



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	BCom	Major(s)	Major: Marketing Management Minors: Management, Chinese Language
Host University	Fudan University	Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester One, 2018

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Management Information Systems	English	Similar: MANT300 level	
Managerial Communication	English	Similar: MANT222	
Organisational Behaviour	English	Similar: MANT300 level	
Organicational Communication & Its Social Context	English	Similar: MANT200 level	

Any comments about these papers?

The paper Managerial Communication was extremely basic but one of my favourites. It was very interactive and a small class made up of mainly exchange students, but the content was slow paced and very elementary (e.g. we would spend two hours each on writing emails, grammar and punctuation, active listening etc.). Management Information Systems would have been the paper I found more challenging but still not too difficult. One of the harder aspects of all papers was the fact that class participation made up 20% of the overall course grade, and it was a little bit difficult to continuously contribute in class when every other class member is also trying to say something to gain participation marks.

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

Papers at Fudan are taught in one two or three hour block per week. Instead of combining lectures and tutorials the sessions were more like a classroom style with smaller rooms,

classroom activities and participation marks. Fudan was a little bit confusing and unclear regarding the assessment structure as you would get no schedule of assignments, instead (for example) you would be told you had a 20% essay due in three days, and this made it hard to plan weekend trips away to explore other parts of the country.

Accommodation

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

I chose to stay in the Fudan Foreign Dormitory in the Main Building in a single room (#1505). My room was on the 15th floor and cost around \$120NZD each week (which had to be paid upfront on arrival). My room included a bed, wardrobe, bedside cabinet, bookshelf, desk, long desk/bench/storage thing, small balcony, and an ensuite (Western toilet/basin/bath/shower). I was on the 15th floor and overlooked another university campus (not Fudan) which I really liked as it meant I was looking down on greenery and a sports track. Odd numbered rooms face this direction, and the even numbered rooms face the Fudan campus, overlooking the supplementary dormitory buildings (not as pretty) and the Shanghai skyscrapers (pretty at night). In the lobby of the dormitory there is also a small convenience store open from 7am – 11pm which is where I bought all my water and spent too much on snacks! There are so many stray cats on the Fudan campus too, and in the lobby of the dorms I got to watch a family of kittens grow up during the months I was there. Often these cats wander the floors in the dorms and love coming into your room and onto your bed which I loved, but they are quite dirty and not exactly overly people-friendly so I wouldn't suggest trying to pick them up. Even though there were over 500 students in the same building as me, it is not a social scene and in the 5 months I lived there I only saw 6 people on the same floor as me (even though my floor held 30 people!). Despite it being the international students' dormitory this doesn't mean everyone will speak English, and I found that most people wanted to keep to themselves.

Pros:

- On campus
- Own bathroom
- Nice views
- Meet some people
- Quick to fix any room issues (like my broken shower head)
- Can rent a mini fridge from the lobby

Cons:

- Staff in lobby speak no English
- Rooms are very cold in winter
- Have to top up electricity card
- Have to set up your own internet/buy modem/internet card etc. (very confusing!)
- Far away from a metro station (closest metro is a 15-20min bike away)

Money matters

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

I received a PMSA (Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia) and the Westpac Travelling Scholarship so this meant that all of my costs like accommodation, flights, insurance, visa and a food stipend were covered. If you eat every meal at the canteen using your student ID card (which you add money to) then you could get each meal for \$1 - \$4 NZD. However this becomes old quite quickly as the food there is extremely oily and often cold as they cook most of it in such big batches. My favourite spot in the canteen was upstairs at the canteen close to the dorms (there are multiple canteens) as you could get food cooked on the spot for you there so it was much fresher and nicer. I am vegetarian and found that going to one of those food stalls in the canteen was best as then the cook would customise it and make it veggie for me which was great. If you want to eat Western food in China then it is still cheaper than it would be for the same meal in NZ, but it is still more than I would be spending on a normal student budget. These type of meals are what hit my wallet hard, but the brunch scene in Shanghai is so good and a very social event, so my friends and I would go out two – three times a week for a Western brunch and then out for dinner a few times a week too. This meant I was spending more like \$10-15 NZD on a Western meal like breakfast, but it was worth it to get to know people.

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

To survive in China I would say that it is imperative to set up a Chinese bank account and link it to your WeChat and Alipay. Everything in China is paid for using QR codes and either your WeChat account or Alipay account, no one uses a credit card and hardly anyone pays for things in cash. It's so easy to just scan the QR codes and pay, it is something I'll really miss when I return to NZ! I used ICBC and it was relatively simple, you just need to go to a branch (I went to Wujiaochang, under the Line Ten metro) and bring pretty much every important document you have – passport, fudan letter etc., as they are quite particular. It took around 2.5 hours to set it all up.

Visas & Insurance

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

Fudan sent the important JW202 form and enrolment letter to Otago, who forwarded it to me. This is used in the application for your visa, alongside the form you download online and complete. I was in Christchurch over summer so it was easy for me to visit the Christchurch visa office. I have had Chinese visas before so I knew the process, and it was all completed and ready for pick up in a few days. I only applied for a single entry visa, so if you wanted to travel to Hong Kong/Taiwan/Macau or other countries like Vietnam/Japan then you would need to pay more and get a multiple entry visa.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes they did, I think it was \$400 rmb (roughly \$80 NZD) and I bought it in the lobby of my dormitory the day I arrived.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There is a Foreign Students Association that organises several activities such as dumpling making, orienteering, an initial ice-breaker day or movie nights and I went to a few of these but I wouldn't necessarily recommend them. The dumpling making was good, and the orienteering was a good way to get to know my way around campus.

What was the university/ city like?

Shanghai has always been my favourite city in China and I really enjoyed living there for a longer period of time. It is much bigger than anywhere in NZ with 24 million people, but the public transport system is efficient and easy to use so it's not a problem. The Fudan campus is also very beautiful with many lovely gardens and open spaces. Most of my lectures were held in a big building in the centre of campus called Guanghua, which is very ornate with marble staircases and statues.

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

Eat:

- La Bamba (mexican bar popular with Fudan students)
- Egg (for brunch)
- Liquid Laundry (for brunch)
- Monsey (salad bar near international dorms)
- RAC (for brunch)
- Element Fresh (western chain)
- Wagas (western chain)

Visit:

- Tianzifang
- Zhujiajiao water town
- Disneyland
- French Concession
- Bund
- Fake markets (under Shanghai Science & Technology Museum, metro line two)

Attend:

- Kiwi drinks
- Expat events (check website SmartShanghai for weekly events)

Any tips for future students?

Download these apps:

- Baidu maps
- Eleme (food delivery)
- WeChat
- Alipay
- Metro map

Overall Experience

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



