



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

LLB/BA	Sociology
Otago degree(s)	Major(s)
University of Manchester	Semester 1, 2018
Host University	Semester & Year of Exchange

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Laws 20242 (Crime, Law and history)	English		15
Laws 20732 (Principles of Law, Medicine and Ethics)	English		15
Socy 20962 (Racism and Ethnicity within the UK)	English		18 (but had this credited as 2 Otago papers as it was 60 Manchester points)

Any comments about these papers?

At University of Manchester, you do not necessarily get your first preference for subjects, and that unfortunately happened to me. I was happy that I did get one of my choices, that being, *The Principles of Law, Medicine and Ethics*. I found this super interesting, although some of the law confused me, as I had to switch between NZ and British law. The Sociology paper I did find interesting, however I would have preferred to do something different. The Legal history paper I did not enjoy but that is purely because I have no interest in Legal History and kind of just got stuck doing it, as I needed a subject that would fit within my timetable.

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

I actually found the workload a lot lighter than the load at Otago. I think this was because I am used to doing 5 papers, however in Manchester you only do 3. The academic staff are super helpful and are always available at your request, which was great! The style of teaching is a lot more involved and you are expected to participate a lot more than you would at Otago, but I really enjoyed this as you engage with the subject material a lot more.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in the equivalent of a first year hall, which is what most exchange students do at UoM. My hall was called Sheavyn House and I have absolutely no regrets staying there. I also had an American exchange student who was in my flat of 10. I was really lucky with my flat as they were all outgoing and super friendly. I chose self-catered accommodation as I am in my 4th year so didn't really want to go back to hall food after not having it for so long... Lots of people I knew chose to do catered accommodation, however they do not feed you on the weekends and you do not get fed lunch either.

Money matters

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

My flights were cheap on the way over but not on the way back, so if possible try to book a return ticket as it could work out cheaper for you! My flight on the way over was 800 NZD and was Wellington -> Dubai -> Manchester. However, on the way back it was 1400 NZD and went London -> Singapore -> Christchurch -> Dunedin.

In terms of food, England is a lot cheaper than New Zealand. I probably spent around \$ 45-60 on food per week including meat most nights and with enough for leftovers.

Visa wise, I did not need a visa as I have a British passport.

My accommodation was more expensive but worth it, I think, as some of the other places my friends were in were quite dirty. I had my own ensuite, which was fabulous, and my room was a really good size!

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

I used both my ANZ bank card and a AirNZOneSmart Travel card which was really useful when travelling. I also had a cash passport as my backup option in case I lost my Onesmart Card.

Visas & Insurance

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

No

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?

I got involved in Sporticipate which was like a friendly social sport organisation. I would play netball every Monday night with my mates and got to meet new people. I also joined the International Society, which was great! We went on lots of day trips with the group to places I wouldn't have otherwise gone to and got to experience the UK.

I would've liked to join a sports team properly, however I arrived in their Semester 2 so all of the teams were already sorted and their sports season was coming to an end unfortunately.

What was the university/ city like?

The University Campus itself isn't actually too big which is nice, everything is reasonably easy to find. The campus is quite pretty with lots of old buildings and there are plenty of places to sit and have lunch with friends etc...

The city of Manchester itself is very vibrant and a great place to live! Manchester has fabulous nightlife and the people are quite friendly and especially love to hear you are from overseas.

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

There are so many places to visit and I suggest that you go to as many places throughout the UK as you can! I was lucky as I had no class on Wednesday and used this time to get to places like the Lake District, Glasgow and a few cities in Wales.

In terms of eating, if you live in Fallowfield you are close to the Curry Mile! This is a mile full of mainly curry restaurants, which are amazing, and super worth it, definitely go to Ziya, it is towards the end of the mile.

Attractions wise I am not a big soccer fan, however if you are, there is the Manchester United Museum and Old Trafford grounds you can visit and have a tour around.

Any tips for future students?

Throw yourself into life at UoM! It can be a bit weird at first as you do feel incredibly lame for going to things like 'afternoon tea socials' and 'games night' but these are the places where you will meet other exchange students! I would also recommend getting to know your flat as well as you can, this may seem obvious but you will be surprised at how busy you get! Your flatmates know where the good places are for nights out and are able to introduce you to British culture and their friends as well.

Overall Experience

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

Going to the University of Manchester I was somewhat nervous when I hopped on the plane. I had been to Europe once when I was younger on a family holiday so I wasn't too sure what to expect! However, I have no regrets choosing to go to Manchester and wish I had stayed longer as time really does fly! To make this easier I am going to break it down into several parts, those being University itself and academics, social life/accommodation and travel.

University and Academics.

