



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Semester & Year of Exchange	Fall semester (September-December)
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Science
Major(s)	Marine Science

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Ecology – BIOE107	English	MARI301
Behavioural ecology – BIOE140	English	300-level science schedule c
Freshwater ecology – BIOE155	English	ZOOL318

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points 45

Any comments about these papers?

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

Workload is very similar to Otago however significant portions of courses are based on readings.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in a dorm. It was really social, and I made heaps of friends. It's just a little gross sharing a communal bathroom.

Money matters

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

Insurance: ~\$1005

Flights (dependent on time of year) ~\$2500

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

I would recommend getting a wise card.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes. The processes are outlined on the United States embassy web page

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No. it was optional but I would highly recommend getting it. It makes life a lot easier.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Too many to count. Soo many clubs and socs and events going on. I joined the rugby team and the rugby team culture in Santa Cruz is similar to a frat without the hazing

What was the university/ city like?

Small ish town. Heaps of surf shops and laid back vibes.

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

Hitup Lake Tahoe ski resort and all the national parks in the area. As well as Monterey Bay Aquarium

Any tips for future students?

Save as much as possible and go for a full year

Overall Experience

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

I had the time of my life on exchange at UCSC! From exploring the jaw-dropping beauty of Yosemite to tackling epic hikes, every moment was an adventure. I joined the rugby team and had an absolute blast on the field, bonding with teammates and pushing myself in ways I hadn't before. The parties were unforgettable, full of laughter and new experiences, and I met so many incredible people from

all over the world. It was amazing how we all came from different walks of life but connected so easily. The whole exchange was an eye-opening, life-changing experience, and I feel so lucky to have made so many new friends and memories that will last a lifetime.