



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Prague University of Economics and Business
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 - 2024
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Economics and Finance

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
International Financial Management	English	FINC305
Behavioural Economics and Public Policy	English	ECON300
The World Economy	English	ECON300
Czech Language	English	-----
Business in Russia	English	-----

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

Any comments about these papers?

International financial management was a good paper. Lecturer was a bit hard to understand but that's fine because the workload was not very substantial. Over half of the semester was spent listening to other students' presentations. Presentation worth about 50% of grade and final test worth the other 50%.

Behavioural Economics was one of the more interesting papers. Also one of the best lecturers I had overseas. It differs from the behavioural economics taught at Otago but was a good change, focused more on the positive effects that behavioural economics can have on the general population. One main presentation worth 40-45% from memory and a final exam worth 55-60%.

The World Economy was alright. Lecturer drones on a bit though. Interesting take on ChatGPT however, he encourages students to use it for all of their assessments and tests, however, he marks your tests with AI as well as he has over 500 students. Midterm and final are effectively research

projects that you have 36 hours to complete, they took longer than expected. This paper had weekly tasks to do however.

Czech language was a fun, easy paper. Not too much expectation by the teacher as Czech is quite a difficult language and the midterms and finals were quite easy. A lot of rote learning instead of actual understanding. Marks come from midterm, final and a presentation worth 10%.

Business in Russia was one of my favourite courses. It was an intensive course worth 3 Credits and I would highly recommend taking as many intensive courses as possible. (I believe the max is two). Great lecturer, kept me interested the whole time and in the end finished the course with a grand total of about 18 hours workload and a kahoot as the 'final exam'.

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

It's a lot more laid back than the Otago style of learning and I believe that the lecturers want to get the exchange students the best grades they can. Despite this, they have far stricter deadlines with little to no sympathy if you fail to meet those deadlines. It is possible to fail if zero effort is put into the course although if you attend lectures and keep up with the few assignments you are given then you should be fine.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in the Eislerova dorms which is where all the other Kiwis stayed as well. Pretty average dorm and the kitchen was a bit of a shambles but I did only pay about \$2500NZD for about 4 ½ months there which is very cheap. I did have a roommate though which was interesting to say the least, the beds are very close together. If possible go for your own room and pay the extra \$1000 or get in a room with someone you know.

Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$2,500

Food: \$50 a week, cooked around 2 meals a week which would last me approx. 3 dinners ea.

Flights: Booked in advance on Qatar, cost about \$3500 return

Insurance was approx. \$550 and you have to get it through a Czech insurer. I used PVZP.

Travel: As much as you are willing to spend towards it.

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

I used a wise card, very easy to transfer money over from NZ account. However, with my flatmates in the dorm, I used Revolut as they all had it already.

Visas & Insurance

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

The visa application was a painful process. Put out a good few months for it. Our closest embassy is in Australia so all your documents need to be sent there and the lady who is tasked with helping people trying to get a visa there is not helpful at all. I have some email chains with her that have a chance to break the world record length wise.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No but the visa application does.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Lots of trips were organised for students through the Erasmus organisation in Prague and it was a great way to meet new people from different countries around Europe.

Travel is the main one that I'd recommend, go everywhere you can while you're there. Train is a possibility for countries close by and the plane tickets (if booked in advance) will never exceed \$100NZD.

Also played some squash here and there. Great time.

What was the university/ city like?

Public transport is probably the best in Europe depending on who you ask, so easy to get around and the old town in Prague 1 is beautiful. The university gave me some flashbacks to high school with how tight the hallways were between classes and the facilities weren't amazing but it was all fine. Also, minimum class times over there are 1 ½ hours but you'll most likely only have that class once a week.

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

Lots of cool historic buildings to visit, castles and whatnot. A lot of influence from medieval times. Most of the older buildings and museums you'll find are quite touristy but that's all good for the start when you're still learning about the city.

Close to dorm: Kebab Sidi Bou, really cheap. Also the legendary thai place down the road, you can get a massive pad thai for about 165kc which is approx. \$12. (Among other great dishes).

Ordering food online is also very cheap as there are a few different companies to get food delivered from.

Any tips for future students?

Do not let money stop you from exploring. Take a loan from your parents or friends if you must, make the most of it while you're over there because it cost you a lot to get there.

Overall Experience

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

Overall, I had an outstanding time over there. Far cheaper than New Zealand and pretty much the rest of Europe which allowed me to travel to so many different countries while I was over. Most weekends were spent travelling and had a big, 10-day trip in the middle for their equivalent of midterm break (innovation week). I got along really well with the other Kiwis that were there at the same time as me and managed to make a really good group of mates who I know I will be able to visit and stay with when I return to Europe. Going to Prague was an amazing opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone.