



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Manchester / Alliance Manchester Business School
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2, 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce and Science
<b>Major(s)</b>	Psychology, Finance

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
BMAN30111	English	FINC303
BMAN30211	English	Unspecified FINC300
PSYC31151	English	Unspecified PSYC300

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

Any comments about these papers?

Papers were taught in a similar style to teaching at Otago, however there was more self-directed work. PSYC31151 was taught online, BMAN30211 was taught online with a small in-person component, and BMAN30111 was taught in person. All lectures were recorded.

I had issues getting enrolled into a 300-level Psyc paper because they were all at capacity.

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

The academic experience at Manchester was quite similar to that of Otago. I found the workload to be smaller than Otago. This was largely because there was significantly less face-to-face and interactive learning, so students were expected to do more reading. The style of teaching was very similar.

## Accommodation

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

I stayed at Oak House in Fallowfield. Fallowfield is the student campus of Manchester and this is where most students live. I would recommend staying in Fallowfield because it is lively with many student bars and there is a lot going on.

Pros of this accommodation was that it was busy, lots of fun, and they have recently done renovations so the rooms and flats are nice to live in. Oak House gets quite a bad reputation for being the worst hall (as it is the cheapest) but I did not find the quality of the accommodation to be an issue.

Note that you will be living with first-years in these student-type accommodation facilities which can feel like a bit of a change. However, while Oak House is a first year hall, it is very different from Otago in that you are more independent and they do not really have RAs or the equivalent so it feels more like flatting.

## Money matters

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

Accommodation: 113 pounds per week

Flights: \$3500 NZD return

Insurance: around 600 (through StudentSafe Outbound)

Food: around \$50 NZD per week

Visa: did not require Visa

When we first got to Oak House, we had to buy our own kitchen utensils like pots/pans, bedding (including duvet and pillows). It's pretty cheap but can be an unexpected cost going into a student hall!

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

I used Wise – you can transfer money from your New Zealand bank account over to Wise. The fees are low and the exchange rates were quite good. I used both a physical Wise card and the apple pay and I found that this worked well.

## Visas & Insurance

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

No Visa required

*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?*

At Manchester there are so many sports clubs and societies that are really common and a great way to meet people! Every week, many of the societies have socials which are good fun.

There is also an international students society that organise trips and events.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The University was really beautiful and around 20 mins on the bus from Fallowfield (I paid 150 pounds for a 1 semester bus pass which I think was worth it because you will also use this when going into town, going out, etc.). It's worth going and exploring Manchester because it is a really big city with lots going on! Student life is very similar to Otago – heaps of bars and clubs with really good nightlife and quite student-centric.

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

I loved a café called Federal Café – it is an Aussie/Kiwi inspired café with really good brunch and coffees ☺

There is a 1 week break called reading week and this was a great opportunity to do some travel as well.

*Any tips for future students?*

Exchange is a really awesome experience and time flies by! Try to make the most of every day.

## Overall Experience

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

Overall my exchange experience was amazing. I had a great time and have made some special friends which makes leaving hard but it's all part of it! Not only did I have the opportunity to study on the other side of the world, but also travel a lot. The workload was very manageable which meant there was plenty of free time to do other things and spend time with new friends.