



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Wirtschaftsuniversität Vienna
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester One 2019
Otago degree(s)	LLB/BCom
Major(s)	Finance

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
International Finance	English	International Finance	
Risk Management and Insurance	English	Finance unspecified	
Consumer Behaviour	English		
Sustainable Business Managing for Tomorrow	English		
Global Marketing Communications	English		

Any comments about these papers?

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

Class attendance was compulsory and the class sizes were much smaller, I believe the cap was commonly 30. Class durations were longer and more infrequent, and you have the option to take intensive courses in which you would have class for longer periods, say 4 hours a day, but every day for a week with a presentation, but then that is the class completed. I would say that the workload is lesser than expected at Otago however class interaction and presentations are more common.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in OEAD accommodation. Would recommend, however, not entirely necessary and a few of my friends stayed in other accommodation that they organised by themselves.

Money matters

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

My accommodation was around 450 euros per month.

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

I set up a student account with Erste Bank which is very easy to do and is necessary to have a European bank account for phone plans and gym memberships etc. There is an Erste bank on campus at the university.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes I had to apply for a Visa through VFS in Auckland. I would recommend leaving a lot of time for this process as it can be difficult to arrange meeting times, and there are commonly issues with documents and then you also have to send passport away to Canberra.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

There was a mandatory insurance that is detailed in the VISA application required by VFS which includes a repatriation minimum amount.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were extensive activities available to students through EBN. The two week orientation programme I would highly recommend going for.

What was the university/ city like?

The university campus is amazing, super easy to get around and good food and bars around campus. The city itself is beautiful. Very easy to get around and amazing walking city.

Any tips for future students?

Just in terms of accommodation it can be quite confusing. Molk is the accommodation that is about 10min walk from University campus, however I would recommend Gasgasse or Kandlgasse as based more in the city where the restaurants and bars are and is only about 30min on the train to get to University which is very easy to do.

Overall Experience

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

I absolutely loved Vienna. I couldn't recommend it highly enough and I think it offers a bit of everything. The city itself was super easy to live in, public transport made it very easy to get around and once in city centre it is very simple to walk everywhere. It is a very clean, safe and beautiful city.

Travel was very easy given the central location which was one of the best things about Vienna. Weekend trips to Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Germany and many other countries are very easy and not overly expensive.

The university itself was awesome and the workload of classes was slightly lesser than what would be expected at Otago. It is also possible if you are organised with papers to take as many intensive courses as possible, where you can have class for a few hours a day for a week and that is a paper completed, and often the assessment is all internal. This frees up a lot of time for travelling and would recommend. Classes are also really inconsistent so sometimes you will find you only have class one or two days a week.

I would say Vienna is probably slightly more on the expensive side of places I visited in Europe. But you can definitely make it manageable and there are places to eat and drink that are not quite as expensive. The nightlife in Vienna is really fun, although it is also very common to have weekends away.

I am happy to provide any information to anyone considering Vienna and for more specific recommendations or advice surrounding accommodation or courses or anything else about exchange in Vienna.