



## Student Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

DipGrad Chinese

<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	<b>Major(s)</b>
<b>Host University</b> <b>Dalian University</b> <b>of Foreign</b> <b>Languages</b>	<b>Semester &amp; Year of</b> <b>Exchange</b> <b>August 2017</b>

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Reading and Comprehension	Mandarin	300 level	18
Spoken Chinese	Mandarin	300 level	18
Intensive Listening	Mandarin	300 level	18

Any comments about these papers?

初级 B Level, very intense and professionally taught, little to no English was used even for explaining complex grammar patterns.

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

No course outline was provided at any point.

### Accommodation

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

Single room in 北楼, RMB12,000 so little bit expensive. Was a very nice room would recommend it.

### Money matters

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

ACC – RMB12,000 – NZD2,700

Flights – NZD2,200

Visa / Insurance – NZD400

Food – NZD1,500 (approx. 5 months) Food is cheap

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

NZ Credit card. If you can get a Chinese bank acc do it. A lot easier if you can use Wechat and Alipay for purchasing things.

### **Visas & Insurance**

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

Went through a travel agent, very simple pay and send the passport.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes must have insurance before you arrive.

### **Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

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

Organised Travel within China was offered. Wouldn't recommend though as very rigid and short. Activities you could do would involve Basketball, Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Kung Fu and Cheerleading. I enjoyed the Table Tennis and friends recommended the Kung Fu.

What was the university/ city like?

University was nice, nothing not to recommend it. Quite sprawling so you can explore for hours. City is about 1 hour away in a taxi. However smaller city LvShun is only 10 minutes away in a taxi.

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

Visit Dandong on the North Korean border, very interesting. Food – find the building with the supermarket on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor early, this is where you will find the best food on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the building. Very good variety and is the cheapest you will get. Also if you feel like a treat exit via the East gate (main gate really) then cross the road and go to the left past MC coffee until you find a restaurant called JINJIN. Here you will find some slightly more expensive food but very good quality.

Any tips for future students?

You need to visit the Accommodation office on arrival, this is to the right when you enter the East Gate, keep walking for 10 minutes then try to find someone to ask where it is.

Travel in the first half of the semester, the speed of the course increases substantially in the second half so long weekend travel is best done at the start.

## Overall Experience

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

Would highly recommend Dalian University of Foreign Languages, tailored for foreign language learners with a high quality and experienced teaching staff. Workload intensity increases rather quickly so it's important that you stay on top of the content in early part of the course.

Would recommend having at least two 100 level CHIN papers completed prior to exchange. There really isn't much English anywhere so some character recognition is quite useful prior to arriving.

Go to the Library café and listen for one of the local students trying to pronounce some difficult English words then go offer to help them. They will then be more than happy to help you with your Mandarin pronunciation and make sure you get their WeChat as that is how EVERYONE communicates in China.



