

University of Western Australia

2016, Semester 2

Bachelor of Arts, major in Human Geography and minor in Anthropology

My decision to go on exchange was very last minute leaving me with only two options, Western University in Canada and the University of Western Australia in Perth. For me, Perth seemed like the most suitable option as I was in my final semester of University and too much disruption to my routine may have impacted my ability to graduate on time!

Perth was one of the only Australian cities that I hadn't visited before, purely because of the distance. A 5 hour flight from Brisbane makes you realise how vast Australia is, and how far New Zealand is from the rest of the world.

Accommodation: As I had never been to Perth before, nor did I know anyone that had ever been there, I opted to pay

the extra money to go into a hall of residence. Like Dunedin, there are many hall options within a 5-10 minute walk of campus so you can't go wrong with location. I found that Trinity College (second cheapest) was the best fit for me; it had a 50/50 split of International students to Australian students which meant you could make friends in both groups, as opposed to Unihall (cheapest hall) which was 90% international students who seemed to keep to themselves. If you are older like me (20/21) then don't be put off going into a hall by the Otago experience, in Australia students generally tend to go into halls for their entire studies rather than just fresher year, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students are second and third year! I don't think I spoke to a single fresher the entire time I was there as they are kept in a separate wing.



Winthrop Hall, UWA Campus

Halls in Perth are not cheap, I paid roughly \$8000AUS for only one semester, which seems like a lot but it was worth it and if I was to do it all over again I would go back to Trinity in a heartbeat. If you are staying in Perth for a year, I would recommend going into a hall for first semester, meet a group of people and go flatting second semester to save costs!

If you want to save money and flat there are also a bunch of options that I was not aware of before I went to Perth. Crawley/Nedlands is the area that the main campus is located on, and average rent is around \$130-150 from what I have heard. The transport system in Perth is incredible and busses depart every 5 minutes from campus, taking 15 minutes to get to Cottesloe beach or the city, only costing you \$1.09, so flatting in these areas is also doable if you want to be closer to the beach or work in town.

Cost: Perth is not a cheap city so be prepared to spend a little extra than what you would in Dunedin. However, in saying this, if you go flatting instead of a hall and take advantage of the \$1 bus fares then you may end up saving money! There are a bunch of part time jobs going in Perth, and getting a job in the city is fine because it only takes 15minutes on the bus! I got one at the Uni Café working for \$22 an hour by looking at the Uni Careers page, but you can also try Seek and good old CV drop ins at all the cafes around the Crawley area, especially Hampden road where heaps of students got jobs! Pay is so much better in Australia than NZ!



Karijini National Park

Academics: Instead of the term 'papers', UWA and wider Australia use 'units' which you need to enrol in. Contact hours for UWA were on par with Otago, and as a 300 level student I only had 4 classes a week which meant I had plenty of time to explore Perth! The work was hard, and I found myself in the library a lot more than at Otago but this was probably because I was getting out and doing more things than I would usually be doing at home. INDG1500 is similar to Maor102 at Otago, and I would recommend doing it if you need an extra unit to fill up your course as it is very interesting to learn about the Australian Aboriginal history and classes can be streamed online.

Advice: Attending the University of Western Australia was hands down the most incredible decision I have ever made and I am so grateful for the opportunity to experience university life outside of Dunedin. In the semester break, I went on a 15 day road trip up north with 25 Wicked Camper vans filled with people from my hall and this was the highlight of my exchange by far! People don't realise how beautiful Western Australia is; crystal clear water, temperatures up in the 30s (40 in summer), great snorkelling, vineyards, and kangaroos everywhere etc... A flight to Bali from Perth costs \$100, and after my exchange I went to South East Asia for 2 months with friends I met at the hall, and I have just booked a flight to London in July to spend 6 months with my new English and European friends. Without going on exchange I would definitely not be having all these amazing experiences so I would recommend it over and over again.

Definitely google places like Rottnest Island, Esperance, Margaret River, Coral bay and the Ningaloo Reef to get an idea of the many places you can explore in the Perth surrounds!



Shell Beach



Coral Bay