



## My Exchange Evaluation

If you are thinking to go on exchange to Vienna or somewhere, you should definitely go!!!! You will not regret for sure! Vienna is located in the centre of Europe! Easy to access to other cities and countries.

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Vienna University of Business and Economics
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 1, 2019
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Accounting, Economics

### Academics/ course load

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>	<b>Otago credit value</b>
Advanced Microeconomics	English	ECON300	18
International Macroeconomics	English	ECON202	
Management Accounting	English	ACCT302 or 307	18
International Financial Management 2	English	ACCT300	18
Life in Britain and the U.S	English	ENGL100	

Overall, papers in Vienna and in Otago are pretty different in terms of structure. Most of courses I took were formed for small number of students, around 30 people. Classes were not like lectures, more like tutorials in Otago. Unlike Otago, most of courses take attendance and if you miss more than 2 classes, you can no longer continue courses. Also, most of classes are 2 to 4 hours long, but professors gave us short break in-between, so I could manage to do. There are two types of courses I took. One of them is called block courses/intensive courses. Block courses are a course which finishes whole content in the short period of time like in a month, but you will have 3 hours long classes 3 times a week for a month, pretty intense but difficulties depend on courses. I heard some block courses are easy. If you would like to travel somewhere, you should take these courses. In fact, most of exchange students take them. If you are majoring in management or marketing, you have heaps of choices for block course, but if you are majoring in accounting and economics like me, there are not many. Another is just normal course just like Otago. Classes are held over a semester.

## Block courses;

- 1) **Management Accounting** – This was actually an easiest course I took while on exchange, because this was pretty much the same as what I have learnt in ACCT222. I felt ACCT222 is harder than this, but this course is equivalent to ACCT302 or 307. You should definitely take this course if you are majoring or minoring in accounting. This course was a block course and finished in 6 weeks, I finished this course in the mid-April. The first class was held in the beginning of March and then I had 3 weeks to prepare the presentation with my classmates. The topic of the presentation was not like one I had in ACCT222 (case study). All I had to do was to explain one of the topics in management accounting like variance analysis and pricing method. Unlike Otago, the professor really did not assess our presentation skills because all students in the class got full mark for presentation. Only exchange students were able to take this courses.
- 2) **International Financial Management 2** – This course was also a block course but it was a little different from management accounting. This course consisted of 2 parts. The 1<sup>st</sup> part was more theoretical and the 2<sup>nd</sup> part was more calculations. The course was alright for me. At first, I found difficult because I only had 1<sup>st</sup> year-level of background knowledge of finance though, but after I reviewed slides of classes, I was fine. So it was not really hard. But this course is equivalent to ACCT300. Unlike management accounting paper, the paper started in the end of Feb and finished in the beginning of June. But I only had 6 classes and 2 tutorials in total. For grading, there are 3 assignments and all of my friends who submitted got a full mark. So as long as you submit your work, you will be fine. That's why I feel this course was alright. The class consisted of both exchange and domestic students.

## Normal courses

- 3) **Advanced Microeconomics** – At first, this course was the hardest. But, after all, it was not that hard. Of course this course was advanced and was not easy. But questions in midterm and final were pretty similar to questions which the professor used as examples.
- 4) **International Macroeconomics** – Overall, this course was the hardest. The topics were alright. I think it is similar to ECON112. But, the professor made exams extremely hard. In class, what she talked about was understandable and easy. But in exams, she asked more advance things. Maybe, I did not prepare for exams enough. But most of my friends said the same thing.
- 5) **Life in Britain and the U.S.** – This course was not that easy, but was really most interesting course I took in five of them. But I had to study a whole textbook myself because in classes, professors did not really cover the book at all and they focused more on what is happening today in both Britain and the States. Also, contents in textbook were just huge. The topics covered in this class were like history, social life, geography and politics.

## Accommodation

I stayed at one of the dorms operated by Oead called Molkereistrasse. I am really satisfied with the choice I have made to live there. There is an amusement park nearby. It is really beautiful at night.

### Pros

- Close to uni (7 mins walking)
- There was the community for exchange students.
- Super close to supermarket (30 sec walking)
- Clean (Cleaning ladies clean your room and kitchen once a week.)

- Close to two stations (Mess-prater and Praterstarn; Praterstarn is one of the biggest stations in Vienna. Pretty convenient.)
- Bed linen and kitchen stuff are provided.

#### Cons

- Loud (but not louder than Castle street or Hyde Street)
- Wifi was not sometimes fast.

## Money matters

I went from Japan to Austria and did not need visa and health insurance. So I cannot give an advice about flight, visa and insurance.

You should definitely get a pass called semester pass, which costs around 80. And you can use this over the semester for all transport systems within Vienna (excluding to Airport). Transporting system in Vienna is amazing and with your semester pass, you can go anywhere within Vienna and can explore Vienna easily!

For food, I spent around 160 Euro per month. it was not that expensive to buy vegetable and fruits compared to Dunedin.

I paid 480 Euro per month for my room, which is totally worth it.

Unlike New Zealand, some restaurants, bars, and shops do not take card payment. I opened my bank account in Vienna, but I did not really use it. Mostly I used credit card and if I needed cash, I withdrew it from ANZ. If you do not bring your credit card with you, you should open a bank account to avoid transaction fee every time you use card. Most of my friends who opened bank accounts and I used the bank called Erste bank. There is a branch near university.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

There is like a student association called EBN (Erasmus Buddy Network). It organises trips and parties. Also, you will meet your buddy and s/he helps you everything. They even pick you up at the airport and pick your key up for you.

As Vienna is located in the centre of Europe, it was really easy for me to travel. I had been many places in Europe; Croatia (Zadar, Zagreb, Split), Italy (Milan, Rome, Venezia), Austria (Salzburg, Hallstatt), Czech Republic (Prague) and Netherland (Amsterdam).

Vienna is known as the most liveable city in the world. I agree with it. Austria was the first European country I have been to, so when my friends told me Vienna is one of the most beautiful cities and the cleanest in the world, I did not really get it. But, after I went to different countries in Europe, I realised how beautiful and clean Vienna is! I did not drink tap water when I went to other countries except Austria. But tap water in Austria is drinkable and is actually really good (maybe better than New Zealand). Unlike New Zealand, restaurants charge customers for water and if you do not want to pay for water, just order tap water. This is what I did!

Vienna University of Business and Economics is also known as WU and is modern university. It looks really new for some facilities, but some are not. I have been to University of Vienna, which is located in the centre of Vienna. It was just like one of the museums in Vienna. It looks really beautiful and more like Otago campus. No offense, University of Vienna is much more beautiful and sophisticated than Otago.

As you will get the semester pass, you can go anywhere with it without extra costs incurred. What I always did when my friends and I have free time was to take a train and get off at a random station and explore there! It was so fun and you can actually see the real life in Vienna.

## Overall Experience

For me, going on exchange was kind of a last-minute thing. But I am glad that I made this choice. I am already an international student in Dunedin and knew how it is like to live in a different country far from home. But I had a lot to learn in Vienna! Studying in Vienna was not that hard when compared to in Otago and also most of exchange students come to have fun. If you consider going on exchange, answer from me is absolutely YES!!! You can get an amazing experience while on exchange!