



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

<i>Host University</i>	University of Exeter
<i>Semester & Year of Exchange</i>	Semester 1 2018 (Exeter semester 2)
<i>Otago degree(s)</i>	BCom
<i>Major(s)</i>	Accounting

Academics/course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Advanced Financial Reporting	English	ACCT315	18
Financial Markets and Decisions	English	FINC3XX	18
Accounting, Organisations and Society	English	ACCT3XX	18
Finance and Society	English	FINC204	18

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

The workload is fairly similar to Otago. One difference is that the lecturers teach the tutorials, and during these tutorials students are expected to be engaged and vocal. The main difference is the marking schedule, where any grade above 70% is considered a top mark and 40% is a pass.

Accommodation

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

I stayed at James Owen Court, which holds both exchange students and first year English students. Each room comes with an ensuite which was great! The room is completely empty when you arrive so be prepared to sleep on a bare mattress if you don't arrive early enough on move in day to go to the shops. Primark or Poundland are super cheap places to stock your room.

Money matters

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

My flights were around \$2000. On average I spent between £40-60 a week for food, clothes, etc. If you are planning to travel, I would recommend using RyanAir or EasyJet for flights and HostelWorld for accommodation.

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend?

I used a OneSmart travel card, which was easy to use and convenient. The cards only cost was a monthly fee of \$1 and had very competitive exchange rates.

Visas & Insurance

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

I didn't need to apply for a visa as I was staying for less than 6 months and not planning to work. This is classified as a short term student visa. Each time you enter the UK, you will need to show your acceptance letter and proof that you are planning to leave the UK within 6 months.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were many activities and societies available to students (mostly found online through the students guild website). Social quizzes were also very popular. My favourite activities were the weekend trips around the UK (which all cost under £10).

What was the university/city like?

Exeter is quite similar to Dunedin, so if you're looking to travel but want easy comfort Exeter would be a good choice! Everything is also within walking distance.

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

The Old Firehouse for pizza is amazing, while Cheesy Tuesdays at Unit One was always a fun night out. Wednesday afternoons are reserved for sports games and then nights are for social sport gatherings, so I would definitely recommend joining at least one sports team.

Any tips for future students?

I would highly recommend travelling around the UK and Europe any chance you get. During semester 2 (Otago semester 1), Exeter doesn't have a mid-semester break but they have 5 weeks off between the last week of classes and the beginning of exams. I used 3-4 weeks of this time to travel. After exams, you will often have at least a month before the second semester of Otago begins so that's another perfect time to travel.

Overall Experience

My exchange was the best experience I've ever had! England was a great place to choose as it was easy to travel across the UK and Europe. There is also so much to see and do and I can't wait until I can return to see more! Exeter does have an international airport but commonly only the expensive airlines fly out from there. To get around this, I would recommend travelling to Bristol which is only an hour away. I also got the chance to travel to Dublin for St Patrick's Day which was an unforgettable experience. Overall, I travelled to 14 countries with other exchange students which was definitely the highlight of my exchange.

This is a once in a lifetime experience so just do it!!!

