

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)	Com Law & Public Policy; Int Business (Min)
Exchange Institution	Copenhagen Business School
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 2, 2015

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	\$100
Accommodation	\$228 p/week, including utilities and internet
Return Airfare	\$2600
Local Transportation	\$15 p/week
Meals	\$45 p/week
Visa	\$780
Health & Insurance	\$640
Personal Spending	\$6000
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$20 per month
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	

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

- Copenhagen is an expensive city (about 15% more expensive than Wellington according to numbeo.com) and I therefore tried to be prepared. Previews reviews from Vic students suggested the need to save more than what you would expect. However, day-to-day living was actually cheaper than I expected. Although entertainment, restaurant and luxury prices were high, I found that it was possible to live within a reasonable budget that is similar to Wellington.

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

- I opened a foreign bank account with Nordea. There were some delays and poor communication on their behalf but once up and running, I had no problems. To open an account you must first have a CPR resident card (not just the number!), so try to sort this as soon as you arrive.

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

- 1: Be prepared for high prices and budget accordingly. 2: Purchase a bike (Copenhagen is completely flat and is perfect for cyclists) so to avoid using the metro/buses where possible. Public transport in Copenhagen is expensive, around \$5 per trip. 3: Avoid eating out where possible and make coffee at home.

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

- A coffee in Copenhagen cafes were around \$5-\$8. However, the business school has a decent cafeteria with coffee for around \$3. I don't drink coke but would guess \$3+.

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?

- All students must apply for a Student Residence in Denmark. This allowed me to stay for 6 months (can be longer for full-year exchanges) and gave me access to their free healthcare, free movement between EU countries etc. To apply for a Visa, you must book an appointment with the Danish Consulate in Auckland. This was a bit of a hassle as I had to fly up for a one-hour meeting where they receive your forms, scan your fingerprints, and ask a couple of questions. This must be done at least 6 weeks before departure to allow for processing. The total cost was \$780

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

- Check what dates the consulate are open for appointment as soon as possible. They were going to be closed in the weeks leading up to my departure, so I was forced to meet with them 2 months early. Also, triple check that your documents are in order prior to the meeting – they are quite unforgiving!

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 specific insurance was given. However, CBS recommends comprehensive insurance that covers the cost of home transport in case of emergency back to New Zealand.

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

- I used STA Travel's Comprehensive Plan which costs around \$640. They were very accommodating and helped me alter the dates when I decided to extend my travels after the exchange.

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					
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					
International Commercial Law	English	COML 306	15	2.5	Split into two parts – UNCISG and Arbitration. Dry delivery straight from the statutes, however learning about arbitration was interesting.
International Business Negotiations	English	IBUS 312	15	4	Was delivered as a seminar with around 40 people from different countries. Used a lot of input from students and simulated the negotiating environment.
International Business Environment	English	IBUS 201	15	3	Fairly broad course about internationalising business. Quite a large focus on the EU but provided interesting insights and debate around cultural, economic, and political concerns.
Organization Theory	English	MGMT 101	15	2.5	I took this course to cover first-year commerce requirements. Was very theoretical and the lecturer didn't adapt to

					the inexperience of his students. Interesting research assignment which gave us a lot of freedom, however.

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

- Fairly straightforward. They give you about a week to choose online and there is support from CBS' International Department.

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?

- Lecture times are created by CBS after you choose your courses. This was quite annoying as there were some clashes that I had to change in the second round of enrolment. I'd recommend having back-up courses that you can transfer should there be a clash.

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

- Get approval for as many courses as possible by your Vic faculty staff.

Academic Experience

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

- CBS has a much more dynamic, collaborative, and research based focus than Vic. I think the academic experience exceeded my expectations.

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?

