



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information:

Otago degree(s)	Masters of Business Administration (MBA)	Major(s)	Business
Host University	Yonsei University	Semester & Year of Exchange	Fall Semester, 2018

Academics/ Course Load:

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Money & Banking	English		15
Investment & Risk Management	English		15
Trade & Finance of Japan	English		15
Theory & Practice of Negotiation	English		15
Non-Government Organisations & Development	English		15

Any comments about these papers?

I took these papers as they were unlike any papers on offer at Otago. They were all well taught, with the instructors very knowledgeable and helpful. I learnt a wide range that was able to increase my base skills. The Trade & Finance of Japan was completely different to anything that I have learnt at Otago. The entire paper was student lead, and each week one/two student would present a topic, then the entire class would spend the next hour discussing the topic.

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

The academic experience was very similar to the teaching style of graduate level courses at Otago. Each academic day in broken-down into 4 three-hour blocks. Which meant that you had three hours of class each week. Most classes had a similar structure, where the professor would present for the first hour – hour & half, then their would be a class discussion on the topic, practice questions, or activities to put into place what we had just learnt. The only class that did not do this was Trade & Finance of Japan which was completely student led. These styles of teaching definitely worked well as I feel we were better able to understand the information taught and explore in greater detail the topic. It also gave people the opportunity to express their opinions. The workload was very similar to that of

Otago with take home readings, assignment and presentations. I never felt that the workload was too much, even though I took an extra paper.

Accommodation:

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

The University does supply student housing, but they have a strict set of rules. Rooms were also shared, unless you were lucky enough to get one of the single rooms, but they were hard to get. It felt very much like high school, and not as if you were an independent university student, let alone a graduate student. Because of this I chose to live in private accommodation. There was a load of rooms for rent and you can just look them up online. All accommodation is in apartments. I managed to find a really nice apartment with other students and the Land Lord was very friendly and helpful. She even took me to different parts of the city to fully explore all the amazing things that Seoul has to offer. My accommodation was a bit more expensive than other apartments, but I was given full independence. The only problem living in an apartment was that you are not living with other exchange students so it can be hard to meet new people. But the university runs a club, 'Mentors Programs' to help you meet new people and you can also make friends in all your classes.

Money matters:

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

Flights: ~ \$1100. Flights were really cheap and I flew Eastern China Airlines which was very spacious and one of the best airlines that I have flown.

Visa: ~ \$100. Getting a visa was relatively cheap and easy (See below)

Insurance: ~ \$400. Insurance was expensive, but knowing that I had full comprehensive cover put my mind at ease in case I ever needed insurance. Luckily I never had to make a claim.

Accommodation: ~ \$3100. This was not the cheapest apartment that can be found around Seoul, but it was really close to the University, I could walk or take a 10 min bus ride. It was also cheaper than a Single Room at the University accommodation which was ~ \$3400, but a Shared Room would only cost ~ \$2300.

Living expenses: ~ \$5000. I spent about \$5000 NZD when I was in Korea. This covered all of my food, drinks, travel and activities. This included several tours around the city, dressing in Hanbok, and visiting several shows and performances. We also ate out every night as cooking at home was difficult, and included going out every weekend to different bars and clubs across the city. This expense can be lowered if you have to live on a tighter budget.

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

I opened a bank account when I was in Korea and it was really easy. They have a Woori Bank on Campus and they set me up with an eftpos card. This allowed me to transfer money from NZ. I mainly used this card, but also carried cash as some of the markets or street vendors did not accept card. I would recommend opening an account with Woori bank. It was easy and meant that I did not have to carry an excess amount of cash, which I do not like. You can also draw money from most ATMs directly from your NZ credit/debit card if you do not wish to open a bank account, or you can use your NZ credit/debit card at most places as well.

Visas & Insurance:

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

Yes. You have to get a Student Visa in order to study in Korea. The process was really simple. You have to fill out some forms, then submit them to either the consulate in Auckland or the Embassy in Wellington, along with your enrolment forms from Otago and Yonsei University. I am unsure if the forms can be submitted in the mail or if they have to be done in person. I lived in Auckland at the time so it was easy for me to submit them in person.

