

# Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

PLEASE TYPE THIS EVALUATION FORM & EMAIL IT TO VICTORIA ABROAD AS A WORD DOCUMENT

## A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Bcom
Major(s)	Finance and Management
Exchange Institution	Dalhousie University
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 2, 2016

## B: Finances

Please detail your basic costs in New Zealand dollars. This will help future students plan their own budgets. (Enter your number rounded to the nearest dollar.)

Books	About \$300
Accommodation	\$2950
Return Airfare	\$3500 I think but also includes my travel with travelmouse
Local Transportation	It was covered by Dal so bus fees were free (had to pay \$75 up front)
Meals	I was flatting at the time so the average meal cost including breakfast and lunch were \$30 a week
Visa	Student Visa
Health & Insurance	Done through insurance company in Canada in which costed me about \$200 for the duration that I was staying
Personal Spending	\$20 a week
Communications (phone, etc.)	Phone bills: \$35 a months (but phone bills in Canada is very expensive),
Other fees (specify)	Power bill were about \$25 a month.
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Dentist fees. I chipped my tooth just before I acquired my health insurance in which costed me about \$200. Also, GST and tips. Everything is expensive in Canada because of tips and GST not being included till when you purchase goods or service. However, Dal offers free gym membership that includes access to swimming pool and sauna was a fantastic deal as an exchange student.

How did your financial expenses compare to what you originally expected to spend?

- I should have prepared more money than what I originally planned. Because, you might end up going on a vacation together with your new friends and I didn't have enough money to plan all that.

By what means did you maintain your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, foreign bank account, travelers checks, etc)?

- I was able to get a casual job that helped me maintain my finances. It paid me well considering I had enough money for rent but didn't have enough for other stuff.

What financial advice would you give students attending the same university as you?

What was the average cost of a can of coke or coffee in your host country?



VUW Trimester 2/2016					
MGMT2601	English	INFO101	15	2	It was really generic but it was interesting. I think later courses are more interesting
COMM/MGMT3309	English	MGMT320	15	5	It was a practical class with excellent lecture. I really enjoyed the way my teach taught us and why the skills we learnt were very important in our future career.
COMM2202	English	FINA 202	15	5	Instead of learning terms and describing the terms, this finance lecture were very helpful. Unlike Vic, lectuer gave us a time to ask him questions if we didn't understand the topic and questions and helped us understand better
COMM3100	English	ACCY306	15	4.5	It was interesting class. Small class but it was useful.

### Course Registration/Enrolment

Please describe the registration process at your host university. What kind of help was available?

- You have to log into their website in order to register for classes. For me, it took like 3 weeks to get all my courses get approved so do it quick. [https://dalonline.dal.ca/PROD/fysktime.P\\_DisplaySchedule](https://dalonline.dal.ca/PROD/fysktime.P_DisplaySchedule)

How successful were you in registering/enrolling for classes you wanted? What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your host university?

- It was hard. Most likely, you won't get a class that you wish you could take but, most classes at Dal are interesting and definitely help you reach the goals that you are setting, at least for Commerce any way.

Do you have any advice for future students when choosing and applying for courses?

- Make sure to do it early and do your research.

## **Academic Experience**

How did your academic experience differ from your time spend at Victoria? Did the academic experience meet your expectations?

- My time in Dal exceeded my expectations. Different work load, loads of seminars and class that are more life experience. For instance, 1 minute pitch in front of a class, video presentation and presentations.

How did the style of teaching at your host university compare with that at VUW? How did the workload compare to what you would expect at VUW?

- Unlike Vic, we get homeworks to do and most of them are worth credit and more practice. So there are some autonomy but compare to Vic there are heaps of home work to do.

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other VUW students visiting your partner university? What specific courses would you recommend to visiting VUW students? Why?

- Make sure to work hard play hard.

What advice would you give VUW students about succeeding academically at your host university?

