

# Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

## A: Student Information

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| VUW degree(s)              | LLB, BCOM                  |
| Major(s)                   | Law and Marketing          |
| Exchange Institution       | Copenhagen Business School |
| 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  | \$400   |
| Accommodation  | \$350 per week  |
| Return Airfare   | \$2200  |
| Local Transportation   | Purchase a bike for \$100.  |
| Meals  | \$150 per week  |
| Visa   | \$600 + \$200 to fly to Auckland for the authentication processes   |
| Health & Insurance   | Was supplied by my previous employer.   |
| Personal Spending  | \$50 per week   |
| Communications (phone, etc.)   | \$20 per month  |
| Other fees (specify)   |   |
| What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected? | The Visa cost was much more than expected, but that was down to lack of research on my behalf. I also ended up being one of the last to nab a room in Holger Danske Vej, so I ended up with one that cost \$350 as opposed to \$250. The extra space was superfluous, but I couldn't do anything about it. I'd recommend Katherine Kollegiat as first choice if you don't mind sharing a room. It is more affordable and the people are fun! The course texts are expensive if bought new, but there are secondhand retailers like in NZ. Plan carefully, and you will be fine! Don't risk being landed with a big room in Holger Danske Vej. |

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

I had heard stories about \$10 cups of coffee and generally expensive dining experiences because of their high minimum wage. This was true, however, the supermarkets are relative to New Zealand's. Some things are definitely more expensive, but budget and make food at home and you'll be fine.

By what means did you maintain your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, foreign bank account, travelers checks, etc)? I had saved for a while prior to my exchange, and had a rough budget. I also had studylink living costs going into my account each week. I didn't have a bank account, and would withdraw large sums using my BNZ debit card. I would recommend doing that or opening a bank account.

Like NZ, Denmark is virtually a cashless society so occasionally the Danes would be weird about cash. In hindsight I wish I had setup a Danish bank account so that I could have used Apple Pay.

What financial advice would you give students attending the same university as you?  
 Everthing that I have written above.

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

Coke: \$2, Coffee: \$7

**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 visa, it was difficult, I had to submit several documents and proof of income (I had my parents transfer money into my account for the sake of the document, and then transferred the money back to them immediately afterwards). I then had to travel to Auckland to attend an interview and have my fingerprints taken. It is an expensive process, do not make mistakes.

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

Pick Copenhagen. It's in the happiest country in the world, and it is the best city I've ever lived in. Wellington is a close second.

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? None.

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

As already stated, I was covered by my employer's insurance at MARSH. I'm not sure about the details.

### 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   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>VUW Trimester 1/YEAR</b> |                         |                                   |                          |              |  |
| Retail Marketing            | English                 | Retail Marketing                  | 15                       | 2            | All of the courses at CBS are easier than in NZ. They have oral examinations and are very liberal with their |

|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|----|---|----------|
|                                |         |                          |    |   | grading. |
| Visual Communication           | English | None – points only.      | 15 | 3 | ""       |
| Organisational Behaviour       | English | Organisational Behaviour | 15 | 2 | ""       |
| Global Supply Chain Management | English | Supply Chain Management  | 15 | 4 | ""       |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
| <b>VUW Trimester 2/YEAR</b>    |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |
|                                |         |                          |    |   |          |

### Course Registration/Enrolment

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

After applying for CBS through Vic Exchange, I was sent all the documentation by CBS. Thus, they led me through the entire process.

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?

I got the classes that I applied for. I think that is the norm.

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

You're on exchange and want to be able to spend time travelling and socialising, so choose easier courses if possible.

### Academic Experience

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

The academic process is more forgiving at CBS. Examinations consist of a semi-formal oral discussion with the lecturer, or computer-based exams in an IT hall in Amager. If you fail, you have the chance to retake the exam.

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?

It was the same style of teaching, but with more content.

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? I would recommend four because that is the legal requirement to be an exchange student. I would take easier courses such as management or marketing papers, because you are on exchange and their needs to be room for travelling and socializing.

