



## Student Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	<b>Bachelor of Commerce</b>	<b>Major(s) Accounting and Economics</b>	
<b>Host University</b>	University College of Dublin Quinn School of Business	<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2 2017

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
<b>Acct30030 Cost Management</b>	English	Nil	Nil
<b>BMGT30330 Govern. Int. Business Environment</b>	English	Nil	Nil
<b>ECON30160 International Trade</b>	English	302 International Trade	18
<b>ECON30180 Industrial Economics</b>	English	300 level Econ paper	18
<b>ECON 20190 Introduction to Financial Economics</b>	English	nil	nil
<b>ECON20060 Irish Economics</b>	English	nil	nil

Any comments about these papers?

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

As expected a lot of the papers were focused on European views, policies and issues at the time. This was a little different to what was focused on in my otago papers. The modules are smaller than a paper at Otago but it can be difficult juggling 6 different subjects at once, I had to take 6 as this was a requirement from the Otago commerce department. My lectures were smaller and none of my modules had a tutorial. The business school also has a ovr pass rate of 40%.

## **Accommodation**

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

I stayed in University accommodation, was great because it was on campus. I was living with other exchange students so I met people who I travelled around Europe with. It was quite expensive compared to accommodation in Dunedin

## **Money matters**

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

Accommodation \$8,000

Flights \$2500

Visa (GNIB card) 300Euro = Approx \$500

Insurance \$600

Food approx \$60 a week depending on where I shopped and if I ate out.

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

I used a cash passport after an error with my bank, I could' saved if I had just used my NZ debit card as it has a better exchange rate (including the conversion costs)

## **Visas & Insurance**

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

As I was staying for over 3 months I had to book an immigration appointment online and attend the appointment with the correct documents (letter of attendance from the Uni and bank details)  
At this appointment I got issued with a GNIB card which I used to get in and out of Ireland. However, I think changes have recently been made to this.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No

## **Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

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

There are multiple clubs and societies at UCD, I joined the boxing club which I enjoyed as I met so many locals and was shown around the city. They also organised social events which was great!

What was the university/ city like?

Similar to Otago, a lot of friendly people. I found having to take 6 modules difficult at times and there was a lot happening at once but this was a requirement from the commerce department. The modules are a lot smaller and none of mine had a tutorial. I did notice that unlike Otago during the weekend a lot of students when home for the weekend and it became very quiet over the weekend. The city was larger than Dunedin – as expected, but had great transport which I found easy to use.

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

Temple bar is a area in Dublin which a lot of tourists go to, this is reflected in the heavily inflated prices. I was always told not to go there. There are a lot of nice bar, resturants and pubs in the area so just be aware. Dublin doesn't have a coffee culture like NZ does, best coffee in town will always be from a Italian café. The area around St. stephens green is great for food and shopping. Alots of students use an app called Vipsy, it offers free or discocunted entery to many clubs in the city also advertising events. Diceys and Copper Jacks are town very popular night clubs, be aware that on the weekends they are often limited to those over 21, Everleigh is another night clun which is often 18+ on the weekends. Most students go to town during the week instead of on the weekend. Dundrum is a large shopping mall not far from the uni which has many shops and resturants and is great for a shopping trip as it has everything. Penny's is the Irish version of Primark (similar to Kmart) it has bedding clothes, shoes, make up and other necessities at a low price. While in Ireland it is very easy to travel around the country, you can go on tours organised through companies such as paddy wagon tours. I went on a tour to the Cliffs of Moher and Giants Causeway in Northern Ireland. While in Belfast I also did a 'black cab tour' a tour of the city pointing out the locations of significant events during the 'troubles' and how this has effected the lives of those in Ireland today. This is a huge part of Ireland's history and something they are all very passionate about. Another place which is supposed to be great but I didn't get to is Galway – will be going back to see it.

Any tips for future students?

Make sure you get a student leap card, it makes transport cheaper and easier to use as otherwise you need the correct change for the bus.

### **Overall Experience**

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

I enjoyed my exchange experience in Dublin, the Irish are great people who I got along with very well. The best thing I did while away was joining a club, best way to meet people with similar interests to me. I also enjoyed the opportunity to travel through out Europe, I took many trips on the weekend through out Eurpoe. Living so far away from home can be difficult but I benefited from the good times and the bad times. Being away opened my mind to what is happening world wide and not just in New Zealand, as a commerce student I feel this is an important aspect of my education.

I did have a lot of fun while away and am very excited to continue traveling,after my exams I did a contiki tour which I thoughly enjoyed over the Christmas/New Years time, a great group of people (mostly Australians) to spend the holiday season with.

The Otago exchange advisers were very helpful and I had no problems getting anything orgained.