



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Prague University of Economics and Business
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 1, 2024
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce and Science
<b>Major(s)</b>	Marketing and Consumer Food Science

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Business Ethics – 3BE324	English	MANT331, 9 points
Social Marketing – 3MG642	English	MART305, 12 points
Marketing Communications, 3MG329	English	MART3XX, 14 points
Lean Six Sigma, 3MA685	English	MANT333, 14 points
Foundations of Entrepreneurship, 3PO633	English	MART3XX, 14 points

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments about these papers?

Social marketing, marketing communications, Lean Six Sigma and Foundations of Entrepreneurship are all papers I highly recommend.

Business Ethics, I would not recommend. The lecturer spoke was hard to understand and the course content and lecture slides were difficult to follow, as it was not structured like Otago.

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

The workload for all these papers was definitely manageable when travelling and I really liked the lecturers in these classes. I found that the teaching style was very different. You had 1 class each week for each paper that was three hours and it was smaller classes more similar to tutorials.

The Assessment style was also slightly different. I found that they had lots of presentations and tests I didn't have to do many case study's or written assignment. The exams at the end of the year were put in the last week of lecturers and more similar to mid semester tests compared to Otago exams.

## Accommodation

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

I was in the Eislerova Kojel. This is mainly an exchange hall with other exchange students so that was a great place to live and it made it easy to meet people. Lots of my classmates were in my hall which was also great.

The hall itself is not amazing as it is very old and you are put into cells with others where the space is not very large. However I would highly recommend being in the hall because that is where most of the exchange students live. It was a lot of fun being in Eislerova and it was similar to being in a first year living situation

I was really lucky as I had an amazing room-mate, however because the bedroom and other spaces in your cell are small and you share a tiny kitchen, toilet and shower between 4 people. So I would highly recommend trying to get a single room which means you get your own room and only have to share the living area with one other person.

## Money matters

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

My rent for my dormitory I think was around \$130 a week for sharing a room. A tram or public transport pass was extremely cheap with the student discount use the ESN card. Download bolt it is Prague alternative for Bolt.

Use Vodafone for your phone plan, there is one in the Pallidum mall.

Food in Prague is cheap compared to New Zealand. The Prague currency is crowns, and there is a supermarket very close to the hall called Kafland or Lidl. Kafland is huge and has everything you need for very cheap.

There is a compulsory insurance that the Prague University wants you to get and I also got the insurance that Otago University promotes.

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

I used a wise card, I would highly recommend this as it made it possible to transfer and use apple pay.

## Visas & Insurance

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

I had a lot of issues applying for a VISA as there was limited time so I would be very prompt as it takes two months.

You also have to wait for the Prague University to send you confirmation documents to apply for your VISA which can be stressful. I would recommend getting all your documents ready 2 or 3 months before you leave if you can.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes it is on the VSE website.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

I joined / made a soccer team with my friends that I made in the hall, and we also played in sports day.

I highly recommend going to Nation 2 Nation events at the start of your exchange.

They have a club that hosts for the exchange students at the start a lot which makes it easy to meet people. Ice breaking weekend is also a weekend you should definitely participate in.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The university is smaller than Otago, felt more like a school. The city was amazing. After class we would head into old town which was a lot of fun to explore and there are lots of cool beer gardens. Prague was my favourite city, I loved finding new things about the city each week.

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

I travelled to Budapest, Spain, London, Poland, Africa, Vienna, Lisbon, Germany, Malta and France while on my exchange (mostly just as weekend trips or midsemester break). I would highly recommend all these places.

My favourite was place was probably Spain, I went to Barcelona, Malaga and Seville. I highly recommend going to Barcelona but also to other places in Spain as it is so beautiful. I loved everywhere that I travelled, my favourite trips were London, Budapest and Vienna were also amazing places.

*Any tips for future students?*

I didn't have much of an issue with language barrier. All my friends spoke English and hospitality usually spoke English. To translate words at the grocery store or wherever you need, I highly recommend downloading the google translate app where you are able to take photos and it will translate the whole photo for you.

I was travelling around every second weekend which was amazing. I would say moving to Prague be prepared to travel as that is what lots/most of the exchange students do you will be on the move a lot. I put my classes Monday to Wednesday so if I wanted to I was able to travel from Thursday to Sunday. Most classes you have to attend and are 20% for participation. I would recommend taking an intensive course.

## Overall Experience

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

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my exchange experience. I think it was an amazing opportunity to travel. I meet a lot of amazing people from all across the world and I am so happy I choose to go to Prague. I loved travelling and I think that because Prague was so central it made travelling cheaper and accessible.

Overall Prague is an amazing place I loved spending the week in Prague and always having somethings new to do. I wish my exchange was longer as there were so many other places I wanted to visit but overall I would highly recommend going to Prague and in general going on an exchange.