



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Melbourne
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	2 semesters, 2024
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Performing Arts
<b>Major(s)</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>
Music Psychology		MUSI200 12.50
The Ethnography of Music		MUSI300 12.50
Music History 3: 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Centuries		MUSI300 12.50
Acting for Camera		THEA300 12.50
Pop Song Writing 1		MUSI100 12.50
Singing and the Power of Pop Music		MUSI200 12.50

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  15

Any comments about these papers?

I loved being able to do practical papers and have opportunities to perform here in Melbourne. I also loved working with new actors and singers.

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

The workload was very similar to my workload at Otago. The teaching style was also very similar as they used acting and singing methods and techniques that I am used to. The only major difference was the essay writing style. They form their essays in a different way to how I was writing at Otago. I picked this new style up quickly as their teaching methods and explanations were very clear.

## Accommodation

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

I found off campus accommodation through a rental Facebook page and found another student looking a roommate in her two bedroom apartment.

Pros – This was A LOT cheaper than student accommodation. I was able to have my own space, cook my own food and it felt like flatting which I preferred over living in a hall when I was in Otago.

Cons – I lived out of the city and it took 50 minutes travelling to get to uni, but I did not mind this. It was more expensive than flatting in Dunedin as apartments in Melbourne are expensive, but still way cheaper than student accommodation.

## Money matters

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

Insurance - \$500

Flights - \$1000

Accommodation - \$270 per week

Food - \$70 per week

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

Since I moved here as well, I got a new bank account. I also found a job in retail. I would recommend a new bank account, it is a lot easier and once it is set up you don't have to worry about anything. Cash can be helpful to carry around but I barely used it.

## Visas & Insurance

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

No I didn't

*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?*

The university of Melbourne has so many extracurricular activities on offer, it ranged from running clubs, to music groups, to reading groups to Taylor Swift fan clubs. There was something for everyone. I would recommend looking up all the different groups and finding something that interests you and go along and meet new people, it is a way to make new friends and meet people who you have things in common with!

*What was the university/ city like?*

I love Melbourne city, my campus was right in the CBD. It was so beautiful and new and there was so much surrounding the campus that was just walking distance. Or you could hop on a tram and go to places further out such as the beach. Because of the public transport, it was so easy to explore. On campus there is somewhere for everyone, quieter spaces and louder ones. Because the campus is so huge, you have so much to see and do.

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

Here is a list of my favourite places I went/things to do.

- Albert Park
- Docklands
- Chadstone Mall
- Rooftops Bars in the CBD
- St Kilda Beach
- Shrine of Remembrance
- Zoo
- Museums
- Skydeck
- River Cruises
- Italian food festival
- Asian food festival
- Concerts

If you have access to a car then your opportunities double. I have gone on many road trips around Melbourne and visited the coolest places!

*Any tips for future students?*

Do not stress if you don't know everything. On open day the university will explain everything to you and do not be afraid to ask questions about everything. The Uni knows you are on exchange and they are there to help you feel comfortable. Stay on top of your studies and get assessments completed early because you will then be able to explore without stress. I ended up giving a speech at the semester 2 exchange for the new students and told them all to not be afraid, you are surrounded by so much support.

## Overall Experience

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

Going on exchange to the University of Melbourne truly changed my life. I have always dreamed of moving to a big city to study and pursue my passion of performing. Since I have been here I have been met with amazing opportunities, I am now with an agency as a freelance actor and singer. I am working in a clothing store in the CBD. I have seen one of my favourite artists perform, I have explored so much of this beautiful city and outer Melbourne and I can now call it home! My boyfriend also moved to Melbourne when I did, we have made so many amazing memories here. I

have had my friends and family over to visit at different times of the year and showed them around my new home. I loved all of my classes, made new friends, was taught by professionals in the industry and have become better as a performer. Going to class everyday was exciting and I could not have finished my degree in a better way. I can't wait to continue living in Melbourne not as a student and I can truly say that I am following my dreams.





