



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Melbourne
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	2024 S2
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	BSc (Neuroscience)
<b>Major(s)</b>	Science Communication

### 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>NEUR30005 Developmental Neurobiology</b>	English	Unspecified 300-level Neuroscience
<b>PSYC30020 The Integrated Brain.</b>	English	PSYC317
<b>AHIS30005 Contemporary Aboriginal Art</b>	English	Unspecified 300-level Arts

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

Any comments about these papers?

- NEUR30005: very challenging but interesting research-focussed content, great for neuroscience majors, especially as this is not covered at Otago undergrad level at all.
- AHIS30005: a small, discussion based class with a wide variety of topics – I enjoyed learning about Aboriginal Australia through this lens and would highly recommend this paper!

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

- Very similar to Otago in teaching, organisation, workload and assignments.

### Accommodation

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

- Organised my own accommodation in a flat that isn't associated with uni at all, through the Fairy Floss Facebook page. I opted for this because the uni accommodation is quite

expensive and I had been flatting in Dunedin for the last few years and enjoy the independence of this. It was a lot harder to meet people this way though.

## Money matters

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

- Accommodation: rent = \$250/week, shared utility bills = about \$50/month
- Food: I spend \$80-100/week, but I like to cook and bake a lot
- Flights: about \$800 return
- Insurance: through Allianz, about \$250 for the duration of my exchange

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

- Wise card – super easy and would highly recommend. Wouldn't be hard to set up a bank account here though, and I know a lot of kiwis that have.

## Visas & Insurance

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

- None needed!

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

- Host university didn't, but I used the student exchange insurance that the Otago exchange program recommends. My bike was stolen while I was on exchange, and I was able to make a claim and get full coverage, though it took about a month of back and forth with the insurance company to settle.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

- Lots of sports teams and clubs. I joined the Aikido club just to try something new and really enjoyed it.

*What was the university/ city like?*

- Melbourne always has lots going – music, arts, sports etc. – so you'll always have something to do or see! The food and coffee scene here is incredible too, and I had a lot of fun finding hidden gems and trying all sorts of cuisines. Public transport is great, you can get almost everywhere on the trains or trams.
- Melbourne Uni is a lot bigger than Otago but has a very similar look and feel, and is quite close to the CBD. The teaching is formatted really similarly to Otago as well, and I found it really easy to settle in to classes and study.

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

- Art: the NGV and the NGV Australia are my favourite art galleries, as well as the Koori Heritage Trust
- Music: keep an eye out for bands playing at the Sydney Myer Music Bowl and The Forum
- Food: literally everywhere you go will have some great options! Footscray for the best Vietnamese, Carlton for Italian, Fitzroy and Collingwood for lots of vegan options. The Queen Vic Markets are great for produce and deli finds too.
- Op shopping: Brunswick and Fitzroy are definitely good suburbs to check out!

## Overall Experience

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

My exchange experience at the University of Melbourne was enriching in many aspects of my studies and personal life. I was challenged academically in all three of my papers, and I particularly enjoyed learning about Aboriginal Australia through the lens of contemporary art – a whole world of art, culture and politics which I had almost no previous exposure to. Additional to this, I was also able to study a paper towards my major that isn't offered at undergrad level at Otago, and gained a lot of insight into the current research and developments happening in the field of neuroscience. As a keen cook and foodie, and as a vegan, the thriving food scene in Melbourne was super appealing, and I had so much fun shopping at the various markets, eating out, and finding hidden gems of cafes for a good coffee and study session. The city is very multicultural, and many of the different suburbs are known for a particular cuisine based on the population that lives there, so it is very easy to find delicious and authentic food from all around the world. I also chose to do my exchange in Melbourne as a way of testing out the city/Australia in general as a place to live in the future, and I have enjoyed so much that I am now planning to live and continue my studies there. Having grown up in small towns for most of my life, the move to the big city was daunting, and certainly a little overwhelming to begin with. But as I settled into uni and began to explore the city, it has become so much more comfortable and I have grown to love the hustle and bustle of city life. I have learned a lot about myself in the process, and am grateful for the opportunities I have had to step outside of my comfort zone, meet new people try so many new and exciting things.

Queen Vic Market, and other cafes and bakeries I love



Art galleries and concerts



Melbourne University Campus, and the State Library



Exploring the coast to Brighton Beach and Wilson's Prom

