



## Student Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	Law & Commerce	Major(s) Finance
Host University	ESADE	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
Intensive Prelim Spanish	Spanish	SPAN131	
B&E Global Environmental Challenges and the Business Response	English	MANT 443 or 444?	
Corporate Governance	English	FINC425? MANT350?	
EEO: Sustainability, Business & Values	English	MANT437?? ENTR420?	
Investing for Social Impact: New Approach to Venture Capital	English	Unsure	
Project Management	English	MANT250? MANT251?	
Spain & Catalunya Today: Recent History & Current Affairs	English	SPAN242 and SPAN342	

Any comments about these papers?

Get in quickly – there are very limited spaces in all papers, and I found a very small number of papers that I could actually take (e.g. were in English and didn't timetable clash) were offered.

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

Lots of group work, practicum and hands on learning which I enjoyed. Graded on participation. 3 hour lectures. More 'real life' learning and case studies also which I enjoyed.

### Accommodation

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

Flatting – in an apartment with people that I met over there.

Pros = amazing location, got to choose the people I lived with, freedom

Cons = expensive (mainly big deposit & agency fee that was unprecedented), very very difficult to find accommodation (shortage in the city), majority of people had something sorted before they got there or their home university sorts it out for them – therefore I felt very ‘on the backfoot’ and alone in this situation.

### **Money matters**

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

Accommodation = NZD\$4000 initial fee (included deposit, agency fee and 1 month rent). Monthly rent was 500 euros.

Flights = I travelled to many places along the way, but in general I would say \$1000 each way. Range of flights whilst travelling – an important thing to note (that isn’t mentioned to us) is that during July/ August it is school holidays and peak holiday season in Europe, therefore prices of flights/ transport in general increase exponentially so it is worthwhile planning that period of travel before you go.

Food = Roughly 20 euros a week on supermarket, and another 30 (atleast) on going out for meals/drinks.

Insurance = \$NZD400

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

Credit card & cash passport

### **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?

Absolutely none. This was definitely the let down of my exchange experience/ ESADE. We were told at the beginning that there would be things organised but there weren’t. Definitely something that I think should be told to the ESADE exchange committee in feedback.

What was the university/ city like?

LOVED Barcelona – I think it's the best city in the world! It is big and busy, as expected but on the whole everyone is very friendly. There is so much to do - it has a bit of everything (culture, the beach, nightlife, shopping, food, the mountains etc.) It is also relatively cheap compared to the majority of Europe.

The university is very different to Otago. There is no real 'campus' – just one big building that is rather sterile and has no character. There is no real 'university life' there which was a bit of a shame, and you really do just go for your classes and that's it.

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

- Definitely explore all the beaches
- Go to Montserrat (and hike to the top – don't just stay at the Monastery level)
- Make enough time to see all the main attractions and don't do them half heartedly – e.g. definitely go inside Sagrada Familia
- Bunkers de Carmel
- Good places to visit are Tossa de Mar, Sitges, Valencia, Seville, Granada, Ronda, Malaga
- Make sure you aren't away for La Merce weekend – is normally late September. It's a 3 or 4 day long festival for the city and is amazing
- Go see flamenco – especially at the Palau de la Musica
- Razzmatazz nightclub
- Eating – so many, definitely don't go for ones on Las Ramblas and the likes as they are just tourist traps. Alex (one of the lecturers – defo try take his classes if you can) provides a list of good places to eat so try get that off someone. Favourite restaurants were La Pepita, La Flauta, Casa Lolea, La Xampanyeria

Any tips for future students?

- Definitely say yes to everything you get asked to go to or be part of!
- Do your research and be super organised – e.g. accommodation (hostels) sells out super quickly. I had to stay in a hostel for a few days when I got there, and didn't book until 2 months before I got there as didn't know exact arrival date. Even by then because it was peak season they were super expensive. So either be super organised or even just book and you can always change the date.
- Accommodation agreements/ how they do it seems super weird but that's just the Spanish way – e.g. they are accustomed to signing a contract before seeing the full agreement or apartment, or taking the money before the contract is signed.. stuff that would seem wrong to us but they operate that way! Do keep your eyes and ears open but also be aware that they aren't trying to rip you off, this is their custom
- On that note – to do be aware of theifs and pickpockets. They are everywhere and I think I was one of the few that got nothing stolen. If you just have your wits about you you'll be fine (e.g. don't leave your backpack on your back on the metro etc. etc.)
- Take spare eftpos/ credit cards – my card details got stolen and my card cancelled and NZ couldn't contact me to say so for a few days so its always good to have options.

**Overall Experience**

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

I absolutely loved my exchange experience, and the city of Barcelona. I found it was a time that I really grew as a person, and became much more confident. Coming back I found that I no longer 'sweat the small stuff' and know that if something goes wrong it's not the end of the world – a lot goes wrong when travelling that you learn to cope with. The people that you meet will be friends for life. I still am in contact almost daily with my friends over there – the hardest part is being so far away!

One thing that I would definitely advise is that although it is tempting when over there (as so far away!) to go travelling every weekend to see everything, I would definitely try and spend as much time as possible in your host city. Otherwise you completely miss out on the experience of actually living in that country. I think I spent two weekends away from Barcelona and it was the best decision, as a lot of people who went away every single weekend found that they didn't meet as many people or make the most of the experience.

Enjoy every aspect – say yes to everything! You will have the time of your life and only regret the things you didn't do, rather than the things you did.