



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Fudan University
Semester & Year of Exchange	2018, Semester 1
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Accounting, International Business

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Organisational Behaviour	English	MANT339	3
Foreign Business Investment	English		2
Organizational communication in its social context	English	MANT222	2
Managerial communication	English	MANT300	3

Any comments about these papers?

Foreign Business Investment was really interesting, one of the papers I've been most passionate and interested in at University so far. It was by far the most challenging and gave real insight into foreign business investments from a global perspective, with emphasis on China.

The other papers were below average in terms of content and interest.

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

The workload was minimal. The style of teaching was very "spoon fed", which I really disliked. The University had impressive networks and connections- one class had a workshop with Harvard MBA students where we helped them understand Chinese culture (as they were in China only 2 weeks), and assisted their consulting to real life Chinese companies (a definite highlight of the semester!)

Accommodation

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

Off campus apartment. The positives were that it was an amazing apartment in downtown Shanghai for the same price as student accommodation, and I lived with other exchange students/interns/entrepreneurs who were in their 20's. I made incredible friends as well as great career connections. The only negative was that it was quite stressful to find, as real estate in Shanghai is quite competitive. If you find a room you like, you must pay the deposit then and there, and there are also many scams to be aware of. I also had to find a replacement for my room to get my bond back which is standard for Shanghai, but a little stressful.

Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$130 NZD/week

Flights: N/A (I didn't fly from New Zealand or back to New Zealand)

Visa: \$80 + \$100 NZD to add an extra entry once I was in China

Food: \$100 per week (eating out almost every meal, so could be much cheaper)

Insurance: \$400 for the semester for travel insurance + \$80 NZD for compulsory university insurance

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

I used my normal debit card to withdraw cash, would then deposit it into my Chinese bank account, which was linked to my wepay/alipay accounts, and then use my phone for every day transactions.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, you must go to the embassy or send in the passport, with a pile of documents that are very specific. I did mine last minute so had to pay an express fee, however it was all done within a day. As long as you are organised and have the exact documents the embassy requires it is very easy.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes- \$80NZD for semester

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Some cultural activities. It wasn't a hugely "university culture", however in saying that I didn't take up all the opportunities or live on campus so there may have been more available.

What was the university/ city like?

The university is stunning, a really enjoyable experience. I LOVE Shanghai. It's such a lively city and there is always something going on.

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

I would recommend living downtown rather than at university as it lets you live and breathe Shanghai life. Definitely see all of Shanghai's tourist attractions, as well as surrounding cities. Eat at

small local, sometimes slightly questionable-looking places for the most authentic, tastiest and cheapest meals.

Any tips for future students?

Take up every opportunity China has to offer. There are network events, social sports teams, festivals, travel opportunities.. the list goes on. Try to make friends with local Chinese people, it may seem like too much effort but it is amazing the different side of China you are able to see with their experience.

Overall Experience

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

My exchange was the most amazing semester of my life (and I've had some pretty good semesters at Otago for far!!). I lived in a penthouse apartment with 10 other international exchange students, interns and entrepreneurs. The network and friends I made while over there was incredible, and I had SO much fun. I scheduled my classes so I only had class two days a week, which gave me the time and opportunity to take up an internship with an international firm. The party life in Shanghai is also lots of fun, as is the food, the culture and the people. I was surprised at how international the city had become since my last visit in 2015- it's truly an international city and I found it really easy to adapt to the new environment. The opportunities were incredible, not just in terms of networking, internships and work opportunities but also day to day opportunities such as having an event, a social sport game or a catch up with new friends, which happened almost every day of the week.



Left: During Chinese New Year at YuYuan garden lantern festival- one of the best places to see the lanterns in China.

Below: Apartment view, downtown Shanghai



Above: A sculpture at a festival where we camped for 5 days in the middle of nowhere.

Right: Tea farmers having a rest in tea fields during our hike.

