



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s) BCom	Major(s) Finance/Economics
Host University Keio University	Semester & Year of Exchange Semester 2, 2017

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Intermediate Microeconomics 1A	English	ECON 375	18
Econometrics A	English	ECON 371	18
An introduction To Japanese Economy	English		18
Financial Management And Corporate Governance	English	FINC 303	18
Japanese For Communication: Daily Life	Japanese	Equivalent 300 – Level Language Paper	9
Japanese For Communication: Media 1	Japanese	Equivalent 300 – Level language Paper	9
Japanese For Communication: Business	Japanese	Equivalent 300 – Level Language Paper	9

Any comments about these papers?

For, “An introduction To Japanese Economy” I only decided to take the paper when I was in Japan, therefore I do not know which paper is the Otago equivalent.

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

Being in a class with many international student, all from different parts of the world is an interesting experience. Although there was not too much class discussion in my modules, just to think all of the different perspectives students have on today's world issues is something that is fascinating. I believe being taught Japanese with no English at all during the class helped me improve in the language. For 2 of my economics papers, the lecturers' English was not perfect but somewhat good enough to understand. My other economics lecturer had perfect English. As he had a lot of experience in major jobs in Japan and overseas, he was very knowledgeable in the subject and was very interesting (worked for the IMF and Japanese Ministry of Finance). My Finance supervisor for my independent study also had perfect English.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in an international dorm with other exchange students from all over the world. Living with other students from all over the world with different cultures was a great experience and it was easy to make friends at my dorm. The rules were also quite relaxed which was a plus. The only con was although it is close to one of the university campus', I did not have any class there and so had to travel about 45 minutes to get to the campus which my classes were taught at.

Money matters

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

Accommodation: ¥63,500/month

Food: ¥1800/week

No visa cost as I have a Japanese Passport

Insurance: ¥1500/month

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

Japanese bank account set up by my dad when he used to live in Japan

Visas & Insurance

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

No

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?

Students are able to join “circles” which are social groups whether it is sports or cultural activities. Although it is social, some sports will require 3 trainings a week as training most days is the usual for competitive sports teams.

What was the university/ city like?

Tokyo is a great city. It is very clean and the people are very polite. It is very safe and there are many things to do in the city. The public transport system is also very good and trains never run late, and because of this, it is very easy to get around. The food is also great and can easily find good food that is not too expensive. The night life is also very enjoyable.

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

Obviously visit the main areas of Tokyo city (Harajuku, Shibuya, Shinjuku) but also it is easy to get to city's close by such as Osaka and Kyoto. Those cities have very different cultures to Tokyo and also the landscape/architecture is also unique and so they are fun places to go. Hot springs such as Hakone, which is just west of Tokyo is also a great place to visit. There is a Michelin Star restaurant near the Mita campus.

Any tips for future students?

Sort out your exchange as early as possible and know what documents etc you must have for the exchange.

Overall Experience

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

This exchange has been an incredible experience and would recommend anyone to do the same as I did, whether it be in Tokyo or anywhere else in the world. The people you meet, the understanding of a different culture, and seeing the different perspective of people around the world has opened me up to be a better individual. Being half Japanese and being able to speak the language, I was able to interact with English speaking people and Japanese speaking people simultaneously which was very interesting. Many Japanese people told me that although my appearance may be of a foreigner, I act much like a Japanese native, which I have taken as a compliment. I have made friends from various countries such as, Holland, England, Slovakia and Ecuador. I believe these friends will be ones which I will keep in contact with which for anyone would be a great thing. Although I was only here for one semester, I have made many memories with many people which I will cherish for the rest of my life.