



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	McGill University
Semester & Year of Exchange	Fall Semester, 2024
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce and Arts
Major(s)	International Business and Christian Thought & History

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Management in Global Context (BUSA356)	English	Unspecified 300 Level Management
French Communication Practice 2 (CEFN222)	English	Unspecified 300 Level FREN
Leadership (ORGB321)	English	MANT330
Human Resources Management (ORGB423)	English	MANT346

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

I thoroughly enjoyed all the courses I took during my exchange, but the 'Leadership' paper, in particular, stood out to me. It provided valuable insights into who I am and taught me how to improve myself both personally and professionally.

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

Interestingly, I found the courses during my exchange to be easier than those at Otago. The workload was lighter, and I found it easier to achieve higher grades. The teaching style was much more

personal, with lecturers taking the time to get to know each student individually, which I really appreciated.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in an apartment with another girl who attended a different university, which I found through Facebook. One of the benefits was that it was much cheaper than staying in student accommodation or halls. While it was a bit further from the university campus, it wasn't a long commute, and I actually enjoyed walking and taking the metro to campus every day.

Money matters

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

Accommodation cost \$740 CAD (\$914 NZD) per month, which was much cheaper compared to what most others were paying. Flights were quite expensive—around a couple of thousand dollars each way—but Otago contributed \$1,000 towards the cost, and I also received a scholarship that helped significantly with the flight expenses. Food costs were generally similar to those in Dunedin, so it wasn't too expensive. The compulsory insurance through McGill was \$349 CAD, which I was very grateful for as I used the medical services several times during my exchange. Additionally, Otago insurance was a few hundred dollars, though I can't recall the exact amount.

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

I used Revolut, an international app that allows you to make payments directly from your phone. It was really convenient, and best of all, there were no international transaction fees. I also used cash occasionally.

Visas & Insurance

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

Getting a visa was very simple; you just need to apply for an ETA, which costs \$7 CAD and is approved within a few minutes.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes, the mandatory insurance was \$349 CAD.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were so many activities available for students. During the first few weeks, I joined as many clubs as I could to meet new people, which helped me make friends quickly. I became a member of the McGill Outdoors Club, the Christian Society, the Wine Society, and others. These clubs regularly hosted fun, free activities after university hours, which everyone was welcome to enjoy.

What was the university/ city like?

The city is fantastic—it's large, yet it has a cozy, small-town feel. After visiting New York one weekend, I felt very safe in Montreal for the most part. The university is centrally located and has a welcoming, secure atmosphere. There's a hill called Mont Royal in the heart of the city, which is lovely to hike up and enjoy nature.

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

- Walk up Mont Royal
- Try poutine (a famous Canadian dish—hot fries topped with gravy and melted cheese curds)
- Visit the Notre Dame Cathedral
- Watch a hockey game
- Hike up Mont Tremblant (an hour drive from Montreal)
- Explore Quebec, especially Old Quebec, and visit Montmorency Falls
- Visit New York City and Boston
- Hike the Adirondack Mountains in New York State
- Explore Toronto and Niagara Falls
- If you can, visit the west of Canada (British Columbia/Alberta). It's amazing over there

Any tips for future students?

Embrace the experience with enthusiasm, say yes to everything, and fully commit yourself to it. You'll have an amazing time if you maintain a positive attitude and try as many things as possible.

Overall Experience

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

I absolutely loved my exchange experience—it was the best decision I made during my university degree, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity! I will definitely be encouraging all my friends to go on exchange. It's an incredible experience to immerse yourself in a different culture, and you can form lifelong friendships, which is truly special. I believe it's made me much more confident in meeting new people and stepping out of my comfort zone. I can't recommend going on exchange enough!











