

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

Name	Callum Dickson
Student ID	300256893
VUW degree(s)	LLB/BCom
Major(s)	Public Policy
Exchange Institution	Uppsala University, Sweden
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 1, 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	\$60
Accommodation	\$3750
Return Airfare	\$1500
Local Transportation	\$250
Meals	\$1000
Visa	\$60
Health & Insurance	\$300
Personal Spending	\$2500
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$30
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Cold weather necessitated the purchase of additional clothing.

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

Fairly close to my estimation, though slightly more expensive.

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

Travel Debit Card or Credit Card.

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

Ration your spending and keep track of your expenditures.

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

\$3NZD

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 had to apply for a residence card. This is done through the Swedish Immigration Office and cost about \$30.

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

It was very straightforward; the university provides all information.

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?

No.

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

Southern Cross – it was fine; I did not require 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 2/YEAR					
Comparative Legal History and Contemporary Jurisprudence	English	Legal History & Jurisprudence	30	3	Great course, really interesting with good lecturers. Not too difficult and very little assessment.
Security and Constitutional Law	English	Constitutional Law	30	4	Also very enjoyable course. Slightly more difficult and more class participation expected.

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

Attendance of the first lecture was required for registration. Very simple process of signing name.

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?

Very successful. There is no difficulty that I could perceive.

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

No.

Academic Experience

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

The quality of the teaching was very high. The assessments or examinations were generally easier than Victoria and required less preparation.

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?

The style of teaching is largely discussion based and requires class participation. The workload is similar to Victoria, with mostly reading prescribed.

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?

30 points per semester. I can only recommend the two courses that I completed; they were both excellent.

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

Same rules apply as at Victoria – prepare adequately for examinations.

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

All very good. Plenty of space and equipment for everybody.

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 was an optional language course available. The Swedes speak excellent English however.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

University hall.

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

I was able to meet lots of people which was great. Occasionally a house mate may get on your nerves as you share a kitchen between 12 individuals.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Flogsta – university hall.

How early can you move into accommodation?

January 16th

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

All occupants of the university halls are required to cook their own meals. I was somewhat dissatisfied with my abilities.

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

know about living off-campus?

Get a bike and you'll have no problem. Uppsala is quite a small town.

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

Apply early to guarantee your preference.

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 very easy to make friends with international students. It was more difficult to meet and befriend locals, although many lived in the same hall which did help.

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

Fairly easy. Sweden has a westernized culture not dissimilar to our own.

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

Swedes can be quite withdrawn and reserved in social situations. To prepare I would only recommend being aware of this tendency, and to not be discouraged by it.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

The emphasis of healthy and honest living, both in body and mind.

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

Very well. The locals were extremely polite and cordial.

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?

As far as I could tell, all of these minorities would be welcome in Sweden, being a country which prides itself on liberal and progressive perspective.

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?

The university required students to join 'nations', which are essentially student run clubs. These nations run many activities throughout the university year.

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

Explore the various lakes around Uppsala, go ice-skating, cycling, skiing, tramping, etc.

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

Students are able to work for the nations, subject to vacancies.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

None that I encountered.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Waterproof boots
2	Thick/insulated rain jacket
3	Thermal underclothing
4	Suit/ball dress
5	Dress shoes

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

1	Bring warm clothes
2	Go to all nation parties/events
3	Try working at one of the nations
4	Accept all invitations
5	Get a bike

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	See the Northern Lights
2	Go skiing
3	Tour around the Swedish archipelago
4	Go dog-sledding
5	Go to a Swedish gasque

H: Personal Experience

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

Upon landing in Sweden I was forced to rummage through my bags to withdraw another jacket, the minus 20-degree Celsius weather much colder in person than in my imaginings. Off to an icy start and alone in the foreign hemisphere of the world I was soon appreciative of the warm

reception extended by the Swedish people, unceasing to the end of my stay. Countless parties, gasques, barbeques and a lecture or two were intersected by exotic trips up and down the country, undoubtedly crowned by sighting the amazingly peculiar northern lights. I recall the entirety of my time in Sweden with contented wonder, having arrived marveling at barren deserts of ice and the mystic aurora, and left astounded at the sudden eruption of life, the spring charm of carpeting moss and lonely wildflowers.



