



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of British Columbia
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	2022, Semester 2
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Finance

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
COMM414 – Data Analytics	English	NA
COMM471 – Financial Engineering	English	FINC306
COMM477 – Mergers and Acquisitions	English	FINC303

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

Any comments about these papers?

400-level courses at the Sauder business school are the same difficulty as our 300-level. COMM414 was a basic introduction to SQL, Python and Tableau and would be very straight forward if you have experience with these. COMM471 was a reasonably difficult course, with lots of mathematics but I enjoyed it. COMM477 was incredibly interesting with a lot of guest speakers – no exam as well.

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

There is a lot of class discussion and attendance is mandatory. Lots of small assignments and marks given out for just showing up. If you missed more than 4 classes, the lecturer is allowed to fail you. Increased discussions made class interesting.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed in a hall of residence called Fairview Crescent. These were 4 or 6 people units with their own kitchen and living space. Lots of exchange students but not many Canadians. Pro: Exchange students are on a similar wave length so made lots of friends there. Con: Only thing they provide for you is a bed. No duvet, kitchen things ect.

## Money matters

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

Roughly \$5,000NZD for accommodation, flights were \$4,000 NZD (I travelled Europe first), Insurance was \$1,500 (Ski cover). Vancouver itself is very expensive so was spending more than I would on food etc.

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

Used the travel bank Wise. Very easy to set up, gives you a good exchange rate etc. I also set up a Canadian account (super easy, just need a passport) and had an NZ bank card as back up.

## Visas & Insurance

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

Just an ETA. Filled out an online for paid \$20 dollars or something and used that. When I went, I only needed a study visa if you are studying for more than 6 months.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes, iMED. Built into uni fees

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Lots and lots of clubs. VOC club is good for hiking and getting outdoors. UBC Ski and Board did lots of parties and trips skiing. So many outdoors activities to do out of Vancouver. Also easy to travel to USA/Mexico.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Unbelievable campus – large, green, modern, only students, its own town. Vancouver is a very cool city, a bit more relaxed and low-key than I initially thought. Plenty of cool, small places to find.

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

Granville island, all the Japanese restaurants. Bars: Elwoods, goodco, kings head, the local in Kits. Downtown Roxy is a good night out with live music.

*Any tips for future students?*

Make the most of weekends. Spend the extra money on renting a car/travelling further away from Vancouver. USA has a lot to offer than some people think.

## Overall Experience

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

I had an unreal time spending a semester at UBC. Meet a lot of like-minded people, from all sorts of backgrounds and places, that I'll be friends with for life. Vancouver is a great base for exploring the Canadian outdoors and North America. Once the ski mountains opened up, Vancouver really stood out as a top pick of exchange options (if you are into skiing). The study was different, challenging and rewarding which I believe complements an Otago education well. 10/10 would recommend, not just UBC but an exchange anywhere.