



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

Host University	Ivey Business School
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2, 2018
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Physical Education, Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Exercise Prescription Management, Accounting

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
End User Modelling	English	ACCT300	18
Entrepreneurial Finance	English	FINC300	18
Impact Assessment	English	ACCT302	18

Any comments about these papers?

Impact Assessment was a very practical paper, most of the content is group work. Groups are made by the professor, so it's quite good as you get mixed up with Canadians. This course focuses on the impact businesses are having on their community/society and measuring the impact through different metrics. Entrepreneurial finance had an awesome professor, he was so chill and basically helped you through the whole course. He is an entrepreneur so a different sort of teacher, which makes it fun. I mean the course load for this paper was pretty easy, you don't have to take finance to take this course. I really enjoyed it to be honest and would recommend, it also has no exam. Lastly End User Modelling, this course was super hard and apparently it's one of the hardest courses at Ivey. I would not recommend, the only reason I took it as I needed credit for accounting. The workload is pretty huge, and there is a lot of expectation especially for previous experience in coding. The course is about creating models within VBA to make excel faster, which could have been interesting if the professor was good. He was really bad and I don't know anyone who enjoyed the course to be honest.

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

Teaching style is case based, so contribution is important. Meaning you have to put up your hand and say something, anything is ok but confidence is important. Workload I believe was average, we had a lot of time off because the Ivey students have a field project which gives us a lot of holidays. I

only took 3 courses as I only need 3 back home, It is a 1 to 1 credit. Ivey says you need a minimum of 4 courses but if you talk to the exchange coordinator, you may be able to take less or more. Homework is basically reading cases, and making sure you have prepared for every class in order to be able to participate. I didn't actually have any courses where I had to write a report on my own, it was always group work so that was nice. Although groups can be tricky as Ivey students are busy people with lots of extra-curricular activities. This may have just been the courses I took though. Classes are also mandatory attendance, therefore you have to go to all classes otherwise your contribution grade decreases (40% of your grade). If you miss more than a certain number of classes I think around 3-4 you fail the course.

## **Accommodation**

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

I stayed at the Marq 75 Ann street. This was where most exchange students stayed, but I had a couple of friends in the Marq Beaufort street which is definitely a cheaper option. The Marq Ann street for me at the beginning was pretty bad, I arrived and my room was a mess, my roommates partied till 4am every night and the Marq administration didn't care at all. So you have no idea who you are going to get, I was luckily allowed to change rooms after a month (for a fee). Although in the end I really enjoyed living at this building as its close to everything, both downtown and the bus to Ivey. My recommendation is staying at 75 Ann Street but requesting the A style apartments as they are larger and they usually put exchange students in them. Also might be an idea to request exchange students, because some Canadians living there are working so have different schedules. The building also has a gym, washing machines (for a fee), movie theatre, free wifi and all the expenses and furniture is included.

## **Money matters**

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

Accommodation is pricey at the Marq Ann street, for the A style unit I paid \$665CAD but got lucky as I moved into a Canadians room therefore paid their price. The same room in the A style apartments which my exchange friends were paying was \$730CAD per month. They always charge exchange students more, so you can't really avoid this. Also at the Marq they have 4 month leases, so this is ideal for us as we only pay for when we are here. Flights for me were ok, I paid around \$1000NZD one way to Toronto, then caught the greyhound bus to London which is around \$30CAD. I would recommend flying into Toronto rather than London as the bus is super easy and leaves from the airport or downtown. Everyone uses this bus service and I used them a lot. My flight home is from London UK so is pretty irrelevant, but I think it's around \$1000 from Toronto. I would recommend booking your flight home once you know what you are doing, because you might plan trips with exchange students in December. Food is ok here, around the same prices as New Zealand, I recommend going to Walmart as it's a lot cheaper and the bus goes there so it's easy. Insurance from September – February for me was around \$600 through southern cross. The Marq will also ask for insurance but when I arrived I just showed my travel insurance and that was ok, so I don't think you have to get separate insurance. Visa if you are less than 6 months studying, you only need an eTA and is like \$7 and takes about a minute to do online. Also beware that Ivey charges you for course books in December which can be a lot, most around \$100 per course. Some can be less and some can be more, but keep money aside for this.

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

I used the Kiwibank loaded for travel, which was good as there are no transaction fees and you can load money onto your wallet in Canadian dollars. So was really easy and is like using an eftpos card in New Zealand. Also had a bit of cash when I first arrived as I didn't want to get stuck

## **Visas & Insurance**

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

No because I was in Canada less than 6 months, therefore all you just need an eTA. I think it's different if you study here for longer, so make sure you check this.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes, you have to purchase a UHIP, which is health insurance which is around \$400NZD. You have to get this and they charge it to your account so you have to pay when you arrive or beforehand.

