



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University College Dublin
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 2019
Otago degree(s)	Law and Bachelor of Arts
Major(s)	Geography

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Discovering Ireland: Landscapes	English	Archaeology paper	15
Trump's America	English	Arts paper	15
Media Law	English	Media Law	7 ½
Banking Law	English	Banking Law	7 ½
Societal Challenges in 21 st Century	English	Sociology paper	15
Global Historical Geographies	English	Geography paper	15

Any comments about these papers?

Discovering Ireland was pretty much a paper designed for exchange students so was quite easy and really interesting – no lectures just field trips and an essay.

Law papers similar teaching style to Otago, not any easier or harder.

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

Lighter workload, less end of semester exams. Very similar teaching styles except no recorded lectures. Law lectures were 2 hours in duration but only once a week.

Accommodation

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

Stayed on campus at Merville residence. Great to be on campus, would definitely recommend over off campus. However, no ovens and living in a flat with other exchange students not with Irish students (due to only being here 1 semester). Had to buy all kitchen and bedding things from IKEA, nothing really provided.

Money matters

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

Accommodation on-campus upfront payment of \$7000 NZD

Flights (July and December) - \$2300 NZD

Visa/GNIB residence card - \$500 NZD (300 EURO).

Food is expensive, Lidl is a cheaper supermarket. Average cost of a meal out in Dublin is 15 EURO

Full comprehensive travel insurance - \$700 NZD

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

Revolut

Cash passport

Normal BNZ debit card

Visas & Insurance

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

Had to get a GNIB/INIS appointment for an Irish Residence Permit within 90 days of being in Ireland and pay 300euro for the card. Hard to get an appointment but passport control at the airport was aware of this and very relaxed.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Private medical mandatory for Ireland to get INIS/GNIB residence card, however I was fine with just comprehensive travel insurance.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Surf club, international student society put on events and trips.

What was the university/ city like?

Dublin is a very expensive city. University campus is quite modern with good facilities, however very small library. Vibrant city and campus with lots of different nationalities floating around.

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

Dublin has heaps of amazing food places – definitely a foodie city. Temple bar area, Guinness storehouse, Jameson Distillery, Dun Laoghaire Sunday markets, Bray and Greystones (walk between them), Howth.

Any tips for future students?

Irish students all go home on the weekends so it can be hard to meet them/become friends. Would recommend getting involved in extracurricular early on

Overall Experience

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

I absolutely loved my overall exchange experience, from meeting so many new and amazing friends to travelling around Ireland and Europe. Ireland was such a great place to go on exchange to due to its extremely friendly people, small country making it easy to travel around, English speaking, great food places and atmosphere, as well as it being close to Europe for weekend trips away. The only downside to Dublin was how expensive it was compared to many other European cities, even Belfast in Northern Ireland was significantly cheaper. And the weather definitely was not as rainy as I had expected it to be which was such a bonus. I made so many incredible friendships and saw some incredible places – I would recommend Dublin to anyone who was thinking about doing an exchange!!

