



OTAGO GLOBAL

Student Exchange Programme

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Otago Global Student Exchange

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My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of East Anglia
Semester & Year of Exchange	S1 2019
Otago degree(s)	Bsc
Major(s)	Neuroscience

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Portraiture and Identity	English	NA	18
American Art and American Photography 1900-1950	English	NA	18
Social and Affective Neuroscience	English	NA	18

Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed doing papers outside of my usual degree with the art history papers and found it enriching personally and skills wise for improving my essay writing and research. The lecturers for all the papers were really engaged, knowledgeable and helpful with any questions I had. I learnt a lot of new skills and content which will help me in my Otago studies and I would recommend the papers I did to anyone else studying at UEA.

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

The experience was quite different from my Otago studies, mostly due to studying in the humanities department I think. The lecture style was much more seminar like, with smaller classes and more interaction with the lecturer (even at 100 level papers), the lectures were also much more commonly 2 or 3 hours at a time and only once or twice a week, lending what felt like much more non-contact and self-directed learning. The workload was less than I have experienced at Otago, with the assessment format in my experience, being either coursework or exam, but not both for one paper.

Accommodation

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

I stayed on campus in university accommodation in a building called the Ziggurats. It was great being on campus because the university is a little way out of the city and the accommodation was of good quality, really warm, convenient and very social. The halls were very different from Otago, with no residential college culture or RAs. The only con was that most second and third year students live in flats so was only living with first year students.

Money matters

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

Accommodation: ~\$150 p/w

Return flights: ~\$3000

Food: Supermarket groceries are cheaper in the UK but ate out at restaurants a lot so am not sure of a good estimate! A weekly shop was about \$40-50NZD and a standard restaurant meal about \$25NZD

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

I used my debit card but would recommend getting a cash passport so you don't have to pay overseas fees. Many places in the UK do not take card so you also need to be able to withdraw cash.

Visas & Insurance

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

I did not need to apply for a Visa as I entered the UK as a short-term student (6 months or less).

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were lots of organised activities for exchange students such as day trips to different parts of the UK, quiz nights, treasure hunts and pizza nights. There are also lots of great societies at UEA for all students. I did salsa dancing and film society which were both great. I definitely recommend going on the group day trips as they are usually subsidised and you get to see different cities without much admin yourself and with a big group.

What was the university/ city like?

The university was founded in the mid-1960s and is a campus university about a 20 minute bus ride from the city. The buildings are all in brutalist architecture style and are set in a huge surrounding field, woods and a lake. All the students relax out on the grounds on nice days having barbeques playing football and games. There is a student bar, convenience store, cafes, bookstore all on campus as well as a large common room that turns into a nightclub on Tuesdays and Saturdays, as well as being a popular concert venue in Norwich. The Sainsbury Centre for the visual arts is right on

campus, housing the art history department, 2 cafes and an art gallery with one of the best private collections in the UK and hosts excellent exhibitions. Sportspark is also on campus, which has a swimming pool, track, courts and gym facilities.

Norwich has a vibrant and cultured city centre, with a permanent outdoor market, great shopping and café scene. There is a castle from the Norman period and the remains of the ancient city wall still stand in some places. Cobbled streets and Tudor buildings house an eclectic mix of bars, restaurants, cafés and independent stores in the Norwich Lanes. There are also great river walks and many events always on.

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

Cromer is a seaside town on the Norfolk Coast, about an hour by train from Norwich, which is super cute and cheap to get to. In addition, the great train and coach transport means it is easy and affordable to get to London (about 2 hours by train and \$20NZD if you book a week or so in advance, you can also get cheaper coach tickets). In Norwich, I recommend going to the cathedral, the castle, exploring the lanes and going for walks around the lake. Biddy's tearoom, Bread source, Kofra and Strangers were favourite cafes as well as Grosvenor's for classic English fish and chips and The Fat Cat for a pub!

Get a copy of the book Norwich by Shhh Collective when you get there, it has a perfect list of the best shops, cafes, events and things to do around Norwich.

Any tips for future students?

Make the most of going the LCR on campus, go the exhibits on at the Sainsbury centre and explore the Norwich cafés and bars!

Overall Experience

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

I had some of the best times of my life on exchange at the University of East Anglia in Norwich! Studying papers outside of my degree at a different university, on the other side of the world meant I gained lots of new skills and experience not only from the paper content but the style of teaching and culture difference that I know will improve my studies back at Otago. The university has a great campus and Norwich is a really cultured, historical city with a vibrant student population and lots of great cafés, bars, restaurants, shops and ancient relics to explore. Being not far from London and only a half hour plane ride from Amsterdam means it is also a great place to explore the rest of Europe from, making the most of travel was some of my favourite memories of exchange!

