



# Exchange Experience Reports

## University of Otago, New Zealand

### Host University Evaluation

#### Reports

**Name:** Isabelle P. **Term Abroad:** F'19 **Faculty:** Management ..... 1

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*Academic life*

**How easy was it to figure out your course selection at your host university?**

- Super simple!
- Relatively straightforward
- Pretty difficult to navigate
- It was complicated and frustrating

**What did the process look like? Was it easy to register in your preferred classes?**

They call classes "Papers", which was quite confusing at first. You would do it online, however I had a hard time to register for some classes that I needed prerequisites, I had to send requests and wait for them to be approved before being able to enroll, which was a little bit of a pain.

**Were your courses as academically rigorous as your McGill courses?**

- Yes, they were as rigorous as my McGill courses
- They were similarly rigorous to my McGill courses
- No, they weren't as rigorous as my McGill courses

**We'd love to know more about the academic level of your courses compared to McGill. Please explain your answer to the previous question using examples, ex: assessments, readings, labs.**

The marketing exam was more of an essay type (3 long answer questions) compared to the MCQ/short essay question we are used to at McGill. If not, overall, I found the workload easier in New Zealand than at McGill (fewer group projects)



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**How did the teaching quality at your host university compare to what you're used to at McGill?**

- It was better!
- Pretty similar
- It was much worse

**Tell us about it! How did it differ from the teaching quality at McGill? What can other students expect from their profs and course work?**

Really helpful. Actually, one of my profs was Canadian, so it was nice to be able to relate to some content he taught in class.

**How would you describe the evaluation and grading methods at your host university? Please select as many adjectives as applies!**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transparent                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Complicated                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand        | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to understand       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Similar methods to McGill | <input type="checkbox"/> Different methods from McGill |

### Student Life

**Were you satisfied by the welcome and orientation services provided to you by your host university?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Pretty satisfied |
| <input type="radio"/> I was able to figure things out, but it took some time | <input type="radio"/> Pretty confusing            |
| <input type="radio"/> Very confusing, I was lost                             |   |

**What is the best resource that helped you find your way at your host university?**

International Exchange office. There is one key contact (Croisella), which you will receive a bunch of emails from her before going on exchange.

**What was the campus environment like at your host university? Please describe your experience on campus with regards to safety, social opportunities, accessibility, etc.**

- Safe, there is security, staff called "campus watch"
- Bunch of clubs, I joined the tramping (hike) club and the Ski and snow sports club, which allowed me to participate in amazing travel weekend getaways.



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### **Where did you live? Was it easy to find housing? Did you receive any support from your host university?**

I live close to campus, through UniFlats (through the host university), you do an application and they pair you with a "kiwi host" and other exchange students based on your common interests, cleanliness, and other criteria. They also choose your flat, so you don't have to worry to find one. If there is any problem (heat, water, etc) you just contact Uniflats and they will take care of it.

### **What advice would you share with students travelling to your host university? Briefly give up to 3 tips!**

It is a university more focused on the science side of things, but there still is a business school, but try taking classes you wouldn't necessarily take back home. For instance, I took a Maori class and learnt a lot on New Zealand's indigenous community and their history.

The campus is beautiful, study outside, watch the blooming of the flowers during spring.

Don't be shy to ask help/questions from your teachers. They will gladly help you.

### **What advice would you share with students who will live in your host city? Briefly give up to 3 tips!**

- Enjoy Dunedin! yes travelling outside of Dunedin is nice and all but enjoy the student lifestyle and just living in another city than home.

Also, for restaurants: go to Home Edition (chinese fusion) and Velvet Burger (amazing veggie burger)

- Shop secondhand, there are so many in Dunedin, they call them "op shops" there, but they are great and help you save!

- Buy a car either alone or share the cost with someone. In my case 2 of my friends bought one, but it came in great handy for hiking, going to the beach etc on weekends!