



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

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| Host University | Schulich School of Business |
| Semester & Year of Exchange | S1 2019 |
| Otago degree(s) | BCom (Management) |
| Major(s) | Management |

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

| Course title | Language of instruction | Otago equivalent | Otago credit value |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Managing Across Culture | English | MANT 3xx | 18 |
| Managing Change | English | MANT 3xx | 18 |
| Strategic Management | English | MANT 3xx | 18 |
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Any comments about these papers?

Managing across culture involved extensive interaction during class and was absolutely enjoyable.

Managing Change involves theories of corporate rejuvenation and steps to changes, the content can be a tad dry.

Strategic Management talks about strategies to bring a firm forward in meeting the challenges of the dynamic environment in which the firms operate in.

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

The workload is a tad more intensive as compared to Otago. Studying week was filled with assignments but on the flip side, there is no end of year paper so I actually preferred that system. Also, the students in Schulich are much more outspoken and interactive in lectures compared to in Otago which allows for more learning opportunities, hearing from different point of views.

Accommodation

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

University Apartment – 1 Bedroom flat

Pros:

- **walking distance to university**
- **many food options in the vicinity**
- **walking distance to the metro**
- **safe and quiet**

Cons:

- **furnishing was a little tired looking**

Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$1091.00/month

Visa: NA

Insurance: \$289.00

Eating out (in school food court): \$12-\$15

Eating out (downtown): \$20 - \$40

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

I had a student bank account with BMO where I transferred money into and paid for items with a debit card linked to it, much like EFTPOS.

There are a couple of bank branches in the school compound so its really convenient for all banking/financial related needs.

Visas & Insurance

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

NA.

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?

There was a Open Arms Committee for exchange students which reached out to us even before we were there. This committee linked us to other exchange students by organizing activities such as club hopping and drinking sessions in the first week of the semester. During which, we were able to get to know one another and organize trips within our own with our new friends from different parts of the world!

What was the university/ city like?

The university, like the city is a cauldron of cultural and ethnic diversity where mutual respect and acceptance form the core of the societal norms. It is a safe and inclusive environment where people are not only allowed but encouraged to speak freely and express themselves as they are without fear of any repercussions. A truly beautiful place.

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

- Niagara Falls
- New York
- Boston
- Cuba
- Vancouver
- Yellowknife for northern lights viewing

Any tips for future students?

Embark on the exchange with an open mind, be spontaneous and go with the flow of your fellow peers on exchange. Step out of your comfort zone and travel whenever possible to places you never thought of going for an opportunity like an exchange is once in a lifetime.

Overall Experience

The overall experience of my exchange is ineffable. From this once in a lifetime opportunity, I stepped foot on a country known for being characteristically polite, a forerunner in the advocacy for human rights across the world, blistering cold where -15 temperatures is just another Tuesday, maple syrup and the list goes on. I experienced them all first hand.

Also from this opportunity, I saw the northern lights in Yellowknife where the temperature dipped below -40 degrees, fishing on a frozen lake, saw the Niagara falls in its frozen splendour, spent the new year watching the ball drop in New York City, snowboard for an entire week on the famed Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort and made new friends from Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy.

As I have said in my opening sentence, the experience I went through from this opportunity is ineffable. I'd do it all over again, encourage anyone and everyone to go for it, push my kids in the

future to go for it when I take on the role as a parent. For what I got out of this experience is priceless and a memory I will hold dear to me always. For that, I am grateful beyond measures towards University of Otago for allowing me this opportunity of a lifetime.