



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

<i>Host University</i>	University of California, Los Angeles
<i>Semester & Year of Exchange</i>	Semester One, 4th Year
<i>Otago degree(s)</i>	LLB/BCom
<i>Major(s)</i>	Economics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Theories of Economic Growth and Development	English	Same title	18
Environmental Economics	English	Same title	18
People and the Earth's Ecosystems	English	Same title	18

Any comments about these papers?

All were challenging yet fun! I particularly enjoyed Theories of Economic Growth and Development and learning more about the third world and policies we can integrate in order to bridge inequality gaps in both income and opportunity

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

It was similar in terms of both lectures and content.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in residential dorms on campus where I shared a room with 2 other people. The pros were that I was able to become great friends with them and learn a lot from them but the cons were that the space was quite small and sometimes privacy was limited.

Money matters

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

Accommodation and Food: \$8000USD

Flights: \$1300USD

Visa: around \$200 USD all up

Food was included in accommodation costs.

Insurance: UCSHIP was around \$1200 NZD

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

Cash Passport Visa card and Visa Debit Card. Recommend getting the former. The latter was simply a backup.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes. I had to visit the consulate in Auckland and do a quick interview and show them a bunch of important documents.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes. UCSHIP (as pointed out in costs).

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

So many! UCLA had everything! I participated in the Rugby program as a good way to make friends and get involved.

What was the university/ city like?

Los Angeles is extremely big and diverse. Westwood, the 'mini-city' where UCLA is located was very Upper-Class being located beside Beverly Hills and Bel-Air. Everyone was nice and accommodating to students and there was plenty of things to do nearby.

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

Definitely go a week early or spend some time after the exchange looking round LA especially Hollywood and maybe visit the Northern Beaches of Malibu or the Southern Beaches of Manhattan or Long Beach. Be a tourist before or after your program so you can get a lot of the sites around California done quick!

Any tips for future students?

Make the most of it. Time flies when your having fun so treat each day like its your last! Do a lot of research and know what you want to get out of the experience before you go so when you arrive you can get straight into it!

Overall Experience

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

Life-changing. I have met friends that will stay with me for life and shared experiences with them that will forever be great memories. I was very fortunate to live in such a beautiful school that was located in a very nice part of Los Angeles. Los Angeles is a beautiful city with so much to offer. Great weather, great scenery, great food. The place really has it all. There is so much to do in California. I visited San Francisco and San Diego as well as making the short trip down to Mexico for New Years! Highly recommend going on exchange. You learn so much about the world and about yourself when you travel abroad and I think that if you get the option to cross-credit tertiary education whilst being able to see a part of the world- why would you not?!

