many awesome spots to dive – We did this most weekends

(diving for scallops or abalone). Taking 4 units kept me pretty busy but was manageable. I had an awesome time, and I would defiantly have stayed another semester if I hadn't already finished my degree. I would defiantly recommend going for two semesters. If you make it to Tasmania, have the best time, and make the most of the epic island.



