



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	VSE University Prague
Semester & Year of Exchange	S2 2018
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Marketing and Management

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Entrepreneurship of SMEs	ENG	MANT303	6ECTS
Human Resource Management Seminar	ENG	MANT3XX	4ECTS
International Marketing Communications	ENG	MART3XX	6ECTS
Modern Risk Management	ENG	MANT3XX	3ECTS
Operations Management	ENG	MANT333	6ECTS
Presentation Skills	ENG	MART3XX	3ECTS
Supply Chain Management	ENG	MANT3XX	3ECTS

Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed the International Marketing Communications paper as it was a challenge and I felt I learnt a lot. However, this was a Masters paper and that could have been why.

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

It was definitely different from Otago with a lot smaller lectures and a very interactive style of teaching.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in the Jarov F. dorms. This was a great way to meet people and only a 20 minute tram ride from uni. It was very cheap which was nice. It's not very modern but does the job for the short time you are there.

Money matters

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

Flights were around \$1800 return. Food was cheap in Prague if you eat out or cook with lots of farmers markets to get cheap groceries. Insurance and visa was about \$1000.

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 for my travels. It doesn't have the Czech currency but for me it was the best option and there are many ATMs you could use that didn't charge you.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes. It is a very lengthy process and I would recommend getting on to it as soon as possible. With criminal record checks, confirmation of study and accommodation etc. As I travelled to Europe before I received some of these documents I had to go to my meeting in London.

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 the beginning there is an ice breaking weekend for exchange students which was a great way to meet people. There is also exchange student parties every Tuesday night which is also a great way to meet all the other students on exchange.

What was the university/ city like?

The university is rather small and there are not that many places to study there. The city however is beautiful and there are many libraries that you can have access to by paying a very small fee. There are many lovely cafes with great coffee!

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

I really enjoyed going to the farmers markets, there are a couple in different areas and they all have very cool atmospheres and cheap too! Obviously the main tourist attractions are beautiful but there is also a cool bar called *U Sudu* which is an underground wine cellar bar with lots of international students.

Any tips for future students?

Make sure you get involved with the other exchange students. It is very daunting at first but everyone is in the same boat and the people are what makes the experience so special! I personally enjoyed having a room to myself in the dorms as it was nice to have my own space if I was homesick or even just for ease of talking to people back home with the time difference. For the slight increase in price I thought it was really worth it.

Overall Experience

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

My experience in Prague is one that I will never forget! I made some life long friends as cliché as it sounds but they all really enhanced my experience. The city is so beautiful and I grew to love it more and more as my time went on. The public transport is amazing and so cheap which made it very easy to see the whole city. Being so central it was very easy to travel on the weekends but the Czech Republic itself is beautiful and so traveling around and doing hikes nearby was one of my highlights! Prague has great coffee which I loved and many cool bars! Beer is actually cheaper than water and you definitely grow to enjoy it! All in all, my exchange to Prague was amazing! There were times when I found it hard being away from home, friends and normality but that is what makes it such a great experience.