



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University College Dublin
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Otago Semester 2, 3rd Year
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Arts
<b>Major(s)</b>	Politics, Philosophy & Economics

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Terrorism & Political Violence	English	POLS 300 Level
Gender, Religion and Colonialism	English	POLS 300 Level
The Philosophy of Nietzsche	English	PHIL 300 Level

**Total Otago credits gained:** ☐ 54 points ☒ 72 points ☐ 108 points ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments about these papers?

Although I thought the outside research was interesting, I found the style of teaching for Gender, Religion and Colonialism to be a bit unhelpful. We had the readings, then the lecturer would talk about the readings for an hour and then each week a group also had to present about the readings. So sometimes it felt like we were repeating the same information around 3 times.

Terrorism and Political Violence was a really interesting paper, very well rounded. Teacher is lenient if you hand things in a bit late.

Philosophy of Nietzsche was a difficult class in terms of the content, but I did find it really interesting - lots of reading required for this one.

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

Less tutorial/lecture time and less assessments but bigger weighting. Difficulty level of classes is on par with Otago. Grading scale different, 40% is often a pass (except they may mark slightly harsher)

## Accommodation

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

Belgrove Student Residence.

Pros: right on campus so close to my friends and my classes, was quite simple to sort out (so didn't have to worry about getting scammed), good accommodation hub area, free gym was close

Cons: really small for what you're paying, one small fridge for 4 people, have to pay for washing and drying each time (and often they didn't work), hot water could be unpredictable

## Money matters

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

In NZD

Flights: about \$4500 for there and back (I used a travel agent and flew on Emirates though so might be cheaper)

Accommodation: equivalent of about \$490 a week

Food: Unsure exactly, varied week to week. Food costs from supermarket are definitely cheaper than New Zealand

Insurance: around \$600

Washing/drying: around \$8 each time

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

Wise Card, this was quite simple and easy! Can access lots of currencies quickly.

## Visas & Insurance

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

No, have a British Passport

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Did have to have some form of insurance, but they didn't have one specifically for that University. I got the insurance that Otago recommended.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Many cheap clubs and organisations! Would recommend a sport as fees were much cheaper than at Otago. I did a radio show for Belfield FM which I would also recommend. Film Club is cool as well as they have a whole cinema, and you only have to pay 2 Euros to watch heaps of movies throughout the term.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The university was quite big, with lots of people around all the time. Pretty good classrooms/facilities. Lots of different coffee and food areas around the campus. Student bar open during the week. University is good at emailing about events.

The city is about 40 mins bus ride from university. City can be super busy, especially on the weekends. Lots of pubs, shopping and music in the center of Dublin.

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

Cliffs of Moher, Guinness Storehouse, Sugarloaf Mountain, Free Derry Museum. Get a spice bag with curry sauce. Go to Phoenix Park for a walk and to see the deer. The Hairy Lemon for a drink! Also go visit the different towns and cities (Galway, Cork, Belfast, Derry etc.).

*Any tips for future students?*

Go to live music! There is so much cool music in Ireland. Learn a bit of Irish (it's not necessary as everyone speaks English) but a nice way to get involved in the culture more. The buses will often be late so just factor that into your journey time. Also get a student leap card and an ISIC card! Student leap card gives you half price public transport and ISIC will give you heaps of discounts. If you want to go into Temple Bar, go in to have a look (but do not buy anything unless you want to spend 2x the amount you would anywhere else).

## Overall Experience

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

Dublin was really cool! The whole culture and environment was incredibly welcoming and there was always something to do. The people are really nice there and super easy to have a chat with anyone, so not much of a culture shock which was nice. There were lots of events both with the university and just in general. Pub culture is definitely a thing! Very easy to buy cheap flights to travel. Overall I really loved my experience, If it wasn't so expensive I probably would have stayed past my exchange and tried to live there full time! I would highly recommend!





