



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Bristol
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1, 2019

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
ARCH10014 – Evolution in Action	English	100 level	
SOCI10008 – Sociology in a Global Context	English	100 level	
PSYC10008 – Intro to Developmental Psych	English	100 level	
PSYC10009 – Intro to Biological Psych	English	100 level	

Any comments about these papers?

The lecturers for ARCH and SOCI were lovely and very approachable when I had questions for the essays. The PSYC papers were both half a semester each, purely lecture based, and were tested by 2 one hour MCQs at the end of semester. The papers were all manageable and everything was podcasted except for tutorials.

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

I haven't done any social sciences papers before so not sure how it compared to Otago.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Deans Court, which is a self-catered postgraduate hall in a really central location, off Park Street. It is divided up into flats, everyone has an ensuite and there is a communal kitchen. Because it is self-catered you have to supply all of your own cutlery, crockery, pots, etc which is annoying to deal with on arrival. They also don't provide any bedding at the halls so I had to buy pillows, sheets, and a duvet.

I was originally placed in Badock Hall which is in the North Village (far away from uni and town) and catered, two things I really didn't want, but I managed to change after two weeks. It had very

average food and only provided 2 meals per day, no lunch weekdays and no dinner on weekends. As I did the exchange when I was 23 it was nice being in a postgrad hall rather than the largely first year hall. I really liked staying in Deans Court but would also recommend the Courtrooms and Riverside from what I saw of them.

Money matters

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

- Accommodation: £164/week, which was ~\$320/week
- Unsure about flights as I booked through a travel agent and travelled to North America afterwards
- Visa: no cost
- Food: I was very bad at tracking this so I'm not sure. Eating out at cafes and restaurants is more expensive than NZ and the supermarkets would be the same or slightly cheaper
- Insurance: unsure as covered North America
- Laundry: ~\$5NZD/load in the washing machine and ~\$3/dryer load at Dean's Court

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

I opened a bank with HSBC, it was a bit of a hassle as I was only there one semester but it worked out fine. It didn't have an ATM fee for withdrawing money which was good. I also had a Kiwibank loaded for travel card which was handy as I could load up Euros, Pounds, American, and Canadian.

Visas & Insurance

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

No, Bristol university generated a study visa which is valid for 6 months. I kept a printed version with me for entering the UK after travelling. I didn't have any problems with it.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Insurance was mandatory for my hall and included in the accommodation price.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

The Bristol Uni study abroad arranged a meet up for study abroad students. I think the Erasmus student network may have organised a couple events as well, although I think they might be more active in second semester (their first semester). We had a massive WhatsApp of all the study abroad students which was used to set up events. I had a bunch of friends from NZ that were overseas at the time that I travelled with but I also did some trips with some of the study abroad students. I'd recommend planning trips with your fellow study abroad students as well as exploring around Bristol and Bath.

What was the university/city like?

The university seemed a bit unorganised when we first arrived. We had to sign up for our papers in person going to all of the different departments during set times on different days. Some people were turned down for the papers they chose even though they were approved by their uni back home. Besides that initial period everything ran smoothly. The Study Abroad office were very nice and helpful if I had any questions. The campus is a bit more spread out than Otago but has quite nice grounds and really old pretty buildings, although they are often quite cold. The city reminded me a bit of a cross between Dunedin and Wellington.

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

Make sure to get out of the main uni area, go explore Stoke Bishop and go along Gloucester Road. Do a day trip to Bath, it's really easy to bus there. You can also catch a bus to Cardiff very easily. On a nice day go up Cabot Tower to get good view over Bristol or go out to Ashton Court Estate. Go for a walk along Spike Island, out to the Clifton Suspension bridge, and check out the Banksy art around the city.

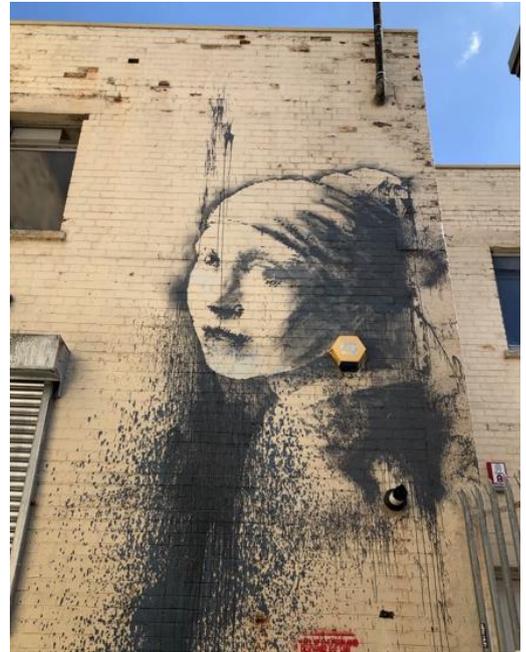
Pinkmans on Park Street is a super nice bakery and has really good doughnuts. Make sure to get down to The Apple, a cider boat on the Harbour and try the Old Bristolian. If you want to do any shopping there's Cabot Circus, and also a lot of op shops on Gloucester Road and Park Street. Bristol is also very vegetarian and vegan friendly, you can even get a good vegan/vege Sunday roast for £10 at the Volunteer Tavern.

Any tips for future students?

Bristol is a great place to stay but also a great base to use to explore Europe. Bristol airport has heaps of flights all over Europe, keep an eye on Skyscanner for cheap ones. Bristol also has a great music scene, it has Love Saves the Day and the Dot to Dot Festival at the end of May, Glastonbury is not too far away if you manage to score tickets (you need to register months in advance), plus lots of gigs and concerts throughout the year so definitely get amongst.



Bath after the snow



The Girl with the Pierced Eardrum, Banksy



Old Man of Storr, Isle of Skye



Clifton suspension bridge



Seville, Spain



Lake Bled in the Easter break