

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Conjoint BA and LLB
Major(s)	Political Science and Laws
Exchange Institution	Australian National University, Canberra
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 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	260
Accommodation	5,500
Return Airfare	600
Local Transportation	50-100
Meals	700
Visa	n/a
Health & Insurance	400
Personal Spending	5,000
Communications (phone, etc.)	160
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	No unexpected costs; all costs were, more or less, expected

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

My financial expenses more or less matched up with my original expected expenditure

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

Australian bank account and, to bypass more expensive international money transfer fees, the use of a bank travel card

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

To always keep an eye on your expenses and income

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

AUD\$4.00

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?

Did not have to apply for an Australian visa, as I was a New Zealand citizen. You instantly acquire your visa upon arriving in Australia and clearing customs.

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

It's fairly straightforward for New Zealanders.

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?

For New Zealand students, you do not need cover from ANU's prescribed insurance provider, as you are eligible for Australia's universal healthcare scheme, Medicare. Essentially the Australian government pays for recognized medical costs that you may incur. So long as you attend a GP that "bulk bills", then you will not have to pay.

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

I acquired my travel insurance through STA Travel. Would recommend as it was convenient and straightforward to purchase along with my flights.

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					
POLS2055	English	POLS 355	20	4.5	Really informative & broad range of topics on Pacific Politics covered
POLS2127	English	POLS 207	20	3	Elementary introduction to US Politics; not what I expected; quite a lot of assessing; lecturer wasn't engaging
POLS2011	English	INTP 346	20	3.5	Informative introduction to development issues; not what I expected; tutorials were challenging
POLS2070	English	POLS 203	20	3.5	Informative introduction to Central Asian Politics; learnt new things about region; some

					dry topics covered
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

ANU uses a course-registration system called ISIS. It's fairly straightforward to use, and so long as you have the necessary registration information, then you'll be able to register fairly easily. ANU Global Programs are available to help if need be.

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?

Quite successful in enrolling for the classes I wanted. Although one of my original courses was cancelled a week before registration opened, I was able to easily email the lecturer/course convener of my replacement course and acquire a registration code which would enable me to register for that course. I'd advise students to have back-up courses in case the above situation occurs.

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

If you have the freedom to, then perhaps choose courses that pique your interest

Academic Experience

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

Academic experience was different. Australian students knew a lot more about international affairs and other countries; they were very outward looking. They were also confident (or gave off the impression that they were confident) when speaking up in lectures or tutorial. I merely expected the academic experience would be somewhat similar, i.e., tutorials and lectures.

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?

Style of teaching, especially in tutorials, was more interactive as students were encouraged to contribute. Workload was as expected, if only a little more than VUW.

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?

Course load depends on how much progress you've made in your degree. In my case, I needed to take a full course load in order to complete the final requirements. I wouldn't recommend any specific courses as it depends on what your interests are. But Pacific Politics was very enlightening.

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

ANU offers a lot of services similar to VUW, e.g., essay reviews, academic support. The library and journal database is great for research so make the most of that.

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

My impression was great. Numerous academic facilities and internet access was adequate.

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?

n/a

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

Hall of Residence

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

Pros: 20-minute walk from university campus and City Centre; regular buses; decent rooms and pastoral care.

Cons: some uncertainty as to the future of my particular Hall, Fenner, as ANU is thinking of moving it on-campus despite massive objections; cooking facilities are average

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Depends on one's need but Hall life was adequate for me.

How early can you move into accommodation?

There is the option of moving in earlier than the intended move-in date but it must be reasonably close to that date.

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

Self-catered hall; food storage was adequate; cooking facilities were booths which you shared with quite a few other students.

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?

Get in early and make sure you investigate all of your options.

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

Initially quite hard as my particular floor was quiet so there wasn't that much immediate interaction. But as the semester progressed, making friends became easier. Fairly successful at making local friends, especially those in my Hall and in classes.

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

Fairly easy seeing as Australia and New Zealand are similar but it initially took me awhile to get settled.

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

Australians have a different humour and given that Australia is more multicultural, "Where are you from?" was a common question.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Australians were confident and outward looking.

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

Treated fairly well, although most assumed I was Asian as opposed to being Māori and from New Zealand, which I found interesting.

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?

ANU makes a concerted effort to accommodate students of all minorities so appropriate students will find it easy to seek out relevant support.

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

No issues of discrimination.

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?

ANU offers a lot of extra-curricular activities including Quidditch and Dungeons and Dragons.

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

National Portrait Gallery and National Gallery of Australia are great experiences. Plus bike rides around Lake Burley Griffin.

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

More opportunities to work off-campus as opposed to on-campus.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

n/a

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Supporting documentation
2	Mementos
3	Digital camera
4	Good luck charm
5	Kiwi humour

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

1	Get a MyWay student bus card
2	Paywave is a really convenient way to purchase things
3	Make friends with international students as they'll have great recipes to share and future accommodation options
4	Get a bike
5	Greyhound or Murrays bus services are convenient means of getting to Sydney

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Chez Kim Chi Korean café does a great hot-pot
2	Koko Black for couture chocolate
3	ANU Global Programs offer great opportunities to socialise
4	National Portrait Gallery!
5	Lake Burley Griffin

H: Personal Experience

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

A lot of personal growth, both positive and not, but overall I'm incredibly grateful for the experience. Made friends with so many other exchange students and it was great to swap stories and experiences.