

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	BA/LLB
Major(s)	French/ Law
Exchange Institution	Jean Moulin Lyon 3
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Semester 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	0
Accommodation	920 a month
Return Airfare	2000
Local Transportation	50 a month
Meals	Similar to NZ
Visa	-
Health & Insurance	400
Personal Spending	6000
Communications (phone, etc.)	35 a month
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Uni requires you to get an additional insurance which is 16 euros

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

I spent a lot more on going out for dinner and travel than expected.

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

I got a French bank account, which was a massive hassle but made paying rent much easier than from NZ as you get charged from both ends.

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

You'll probably spend more than you expect.

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

1 euro for a coke.

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?

No – I have a British Passport

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

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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?

Yes mandatory insurance – Smerra 16euros

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

Southern Cross – fine I guess never ended up needing it

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					
Droit des societes	French		15	3	Oral exam
Droit civil	French		15	3	Oral exam
Droit fiscal	French		15	3	Oral exam
Introduction au droit francais	French		15 joint with Methodologie	2	Mandatory w written exam
Methodologie Juridique	French		15 joint with Intro droit francais	4	Mandatory w written exam
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

French administration is as bad as people say. Had to send multiple emails to get any kind of reply.

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?

Make sure you get your classes right the first time. It is really difficult otherwise.

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

If I had to redo I would take my classes in English.

Academic Experience

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

I found the French classes really difficult. There were no tutorials for law students on exchange and all the learning was done in lectures – no reading beforehand.

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 lecture style. Less of a workload if you understand the classes but a lot more if not.

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 6 courses?

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

The better your French the easier the classes will be.

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

Fairly standard computer facilities and internet.

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?

We had compulsory weekly French classes for 2 hours. If you aren't doing law there is also a compulsory French culture paper.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

I moved into a flat with a friend of mine that I'd known prior to the exchange

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

No cons. Really nice place for a pretty standard amount of rent. Had an informal lease so didn't need to pay bond or find someone else to replace me when I left.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Definitely get a flat. From what I heard, the hall style accommodation was expensive for what it was and not that nice.

How early can you move into accommodation?

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

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

I was really lucky that my friends flatmate happened to move out as I arrived. Friends of mine found it relatively easy to find flats. Lots of exchange students around.

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

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F: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

There are a ton of ERASMUS (exchange programme) events that you could go to. My uni friends were pretty much all Australian/ English. I made a couple of French friends through my flatmate. Definitely easier to make French friends if you live with French people. Much more difficult at uni itself.

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

French shops and restaurants close at really inconvenient times but other than that was pretty much fine.

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

Remember to kiss 2 cheeks when you meet people and when you leave.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Food in Lyon is amazing.

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

Generally good. University staff were pretty useless in terms of communication. We didn't get told the date of one of our exams until literally 2 days before.

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'm not really sure

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

No

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?

You could pay a set amount to have access to all the uni sports. I didn't do it but some friends of mine used it for the fitness classes.

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

There are a ton of ski resorts within 2 hours drive of Lyon. ERASMUS also does a bunch of organized trips you can go on.

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

Nothing on-campus. There were lots of babysitting jobs advertised or English teaching. I got a one-off job nannying on a ski holiday for a couple days which worked out really well.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

None that I saw

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Passport
2	Insurance
3	Money
4	Decent coat
5	Tim tams

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

1	Make an active effort to learn French and converse with French people
2	Plan your class timetables for longer weekends and take trips
3	Go see uni staff in person – they rarely reply to emails quickly if ever
4	Get a carte jeune for the trains if your planning on lots of trips
5	Blablacar is a car sharing app which makes travel super cheap

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Skiing
2	Nuits sonores – electronic music festival in may in lyon
3	Lumieres festival – festival of lights
4	Bouchon – typical lyonnaise meal
5	The free zoo in Parc de la tete d'or

H: Personal Experience

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

Overall my exchange was awesome. I had a really difficult time initially with the university classes. I definitely overestimated my French abilities. Eventually found a dropbox, which had notes for all my courses that saved my life. Aside from that, Lyon is an awesome city to live in. There are exchange students everywhere and has all the benefits of a big city like Paris but with a chiller vibe. Just being anywhere in Europe is amazing as it is so cheap and easy to travel around. Travelling and meeting new people were definite highlights for me.



