



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of East Anglia
Semester & Year of Exchange	Spring Semester, 2019
Otago degree(s)	BA
Major(s)	English

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
PORTRAITURE AND IDENTITY AMAA4025B	English	100 level Art History	18
CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY LDCC6104B	English	300 level English	18
VIRGIL'S CLASSIC EPIC LDCL6055B	English	300 level Classics	18

Any comments about these papers?

Really interesting papers! Really great ideas and teachers, with a lot of room for individualised interest within the course material.

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

Rather than a couple of classes a week, UEA often only offered one class per paper a week, which would take the form of something like a 3 hour tutorial. Coming from 1 hour tutorials, I found this overwhelming at times, but also meant that I had a lot of days off and a lot of downtime, which an emphasis on self-taught material.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in a Standard Twin Ziggurat at UEA accommodation. This was the cheapest accommodation, much cheaper than flatting, and I enjoyed myself immensely. It was right in the heart of university campus and was very warm in England's cold winter. As I was sharing a room, there was a certain lack of privacy, although you do have a small dividing wall between the beds, but I shared the room with a friend so this wasn't a big issue for me, but might be for others. The Ziggurat's are very big, you have 14 people in one flat, no lounge area, and the small communal kitchen is often very messy, not to mention loud in the evenings. However, the environment really suits someone that is social and into partying.

Money matters

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

Flights were about \$2000, accommodation was about \$140 per week, and food is about the same as it is in New Zealand. Supermarket shopping is cheaper, but cafes and restaurants cost a bit more.

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

I used a Cash passport for most of my trip and really enjoyed this, as I could load up other currencies and use it just about anywhere. It's handy if you're going to be loading large amounts all at once, but otherwise a NZ debit card works just fine. Large amounts of English businesses don't except cards though, especially taxis and small cafes, so make sure to always carry cash.

Visas & Insurance

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

Nope, no visa!

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Don't think so?

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Just the usual clubs and societies scene, however I got the impression these were a bit more chill and laid back than Otago ones. All of them needed a fee to join, so be picky!

What was the university/ city like?

The city is beautiful, just really old and whimsical but without the annoying crowds of larger English cities. The university is a decent walk away from the city- about an hour's walk or a half an hour bus in, so that can be a pain at times and a bit isolating, but the bus timetable is really good and useable.

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

The Norwich lanes are great for exploring, plus check out the Cathedral and the Marketplace! Book lots of trains and buses in advance and check out the nearby English towns and villages. Cromer is a great daytrip, and so is Bury St Edmunds!

Any tips for future students?

Norwich isn't a culture shock city, and this can be either viewed as good or bad. I found it a nice, comfortable place to spend 6 months and just chill out. If you're a keen traveller, I would look for something a bit bigger and a bit closer to a major airport. However, if you're keen to just travel around parts of England, this is definitely a great city.

Overall Experience

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

I'm not going to say I made the best friends of my life on exchange, I didn't. Hell, I didn't even make any good ones. I didn't really experience culture shock, and I didn't pick any particularly challenging environments to enter into. However, that being said, I still really enjoyed my exchange. I wanted to get away from Otago for a bit, particularly escape the Dunedin of my high school years, and so I went to the other side of the world and just chilled out for a bit. It was just really relaxing to not have to worry about grades, and rather get the chance to explore a new city and country for myself. I would recommend the exchange experience to anyone that's just feeling a bit stuck or stressed right now, as the experience can help you get a fresh, more clear perspective on things in general.