



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<i>Host University</i>	<b>University of Minnesota, Carlson school of Management</b>
<i>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</i>	<b>Semester 2 (Fall) 2017</b>
<i>Otago degree(s)</i>	<b>LLB/BCom</b>
<i>Major(s)</i>	<b>Accounting</b>

### Academics/ course load

*Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?*

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>	<b>Otago credit value</b>
<b>ACCT 5160</b>	English	ACCT 300	4
<b>ACCT 5310</b>	English	ACCT 300	
<b>ACCT 5201</b>	English	ACCT 307	4
<b>IDSC 3001</b>	English	ACCT 307	
<b>MGMT 3040</b>	English	BSNS 111	4
<b>MGMT 3001</b>	English	BSNS 111	

*Any comments about these papers?*

The accounting papers are challenging and require a bit of preparation, however most classes are group work based which helps settle you into the papers and the style of learning. Would recommend these papers however a lot of work is required. In comparison to the Accounting papers the management papers and ISDC papers are very interesting and would recommend. The code 3001 is an entry level paper but not for freshmen i.e. MGMT 3001 is the same as MGMT 1001 which is for freshmen. However the school was ranked 3rd in management in the country.

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

Lots of work is group based which is different from Otago and lessons are normally 2 hours long. The lecturing style is more of the same but content may differ from perspective or governing bodies in regards to accounting. During the week the workload is heavy as I normally had an assignment due for every class at least once a week. The assignments are challenging and require some research in your own time to complete but within the groups that you have in class they are doable.

## **Accommodation**

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

I took an unorthodox approach to accommodation. My friend and I turned up with nothing booked. This was very risky and would only suggest doing it if you don't want to live with the other international students. We wanted to immerse ourselves in American culture and make American friends. In turn this was stressful as we had to sublease and find someone to take out lease before we left. In my opinion, I would of still enjoyed my time if I stayed with all the other internationals but I feel my experience living in Floco, one of the student apartment housing, made my exchange better.

## **Money matters**

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

No information supplied.

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

I opened a bank account with one of the local banks in Minnesota and withdrew cash from my debit card and deposited it into my American card to avoid international fees. It was free to start up a student bank account would recommend.

## **Visas & Insurance**

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

Applied for a student visa, the process was an interview in Auckland. The application is a bit of a process. However the interview is quick and easy, you just need to make sure you have all of your paperwork in order.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

The University has a rugby team that I joined, this was fun but tough to manage with my workload. I would recommend getting behind the college sports teams as the games are fun to go to!

*What was the university/ city like?*

Minneapolis is a fun city with a cool student district called Dinkytown. The city itself is cool but I spent most of my time in Dinkytown with the friends I made and would venture to the city every now and then. The state itself during the fall semester is very cold.

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

Go see a Vikings, Wild and Timberwolves game

*Any tips for future students?*

## Overall Experience

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

Leaving for America I was excited, I was excited to travel and experience a new culture/ way of student life and am very grateful for the experience. My adventure started with a group of friends much like myself road tripping up the west coast of America together. We experienced the likes of Las Vegas, The Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, San Francisco and Seattle before we parted ways for our own chosen exchanges.



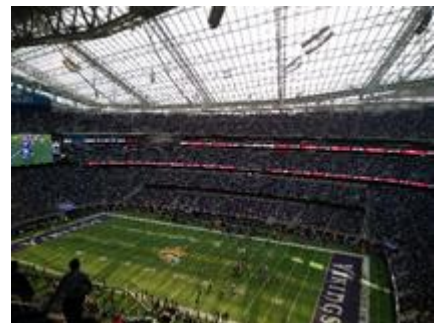
Once I arrived in Minnesota I knew this experience would be special. When I arrived, it was warm compared to what most people had told me about the place, but I had prepared for the cold and was ready to start my adventure. My first day was daunting, I felt like the new kid at school and was eager to get involved. The University itself had set up a buddy program for exchange students and I couldn't have got a better buddy.

My buddy was called Lydia Hanna and through her I met my closest friends over there. With this opportunity I was able to join a Fraternity called Sigma Pi. Normally this is unusual for exchange student to join a fraternity for a semester, however with a bit of kiwi charm and that "kid from the other side of the world who everyone thinks is from England

or Australia' attitude I was welcomed into the fraternity. It was there that I gained the experience of a life time.

The opportunity was a first-hand insight to be an American college student in a fraternity. After a week of being there my eyes were open to the reality of what it was like to be a college student. A fraternity is a business in every sense and it helped me develop more and see that everything is not as it is. Within the fraternity there was an executive board. They controlled the day to day of the fraternity and the direction in which it would be going for the future with recruitment, grades, education, volunteer work for the community and charitable collection. I was placed on the social committee. Here I had to work and help the other members set up social events and help plan them, ensuring that they were safe and suitable. It was a shock working with people my own age from the other side of the world and just how they would go about things. It enabled me to listen and work with them while seeing a completely different culture while gaining a greater understanding of potential conflicts in personality in working life.

The University Classes were different compared to those of Otago. Classes were more internally based and consisted of tests or assignments every week or two. The experience was invaluable helping me develop a better work ethic. Most of my classes had lots of group work and I got another first-hand experience with two completely different student cultures working with each other.



The social aspects also provided made my time in Minnesota and helped me even more. I made my closest friends in my fraternity who I keep in touch with today. Once I joined, I automatically got 80 new brothers from all around America and the world, an experience I would not receive anywhere else. In a way it was its own small-scale network and I was able to be a part of it. Some of my friends were from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Chicago, St. Louis, South Africa, France and Russia.

Once again, I got to experience the mix of cultures and interact with my own peers. I did go tailgating, football games, College Basketball games, NFL, NBA, NHL and participated in very competitive inter fraternity sports.



However, I did not spend all my time in Minnesota, I also went down to Austin, Texas to visit a friend of mine and we went to ACL for the weekend. Austin was amazing, and it was an experience to see literally the other end of the country and experience some warm weather. I also visited Washington DC and New York near the end of my semester, both an amazing experience.