



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	The University of Texas at Austin
Semester & Year of Exchange	Spring 2019
Otago degree(s)	BCOM, BA
Major(s)	Marketing & Psychology

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
C C 301 INTRO TO ANCIENT GREECE	ENG		3
C C 319D ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD	ENG		3
HIS 301J GLOBALIZATION: A MODERN HIS	ENG		3
HIS 306N MEDIEVAL MATERIAL CULTURE	ENG		3

Any comments about these papers?

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

More small weekly assignments and readings and classes take attendance so it's important to keep on top of the workload.

Accommodation

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

Pros: Great way to make friends, especially locals. Food provided and many great amenities.

Cons: Don't get to choose meals.

Money matters

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

My accommodation was expensive as it was a hall of residence so everything was provided (food, amenities) but this was worth the added convenience. If you want cheaper accommodation, I recommend staying at a cooperative.

Flights were around \$1500 one way, as the time you can book is left till quite late, but hopefully a deal will make this better.

There was a mandatory insurance of \$1000.

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

I used a cash passport and loaded US dollars onto this. I found this a really easy way to control my spendings, by just topping up when I needed it.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, I had to apply for a J-1 Student Visa. The process was quite lengthy, so I would recommend getting onto it quickly. Also, you will have to travel to Auckland for an interview to get approval.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

So many clubs and international groups. Planet longhorn is a good one to get to know other international people.

What was the university/ city like?

The University is filled with lots of beautiful old architecture, with an iconic clock tower somewhat similar to Otago.

The city is unlike anything else. It is a cultural melting pot with so much character and things to do, from swimming in natural springs to hitting the famous 6th street.

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

Go to Barton Springs and Hamilton pools (have to book for this one) and Glorias for amazing frozen Margaritas

Go to 6th street and Rainey st for awesome bars.

Have all the Tex Mex- Chuys, Torchys are faves.

Terry Blacks for amazing BBQ

Go to Allens boots store to see all the cowboy boots you could imagine.

Zilker park is great to walk and lots of dogs

Get the big pass to see all the Uni sports games

Get amongst the Greek life

Any tips for future students?

Try to make American friends, the best way to get an authentic college experience.

Put yourself out there and you won't regret it.

Overall Experience

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

By far the most amazing and rewarding experience of my life. Austin and UT exceeded my expectations with so much to do and really interesting courses to take. As I stayed in a mainly american residential hall I made so many local friends which allowed me to see so much more of the culture. The greek life is amazing at UT, I recommend getting to know members to get invites to parties. Austin had everything you could want, from amazing natural swimming areas, endless sporting events and the most insane nightlife. Further, the people in Austin are so kind and accepting, which made the long time away from home so easy.





