



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Prague University of Economics and Business
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1 2024
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Public Economics	English	Economics
Quality of Working Life	English	Politics
World Economy for Exchange Students	English	Economics
International Relations for Exchange Students	English	Economics

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

Any comments about these papers?

All very manageable and enjoyable papers that didn't cause too much difficulty. Most courses require a form of presentation, an exam or/and a midsemester test, and an assignment.

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

Workload was less. The classes are longer but still the same in principle. A lot of open communication within the classes with most being smaller than those at Otago.

Accommodation

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

Eislerova Kolej Dormitory. Is almost a completely exchange student dorm so is a great way to meet people from all over the place. Try to get a single room unless you don't mind sleeping in a small area with another person, have to be quick when the accommodation gets released. Kitchen area is very small but can still work with it. Toilet and shower are good. You have a balcony which is nice. Is worth going to buy or bring a fitted sheet as they don't give you one. Plenty of storage room for clothes and bags as well as a desk and shelves. There is the local bar magneto right beside so is a great place to hang out as not many places in the hall to do so. The gym alright and is cheap, is also a treadmill room. Right next to a corner shop and only a couple stops on tram to the supermarket. 20 minutes on the tram to university and another 5 into the centre so is good location. There is a free to use basketball court and calisthenics gym outside with a football cage, volleyball court, and tennis court you can book as well as a grill you can also book. Table tennis and study rooms also in the dorm. Overall, pretty good experience in accommodation.

Money matters

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

Flights to Prague from NZ are obviously relatively expensive but once in Europe flights, trains, and buses are relatively cheap. Accommodation is very cheap for how long you stay and around Europe hostels are not too expensive. Food is very cheap compared to NZ prices both eating out and from supermarkets. Visa and insurance (you have to get two) is also a little bit expensive but nothing outrageous. Beer is cheap!!

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

I would recommend getting a Wise card makes life very easy.

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes the visa process is long and complicated get onto it early!! All the details are online try not to mess it up will mean have to go to Germany to resolve it.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes they give you all the details.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

The BuddyIS and ESN Prague has lots of trips and events on this is great way to make friends and have fun. Sports wise there are different WhatsApp groups that you can join and play in matches depending on what you like to do.

What was the university/ city like?

The university is pretty basic but the city is beautiful. Lots to do and cool places to explore and hang out very good base for travel to other places as well with it being very central.

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

Prague

Prague Castle
Petřín gardens
Strahov library
Strahov monastery
Petřín tower
Charles bridge
Old Jewish cemetery
Astronomical Clock (be there on the hour & go up it)
Old town square
Letna beer garden
Powder gate tower
Beer museum
National museum
Zizkovska vez
National memorial on the Vitkov hill
Infinity book tower*
Kafka's rotating head
Smallest house
Smallest street
Lenin wall
Lift without doors
Adršpach
Havkickovy Sady
Waldstein garden
Watch Sunset at Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden
National library
Prague city hall
Wallenstein Palace
St Nicholas bell tower

Bars/clubs

Magneto
Dogbar
James dean
Popo cafe
Mavericks

Karlovy
Duplex
Hot peppers
Chapeau rouge
Roxy
Ox club
Lucerna
Anonymous bar
Durdy nellys
Dubliner
Double trouble
Londoner
Bike Jesus
Fuchs2
U sudu
Little bastard
Ankali

Day Trips

Plzen
Brno
Adrspach

NICER BARS

Čili
Anonymous
Alchemist

Food

Havelska koruna
Lokal
Popeyes
Baguetterie boulevard
La patrona
Los adelitas
Pork's
Avoid cafe
Pizza Nuova
U Pivrnce
Yami Sushi Bistro

Any tips for future students?

Travel as much as you can always be doing something because there is so much to do.

Overall Experience

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

The exchange experience was the best decision I have ever made and I will list some reasons why. I have made lifelong friends from around the world who I've made a lot of memories with. This allows me to travel to a lot of places in the future and have places to stay advice from the locals of what to do and people to travel with. I have travelled to a lot of countries, highlights being Croatia, Spain, Hungary, Portugal, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, to name a few. This has been an incredible experience and I have experienced so many different cultures tried so many different foods and have a much better understanding of life outside of New Zealand. It's cheap for what you get every dime was money well spent. The university is easy and a side mission, I still managed to do very well. Prague is the perfect city to go to on exchange there's so much to do so easy to travel the food is very good it is a very good vibe I couldn't speak higher of it. Not too sure what else to write but if your nervous going into it don't be it'll be good just make sure to put yourself out there early on make some friends and do everything that is presented to you. Best of luck.



