



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Memorial University of Newfoundland
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 2018
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Arts
Major(s)	Indigenous Development

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
FOLK 2230- Newfoundland Societies	ENG	HUMS Paper	18
FOLK 2300- Newfoundland Folklore	ENG	HUMS Paper	18
FOLK 1000- Intro to Folklore	ENG	HUMS Paper	18
RELS 1000- World Religion	ENG	HUMS Paper	18

Any comments about these papers?

The papers were good as they covered many historical and geographical content of significance regarding provincial Newfoundland and Labrador. If you want to get a fair idea of the layout of the area, these papers provide a good foundation.

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

I enrolled in Folk1000 Introduction to Folklore, Folk2230 Newfoundland Societies, Folk2300 Newfoundland Folklore and Rels1000 Introduction to World Religions. My favourite class would most likely have to be the Rels1000. Professor Rainey made the subject interesting with added humour to every lesson. One thing that I found interesting at Memorial Uni was how blackboards are still being used as a teaching tool. I thought that those things had been phased out around the same time as the Walkman.

Accommodation

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

I stayed at the Residential College in Paton College while I was at Memorial. It was a college made up of mostly first years which made it feel like I was re-living first year uni again. I stayed in one of the houses called Squires. The houses day at Squires House was one of the main events during the semester where we got to meet everyone within our residence house. There were also many social events during the year within the house that were fun. Basketball scrimmages at The Works were always on at least 3-5 times a week which was great.

Money matters

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

Accommodation and food costs: These were covered by Memorial University due to the reciprocal indigenous exchange agreement between Otago and Memorial. Students have access to the student meal plan at Memorial where there is a wide range of food that cater to the dietary needs of everyone.

Visa: There is no Visa requirement for students who are studying at Memorial/Canada for less than 6 months. However, you need to pay a type of entry fee of around \$20 which is then electronically attached to your passport.

Insurance: There is compulsory health insurance every student must sign up to at Memorial which costs around \$250. You will also need to purchase travel insurance which could cost between \$300-\$400 NZD

Flights: Flights to St Johns, Newfoundland cost around \$2600 return to New Zealand.

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

While I was in Canada, I used my NZ visa debit card. The floating exchange rate was better with ASB during the time. I would normally withdraw large sums of cash at a time to try and limit bank fees. I also made sure I had a normal credit card on hand just for emergency purposes.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Downtown St Johns was a cultural experience on its own with the strong Irish presence in the town. Also, Signal Hill and Cape Spear were some of the great pieces of scenery that I was fortunate enough to explore during my time at Memorial. Additionally, The Rooms was another great place that I visited to gain a greater understanding of the history associated with the island. The drumming circles and Friday get togethers at the Aboriginal Resource Centre were events that I would often participate in to meet and share stories with the indigenous community here in St Johns.

What was the university/ city like?

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Any tips for future students?

If you're interested in going on an exchange that is full of cultural and social excitement this is the exchange programme for you. The indigenous exchange programme is a great way to explore and interact with the indigenous culture and communities of the province. You will also meet, interact and make friends with many people from different parts of the world staying in residence. Overall it is a great time!

Overall Experience

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

The cultural experience trip to the reservation in Sheshatshiu was definitely the highlight of my trip. I was fortunate enough to spend five days with elder Elisabeth Penashue where we would construct tents, make Innu donuts, ride ski doo's, hunt, snow shoe as well as explore in the bush. However, the main highlight of my trip was meeting and getting to know many fun, generous and hospitable people during my time here in this part of the world. Memorial te whakatinanatanga o te manaakitanga- Memorial the embodiment of hospitality!

