

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Finance and Economics
Exchange Institution	Renmin University
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	2016 Tri2

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	\$80
Accommodation	\$16 per day
Return Airfare	\$1500 in total
Local Transportation	\$0.4 for bus, \$1 for metro
Meals	\$2 per meal
Visa	N/A
Health & Insurance	\$60 per semester
Personal Spending	\$400 per month
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$8 per month
Other fees (specify)	none
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	No unexpected costs, things are relatively cheap.

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

Cheaper than expected

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

Would recommend opening a Chinese bank account.

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

Cafeteria has wide variety of food and cheap, if you are used to Chinese food

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

Coffee around \$6

C: Visas & Insurance **Please note this information is recommended by VUW students & current at the time of their exchange. For all up-to-date visa information you must check with the embassy/consulate of your host university.*

Did you have to apply for a visa? If so, was it difficult? What was the process, how long did it take and how much did it cost?

I didn't need to apply for a visa

Do you have any advice for future students when applying for visas to your host country?

N/A

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance? Or a particular insurance they recommended? If Yes, what was it and how much did it cost?

Mandatory insurance, \$60 per semester

What insurance company did you use and would you recommend it to future students?

The mandatory insurance company, didn't need to use it.

D: Academics at Host University

Which courses did you take while on exchange? Please rate the difficulty of each course (1-5, 1 = Very Easy & 5 = Extremely Difficult) and leave any comments you may have.

Course Title	Language of Instruction	VUW course equivalent or elective	VUW points/credits value	Rating (1-5)	Comments
VUW Trimester 1/YEAR					
N/A					
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					
Financial Economics	Chinese	FINA305	15	4	
Macroeconomics	Chinese	ECON202	15	2	
International Economics	Chinese	ECON309	15	4	
Investment	Chinese	FINA202	15	5	A lot of writing (in Chinese) involved

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Course Registration/Enrolment

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

International student office

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?

Long-winded registration process, but successful in the end. Follow the instructions that they give you and don't be afraid to ask.

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

If your Chinese isn't fluent, don't try major courses in Chinese

Academic Experience

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

3 hour lectures, one lecture a week for Chinese courses, demanding

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?

Quite demanding, however not much non-exam coursework.

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?

Around 4 courses or less. Do Chinese language courses, very helpful for learning the language.

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

Be disciplined and focus in lectures.

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

Very modern and spacious.

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?

There are many language programs offered by the university, also courses in English.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

International student housing

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

Very clean, modern and cheap single studio, have cleaners come in once a week. No cons

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

International student housing

How early can you move into accommodation?

At beginning of semester

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

One kitchen per floor, sufficient as most students eat at the many restaurants cafes and cafeterias available on campus

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

N/A

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

Can only move in when semester starts

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

Local students are very inviting to foreigners, also a huge international student community.

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

Easy

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

Nothing too challenging

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

China is a very dynamic and modern country, also rich in history and culture.

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

Local people are very helpful.

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?

The campus should be easily accessible for people with disabilities, however no support advertised for people with disabilities. The students I encountered are very accepting of differences.

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

Most Chinese people are very welcome to foreigners ,and most of the younger generation keep an open mind. However Chinese society as a whole is relatively conservative, something to be aware of in public places.

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 many clubs, recommend the astronomy club, many activities.

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

Many historic sights in Beijing, can also go to other provinces and tour the country on a long holiday

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

Translating jobs, teaching jobs.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

There is a student run organization called AIESEC that run many programmes for students.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	You can buy anything online, at a site called Taobao in China.
2	"normal" food can be bought in the many cafes on and off campus, also in shopping malls and supermarkets specializing in imports.
3	
4	
5	

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

1	Be willing to accept cultural differences
2	Be adventurous
3	Focus in lectures
4	Don't be afraid to ask
5	Have fun, the culture is VERY different

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Go to all the sights in Beijing
2	Travel around China, each place is different
3	Go to 三里屯 and 太古里
4	Pubs at 五道口 and 后海
5	Try new weird food

H: Personal Experience

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

It was a great experience. Beijing is the metropolitan capital city of China, the environment is dus

ty, crowded and very vibrant, rich in history and culture, rapidly changing and fast paced. Most students are very hard working and dedicated, with huge goals in mind. Renmin University is the top university for Finance and Economics in China, very well recognized locally, however does not have a high overall ranking due to its small science department.