- Make sure to attend every opportunity that they give. It helps you a lot and helps you succeed.

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your host university?

- Internet access is perfect and main library is not that great but still its open til mid night so if you need to do your work, you can stay there till midnight to finish it off.

If you went to a country where English is not the native language, how did you prepare for this? Were there any intensive language courses provided by the host university?

- I think I would take a language course before and after the arrival

## **E: Accommodation**

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

- Flatting

What were the pros and cons of this form of accommodation?

- For Dal, they only let you stay in the hall of res only if you are staying in Dal for Full year.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

- Hall of res if you can because its easier but if you want real Canadian experience, I do recommend flatting as well.

How early can you move into accommodation?

- It depends on landlord.

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? How satisfied were you with the food?

- Generally, food in Canada is similar to NZ so a bit expensive.

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? What should future VUW exchange students know about living off-campus?

- Very hard to find. Do whatever you can to find an accommodation. Make sure to send an email twice using this website because there are security block and your first email won't reach out to the person subletting a room. <http://www.kijiji.ca/h-city-of-halifax/1700321>

Do you have any tips of advice for future students when applying for accommodation?

- Use this websites and keep an eye on facebook page for Dal. <http://www.kijiji.ca/h-city-of-halifax/1700321>

## **F: Personal & Cultural Connections**

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students?

- It was really easy to make friends with international students. For us we organized a social page for international students to join and arranged a plan. For Canadian buddies, I would recommend to join a club or volunteering to find Canadian friends.

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange country/university?

- Not much because it is lot similar to NZ culture but, a lot more fast paced.

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? How would you recommend students to prepare for these differences?

- Try not be too slack about everything. Especially, some stuff are totally different in Canada.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

- People in Canada are generally kind.

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?

- I was respected and everyone including staff, faculty and students were kind and lot more goal oriented.

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university? For students who are visible minorities in your host country? For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?

- I don't think, there will be any trouble for disabled students join Dal. They will definitely support them and treat them equally with respect. If there is a problem with anything, let them know. They got you covered.

Did you face any issues regarding discrimination in your host country? What were they, and what advice would you give to future students?

- No

## **G: Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

- One thing that I really regret was that I didn't join any sports club. If you find a club that you like, make sure to give it a try instead of walking away.

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?

- Hangout with friends and go many places as you can, but to make sure to do your study as well.

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus? Off-campus?

- It is hard to find an on-campus work. For me I was lucky to get casual jobs but I would suggest if you want to work, make sure to drop your resume everywhere as you can.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

- There are loads of volunteering opportunities but for an internship, you have to be a proper Dal student because students at Dal are required to work for a term in order to graduate unlike at Vic (for commerce)

### 5 things to take to your host country or region

1	WARM CLOTHS!!! (MAKE SURE IT IS SNOW PROOF!)
2	BRING EXTRA MONEY just incase if anything happens with health stuff or accommodations
3	Camera
4	Your awesomeness
5	GOOD BOOTS (SNOW PROOF WOULD BE BETTER)

### 5 pieces of useful advice would tell a VUW student going to your host university

1	Join clubs when you get there
2	Find good buddies and travel around Halifax
3	Keep an eye on job opportunities if you would like to work in Canada one day
4	Keep an eye on free events
5	Make sure to enjoy snow!

### Top 5 Things to do

What are your 'Top 5 Things To Do' future VUW students at your host university or city/country?

1	Travel lots
2	Make loads of new friends
3	Find moose
4	Eat poutine
5	Enjoy your time in Canada

### H: Personal Experience

Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience. Plus, don't forget to submit some photos to the exchange office!!

- My exchange in Dal was one of the greatest thing about 2016. It wasn't just an exchange, it taught me how small I was thinking when I left NZ, and actually our world is big and full of opportunities. I guess

main things that I learnt was that there are countless lessons that you can learn when you are traveling and those lessons will keep you stronger.