



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	ESADE
Semester & Year of Exchange	2024 Semester 1 (Spring Semester)
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Majors (Marketing and International Business) Minor (Spanish)

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Art & Culture in Spain & Catalunya	English	SPAN300
Español Intensivo: Intermedio	Spanish	SPAN300
Español Intermedio	Spanish	SPAN300
Marketing from Strategy to Action	English	MART3xx
Marketing and society: Values and Change	English	MART3xx
Supply Chain Management	English	MANT3xx

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

All fantastic courses. I would highly recommend encouraging students to take intensive classes (J Term) as well as extensive classes (normal term). I also highly recommend the Spanish language and culture classes.

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

I found the level a lot easier than at Otago, and the workload was very manageable. However, it is impossible to change classes, so be careful during the selection process. I had to drop two classes and received zeros for them because I signed up for too many courses, thinking it was better to have more options in case I made a mistake in the selection process. It's quite common not to have an exam (which is nice).

Accommodation

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

I stayed with a company called Live Further in Eixample. Great flat, great roommates, great location. A very reliable company—I would recommend it to everyone.

Money matters

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

My rent was 695 Euros a month. My flights were roughly 2400 Euros return. It's important to buy Spanish health insurance, as the one recommended by Otago is not accepted by the Spanish Embassy. I used a company called Sanitas.

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

I used a money app called Wise. This helped me avoid fees. In Spain it is important to carry cash as sometimes cards are not accepted.

Visas & Insurance

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

The visa process was VERY challenging. I had to fly to Wellington for a meeting at the Spanish Embassy. I then had to surrender my passport and it was sent back to me by courier.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Not my host university but the Spanish government requires a Spanish health insurance agency. I used Sanitas.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were a lot of ice breaker events that I recommend all future students get involved in.

What was the university/ city like?

The university itself was very social. There were lots of introductory exchange events and social gatherings organized. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of crossover between exchange students and regular semester students, which was a shame.

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

Los Bunkers del Carmel, La Sagrada Familia, Casa Batlló, Mercat dels Encants, Parc de la Ciutadella. I am happy for anyone to ask the Exchange Office to pass on my details, and I would be glad to help with recommendations or assistance in general with the exchange application process.

Any tips for future students?

You will probably go over budget. I did not anticipate the amount of traveling the exchange students at ESADE do. They tend to leave Barcelona every second weekend to explore other countries due to how cheap flights are around Europe. So, be prepared to spend more than you are anticipating.

Overall Experience

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

Overall, I absolutely loved ESADE University and Barcelona as a city. The Spanish people are so kind and welcoming and are really interested in meeting and hearing about our life in New Zealand. For many Europeans, visiting New Zealand and Australia is a dream, so you really do become a representative for our country.

My Spanish improved so much, but honestly, don't be intimidated by the language. Many of my friends didn't know any Spanish before coming on exchange. Generally speaking, people here speak a lot of English, so you won't struggle to communicate.

Don't be intimidated by the stories of mugging and theft in the city. Obviously, it is a prevalent issue, but if you take appropriate actions to be careful and keep your valuables safe, you will be absolutely fine.

I made friends from all over the world and did a lot of traveling around Europe.

The teachers and staff at ESADE are incredible. They are very passionate about their work and become friends more so than just staff. They are really committed to knowing you as a person.

The night and social life in Barcelona is incredible, and it definitely starts and ends a lot later than we are used to in NZ, so be ready for that.

I am very happy I went on exchange and grateful for the exchange staff at Otago for helping make it happen.

If anyone is interested in ESADE, I would be happy to answer any questions. Don't be intimidated by the difficult visa application; it is totally worth it.