



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	St Gallen University
Semester & Year of Exchange	S2 2024
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Science and Commerce
Major(s)	Mathematics and Finance

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Be the Change – Sustainable consulting	English	
Asset backed commodity trading	English	
German A2	English	
Climate Now	English	
Comparative political economy	English	

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

Any comments about these papers?

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

4 hour classes once a week. Much more practical and hands on – less of being talked at and more of talking with. Some days I would have 8 hours of class but I actually quite liked it. You became closer with others in your class and got to collaborate more.

Accommodation

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

Uni accommodation – it was expensive but very nice and you got to meet lots of other exchange students. I got my own bathroom and had a very large room for student accom.

Money matters

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

Flights – 3000 NZD, accommodation – 850 CHF per month (1700NZD ish), food – 50 CHF (100 NZD) per week, insurance I had to purchase two types – 800NZD (total) + 39 CHF (80 NZD) (per month)

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

Wise card is the easiest – you can make international payments and switch currency easily

Visas & Insurance

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

Uni applied for my residence permit for me so it was an easy process – I did have to pay 97CHF before I left then 140CHF when I got there so was an expensive process – these are all hidden costs that aren't really told before leaving either

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes, so I had to buy two lots of insurance. In St Gallen I would recommend Swisscare insurance.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Lots of organised activities (the Buddysystem was great for exchange student events – including fondue and parties, hiking and skiing weekends and lots of trips to local sites). Many other clubs and societies you can join too.

What was the university/ city like?

Lovely small city (80,000 people) and university (10,000 people). It is a business school and one that is quite hard to get into so everyone is very motivated. The city is small but lovely and so beautiful.

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

Eating out is expensive but there are so many other things to do. There are many hikes around and small cities, beautiful cathedral, chocolate and cheese factory, Shutzengarten beer and Appenzeller wine factory, free wildlife park and many skiing spots around in the winter.

Any tips for future students?

It is an expensive place to go – there are lots of costs when I got there that I didn't plan for including extra insurance and my residence permit so go prepared to spend more than you think. I went to Konstanz to buy my food as meat was a lot cheaper and buying a half fare pass for public transport was very handy.

Overall Experience

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

It was great! I loved every minute and made friends for life. I managed to go to 17 countries during my time and highlights included Oktoberfest and skiing. I loved the study life but also made the most of getting out and exploring. I managed to fit all my uni into 3 days so I had a 5 days weekend every

week and could spend more time travelling. I could not recommend going on exchange more – whether that is to St Gallen or not – it is an incredible experience that is unforgettable.

