

A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

Since I'm taking electives while on exchange, I decided to take 2 courses in the hospitality faculty here and 2 in the business faculty. It's nice studying here because 4 classes/semester is equivalent to 5 classes/semester in Ottawa, so although I'm taking 4 classes, I get the credits for 5. I found the classes here a lot more relaxed as the ones I took didn't have any exams - only assignments and group work. AUT is known as the "easy" university in Auckland (more hands on vs. theory focused) so classes here felt like a vacation compared to Telfer.

My classes and their time commitment:

Professional Wine Studies (HOSP701) - 3 hour lecture and tasting every week (get to try 4-5 new wines every week - there's also a trip to a restaurant for one class where you get to try 9 wines alongside a whole pairing menu that's included in the price of the tuition). Supplemental content to review online asynchronously: 1-2 hours per week. Lots of international students take this so if you have any interest in wine at all I would recommend - great way to make friends! The professor is very nice and personable. He really loves wine!

Hotel Management Simulation (HOSP702) - 3 hour interactive lecture that usually doesn't go the whole time. The deliverables are mostly group work so this is a great class for meeting people and making friends. The professor is really kind and liked hearing my stories about Canada.

Digital, Social Media and Mobile Marketing (MKTG703) - 2 hour in-person lecture and 1-2 hours/week for the virtual components. The content is very current and there were many guest speakers as well. Mostly group assignments again, so this is a great class to meet new friends! The professor was very knowledgeable and kind and we had lots to talk about as I'm currently working in the digital marketing world. She made a point to call on my expertise during classes which was really nice.

Organising for the Future of Work (MGMT708) - 2 hour in person lecture and 1-2 hours/week for virtual components. Mostly group assignments again, so this is a great class to meet new friends! This class reminded me a lot of the MIS class we have at Telfer but it's a lot more simple. The professor had a very thick accent but was very kind, friendly and positive!

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.

My classes started at the end of February (February 28th). The registration dates for classes were in the fall - AUT's exchange coordinator is wonderful at communicating with you and

making sure you don't miss any key dates. You can still change classes after you arrive if you desire, but won't have as many options. They really support their students here in a way I haven't experienced before. The orientation day for International Students was February 19th for me but they didn't really have any other important things that week. The first week of classes their student council has a bunch of different events like free food and activities but it's nothing compared to Telfer's frosh week.

We get a 2 week "fall break" in April from the 15th - 26th which is also nice as most schools only give a 1 week break. We get a few days off for Easter weekend but it changes depending on your classes so always double check. The official end date for classes is June 6th and then the exam period begins, however my last deliverable is due June 5th so I can leave New Zealand any time after that (event that evening if I choose). This is one perk of choosing classes that don't have formal exam periods while here.

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

There are so many services offered at AUT and they make sure you're familiar with everything but I recommend checking out the social media for planning out what you want to try out (IG: @autsaclubs). I also arrived in New Zealand a month before classes started so went to get my student card and get my student insurance there set up early. The insurance was around \$500 CAD.

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

I recommend getting a WISE card to pay for everything as it will be cheaper fee-wise than using any Visa or Mastercard (fees for these cards are usually 2.5%). WISE also allows you to transfer money to people with foreign bank accounts easily (unlike most Canadian banks) and you're going to make friends from all over the world so this is a great feature to have!

Flying to Auckland in January is more expensive than in January but worth it if you want to make the most of your time there. The one way flight was about \$1500 CAD but can get to over \$2000 if you don't do your research (I use Skyscanner and Hopper). The flight home I can get for a little over \$900 CAD if I fly home at the end of June and book in March. After March the prices go up a lot (over \$1000 CAD).

Residence is definitely the cheapest option housing wise. Personally, I didn't want to experience living in residence again so I decided to find a long-term Airbnb rental. I messaged a bunch of different Airbnb listings in the area I wanted to live in (very close to campus) and went with the one that gave me the best deal (I got 20% off since I was booking an extended stay). This is

nice because I didn't have to buy anything when I arrived like furniture or sheets, and everything is included in the price (TV, power, heat, water, wifi, etc.). There's even a washer and dryer in the unit so that helps a lot! It's about \$2500 CAD per month and the location is amazing (8 minute walk to campus and right beside one of the nicest parks in Auckland).

