



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University College Dublin Lochlann Quinn School of Business
Semester & Year of Exchange	2024 Sem 2
Otago degree(s)	BComSc
Major(s)	Finance, Data Science

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Corporate Financial Management	English	FINC303
R for Economists	English	INFO304
Business in the Global South	English	Any 300-level paper
Intercultural Competencies	English	Any 200-level paper
Global Marketplace	English	Any 100-level paper

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

The papers overall were interesting, lecturers were nice and easy to understand, they are so used to exchange students which made it easier at the start. The papers themselves were slightly easier than I was expecting.

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

I found the course load similar to Otago, you take more papers but the papers themselves have less content / hours a week so the workload is definitely manageable. There are also quite a few quiet periods with no assessments which were good times to go travel or see more of Dublin and Ireland.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Merville student accommodation. It was nice enough and so handy as was less than 5 minutes' walk to all lectures, most of my friends were on campus so would recommend doing all you can to get a place on campus. I missed out on campus initially but got a spot right before classes started by consistently asking and luckily someone gave up on their spot.

Money matters

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

Flights were about \$2700 NZD return

Accommodation was roughly \$6500 NZD

Visa was 300 euro

Food in supermarkets is reasonably cheap in Ireland, but eating out is expensive so I was cooking for myself as much as I possibly could. I would recommend trying to do bigger grocery shops off campus as it can be cheaper, I would just buy meat in the on-campus supermarket.

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

I used a wise card which was what almost everyone I knew did as well. Would definitely recommend as was easy to get money into from NZ bank account, its free if you bank transfer but you just need to keep on top of it as it takes up to 2 days to come through on wise from your NZ bank account.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, once you arrive in Dublin you show your offer letter, and they let you through then you have 90 days to book an appointment with immigration. It can be hard to get an appointment so would recommend doing as soon as you are there. Just show up to the embassy with the right documents and the process is easy.

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?

There are lots of welcome events for exchange students organised in their O week so would recommend getting to Dublin early for that. I joined exchange student society to join their events, which I ended up making most of my mates from. I would also recommend joining another activity or club as it is a good way to meet locals and similar people, I went to a few rugby and basketball

trainings and events which were good fun. The on campus accomodation team also put on events each week which always attract quite a few people.

What was the university/ city like?

UCD and Dublin is so much fun, it is in a beautiful part of Dublin and the facilities are really good. The sports fields and gym were amazing

Its easy to get to Dublin city (15 min bus) and there is always something going on in the city so we spent a lot of time roaming the streets and checking out as many pubs as we could. Blackrock is a cool beachy village right near uni which I often would go run to. We tried to do something touristy each week which was a great way to make sure we saw as much of Dublin as possible.

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

Pubs: Toners, Oneill's, Devitt's, Gravedigger's Stoneybatter, Ryans, Flannerys.

Places: Howth Cliff walk, Malahide castle and village, Kilmainham Goal, Guinness Museum

It is also easy to do a Weekend trip to Galway/Cork or other places around Ireland which were great fun. Also, because Ryanair is based in Dublin flights around Europe were really cheap, so we did lots of trips around Europe during weekends or quiet uni periods. I would also recommend going over to Europe a bit early and doing some travel beforehand. We did a 2-month euro summer in between Sem 1 exams and starting at uni which was amazing.

Any tips for future students?

Try everything, go out of your way to meet new people and engage with people on the various Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups before you arrive so you have some idea what's going on when you get there.

Overall Experience

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

Overall, I couldn't recommend UCD and Dublin enough. The people are quite similar to kiwis meaning it is easy to get involved and meet people. There are also so many international students who go to Ireland. I met so many cool people from all around the world who have become mates for life. I loved being able to easily explore all of Europe, which allowed me to go to Morocco, Sweden, Edinburgh/St Andrews and Sicily all during my semester in Dublin. It was a once in a lifetime experience to finish my time at University and I cant wait o get back to Dublin at some point soon.

I would strongly advise everyone to give exchange a go you won't regret it!!!