



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	ESADE
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester Two
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Majoring in Marketing

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Marketing from Strategy to Action	English	12 pts
Español Exensivo	Spanish	5 pts
Español intensive	Spanish	5 pts
Strategic Business and Consulting	English	5 pts
Building disruptive sustainable innovations through Rambla of Innovation	English	10 pts
Digital Advertising	English	10 pts
Family Business	English	5 pts
Leading teams in globalized world	English	10 pts

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

Any comments about these papers?

I recommend both Español Exensivo & intensivo the most. It is a great way to get familiar with the language and meet many exchange students/ friends. I enjoyed all of the marketing papers I selected, in particular Marketing from Strategy to Action and Building Disruptive Sustainable Innovations through Rambla of Innovation.

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

I found the subjects to be all very interesting. Most of my papers were graded based on participation and end-of-subject presentations. This meant a lot of group work. I enjoyed it because it meant you could meet and get to know many exchange students. At ESADE, attendance is compulsory, so when

selecting subjects, ensure you can attend most of the classes. I found the content in all my courses easy to follow and the workload incredibly manageable. ESADE is an incredible business university in Europe. For most of the other European exchange students, it was very competitive to get a spot on the exchange from their respective home universities.

From the beginning, I found it incredibly easy to make friends at ESADE because most exchange students are doing similar subjects, which meant you got to make friends easily. The first Spanish intensive course was also a perfect thing to do to get to know the cohort.

ADVICE: When it comes to 'bidding' for your selected papers at ESADE, I suggest you choose and bid highly for the documents you most want/need. Due to this, placement in papers is not guaranteed. There is a change around the period on the first week, but places in the course take work to come by.

## Accommodation

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

At ESADE, there is onsite student accommodation. However, only a few students choose to live here because it is far away from Barcelona CBD, and the trains stop running at midnight.

A fellow Otago student and I booked two long-term Airbnb apartments in Barcelona, which was more expensive than expected. However, we found the living situation excellent, and it was a bonus that we could have friends around. Eixample and Gràcia are great areas when you are considering locations to live. Try to be as close to Barcelona's S1 & S2 train lines as possible when looking for accommodation. This will be the train you take to ESADE most days, making your commute much more accessible.

My most significant advice is to sort out the accommodation before leaving NZ because once in Barcelona, it is difficult to find places due to a housing crisis.

## Money matters

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

I found Europe, in general, to be an expensive travel destination. Barcelona, a major city, is much more costly than other parts of Spain. However, it was a bit cheaper compared to other major European cities.

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

I recommend getting a wise card, which you can have for euros. I could also use my NZ bank card everywhere in Barcelona too. It is good to have both options. I also found Apple Pay incredibly convenient and could be used everywhere.

## Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, you have to apply for a visa, and I found this process a complete nightmare! I ended up delaying my flights to Europe because the Visa process took so long due to delays. When you have your acceptance letter, email the embassy in Wellington. They make you fly up for an appointment to get the visa, and appointments can be up to a 4-6 week wait. Try to pre-book an appointment before getting your acceptance letter (Maybe ask ESADE when these are expected to be released). Ensure you have all the relevant documentation, as this can take time to collect.

*Did your host university have mandatory insurance?*

Yes, you must have health insurance for the VISA.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

ESADE, only organises a few activities for students. However, because most exchange students live separately, everyone was keen to do activities throughout the week after university. A group chat was made in our first week, which helped everyone stay in touch and plan extra-curricular and social activities.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Barcelona was incredible—a fun, vibrant city with much to do. The culture, food, and architecture are AMAZING. Spain is such a great European city. It stayed warm for the majority of the exchange. Spain generally has many public holidays, and there were very few weeks when we did not have a public holiday or university day off. Which was great and meant I had plenty of time to explore Barcelona. ESADE also has a week off when the regular students have mid-year exams.

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

I loved the El Born area in Barcelona and recommend getting familiar with this area. There are so many cool cocktail bars and restaurants. Barcelona also had great vintage pop-ups most weekends, so keep an eye out for these. My favourite Spanish tapas restaurant in Barcelona was Bar Del Pla, and I loved Origo, a bakery in Gracia. Costa Brava is beautiful and so close to the train. Watching the Barcelona football team play, I highly recommend it.

*Any tips for future students?*

Make the most of every experience, be bold and ask people to go and do things. Everyone on the exchange had similar mindsets and was always keen to do things. Make the most of the beach and swimming when you first get to Barcelona.

## Overall Experience

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

I could not have wished for a better place to do my exchange; ESADE and Barcelona were great. I had so much fun and met some incredible people. Barcelona as a city is phenomenal and full of so many unique experiences. ESADE, as a University campus, is incredibly high-tech and amazing; I found the lecturers engaging and passionate about their subjects.

