



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	LLB/ Bcom	Major(s)	Finance
Host University	University of Manchester – Alliance Business School	Semester & Year of Exchange	S2 2017

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
BMAN 10901 Law in a Management Context	English	Comm200	
BMAN24291 Operations Management and Strategy	English	MANT200	
BMAN30111	English	FINC303	

Any comments about these papers?

These were all interesting papers, of which had two hour lectures as opposed to traditional 1 hour lectures.

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

All three of these papers contained little internal work with a significant weighting put on the final exam. This can make the end of the semester more stressful but makes it easier to travel during the semester.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Oak House and would wholeheartedly recommend it. It is nicknamed 'The Prison' but don't let that put you off. Although the green cinder block walls are not the most modern looking the rooms are good for what an exchange student needs and this hall was significantly cheaper than

any other hall. Even if this hall isn't for you the best decision I made in regards to my exchange, other than to do one, was choosing the Fallowfield Campus. All of the social activities happen there and I would often see friends from other campuses at my one. There are also buses running approximately every 2 – 5min during the day and 15-30min at night, running all night, which take you into town near all of the night clubs or shops.

Money matters

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

My hall cost approximately \$4000, flights \$2000 although these were booked relatively last minute, insurance of 400 but I was also travelling before and after my exchange. Food is much cheaper in the UK than NZ but as an exchange student you will find you are likely visiting pubs/ restaurants a lot more than in NZ so will still spend a bit. The visa was free if obtained at the border, which is very simple and would be the best way to get a visa. If staying at the Fallowfield Campus it is highly recommended you get a Stagecoach Bus pass for around 110 pounds. This sounds expensive but you use it almost every day including to the airport and nightclubs at 3am. I would also recommend the 30 pound railcard which covers all travel on trains within the UK.

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

I researched pretty thoroughly which travel card was best and found the Kiwibank Loaded for Travel card was significantly better than the Cash Passport offered by other banks. This involved me specially opening a bank account there but was well worth it. Once in Manchester I'd recommend getting a bank account which they will help you do and transferring funds over from NZ using transferwise (or similar, NOT your bank) which gives you the mid-point of the official exchange rate and charges a small fee. This will save you hundreds of NZ\$ over the course of your exchange. Be warned that a lot of places in the UK do not have EFTPOS or will have a minimum card spend to use EFTPOS. Therefore you will always need to carry cash unlike NZ.

Visas & Insurance

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

This was simple, albeit nerve-racking initially. Just arrive at the border with your acceptance letter and expect a couple of minor questions about what you study which are easy to answer.

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?

The Alliance Business School has an International Programmes Society which I would highly recommend. They run lots of good events such as pub crawls, day trips, bowling and mini golf. This is different to the university wide international society which I would also recommend but this is better.

Another club I really enjoyed was the social mixed lacrosse team. It is perfect for anyone that wants to just give a new sport a try and has never played before. There were also plenty of social events associated with this club.

What was the university/ city like?

The university was nice with a wide range of buildings from modern to older than NZ.

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

Make the most of any opportunity to travel within the UK. Ireland and Scotland were well worth a visit. If you purchase the Railcard this will be handy for these trips.

Any tips for future students?

Purchase the Railcard and apply this to your oyster card ASAP.

Overall Experience

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

Going on exchange is one of the best decisions you will ever make. The friendships you will make will be sad to leave behind but it will be all worth it as you feel like you have made lifelong friends. Make the most of all opportunities given to you when over there as it will always be the ones you least suspect which will be the best. Something that I found wasn't well explained or advertised was the reading week you will get in the middle of the semester. This is effectively a mid semester break and a perfect opportunity to go away travelling.

Finally although you will fast get over the constant rain in Manchester it is good to keep in mind that it can often look quite beautiful. This picture is of Oak House in Fallowfield on one of the few times it snowed.