Once you are in Korea and are staying more than 90 days, which you will be, you have to apply for an Alien Registration Card. This process can be a little tricky. You have to go to the local immigration office, which is dependent on where you live, and fill in some forms along with a picture of yourself, similar to the one you submitted for your visa, your local address and a copy of your passport. All the information can be found at the hikorea.go.kr webpage, and there is information provided during orientation as well.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes. In order to study at Yonsei you have to get health and liability insurance. This can easily be done by getting comprehensive cover insurance from any broker. I went with One Cover, which was a bit expensive but was easy to get and provided full protection for my entire stay while in Korea.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities:

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

Yonsei University has Underwood, which is the school for undergraduates, and GSIS, which is the school for graduates. As an exchange student you will be part of one of these schools. Both have programs and activities that you can take part in. They hold sports games, basketball, football, rugby, versus Korean National University. It is really fun and even if you don't want to play you can go along and cheer, which was amazing and unlike anything you will experience in New Zealand.

They also have the 'Mentoring Program' which is a social club for exchange students. They group you with 20 other exchange students and 5 Yonsei Students. Your group then goes on activities all around the city. We went on several tours, and did Hanbok, traditional Korean dress, which was amazing. I would highly recommend joining the mentoring group, it is an easy way to experience what the city has to offer but also a great way to make friends.

What was the university/ city like?

Seoul is an amazing city. It is truly a city that never sleeps. There are loads of activities all around the city, with different events. I would recommend that you learn to use the subway line, then you can visit every part of the city. Yonsei University and the surrounding area called Sinchon will be where you spend most of your time. Every weekend there is some sort of event along the main street. These

included several music festivals, a craft beer festival, and events to celebrate Chuseok. There is always something to do in Seoul. Always remember to look up as some amazing restaurants, bars, coffee shops can and are on level 2/3/4. There is also a kitty café on the main street in Sinchon, and if you are a cat person you should definitely go.

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

There is loads of thing to do while in Korea, and their will definitely be things to do that will suit your taste. I would visit Namsan Seoul Tower located at the top of a hill in the centre of the city. It allows you to see the entire city. It was amazing to go at late afternoon, and see the city both during sun light and at night. A river cruise down the Hangang River was also cool. Visiting both of the palaces, and if you go in Hanbok, traditional Korean dress, you can get in for free, which is a bonus. Also ask your mentor group or locals and they will happily give you tips on places to visit. As for eating there are so many restaurants that you will easily find what you are craving. However I would highly recommend 'TACO LOCO' which is by far the best Mexican restaurant in the whole world and conveniently located 5 minutes for Yonsei University's main gate.

Any tips for future students?

Not a lot I can offer here, but if there was one thing that I wish someone had told me was about YSCEC (<https://yscec.yonsei.ac.kr/login/index.php>). This is Yonsei's blackboard and where you will have access to all of your lecture materials for all of your classes. Other than that, do as much as you can Seoul is an awesome city with some of the friendliest people and it will be an experience you will never forget.