University of Manchester you will be happy to find out has a lot lighter workload than that at Otago, so academically I did not find it challenging. What I did find challenging was the system you have to go through to choose your subjects and arrange your timetable. On arrival you will have an exchange introduction and you will be told to fill out a variety of forms and sort out your timetable. I suggest you do this ASAP, I did not and ended up with classes that I wasn't very interested in. In Manchester classes fill up, unlike in Otago, so do not be alarmed if you do not get your top classes on your learning agreement, this is normal. You are in charge of filling out all of your paperwork and making sure you are enrolled in a tutorial, unfortunately the international coordinator is not as helpful as the ones back home so you are left on your own a little bit, but you will figure it out.

The University itself is not too big which is nice and is easy to walk around. I usually left myself at least 20-25 minutes to get to class from Fallowfield as I caught the bus most mornings and sometimes there is bad traffic, especially for 9ams.

In terms of lectures, mine were quite relaxed. I had around 8-11 contact hours a week depending on which weeks I had tutorials. Lecturers do expect you to be a little more involved than they do at home in Dunedin but it isn't too intense. The amount of work you are given isn't too difficult either, I had one assignment for 2 of my subjects and then 3 exams at the end of the Semester.

Travelling.

Travelling within the UK is so easy so I suggest you do as much of it as you can. Travel is super cheap within the UK and if you plan to do a lot of it, I would recommend getting a 16-25 rail card as these give you good discounts! For example, if you wanted to go to London for a couple of days and booked in advance with a rail card it could be around \$20-40 NZD for a ticket to get there which is ideal. As well as travelling throughout the UK I also did a bit of overseas travel, in my Easter Break I went to Paris, London, Rome, Lisbon, Seville and Granada all in 3 weeks! That trip I would say cost me less than \$1000 NZD including flights, accommodation, food etc... you just need to plan ahead!

If you are going overseas do not take checked luggage with you it is a waste of time! I bought a small backpack, which had wheels so I could drag it when I got tired. Make sure you check the measurements on the bag, lots of bags have on them "Ryan Air approved or Carry on approved, so go for those!" I put 3 weeks of my stuff into there as most budget airlines allow you two cabin bags, provided one goes in the hold of the aircraft. However, Easy Jet does not allow this, so try and avoid flying with them where possible as you only get the 1 bag, even a small cross body bag they will count as your bag.

In terms of accommodation whilst you are overseas, Air bnb is great if you have a big group of you and it often works out cheaper as you can cook your food etc! Otherwise, hostels are also a great

option depending on what you are looking for. Always choose a hostel that provides lockers as unfortunately not everyone is as nice as you may think they are. I had my wallet stolen in Lisbon as I left it in my backpack on the ground and forgot to lock it and it got nicked, so that was a lesson to learn! If you are travelling solo definitely find a hostel that does activities together, even if you do have to pay a bit more you meet a lot more people and will have more fun!

Social Life/Accommodation

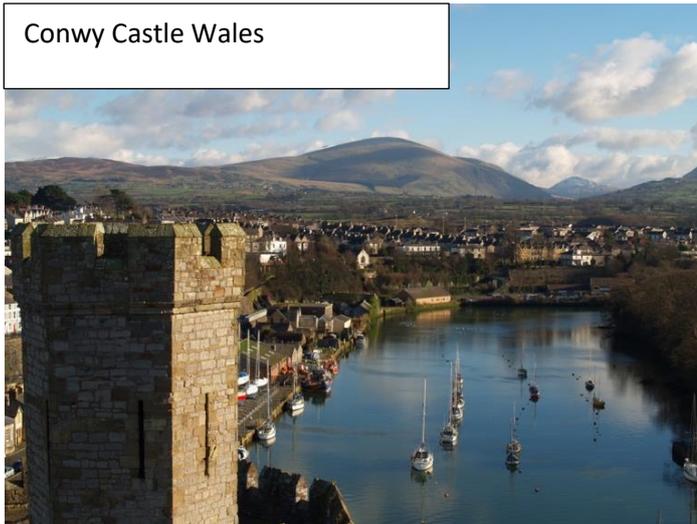
Manchester has an absolutely insane nightlife, there is something on every night of the week and Mancunians love to go out and have fun! There are heaps of cool bars in the Northern Quarter, we found one called Kosmonaut which had a hilarious music bingo night on every Wednesday. Alternatively, there are tons of nightclubs you will no doubt end up in. In Manchester people do not start drinking until around 10pm and they then head out around 12/1, so you will be in for a couple of late nights out, but you just have to embrace it! Manchester also has a great music scene with many different bands playing throughout the year so be sure to look into that!

I found it difficult at the start of my exchange to make friends with people from my flat because I arrived in their second semester so everyone already had their friendship groups etc, however you just need to put yourself out there and get involved as much as you can! My flat was super lovely and it was really sad to leave them. The international society is also a great way to meet new people and they hold functions regularly. Many of my friends were exchange students with my good mates being from Sweden and Germany, which was cool.

Overall, having the opportunity to go on exchange is one you should definitely take up for grabs! You meet so many new people from all over the world and you have the best time of your life! It is an unforgettable experience.

See photos below.

Conwy Castle Wales



Lisbon Portugal



The Alhambra Palace Granada



The Colosseum, Rome



Stonehenge

