



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Exeter
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2, 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of 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>
International Business	English	200 level Commerce
Economics of Financial Crises'	English	200 level Commerce
Entrepreneurial Thinking	English	200 level Commerce

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

Any comments about these papers?

These papers were fairly niche yet broad at the same time and were all very different to Otago papers. They were all very essay and writing based which was not what I was used to for Commerce. A pass is a 40% here and a 70% is a first (Otago A equivalent). It is a lot easier to get an A equivalent than Otago.

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

The workload was much smaller. Entrepreneurial thinking was 100% online with just 1x 2 hour online lecture a week that was tutorial style. The other 2 only had 2x 1 hour lectures a week and a tutorial every 2/3 weeks that was also an hour long. A lot of the assignments were also able to be completed without any of the course content (research, common sense etc.) and were generally a lot easier than Otago commerce papers.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in James Owen Court Accommodation which was the main accommodation for exchange students. It has 8 blocks that is made up of 4-12 flats within each block and each flat had 3-8 people in it. I thought this was the only option but upon getting there we found out there was a university-affiliated but not run hall that was actually a lot closer to campus, nicer and cheaper. The contract also ended in mid-December for them and exchange students do not have to sit exams which worked out well for them. James Owen court however, our contract went until mid-January meaning we were all paying for an extra month despite having moved out. I would try and get this accommodation instead, apparently it is offered to students who didn't apply fast enough for James Owen court.

Aside from this, the hall is a mix of local and exchange students but they put all the exchange students in 2/8 of the blocks meaning we didn't really mix with the local students but they were still right there. This was good because it meant I got to mix with exchange students who usually wanted to do similar things e.g. travel, whereas the local students didn't so much. I was in a 6 person flat and my flatmates were from Sweden, Italy, France, Hong Kong and Germany and they were all lovely and we got along well.

## Money matters

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

Accommodation = \$6,000 NZD for the semester (4 month contract)

Visa = not needed if you are there for less than 6 months as a NZ citizen, walk through the e-gates upon arrival

Insurance = \$550 NZD for 4 months – I used the University recommended company

Food = \$60 NZD a week for groceries, another \$50 or so on eating out

Flights = \$3,000 NZD return (Sept arrival, mid-January return)

Spending money during exchange = \$6,000 NZD – this was for everything excluding accommodation and included travel to Scotland, London a few times, Amsterdam, Belgium and the South of France

5 weeks of travel after exchange = \$8,000 NZD and included internal flights, trains, hotels, activities and food in London, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and France

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

100% get a wise travel card! You get the real exchange rate and for every \$1,000 NZD you paid around \$20 in fees, which is a far better deal than anywhere else. It's a visa debit card and it worked everywhere I went, even random tiny shops in Italy. It also has an app that you can add money to within seconds. I didn't have to use cash anywhere and a lot of places in the UK are cashless.

## Visas & Insurance

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

No visa required for NZ citizens going to the UK for less than 6 months as long as you aren't working over there.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There are a lot of societies to choose from. I would definitely recommend joining at least 1 even if you don't come across anything you are necessarily interested in as they are very social and give you access to lots of cool events and tickets to all the clubs that are hard to get otherwise!

*What was the university/ city like?*

Similar to Dunedin, it was fairly small but still enough to do. The main street is full of high-street stores and lots of supermarkets. There is also Exeter Quay which is a 30 min walk away that is a must do, and lots of nice areas to walk around in.

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

Exeter Quay, the train to Torquay, Brighton and Cornwall, definitely London also. Look out for cheap flights on easyJet and Ryanair, we were getting 10 pound flights to places like Scotland and Nice, France.

*Any tips for future students?*

Join societies, really put effort in to making friends because they will make your experience so much better

## Overall Experience

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

My time on exchange was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I am so grateful for. I got to meet so many lovely people from all around the world and many of which I hope to stay in contact with for years to come. During exchange, I travelled with friends I made to Scotland, London, Amsterdam, Belgium, Monaco, Nice and Marseille and made so many incredible memories. You will have a great time no matter where you choose to do your exchange.



