



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	LLB/BA	Major(s)	Politics
Host University	Dublin	Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1 2018

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
AMST30190 Public Diplomacy (L3)	English		12
LAW30450 Family and Child Law	English		10
LAW30610 Commercial Law	English		10
LAW30820 Private International Law	English		10
POL20240 Trump, Brexit and Global Politics	English		12
SLL30110 Politics, Culture and Religion	English		12

Any comments about these papers?

The Trump paper was taught entirely through group assignments so was quite a heavy workload for a 200 level paper, commercial law had a lot of similarities to 200 level property law at Otago. Public Diplomacy is really interesting and the lecturer is quite engaging.

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

A lot more internal based assessment but other than that was similar, just a bit more work doing 6 courses rather than 4, though had to do arguably less for some, but not by much.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in a hall called Ashfield and it definitely made easier as it can be quite far to get into UCD and Dublin transport is expensive which made me feel like I was back home in Auckland. Ashfield was really good though hard to get in has the process is quite quick and you have to be on to it to get a room though mine went reasonably smoothly. As long as you keep checking you should be fine. Ashfield rooms each had an ensuite which was very nice. Some of the smaller 4 person apartments in other halls had some trouble with fridge space, but I had two so was fine. The kitchen had only 4 elements for 6 people which were induction, and if you turned them on all at once then it wouldn't work very well but it wasn't a major issue as we often ate at different times.

Money matters

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

Accommodation for the Semester, flights around 2k, visa was NA as have British Passport, insurance NZD\$406. Food around 40 – 60 Euros a week, not including restaurants

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

Travel card with Kiwibank worked really well and was easy to use for the most part, though Dublin was a very cash-based society which took some getting used to, which is similar to most of Europe so cash is essential.

Visas & Insurance

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

No Visa needed as was in the EU with an EU passport

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?

The residential halls put on many events such as 5 a side football, yoga and quiz nights, there was always something happening and is a great way to get involved and meet people. In Dublin they have clubs for just about anything and they are really cheap to join. Surf club is a really popular one as they go on a lot of trips and are very social, and you don't even have to surf to get involved, and the film society and French society had free breakfasts.

What was the university/ city like?

The university was a very large campus that had lots of facilities such as a great gym. The classes were generally nice, though as always there was some construction going on. There are 2 reasonably sized ponds with nice grassy areas to sit. A bit far away from town but you mostly have everything you need on the university grounds and is an enjoyable place to live.

Dublin was small for a country capital but vibrant and full of history, lots of sights to see and things to do. The pavements are kind of small in terms of walking space, but you get used to it. The river Liffey runs through the city and many good food places and shopping is around the river area.

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

Great Japanese if a bit pricey is Yammamori, you probably won't be eating out that much due to the distance from campus to town so enjoy it when you do. If you are into burgers there are a lot of good burger places in Dublin, such as Bunsen, for vegetarians or vegan's Cornucopia is a must. For those looking for a sweet treat Queen of Tarts is very tasty. There is a great arts scene in Dublin that caters to all kinds of tastes. The free comedy shows at the Stag's Head bar are really good.

Any tips for future students?

Carry cash in decent amounts as it is a very cash-based society. Make sure you get a student leap card as otherwise you will be paying exorbitant rates to get into town. Make sure you keep an eye on what events are on in the city as there will be lots of things to do.

Overall Experience

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

Overall my time in Dublin was one of the best semesters of my life. I made so many great friends and met people from all over the world. The classes were interesting and had a noticeably different perspective than over here, so especially with politics it was great to experience that difference. Being able to travel around Europe so easily and cheaply was amazing, I got to take weekend trips to so many different countries, something which is very difficult to do in NZ, and the ease of movement and intermingling of cultures was something that I loved. I made tons of great friends all over the world which was another huge plus. While the public transport is quite expensive and a bit frustrating at times, it wasn't enough to detract from the magic of Dublin and I would definitely go back.









