

UNIVERSITY

University of Otago, New Zealand
Spring 2024 / Bachelor of Political Science

ARRIVAL

Was there a welcome programme for new students?

Yes.

Please describe the welcome programme.

These was some welcome seminars and meetings and an orientation week. In the Original week you could purchase tickets to concerts and go to free events.

Did you join any organisations and/or sports teams?

Yes.

Did you attend a language course before your exchange?

No.

ACADEMICS

Which courses did you attend at the host institution?

I did a Public and International Health Policy paper, a Social Security paper and an Economics paper.

Did you have to change your courses after arrival?

No.

How were the lectures and the evaluation at the host institution?

The lectures were great with engaging discussion. I had a lot of assignments, a minimum 1 per week. The assignment was focused on developing our critical thinking and problem solving as well as seeing if we understood the curriculum.

How satisfied are you with the academic outcome?

Satisfied.

To which degree were the courses relevant to your degree at UiS?

Very relevant

ACCOMMODATION

How did you find accommodation?

The quality of the University flats was not good and quite expensive. My flatmates were amazing and the staff at the University are helpful and friendly.

Approximately how much was the rent per month? (in NOK)

6700.

Any advice for students looking for housing?

Although the flat I got was not the best quality, the process of getting it is very easy. There is a lot of uniflats and some are much nicer then the one I had, with the same price. They place you randomly it seems. Looking in the private market might be cheaper.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

If you received support from Lånekassen, was it sufficient during your exchange?

Yes.

How did you manage your phone subscription, internet, bank account, etc?

I got a SIM card with monthly plans during my stay. I did not change banking in anyway and there was no problem paying with my cards.

Which insurances did you sign before your exchange?

I got the student safe insurance that is recommended by Otago.

Did you travel using environmentally friendly transportation?

No.

Why/why not?

It was 26 hours of flying and 40 hours of travel each way. Plane was the only option and I just went for the cheapest one.

If you had to apply for a visa: How did you proceed?

I had to get a "fee-paying student visa" from the New Zealand immigration website. I had to provide proof of study and sufficient funds, it took about two weeks for my visa to go through.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE

How would you describe your exchange overall?

Great, so happy that I went. Made a lot of friends and got to see and experience so much.

What was the most positive?

Communication with professors and lecturers.

What was the most challenging?

The workload was much higher than I am used to at UIS. However, it benefited my learning.

Would you encourage other students to go on exchange?

Yes.