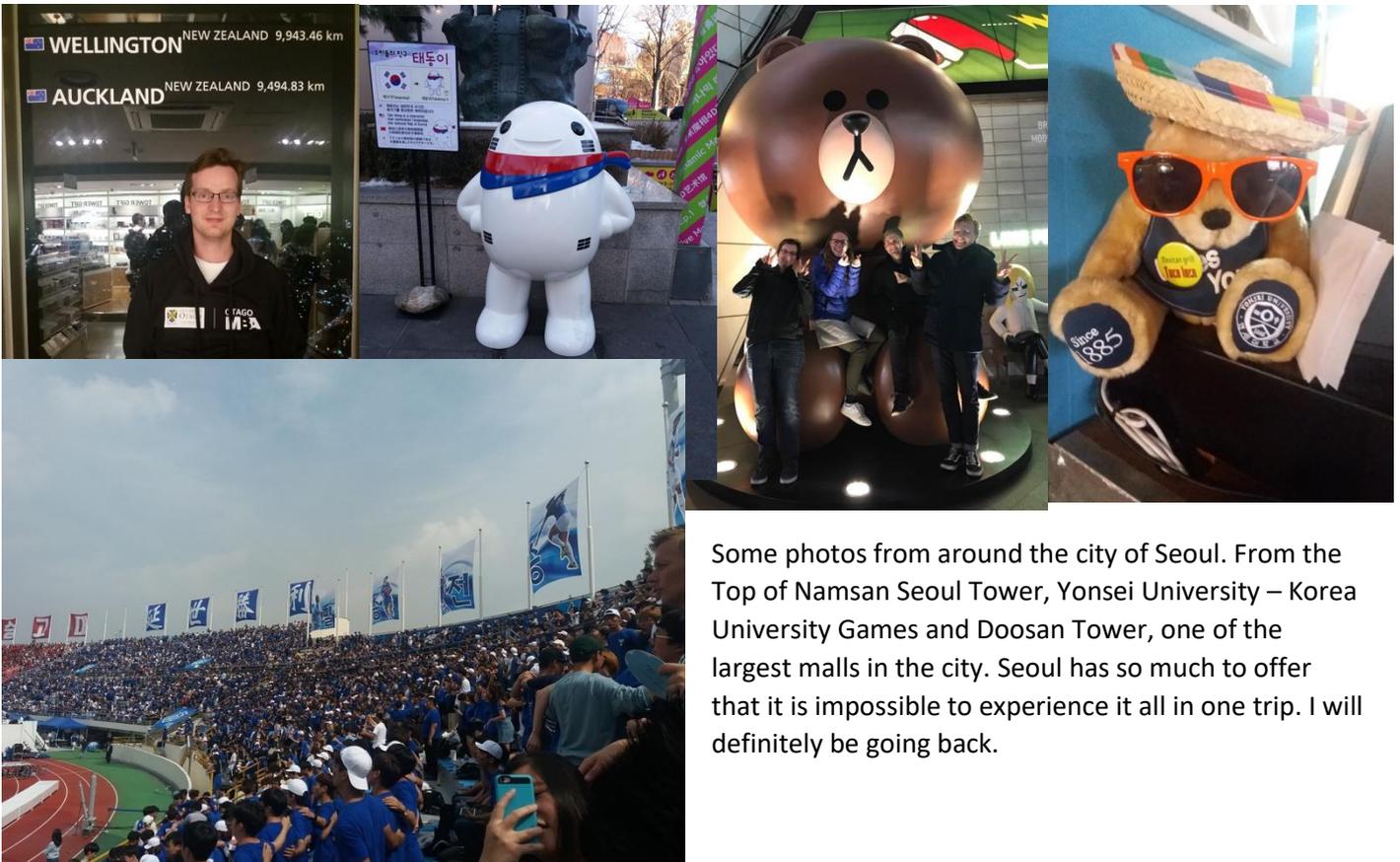
Overall Experience:

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

My exchange was a once in a life-time opportunity that I will not forget. Seoul is an amazing city with so much happening that it was impossible to experience it all. I made friends with several locals and through them I was able to experience things that I would not have been able to find on my own. We visited several different animal café's, sheep, cat, dog, and even a Meerkat café. We visited several historical land marks, and even got to have dinner at the top of Namsan Seoul Tower overlooking the entire city. Yonsei University is one of the best in the whole country, and all of the classes were informative, insightful, and nothing like Otago. I learnt so many different things that have expanded my knowledge. I have made so many wonderful friends from all around the world that I will always have a place to stay no matter where I go. An exchange is an amazing experience and I would highly recommend going to Korea, you will not regret it. I would like to thank the University of Otago, The Otago MBA School, and Department of Education for providing me with this opportunity.



These Photos are taken from the day we wore Hanbok and visited 'Bukchon Hanok Village' which is a traditional village with all the original architecture. This village still houses residents to this day and is an amazing place to visit if you want to see the lives of Koreans before industrialization. The village is also located near 'Gyeongbokgung palace' which is the second palace of the emperor of Korea. These palaces are amazing to visit in Hanbok as you feel immersed in the culture.



Some photos from around the city of Seoul. From the Top of Namsan Seoul Tower, Yonsei University – Korea University Games and Doosan Tower, one of the largest malls in the city. Seoul has so much to offer that it is impossible to experience it all in one trip. I will definitely be going back.