



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of East Anglia
Semester & Year of Exchange	2019 – Semester 2
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science
Major(s)	Computer science, Economics, English Minor

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
CMP-6039A – Human Computer interaction	English	300 level Computer science paper	18
PPLP5167A- Philosophy Of History And Politics For Second Years	English	200 level Philosophy paper	18
LDCL5074A – The Short Story	English	200 level English	18

Any comments about these papers?

History and Politics for Second Years was a paper that I didn't originally intend to do. All of modules I took were very interesting and different to what I had done previously.

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

All my workload was internal compared to having large external exams at Otago. I found that workload outside class time was higher, with more required readings. There was also a greater focus on verbal explanations in lectures rather than having power point slides – you needed to be at class to learn.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in one of the many campus accommodation blocks, a place called Wolfson close. I lived with 8 other local students from around England. Most of them were first years. My accommodation was one of the cheapest on campus and had shared bathrooms, but it definitely met all my needs. I was only 4 minute walk from all my lectures and anything I wanted to do on campus. I really enjoyed my accommodation and made good friends with all my English flat mates. Really enjoyed it.

Money matters

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

Return flights - \$3,000.

Accommodation - \$220 a week.

Food & Drinks- \$70 a week.

Insurance - \$300 – travel insurance

Travel around UK and Europe - \$2,000

Visa - Free

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

For money I got a loaded for travel money card in NZ. This allowed me to create different online wallet in different currencies for no charge. Most of my transactions were via this eftpos card. Sometimes I had to get cash out, but this was a \$10 charge, so I would usually get a large amount of cash out to last me a long time.

Visas & Insurance

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

I got a short term study visa for students studying for 6 months or less. This visa was free and I got it at the airport when I entered the UK. I had to show some basic printed information such as conformation of course acceptance accommodation and evidence of adequate finance. The whole presses took about a minute. I found out all the information on Visas - GOV.UK, and this caused me many hours of anxiety working it out, but I got there.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

I can't remember to be honest.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There was a large number of sports clubs at UEA, and there was no class on Wednesday afternoon as this time was reserved for sports competition. I joined the UEA Men's rugby team, and I had a great time playing and sometimes traveling to nearby regions of England to play. The social side of the sports clubs were also strong and there were many opportunities to socialise and go drinking. I also went on many great weekend trips around Norfolk which the university ran on weekends. This include going to the beach or walking in woods. In terms of partying – there is one club/bar on campus which students go to on Wednesday/Saturday nights and they hold many great themed parties which are always fun!

What was the university/ city like?

UEA campus is quite different to Otago University. It is like its own little village with a mini supermarket, coffee shop, bar, night club, gym, sports venues, and heaps of great and bizarre accommodation for students (mainly first years students). It was about 30 minute walk or 10 minute bike from the centre of Norwich. I could walk from my accommodation to most lectures in about 5 minutes. One of the nicest parts of UEA campus is the surrounding woodland area and Lake, which is amazing if you like going for a scenic walk right outside your door.

Norwich city is low key as English cities go, yet it is full of history and art, and has great pubs. Norwich was once the largest city in England. It also has the third oldest castle in the UK and a market that's over 900 years old at it centre and open every day. There are many great cathedrals and old building around the town centre, plus many great and unique eat places.

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

I would recommend going to all the big cathedrals and Norwich castle, especially if you are into your history. The city centre market has many great foods to eat, and lots of the eat places around the town square are great. The night life is interesting and wild, they even have an upstairs area in a club that is kitted out like a Boeing 747.

I would recommend making day trips to places near by to Norwich, including fish and chips at Wells on the cost, or visiting the famous university town of Cambridge not far away.

Any tips for future students?

I think that living in university accommodation with 8 other new students was a great call. I got to make great friends with all of them, and it felt nice to be so close to everything. I was fortunate enough to form a small and tight group of international friends, and I did a lot of exploring around Norwich, Norfolk, and even many European countries with them. Take any chance to travel you can. I flew to Poland for \$50. In terms of travel, my one tip is to take time in the place's you go. Get lost in it, learn about it, and do not try to rush through a check list. My best adventures were very loosely planned, and a lot of it involved walking and observing. Any place you go has something interesting and different. I would rather go to a few places for a while and immerse myself rather than stopping at many places quickly. While Europe is often cheap and close by, the UK is an underrated place and deserves attention.

Overall Experience

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

The whole exchange process was one of the best things I have ever done. I had nearly 3 months to travel around the UK and Italy before my exchange started. I explored and travelled by myself around southern England, Wales, and Scotland. I planned out my own little adventures and just turned up, walking full days between youth hostels, experiencing some beautiful and wild countryside. From small towns to some of the great cities of the world, everything was so different to what I had previously experienced. Just walking around is a great way to see the culture and attitude of a place. I also had many relatives to visit and stay with on the way.

The university was a completely different experience to Otago University. I enjoyed having a fresh start, and was fortunate enough to make some good friends and experience some great times. I also visited 4 new countries during my autumn semester, (Sweden, Poland, Slovakia, and Austria) which were beyond amazing. I had some challenging times, but I got through them and I would say I grew as a person.