I went on a one week trip to Melbourne, Australia before classes started and it cost \$500 CAD for the flights round-trip and about \$400 for the accommodation for the week at the really nice hostel I stayed at (first time ever staying at a hostel). I also did a day trip via a bus company to Hobbiton and the Glow Worm caves and that was \$300 with food included for the whole experience.

For my courses, there weren't any textbooks required to be purchased. I have an AT Hop card (their local bus pass) for transportation and it's about \$2 to go anywhere). Taking Ubers here is about the same price as in Canada. Going on a day or weekend trip to nearby Waiheke island (where there are many wineries and other activities) is \$55 for the ferry round-trip. Taking the ferry to Devonport for a hike or beach visit is about \$5. Ferry to Rangitoto Island (day trip) is about \$30 round-trip.

Food here is a bit on the pricey side, but the quality is so good. The meat and dairy here is much better quality than in Canada. When eating out, the tax and tip is included in the price so while things may look more expensive, they're actually the same price as Canada or cheaper when you factor that in. The school gym is \$12 NZD/week or a cheaper rate if you buy the pass for the whole semester. I walk most places because I live so centrally.

I had about 20k Canadian in savings when I arrived here but am also working while I'm here. I spend about \$4000 CAD/month maximum (housing, trips, food, etc). You can definitely do this on more of a budget, but I want to enjoy myself as much as possible while I'm here.

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

It's very easy to get a NZ student visa as a Canadian citizen. I had to submit my passport and fill out a questionnaire but otherwise, it was super easy. You also had to prove you had at least 10k CAD in your bank account by uploading documents from your bank such as a bank statement. I got it a few weeks after submission. Since I booked an Airbnb, upon booking I had to pay for the first month of rent. Course registration was chill and I did that in the fall but could still enroll when I arrived here if I wanted to change my selection at all.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

11 Durham St. East, Unit 6G. Small studio apartment. I love living alone here! \$2500 CAD/month all inclusive. I got it on Airbnb and I recommend it as Airbnb acts as a sort of

insurance in case there are any issues. My hot water stopped working and they fixed it within 4 days and I got \$100 refunded for every day I was without hot water.

G) Work term (if applicable).

I was working remotely for a company in Canada the entire time I was here and while the time change is a lot to wrap your head around at first, this is definitely doable.

H) Other comments or recommendations.

Use Bumble BFF to make friends. Attend as many events and activities as possible in your first few weeks before you get busy with classes if you want to meet people. Buy a SIM card at duty-free in the airport when you arrive in Auckland. It's the cheapest there. If you don't care about having 2 different numbers, buy 2 at once because once you put it in your phone, it only lasts max. 3 months and then you need a new one. Get creative in the kitchen and change your eating habits based on what's available seasonally because eating the same way you do in Canada probably won't be possible. Certain things are so much more expensive here (especially certain fruits and vegetables). Don't contact people back home too much - live in the moment and enjoy every moment because it goes by much faster than you think it will.

Use the Bounce app if you have any long layovers and want to store your luggage for cheap at certified locations while exploring the cities your layovers are in (I did this in Vancouver and Sydney). Here's the link: <https://usebounce.com/>

Join the New Zealand Backpackers Facebook Group to get travel advice for traveling within NZ and to ask any questions you have. I used it to find a cheap way to rent a van when planning a trip to the South Island with friends.

Use the Roady app (made to show you cool spots to go in NZ) to find new places to discover in this beautiful country that are near and far.

Don't forget about the Canadian tax deadline in April - you'll feel like you're on vacation here so try to get as much of your taxes organized as possible before coming here.

I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

Optional: Indicate the mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number where next year's participants can contact you for more information.

This experience has been so transformative and empowering. Being in NZ helps me focus more on my personal goals as people here are much more laid back and classes are not close to as intense as in Canada. There is a much better school-life balance. It's really easy to plan fun things to do like trips to different parts of NZ, Australia and even Asia. I've been able to grow

my international network exponentially while still maintaining my relationships back home and start working on new projects and exploring new interests.