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

Go to all your classes, and plan your time well. I travelled most weekends, so used my time wisely during the week.

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

Excellent computer facilities, much like New Zealand. At the student accommodation they still use Ethernet cables, so make sure you have a Ethernet adapter cable for your laptop. I arrived without it and walked 5kms through a snowstorm to buy one.

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?

Not knowing Danish is no problem because all Danes speak perfect English. As tempting as using Danish greetings was, my tactic was to bluntly approach Danes with a "Hello, how are you" as they immediately register that you're an English-speaker.

## **E: Accommodation**

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

A student hall: Holger Danske Vej

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

Convenient, all electricity, Internet, bedding, and furniture is included. It is a good way to meet likeminded exchange students.

Cons: If other students cause a noise complaint, the entire hall is required to go to a disciplinary meeting. However, I lied and told them that I was out of the country. Easy escape.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Katherines Kollegiate and Holger Danske Vej

How early can you move into accommodation?

I moved into my accommodation on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, and left on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

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

There is a large kitchen on each floor where all cutlery and crockery is provided. I never had to wait to use the stoves or oven.

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? What should future VUW exchange students know about living off-campus? Not applicable.

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

Make sure that you are on your computer ready to select accommodation at the exact second selection goes live. I was one of the last to get a room in Holger, and I clicked into the selection at the instant it went live.

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

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

Making friends at Holger was easy because you have large social gatherings in the kitchens and courtyard several nights a week. More, the exchange students all take the same courses because they are limited to the English speaking papers.

Making friends with Danes is no easy feat. While they are kind and intelligent people, they are not as open to making new friends as New Zealanders. You may initially find them quite cold.

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange country/university? Very easy, but for the language the culture is very similar.

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

The price of coffee. Bring over coffee grinds and a French Press.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Social equality is nice.

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

I was treated with kindness and respect.

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?

I believe that University would accommodate each of these. Denmark is known for being socially progressive, and it is something which they actively take pride in. I am a gay student, and the only homophobic comment that I heard was made by an Australian student.

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 whatsoever.

### **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?

Much like VicClubs: Rugby, Soccer, any sports. Choir. I would recommend taking the opportunity to intern for one of the student startups. Unlike Vic, CBS has a solely business focus, so many of their students start businesses and take interns from the University.

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

I would travel to Malmo for the day; Sweden is 40 minutes over the Baltic Sea Bridge. Travel to anywhere in Europe in the weekends. It is so cheap because of the budget airlines.

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

The visa allows students to work and study. However, finding work in Copenhagen is hard. Don't expect to be able to supplement your financial plan with weekly work.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

As stated, unpaid or paid internships for student startups.

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

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | A multi plug power adapter   |
| 2 | A AU/NZ to EURO plug adapter |
| 3 | Money                        |
| 4 | Lots of layers for winter    |
| 5 | A rain jacket                |

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | <b>Make a financial plan</b>                         |
| 2 | Don't have any expectations                          |
| 3 | Make the most of the opportunity to travel in Europe |
| 4 | Be friendly  |
| 5 | Buy 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 | Biking                              |
| 2 | Louisiana Modern Art Museum         |
| 3 | Tivoli Gardens                      |
| 4 | Paper Island Markets                |
| 5 | Siciliansk Is Gelato in København V |

### **H: Personal Experience**

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

Copenhagen was better than I expected. I had heard a lot about the prices, but they are relative to New Zealand costs as long as you buy food from the supermarket. It is one of the world's most livable cities with unrivaled public transport. Winter's are cosy, and the city comes to life for summer with festivals such as Distortion – and Roskilde is not far away. I did my exchange in a twilight semester of my degree, so I had a lot of Kiwis to visit nearby in London, Belgium, and Spain. For anyone thinking about studying in Copenhagen, do it! You will not regret it, especially if you like design, fashion, and socialising.