## **Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

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

There were a couple of organised events like bowling, but not really. I organised all my activities/trips myself with the other Ivey exchange students. Some people joined the outdoors club, which is like \$20CAD for the semester, but get in quick if you want to join as it fills up. They go on a couple of trips around Canada and have equipment for you to use. These trips are pre planned so might not fit in with your schedule. It is also a very social group so you will meet lots of exchange students, probably from Western as not too many people from Ivey joined.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Ivey is really good at organising activities for exchange students and have a budget for us. Therefore look after you very well, we went bowling, dinners out, o week events, pizza lunches and lots of social gatherings. The uni is amazing, it looks like a hotel and is very warm which is nice in winter. London itself is pretty boring, there isn't much to do there, we went away a lot with the Ivey exchange students so was hardly there only during the week. London is a student town kind of like Dunedin and when the students leave there is hardly anyone around. It's a bit of a party city, most nights there is something to do which is fun.

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

Things to do in Canada definitely Bruce peninsula, which is a 2-3 hour drive out of London, its amazing. Algonquin park is also amazing, I didn't make it there but it looked amazing and is about 4-5 hours away I think. I flew to Calgary for one of the breaks and did Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise which I highly recommend it was incredible. Also Montreal, Québec and Toronto are awesome and pretty close, so definitely worth seeing. Places to visit outside Canada are Chicago, New York and Boston, they are all so close. I also got to head to Cancun, Mexico with the exchange students in December after classes ended. A lot cheaper than flying from New Zealand that's for sure.

Lastly must dos in London are, Molly Mondays, this is a karaoke bar where everyone goes and you get cheap beers. On Wednesdays its half price bottles of wine at Mccabes, this is super fun and everyone goes, its more of a bar style than club. On Thursday Ivey gets free entry into the frog which is like heading to a bar in Dunedin, super fun. On Friday Ivey gets free entry into ceeps, which is so fun, especially on a Saturday.

*Any tips for future students?*

Just chill and go with the flow, you will meet a lot of people and just be yourself. All exchange students come for the same reason so everyone has very similar interests, just get amongst and enjoy. Also always say yes, don't hold back it, the 4 months goes super quick so try fit in everything you can. The first couple of days are always hard, so just keep your head up as things 100% get better.

## **Overall Experience**

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

My exchange was the best 4 months ever, I cannot express how much I have loved it. You meet people from all around the world, which means you can go visit whenever. I have travelled to Bruce Peninsula, Toronto, Niagara Falls, New York, Boston, Chicago, Banff, Lake Louise, Calgary, Jasper and Mexico. I am also travelling more after the exchange so have more stops in Canada and Europe on the horizon. In the first couple of weeks I went to Bruce peninsula with 26 exchange students, all from Ivey. We rented cars and headed up there. I didn't know people that well, but it was so much fun and organising something this early with everyone was good to break the ice and meet more people. It was definitely hard to organise with that many people but it was a lot of fun and recommend doing something with everyone early on.

New York is incredible, very busy and lots to do, I spent about 5 days here during the thanksgiving break with a group of 12 exchange students. After New York I bused to Boston which is like \$15USD, Boston is really nice I loved it. It is also cheap to fly to New York my flight was \$150, so definitely something to do. Niagara Falls is also close, only 1 and a half hours away, I went with my parents because they came for the weekend but all the exchange students rented cars and went together. This is definitely a must see. A group of us also bused to Chicago, which was very long but also cheap we paid \$120CAD return. We went for about 5 days which good, it's definitely a city of food. You have to try the deep dish pizza, it is really good and a Chicago icon. During the Ivey Field project week for about 7 days we did a road trip around Alberta, with firstly flying into Calgary from London (surprisingly cheaper than Toronto). Then drove all the way to Jasper and back through Lake Louise and Banff. I highly recommend this trip, this was a massive highlight for me. We got to hike, see amazing lakes and lots of wild animals. The Last trip I did was to Mexico, this was amazing!! Cost about \$400NZD return so not too bad and definitely worth it, especially not seeing sun for long.

When in London, I went to Ice Hockey games, Carnivals, Ice Skating, Football Games, Formal and Home coming. Ice Hockey games are amazing, the music, the game everything about it was awesome, I loved it. Ice Staking is also big over here in winter, it is free to use the rink all you have to do is pay for the skate rental. Such a fun experience. Football games are definitely a hype, these weren't that great, but cool to see the culture with cheerleaders, hotdogs and beers. The Carnival was interesting and a lot bigger than expected, especially for London, it had lots of rides and games. The formal was so much fun, you pay for the formal but everyone usually goes and everyone gets dressed up in Formal attire. I didn't have anything Formal on me, so a nice dress and boots was fine, no one really cared anyway and most exchange students were in the same boat. Lastly Home coming, this was amazing, basically the same as Hyde street in Dunedin. The whole sheet is flooded with Western students representing their school, there are thousands of people and everyone gets really into it. Overall this experience has been amazing, I have had the time of my life, and have made friendships for life. My advice to anyone is to go, don't hesitate just do it.





















