

# Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

## A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Arts, LLB
Major(s)	Politics and International relations
Exchange Institution	Macquarie University
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 2, 2017

## 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	\$500
Accommodation	\$270 Per week
Return Airfare	\$450
Local Transportation	With a concession card it is about \$2.50 one way to Macquarie from the City.
Meals	
Visa	N/A
Health & Insurance	N/A (New Zealanders can get a Medicare card in Australia)
Personal Spending	\$3000
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$60 a month
Other fees (specify)	N/A
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	No unexpected costs although it is quite hard to find a room when you first get here – so either line up people you know who you can stay with or have extra money you can spend on accommodation if you get stuck.

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

- I had previously spent a summer in Sydney and therefore I knew what the expense would be roughly.

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

- Australia is simple as it is set up like New Zealand. I worked over here and therefore just opened an Australian bank account and paid for most of my expenses that way. You can just get your NZ\$ out of atm's for a small cost.

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



VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					
Conflicts of Law	English	Private International Law	15	4	This is quite a difficult course, with a very picky lecturer. It is all internal though with a take home exam so this style of examination makes it easier.
Commercial Law	English	Commercial Law	15	3	Same as VUW I believe
International Trade and Finance	English	International Trade Law	15	3	Quite a conceptual paper – not case based.
Intellectual Property Law	English	Intellectual Property	15	4	Quite difficult with expectations to prepare for every tut. Although again all internal, so easier because of that.

### Course Registration/Enrolment

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

- Exchange coordinators were available to help with everything

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?

- Everything went smoothly

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

- Personally I chose all internal courses as it is sometimes quite difficult to jump into a new uni and take an exam in some of their final year papers

### Academic Experience

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

- All of the lectures were online – some you couldn't even attend which was different. The courses were about as hard as at Vic, so prepare to study almost as much as you would in Wellington.

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?

- Answered above

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?

- As I was taking 4 law papers in a new country I chose to do internal papers as it wasn't as daunting. This worked well – I also worked about 25-30 hours a week and found that it was a fine work load.

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

- As you would at Vic stay up to date with your work – as a lot of the lectures are filmed it is very easy to get behind and get lost. The tutorials are very good at Macquarie and are engaging – you get a lot out of them.

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

- All very similar to Vic, just on a larger scale. Uni has a food court in it.

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?

## **E: Accommodation**

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

- Share house/ flat

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

- Was great to live in inner Sydney and be around friends.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

- Flats/ share houses are great – there are a lot of facebook pages advertising them (inner Sydney housing etc) – but it's quite difficult to secure a room so ensure you give yourself enough time.

How early can you move into accommodation?

- Whenever

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

- N/A

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

- Answered above.

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

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

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

- I made a lot of local friends through work and knew a few Kiwis over here in the first place. At uni I made a few friends through tutorials.

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

- It is Sydney – no cultural difference.

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

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

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

- Everyone is very friendly – it is very similar to NZ.

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?

- Everyone is very welcoming and accepting in Sydney, especially in inner Sydney. The university seemed very accommodating.

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

- None.

## **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?

- There were a lot of social sporting opportunities available to student, which was a good way to become part of the uni. There was also a uni gym.

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

- Sydney has many amazing beaches – explore them all. A short drive up north is Palm Beach. 3 hours south is Jervis Bay – it has the whitest sand and is beautiful.

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

- I didn't look into working on campus. As for off-campus work there is a lot of opportunities.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

- There were a few available through the law faculty. I personally did one which I sorted externally of the university; there is a lot going around.

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

1	Sunblock
2	Togs
3	A coat for winter as it can get frosty
4	Extra \$ for all the eating spots
5	Clothes for doing all the Sydney walks

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

1	Go to as many tutorials as possible – they are engaging and helpful + a good place to meet people
2	Join a social sports team
3	Live somewhere in inner Sydney, not near the uni. You can train to the uni
4	Go to the cafeteria in the uni
5	Try and borrow the books for uni if possible – they are a lot more expensive here.

### **Top 5 Things to do**

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

1	Bondi/ Bronte coastal walk
2	Night out in inner Sydney
3	Visit the amazing lunch/ dinner places
4	For a touristy but nice drink – Opera Bar
5	Day trip to Palm Beach

### **H: Personal Experience**

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

- Having previously lived in Sydney for a summer I knew what I was getting myself into but attending Macquarie here made it a lot better. It was a great opportunity to meet a lot of lovely people and I really enjoyed studying the law of a different country. Teaching wise – there was less of a focus of the cases and more of the focus on the bigger picture in each subject, which took a bit of adjusting from Victoria Law School. Sydney is an amazing place – there is always a lot going on and it is a really fun place to live.