

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Law/Commerce
Major(s)	Marketing
Exchange Institution	ESCE Paris
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 1 & 2, 2014

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	0
Accommodation	1200 NZD Per Month
Return Airfare	1700 NZD
Local Transportation	60 EUR Per Month
Meals	100 EUR per month
Visa	0
Health & Insurance	200 EUR Per Semester
Personal Spending	150 EUR Per Month
Communications (phone, etc.)	10 EUR 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?

About the same. Maybe a little bit more on unnecessary purchases.

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

French Bank account. I would probably recommend a cash passport though.

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

The university cafeteria has large meals for relatively cheap compared to the rest of the city. Bread is very cheap and very good.

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

Around 1.50 Euros. At a cafe a bottle will be about 4.

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?

Had a European Passport

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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					
French	French	Elective	15	3	

Current Economic Issues	English	Elective	15	2	
Strategic Brand Management	English	MARK201	15	4	
Integrated Marketing Communication	English	MARK301	15	3	
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					
French	French	Elective	15	4	
French 360	French	Elective	15	4	
Customer Relationship Management	English	Credits for Marketing/No equivalent	15	4	
European Lobbying	English	Elective	15	3	

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

It was very easy to register. There were a lot of staff who were dedicated to student exchanges so everything was easy to adjust to and sending emails to ask for help.

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 was mostly successful in enrolling. The key is to enrol as quickly as possible when they become online because they run out quickly - the most popular courses are often the same. They are always the international courses.

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

The more popular courses are designed for international students although many of the papers that are designed for the older French students are equally interesting and I would not advise against choosing them. The French papers often are more of a challenge as the students are really driven. It is also a great way to meet French people.

Academic Experience

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

Different teaching style in smaller classes. This was very different as I am used to lecture theatres. I didn't mind it but it was more similar to school - more group presentations but interaction with the teachers is great and they reply to emails very promptly. The teachers really take an interest in what each individual student is doing.

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?

More interactive. Although the teaching was probably more basic in some ways, the use of slides and all of them put up was very helpful. Obviously in a small class it was different but not in any way worse than VUW. The workload was probably slightly less than my usual VUW load but about the same in the internal/external balance.

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 the same - 4 papers. I would recommend Integrated Marketing Communication, Customer Relationship Management.

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

Keeping up to date and getting involved in them. If you stay up to date they are much easier obviously, as well as taking a larger part in the group projects will help you to make friends easier.

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

It was a much smaller university so everything was on a smaller scale. The computer facilities were far smaller, hardly any library but because the classes are 3 hours long then it means there is more in class work and less to do outside of class than at VUW.

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 mandatory French provided. This was helpful because the teaching was great - intensive because it was only French but this was necessary to fit in more quickly.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

Apartment

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

It was by myself. This could be an issue for some but for me it was nice to have a lot of freedom and the price was favourable.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Maybe the student halls or a good accommodation with a family.

How early can you move into accommodation?

N/a

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

N/a

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

It was easy because I had a friend. Otherwise in Paris it is hard and should be sorted earlier rather than later. Beware of scams.

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

Start looking early. Or just go into the sorted accommodation if you don't want any hassle.

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

Not too hard. Successful but met them outside of University mainly.

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

Quite easy - French culture is very relaxed.

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

I enjoyed the culture because in many ways it is more relaxed than New Zealand. I would just say be aware that you will have to queue more and administrative matters take longer.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

The relaxed attitudes and being able to walk around everywhere. The whole city is walkable and everyone does it.

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

Everyone treated me well. The uni staff were helpful. The students were pretty nice with some obviously being more friendly than others.

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?

There was plenty of lifts and ramps. I can't see there by any problems with any of these at my University it was very open.

Did you face any issues regarding discrimination in your host country? What were they, and what advice

would you give to future students?

None.

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?

Trips away skiing, vineyards and to other European cities. I would highly recommend these for making friends.

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

Make the most of Paris. It is a very rich city so there is so much to see. Even in one year you can't see everything in one year - feeling like you missed some things.

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

None on-campus. Some but the language barrier will make it harder. However not impossible, it is also much easier if you have a EU passport.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

Not many.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Camera
2	One warm coat
3	iPhone for GPS/Finding your way around Paris
4	
5	

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

1	Go to all the student meet ups at the start to build a solid group.
2	Go on the trips.
3	Always show up on time.

4	Don't miss class.
5	Make an effort in the group projects.

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Get involved in French life.
2	Go to meet ups and volunteer events.
3	Make the most of the food.
4	Explore France and not just Paris.
5	

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 opportunity to go to ESCE Paris. The different studying environment as well as meeting many different people from around the world was really interesting. Living in Paris too was a life long experience which will stay with me. I am very grateful to Victoria Abroad for making the process so smooth and would recommend an



exchange to ESCE Paris to anyone.