



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Melbourne
Semester & Year of Exchange	S2 2024
Otago degree(s)	BA and DipLang
Major(s)	History/Spanish

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
CCDP20001 Street Art	English	200 level points paper
HIST30010 Hitler's Germany and Fascism	English	300 level HIST paper
HIST30064 Controversies in Australian History	English	300 level HIST paper
SPAN30015 Spanish 6	Spanish	SPAN332

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

Any comments about these papers?

The Street Art paper was presented by UniMelb as a paper specifically for exchange students, to explore the city and its art/graffiti. However, I personally didn't enjoy the paper and did wish that I had swapped for something different. That being said, there were only three internal assignments for the whole paper and therefore had the lowest workload of all the papers I took.

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

The history papers were taught in a similar style to Otago, with lectures and tutorials every week and standard assignments such as essays. The Spanish paper was also in a similar style following a

workbook with fortnightly online quizzes and a focus on group discussions. Overall, I would estimate the workload to be the same as at Otago.

Accommodation

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

I found house sitting opportunities through aussiehousesitters.com.au which allowed me to live rent-free while looking after people's houses and animals. It was great to be able to live in different suburbs of Melbourne and it was very easy to commute to and from uni on the trains/trams.

During the times I wasn't house sitting, I stayed with a friend who lives in Melbourne.

Also, Fairy Floss group on Facebook is great for finding rooms to rent/sublets in the city and inner suburbs.

Money matters

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

I paid roughly \$800 for flights, but I purchased my return flight a few weeks before coming back to New Zealand and therefore it was more expensive than buying return flights at the beginning of exchange.

While house sitting I didn't pay rent, and spent roughly \$200-\$300 per week on food/bars/activities/public transport (depending on what activities I had planned). While staying with my friend I paid (very cheap) rent at \$150 per week. I didn't have a job while I was there and was pretty comfortable living off Studylink and my savings. Overall I spent around \$5000 of my savings (including my return flight) over the four months of exchange.

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

I just used my NZ Westpac debit card. I think it incurred occasional foreign currency fees but only a few cents at a time.

Visas & Insurance

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

I didn't require a visa with a New Zealand passport.

I purchased the Student Safe insurance from Otago.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Not sure, but I was never asked to provide one.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

The UniMelb students' association sent weekly emails detailing upcoming events on campus. There were often performances/music/activities set up on campus in the main outdoor amphitheatre.

There was also a program which provided free frozen meals to students, look out for an email at the beginning of your exchange which has an online form to sign up.

What was the university/ city like?

The campus was very accessible and much smaller than Otago. There were plenty of cafes, a convenience store, restaurants and a pharmacy, as well as a gym and swimming pool.

The libraries were nice, but my favourite place to study was the Victoria State Library in the CBD which was only a couple of tram stops away.

There is an awesome library on campus called the Rowden White Library, which is for recreation rather than study, and has spaces for board games, puzzles, video games, and non-academic reading. Highly recommend!

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

There are so many amazing bars and restaurants, especially in Carlton which is the suburb adjacent to the uni. Lygon St has heaps of Italian restaurants and bars.

Some of my personal favourite bars/restaurants: Bombabar, Snack Monster, Johnny's Green Room, Lucy Liu, Eau de Vie, Black Cat, Straight Outta Saigon, Middle South East, Ms Frankie, Masti, Joan café.

Melbourne Zoo is in the same suburb as the uni and accessible by tram.

Try and see a show in the city! I saw Beauty and the Beast and it was incredible.

For a trip outside of the city with a rental car, Phillip Island is an amazing place to see penguins and koalas!

Any tips for future students?

Google "what's on Melbourne" for cool events, activities etc. every week.

Overall Experience

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

Melbourne is an awesome city with something to do every day/night of the week, and super accessible using public transport. Plus, no visa and cheap flights from NZ means you have more

money to spend on eating/drinking out which was honestly one of my highlights of exchange! The CBD is super crowded and a bit stressful but the inner suburbs are awesome and home to great shops/restaurants/cafes etc. It's honestly not necessary to be in the CBD very often, and I would usually only go in if I was on campus anyway.

I lived mainly in the inner northern suburbs like Brunswick, Northcote, Coburg and Essendon, all of which had their own charm and were max 30 mins from the CBD anyway.

UniMelb has a great support system for students and amazing planned activities/exchange student meetups so go for it and have a great time!



Royal Exhibition Building



Koala Reserve on Phillip Island



Victoria State Library



University of Melbourne clocktower