



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s) Law and Politics

Host University Bristol University

Semester & Year of Exchange Semester 1 2018

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
SPOL10014 Comparative and International Social Policy	English	100 level politics	20
POLI21222 Politics and Policy Making in the UK	English	200 level politics	20
POLI31367 Post Modern Political Theories	English	300 level politics	20

Any comments about these papers?

Each paper is worth 60 credit points so 3 Bristol papers is the equivalent of 4 Otago papers

The papers are very content heavy but definitely manageable – I really enjoyed only having 3 papers as it allowed me to concentrate on the papers content in more detail, rather than spreading my time and energy on different papers.

SPOL10014 Comparative and International Social Policy: Compared different welfare states in the UK, Japan, USA and India

POLI21222 Politics and Policy Making in the UK: Looks at the Westminster system, devolution, the media and Brexit

POLI31367 Post Modern Political Theories: Looked at postmodernism and how it applies to the politics of power

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

For my 300 level paper the teaching style was very different – it was set up so the classes were very small and we would sit around a table and debate / discuss the readings we had been set.

100 and 200 level are very similar to Otago in terms of content and lecture style.

Overall Bristol University is more focused on self-directed learning than Otago. There is a lot less contact hours and class time, but more assignments, readings and content that you are expected to get through yourself.

Accommodation

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

Favell House – University accommodation

Divided into flats of 5 or 7 – I was in a flat of 5 and it was quite small but nice. Really good location – close to King Street which is a street of pubs and cider bars, Broadmead which is where all the shopping is and right by the river which is really nice to walk / run along. 15 minute walk up to University (10 on the way back because it is downhill haha). There are buses that run which are free for students that are good to get if it is raining / to the supermarket and are really easy to figure out.

Favell House was really good for putting events on and for opportunities to meet friends. Some examples are exercise classes, movie nights every Sunday, dinners and quiz nights (all which were free). They also had a ball which was \$10 and included a three course meal and wine!!!!

Money matters

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

\$250 a week including power, internet and exercise classes

\$1500 approx. for flights return

I am a British citizen so did not require a visa

Approx. \$60 on weekly shop

Insurance \$643 (with Southern Cross insurance)

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

Opened a bank account with Lloyds bank (only possible with an EU passport though)

A lot of my friends used cash passports and loved them, so would recommend doing that!

Visas & Insurance

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

No. Bristol University generates a Study Visa which is valid for 6 months when you are accepted to study. You will need this every time you enter the UK again after travelling.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Insurance was mandatory for my hall, but it was included in the overall accommodation price.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

ERASMUS, Bristol of University Study Abroad, ESN, VIVA trips are all really good Facebook pages and groups for events / trips / tours etc.

Lots of social events and trips within the UK are organised by these groups and they are a great way of meeting people and travelling cheaply.

Bristol also have heaps of clubs and societies that you can join – they hold events, balls and trips as well

What was the university/ city like?

Bristol is a really vibrant city, with an awesome music and art scene. It's the home of Banksy, the UK's first cycling city, has lots of markets and independent cinemas which play local and international movies, as well as heaps of green spaces. There is always something going on whether it's a festival, a cider tasting or Bingo Lingo. Basically, it's a great place to live as a student as the University is a huge part of the city (similar to Dunedin).

The University itself is great – it is more spread out than our Dunedin campus, but many of the lecture theatres are in beautiful old buildings. There is a conscious effort made to provide recycling facilities all over the university and heaps of food choices and study spaces.



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

St Nicks Market is delicious (and very close to Favell House / Broadmead). It is open Monday-Saturday from 10am-5pm and has a huge range of produce and stalls which range from clothes to pastel de natas (Portugese custard tarts). It's all pretty cheap as well – I bought some earrings for £2!

Cabot tower is a really cool place that is close to Uni. It is a wee park with a tower that you can climb up for free and it has a 360 degree viewing platform so you can get your bearings and see most of Bristol.

Queen's Square is a great place to go if you want to have a picnic outside (summer) or build a snowman (winter).

Walking by the river is also a must, there are lots of fun cafes, bookshops and boats to explore.

Thekla is a nightclub on a boat that often puts on gigs (re-fuel/u-bar vibes).

The Apple is a cider bar that gives great discounts to students.

Walking or busing up to Clifton for a look around to parks, old shopping streets and at the gorgeous houses is always fun (it's the flash part of Bristol).

Stokes Bishop has really cool vegan cafes and lots of street art, independent grocers, op-shops and other fun funky things.

Bath is very close and a gorgeous wee place to visit – I biked there which took around 2 hours. I hired a bike using an app called 'YoBike' which was really easy to use and very cheap (you also get your first ride free). They are quite heavy bikes but the bike to bath is along an old railway line so it is pretty flat and easy. I loved the bike ride, it goes through English country side and it is every bit as wonderful as everyone says. (Picture Sound of Music when everyone is biking but minus the matching outfits).

I also visited Stonehenge as it is only a few hours from Bristol – you can get a train or hire a car. It was very busy when I went but still very cool to see!!!!

Bristol Airport is an EasyJet hub so I flew with them a lot – Marseille, Nice, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Budapest and Edinburgh are a few off the top of my head that I flew from Bristol to ☺

Any tips for future students?

Make the most of all the free talks, events and advice from the Study Abroad Office.

Get as many papers checked off by Otago before you go, it makes it so much easier when you get there!!

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

Making a new city home is one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences. Bristol was an amazing base, which allowed me to visit 19 countries that I had never been to before (yes, I counted the Vatican City as one of these but technically it's a country!!!). Combining study with travel is a bit hectic at

times, but it is also incredibly fun. I found as long as I kept on top of my readings and my assignments, it was easy to plan weekend trips away and that I had plenty of time to explore.

For anyone that is thinking about going on exchange, I would say stop thinking and start planning! I have never met someone that has regretted going on exchange – it is an awesome opportunity and has a million benefits! I went in the first semester of my last year of University which meant that I finished exams in Bristol in early May and had 2 months of travel time at the end before returning to Otago to complete my final semester. Getting out and seeing the world is awesome – and it definitely teaches you a lot more than you could ever learn sitting in a lecture theatre.

If you are thinking about going on exchange to Bristol – or anywhere – I am happy for you to flick me a message on facebook and I'll try help in any way I can 😊



View from Cabot Tower



The famous Suspension Bridge



Some cool people I met on exchange, Bristol



Goldney Ball, Bristol



Tower Bridge, London



Some rocks (Stonehenge)



Amphitheatre in Ios, Greece



Santorini, Greece



British Museum, London



Colosseum, Rome