- Rather than 50 minute lectures delivered in a rote learning style, CBS teaches in a seminar structure. They use 2-3 classes with smaller classes and students are expected to contribute. In most classes, the last third is dedicated to group work and presentation.
- All classes at CBS are 100% externally examined. This may be through a 3-4 hour test or a research assignment that goes anywhere from 72 hours – 3 weeks.

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?

- A four course semester was comfortable. Although I had more readings (and was expected to present on these readings) than at Vic, the lack of internal assessments meant that it was easily manageable.

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

- Do your readings as you will definitely be both questioned in class and then present group work on these. While the 100% exams meant that it's easy to relax during the year, don't fall into the trap of having to cram during the exam period.

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

- The facilities in general are very modern and of high quality (complete with the awesome Scandinavian minimalism). Internet in Denmark is much faster than New Zealand, even at university. However, there were almost no shared computers for students. I found this quite weird.

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?

- Frederiksberg which are on campus university apartments.

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

- Living with appx. 150 other exchange students creates an awesome vibe and most people are keen to socialize.
- We lived on one of the campuses which meant that you never had a commute of more than 10 campuses.
- Very expensive, though this is indicative of Copenhagen in general.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

- One of the university hostel/apartments. Apply fast (like as soon as applications open) to avoid private accommodation.

How early can you move into accommodation?

- Around two weeks before the semester begins.

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

- We had individual kitchens in our apartment room, but no common kitchen. Fruit and Veges aren't as fresh, however you're in luck if you like pork and seafood.

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

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

- Accommodation is extremely competitive in general. Follow the instructions and be online when the university housing application opens up. I met many people who were forced to the outskirts of Copenhagen because they missed out on uni 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?

- Living with other exchange students made it relatively easy. It is difficult to befriend Danes as they are relatively introverted. But once they drink they become friendly!

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

- I personally had no issues.

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

- No major challenges. Be prepared for awkwardness if you try to make small talk with strangers – they like their privacy and personal space.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

- The idea of Jante Law. These are traditions embedded in egalitarianism that you should be humble and treat each other as equals.

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

- Danes are generally nice and accommodating. I never had an issue for being a foreigner or not being able to speak Danish.

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?

- No obvious issues.
- There may be animosity towards people with Arabic descent given the current political climate around refugees, but this is unlikely.

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

- I had no problems.

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?

- CBS has a huge range of clubs from beer brewing, to shipping & logistics, management consultancy, handball and even rugby.

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

- Train to Louisiana Contemporary Museum that looks over to Sweden
- Take the bus to Berlin for a weekend. It's a huge city with ridiculous nightlife.
- Hire a car to see the rest of Denmark. It's easy to contain yourself solely in Copenhagen.
- Visit Tivoli for Halloween and Xmas.

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

- There is generally a need to speak Danish, however I had an Australian friend that picked up a waitressing job.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

- There a couple of volunteer consultancies at CBS that provide skilled work for not-for-profits. There's also other clubs that volunteer with startups. Internships are generally for full-time students, although I'm not certain of this.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Black and well fitted clothes. That is all the Danes wear.
2	Water proof boots
3	Vegemite
4	A healthy liver. The Danes love beer.
5	An open mindset. Denmark is an extremely liberal country.

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

1	Learn how to ride a bike with 100 other cyclists around you
2	Make a decent attempt to learn Danish. It makes the experience more authentic.
3	Eat pickled herring and smorrebrod over a mulled wine during winter
4	Prepare for darkness in winter. The sun sets at around 3pm.
5	

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Christiania Freetown
2	Tivoli Gardens and Theme Park
3	Louisiana Contemporary Museum
4	Culture Box
5	Hire an outboard boat and tour the canals

H: Personal Experience

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

- Copenhagen is a forward thinking and progressive city with so much to do. Whatever your interests are the city caters for it. This was reflected in my time at CBS. Lecturers didn't just teach, but instead challenged us to present our ideas and allow us to shape the outcomes of our study. Although expensive, I'm without doubt richer for the experience in what I now consider to be a second home.