



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of British Columbia
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester One - 2019
Otago degree(s)	LLB and BCom
Major(s)	Law and Finance

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
International Law	Eng	International Law	15
Immigration Law	Eng	Immigration Law	15
Sports Law	Eng	Sports Law	15
Real Estate Investment	Eng	Unspecified 300 Level	18

Any comments about these papers?

I thoroughly enjoyed all of them with the exception of maybe Immigration Law. Sports Law is a seminar style teaching where the students lead the class. Also there is no exam but a term paper you have to write instead.

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

In all, the teaching style and workload was relatively similar to that at Otago.

Accommodation

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

I stayed at Fairview Crescent on Campus. Pro was that most exchange students stay there, close to campus, nice lodgings. Con is that its far from downtown (but all campus accommodation is) and you may not get the best flatmates.

Money matters

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

Costs for accommodation and student fees altogether were around 3600, flights were around 1200, Visa was roughly 50, and medical insurance is covered in your student fees. Slightly more expensive groceries than in NZ but not by much.

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

I used a debit card the entire time I was there but I would recommend opening a Canadian Bank account or using a travel card so you don't get charged for foreign currency.

Visas & Insurance

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

I did not have to apply for a visa as I had an NZ passport but I did have to apply for an ETA although this only takes a day. If you plan to do 2 semesters you will have to apply for a student visa.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes it did although this was included in the student fees.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There are a large number of clubs that you can join or you can join sports leagues with the other exchange students. I would recommend storm the wall.

What was the university/ city like?

The university was great, similar to Dunedin but a lot of food places there, easy access from accommodation and a large number of facilities like a pool, multiple gyms and so on. The city is very nice although be prepared for a large number of homeless people.

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

I would recommend going to hockey games at the Uni as they are cheap, Kitsilano is a nice area to visit and wreck beach is always great at sunset. Nat's New York pizzeria is good pizza close by and Thai Basil was a classic

Any tips for future students?

My tip would be to venture downtown more. Its far away (50 minutes on public transport) but you get free public transport so its just a time commitment. Don't get sucked into just going to the pit all the time. Also sign up for Evo early as its quite useful for going to hikes and skiing. Also if you like skiing GET A STUDENT SEASON PASS TO WHISTLER OR GROUSE, I cannot stress this enough. It is far cheaper than getting day passes and a large number of people will have them. You can rent ski gear for the season at a place called sports junkies

Also join the ski and board club and exchange student club. Go on all the trips, they're great fun.

Overall Experience

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

Well during my time at UBC I studied law and finance which wasn't so different to back home. Vancouver is a wonderful city but the best places are outside it. Hikes like Tunnel bluff, the Chief, Dog mountain and so on are fantastic (although a bit difficult in the winter, better once the snow has thawed). Skiing is great at whistler, grouse and cypress mountain with Grouse only being a 30 minute drive from the city.

I went to Banff for reading break which was good fun, and did a road trip down to Seattle and Portland (would recommend). Overall my favourite point on the trip would be the revelstoke strip with the Exchange student club, its amazing skiing there and a good way to meet people early on. Have a great trip and I wish you all the best!



