



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of East Anglia
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 & 2023
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Arts
Major(s)	Politics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Gender and Power (Level 200)	English	18
Politics and Popular Culture (Level 300)	English	18
Better Worlds? Utopias and Dystopias (Level 300)	English	18

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

Any comments about these papers?

I loved all three papers I took, although 'Gender and Power' and 'Utopias and Dystopias' were the two I thoroughly enjoyed. Gender and Power was one that I hold especially close to my heart, for not only was the module extremely engaging and powerful, the professor was incredibly wonderful and genuine and I will not deny they were one of the best professors I had during my undergraduate years.

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

It was relatively the same, although the weighted assignments were not as heavy. However, they do balance that rigour with the amount of readings we were given for each class, but I could still manage it nonetheless.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in an ensuite accommodation known as Kett House and it was located in the University itself. It was a pleasant experience and I have nothing bad to say about it. My flatmates were so vibrant and welcoming that I will not shy away from saying I felt like I was part of a family there too. We all looked out for each other and also just had a great wind down period at the common kitchen area after we had completed our lessons for the day. I will highly recommend this.

Money matters

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

Kett House- 180.60 pounds per week.

Flight ticket- ard SGD \$1800

Food- depends on whether you cook but I would say around 60 a week.

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

Bring a credit card with you as I found it most convenient when travelling around Norwich.

Visas & Insurance

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

No as I was there for less than 6 months.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?F

I don't think so.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were so many activities that I have to say I was at a loss at the beginning as to what I should join. But if you are anxious about having a lack of choices, I can assure you that will never be the case and you would find one that will snatch your heart.

What was the university/ city like?

I loved it. It was rather quiet but rich with history and culture and being a concrete medieval city you would never be bored walking around Norwich and learning more about its rich history just by exploring it by foot. I would also recommend to head out of Norwich towards Cromer and enjoy the view of the sea and walk around the beach as well. The fish and chips there (and also in Norwich itself) is really good.

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

I kind of already touched on this in the previous section but Cromer is a wonderful place to visit too. When concerning Norwich, I especially liked to walk around the city centre, just taking in the surroundings and exploring little shops around the area. I would recommend the market place right in the crux of the city centre, which boasts a versatile and rich array of food and drink options, ranging from halal to vegan food and consisting of varying cuisines too (Korean, Turkish, Indian, etc.)

Any tips for future students?

Enjoy your exchange as much as you can as I cannot emphasise enough how fast the time will go by. Make genuine connections with friends and join at least one social club to maximise your time there. The professors and people I met there were all so kind and wonderful so never be anxious you might take a while to settle down as you would be surprised how fast you would want to call UEA and Norwich your second home.

Overall Experience

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

I am so grateful I took the opportunity to choose UEA as my exchange institution, even though it was not my first choice. I cannot stress enough how much I enjoyed myself there, and how I learned new things about myself but simultaneously also grew more confident about being myself as well as knowing that I have made life-long friends there who helped me with such aspects too. UEA is just a warm place and the staff ensure to assuage your concerns and to dampen your homesickness as much as possible-I never felt it as much as I thought I would. The modules were so interesting and the professors ensured I understood what was being taught and also allowed us to engage with it in ways we found most comfortable-for instance, we had a presentation segment for our class on Utopias and Dystopias and on the first week itself, the Professor ensured to accommodate for students who had social anxiety and reassured us he would never pressure anyone to do anything that made them uncomfortable.

All in all, accentuating the vibrant exchange experience due to being UEA, I would relive such an experience if I were to be given a chance to do so in a heartbeat.