



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Host University | University College Dublin |
| Semester & Year of Exchange | Semester 2 2019 |
| Otago degree(s) | Bcom, Bsc |
| Major(s) | Accounting, Computer Science |

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

| Course title | Language of instruction | Otago equivalent | Otago credit value |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Business plan | English | Interest paper | |
| Project management | English | Interest paper | |
| Data analysis for decision making | English | Interest paper | |
| Ireland uncovered | English | Interest paper | |
| Information and social media | English | Interest paper | |
| | | | |

Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed my papers as they were interesting and engaging. I also found them quite different to what I learnt at Otago. Group projects were well organised and I wasn't overloaded with work.

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

Classes were similar to Otago. Style of teaching was high quality and work load was very manageable. Although it seems like a lot of work doing 5 or 6 papers, it's very manageable.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in private student accommodation in town as UCD didn't have enough rooms for exchange students. I thought the accommodation situation in Dublin is very bad for students as its difficult to find rooms and these rooms are very expensive. If you want to stay on campus you have to stay up all night to apply as rooms run out very quickly. The campus is 1 hour from town so is inconvenient to get to. The advantages of staying in town was that there is always lots going on in Dublin and you're always close to a supermarket.

Money matters

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

Studying in Dublin is expensive.

- Accommodation: \$10,000(NZD)
- Visa: \$600
- Flights: \$2200

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

I simply used my new Zealand bank card. I also set up a Monzo bank account which was useful as they don't have any overseas transaction fess.

Visas & Insurance

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

The visa process in Dublin is bad. You need to book an appointment with the immigration office to get your student visa. Booking this appointment is very difficult and appointments fill up very quickly. However UCD offer a lot of support in this area and are very helpful with any questions you have.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes the comprehensive insurance from STA covered me.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Its really up to you to get involved in extra-curricular activities. I joined the international society which organised cool trips around Ireland. UCD have a clubs day which is great to see what clubs are there.

What was the university/ city like?

University culture is cool, everyone is super friendly. The campus was clean and convenient to get around. Dublin is a fun city but public transport was the worst I've ever experienced. From town it took me the same time to walk as it did to bus into university(around 1 hour). Its also an expensive city to live as accommodation, eating out and drinks are expensive.

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

There are a few day trips to Howth and Bray which I recommend. Ireland is very pretty so be sure to head out of Dublin for a few weekends. There's no shortage of great pubs either.

Any tips for future students?

The more you put yourself out there the more you'll enjoy it.

Overall Experience

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

I really enjoyed my exchange experience and it was one of the best decisions I've made. Whilst Dublin was expensive, I had such a great time through the great friends I made. Travelling around Europe was amazing and it was such a different experience than in New Zealand. It was scary the first couple of days as I arrived not knowing anyone, but once I put myself out there I made some great friends from around the world. Thank you Otago for the opportunity to go on exchange! It was amazing.