

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Masters of Architecture
Major(s)	Architecture
Exchange Institution	Technology University of Eindhoven
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 1

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	\$2500 for the 6 months (includes power and internet)
Return Airfare	\$2500
Local Transportation	\$40 - \$80 for a bike and two locks (don't buy a nice one as they get stolen)
Meals	Around same price as nz (\$50 - \$80 a week)
Visa	\$600
Health & Insurance	\$300
Personal Spending	\$100
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$30 a month
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Watch the type of train you catch... the fast ones cost a lot more

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

Rent is a lot cheaper in Eindhoven than in Wellington so you can actually live off the student loan

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

You can get a Dutch bank account easy and it is much better than you don't convert too often

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

Stay at the vestide ones they supply for you as it is with all the other exchange students and way cheaper

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

Coke 1 euro and coffee 2 euro

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?

Yes you need to apply but don't get the student one as it is more pricy then the working one and you can get a working visa for every country in euro 1 year each so unless you think you will work there in the future it will save you a \$300 nzd

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

Don't stress about it as you have heaps of time (90 days)

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?

I think they did so you show them the travel insurance info you should be getting

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

1 cover was real cheap didn't have to use them though

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					
7QX2M0 - Masterproject 2 architecture	english	Arch Design paper	20	5	Much more tech then vic
7QP9M0 - Building Technology with Extreme Complexity	english	elective	10	3	Not a bad paper a lot of group work
7ZW6M0 - History of housing and cities	english	history	10	5	Best paper I took so interesting and learn heaps about europe
7QQ2M0 - Constructing architecture	english	history	10	3	Had some good guest lectures
7ZM7M0 - Parametric design	english	elective	10	2	Really hard as you don't get any tutorial time and too much to learn

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

You will get an email telling you about the options you have for your masterproject

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 every class I went for and if they say not for exchange students you can approach the lecturer about it and they will let you in the class

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

You can change your classes till 2 weeks in so have heaps of time... not many class hours though

Academic Experience

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

It is a lot less class time then vic and you get marked harder for higher marks

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?

Similar but not as spoonfed so you work for yourself

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?

Do ones that have low work load so you can travel... ask some dutch students

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

Organize your time between travel and work... when your not traveling get to the library

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

They don't have computers for you to work on so have a good laptop and you can find softwares off other students... don't download trials till you really need them.

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?

I still don't know a word of dutch... it is a hard language to learn as it is a mix of so many others. But don't worry everyone knows English enough to communicate at the supermarket.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

Apartments they recommend

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

Not really flash but so many exchange students and in the city ring (10 minute bike form center and uni)

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Vestide I think it is called cost range depending on room size

How early can you move into accommodation?

I think in late jan till mid july

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

Just like any other flats in welly... but no oven so pitch in with the roomates for a small oven/michrowave

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

Its not on campus

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

Don't need a fancy place or big room as you have little things with you... spend that money traveling

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

Easy to make friends people are really interested in being a New Zealander

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

The country isn't too hard but you will need to adjust to the other exchange students different cultures... it is fun and really interesting.

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

Don't be too worried everyone on exchange is nice and will forgive you if you make a mistake... but they do not get as drunk as we do in New Zealand (maybe the Aussies) so watch your drinking just a little.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

They are helpful and willing to speak English

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

The dutch can seem rude when dealing with people they don't know but it isn't personal its just there way

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?

Do not worry about sexual preference... Europe is so much further ahead then NZ. Disabled people in wheel chairs may struggle as they do not have ramps into main entrances.

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

Some people do not like the NZ accent and struggle to understand you so talk slow.

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?

They have such a good gym that offers all sports and really cheap

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

Eindhoven is a really cheap airport so travel is very easy

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

Campus is really good so you should work there but if you cant get too class the tutors don't mind if you don't get to class

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

There are heaps of clubs you can volunteer for that do work in the community... you can join when you get there

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Rain jacket
2	Warm clothes
3	Passport
4	Money
5	A good attitude

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

1	Get 2 locks for your bike and
2	Don't take uni too seriously
3	Travel as much as you can as there are a lot of public holidays
4	Don't bike on the motorway
5	Don't eat the food they sell in the walls

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 a bike
2	Go to Amsterdam
3	Book Flights around Europe
4	Join the gym (you will need it with all the drinking)
5	Don't over do the museums... pick a few in each country or you will be tired of them by the end of it.

H: Personal Experience

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

It is the best thing I could have done well being at uni and I don't think I could have finished my time at uni without it. The people you meet and the places you go, these experiences you cannot replace. I know I will be going back to Europe so it is good to know where I will like to go back to and live in the future. I also have a lot of places to stay with friends when I go over next. I travelled 17 countries in 6 months and having a place like Eindhoven to base my travels and come home and relax is great as travelling can make you very tired. You also go to so many different places with the other exchange students.