



## Student Exchange Evaluation – Lucy Kitchin

### Basic Information

|                        |                             |  |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Otago degree(s)</b> | <b>Bachelor of Commerce</b> | <b>Major(s) Management</b>             |                 |
| <b>Host University</b> | ESADE – Barcelona           | <b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b> | Semester 2 2017 |

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

| Course title   | Language of instruction | Otago equivalent                  | Otago credit value |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Espanol Intensivo</b>   | English/Spanish         | Culture paper                     | 2ECTS              |
| <b>Project management</b>  | English                 | Project management                | 4ECTS              |
| <b>Global Environmental challenges and the Business response</b> | English                 | Sustainability                    | 4ECTS              |
| <b>Supply chain management</b>                                   | English                 | Supply chain strategy             | 5ECTS              |
| <b>Corporate Governance</b>                                      | English                 | Business Ethics                   | 4ECTS              |
| <b>Communication and Leadership</b>                              | English                 | Developing responsible leadership | 4ECTS              |
| <b>Business Writing – Professional Summaries</b>                 | English                 | General Commerce                  | 2ECTS              |
| <b>Art and Culture in Spain and Catalonia</b>                    | English                 | Culture Paper                     | 5ECTS              |

Any comments about these papers?

I was not initially meant to take Business Summaries and the Art and Culture, however it was the best I could organise considering the circumstances and had it confirmed by Bronwen. The actual amount of papers offered to international students is low and it is very tricky to find enough to fill 30ECTS that do not clash and are equivalent to home university.

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

Some had a very heavy workload – especially Corporate Governance. Interesting to manage 8 papers at once compared to the normal four we are used to at Otago.

## **Accommodation**

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

We stayed in apartment accommodation that we organised once we got to Barcelona. We had to stay in a youth hostel for 2 weeks before we found a place we could move into. It was quite stressful and they expected a large service fee for the agency.

## **Money matters**

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

Accommodation was 500 Euro a month plus 1000 bond and about a 400 euro service agency fee. Flights about \$2000 NZD, Visa about \$90, Food was cheap about 30 euro a week for generous groceries shop, insurance was about \$400.

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

Cash passport was very good.

## **Visas & Insurance**

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

Yes I had to apply for a Spanish student visa through the NZ Spanish Embassy in Wellington. You get in contact with the embassy and they send you the form to fill out and you send it back to them with your passport and they do it in about a month.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance? Unsure

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

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

The university didn't organise anything very much for incoming students, no o-week activities like we have at Otago. There wasn't much to get involved with at ESADE apart from classes. I don't know of any sports teams etc.

What was the university/ city like? I absolutely loved the city of Barcelona however the University feels like a concrete jungle and not very personable.

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.? Barcelona has a never ending amount of places to visit. Local bar areas after 9pm are very genuine Spanish and a great vibe. A small place just out of Barcelona was a good day trip named – Tossa Del Mar.

Any tips for future students?

Contemplate whether or not you want to organise your accommodation beforehand. Was stressful sorting it out once there. Get in contact with a student who has been there before as it is the best way to get information as the Exchange staff do not reply to emails and do not give much information.

## **Overall Experience**

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

The exchange experience was a once in a lifetime experience. Barcelona is an amazing city to live in, with incredible architecture, food, beach, culture, fantastic transport. The university itself is not as pleasant as Otago, do not have many events at the beginning to meet people. Definitely do the

Spanish language course for 2 weeks at the beginning as this is really the only way to meet people apart from class. Definitely take a culture paper as you learn so much about the Spanish culture and Art and this lets you appreciate the city so much more. The hour of transport between accommodation in Barcelona and ESADE in Sant Cugat was slightly long but all added to the experience of living in a big city. There are so so many activities to do in Barcelona and the beach is a great place to appreciate the heat of the city. The metro pass (T-Jove) for students is very well priced and lasts for 3 months so is very good for getting around everywhere around Barcelona for the semester. The Spanish culture is amazing and the nightlife is one of a kind, the Spanish sure know how to celebrate everything. A big highlight being the La Merce Festival and the Correfoc (Fire Dancing/Show). I would not change my semester experience one bit.

