

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	International Business, Marketing
Exchange Institution	Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	2016 trimester 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	600 euro p/month – 4 months total
Return Airfare	\$2500
Local Transportation	30 euro metro card p/month
Meals	50-60 euro per week (including eating out)
Visa	\$150 NZD
Health & Insurance	\$1000 (full year comprehensive travel insurance)
Personal Spending	\$3000 (travel, clothes, eating out)
Communications (phone, etc.)	20 euro p/month (can get cheaper)
Other fees (specify)	Civil liability insurance (20 euro)
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Civil liability insurance, expense of getting to and from Lyon airport.

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

I definitely spent more than I initially planned to due to a lot of travel during and after exchange.

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

I used a cash passport which allows you to load NZD to Euro free of charge. Would recommend, however it takes a few days to do so make sure you do it well in advance! Have a back up credit card also.

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

Save as much as you can!! Really this is so crucial and I can't stress this enough!! You want to be a YES person on exchange and worrying about finances is not something you won't to constantly fret about.

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

Lyon 3 coffee machines will become your best friend. 30 cent machine espressos, cappuccino etc.

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 I did. No the process was actually quite straight forward. Just make sure you are organized, have ALL of the required documents and do it well in advance. The only issue is proof of accommodation, I managed to sort some accommodation before I left and I know other students who booked a hostel for two weeks and use this as proof. That really is the only tricky part.

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

Apply as early as you can to avoid last minute stress.

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 this is 200 euro and civil liability is 20 euro.

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

STA travel. Yes would recommend.

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 History in Film	ENG	Elective	15	3	Interesting content but professor was not particularly attentive.

Cross Cultural management	ENG	IBUS 312	15	3	Great professor, had elements of anthropology and sociology as well. Really enjoyed this class! Great to take, even if you don't study business.
Contemporary Indian Society	ENG	Elective	15	3	Interesting at times but professor lacks clarity in speech and the English language.
CSR & Risks Management	ENG	IBUS elective	15	3	
FLE French Language	French	N/A	N/A	4	High standards, great professor. Keep on top on your homework if you are really determined to improve your French. Can be very rewarding.
French Culture	ENG	N/A	N/A	2	Compulsory class in SELF programme.
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

Online enrollment. You can staff in the SELF programme if you need extra 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?

There was a glitch online when I enrolled in my courses, so when I arrived at the university they informed me that I was not enrolled, which as you can imagine caused a great deal of stress when I was told I could

not enroll in one course I needed to cross credit back to Vic. However after discussion with the director, I was informed the glitch was a problem with the online enrollment system and not my own fault. Thus I was enrolled and all was fine. I would recommend thoroughly checking the system once you have enrolled to make sure it is all ok!

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

Double check you have actually enrolled in your courses!!

Academic Experience

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

The standard at Lyon 3 is lower than at Vic. However our classes were much smaller (only 30 max) so there was far more engagement between students and professors. I really enjoyed this aspect in comparison to lectures at Vic with 200 plus students.

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?

Professors were more interactive as classroom size was much smaller. More time spent in class and less time spent working outside of the classroom. Lectures are very long, 3 hours.

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?

To take the equivalent of 60 VUW points at Vic you must take 4 courses in the SELF programme at Lyon 3 and the compulsory French language paper and French culture paper.

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

Classes are compulsory, unlike VUW. You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences, otherwise you will fail the class.

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

Rarely used the library as I studied at my apartment or in cafes. Library facilities were ok, Wifi could be unreliable.

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?

Yes you are studying in France so French is the language. By no means do you need to be an excellent French speaker though or have any prior French language knowledge for that matter (I would highly recommend studying some before you leave however. I had studied French at high school but was really lacking in my French skills prior to my exchange. I went to the Alliance Francaise in Wellington and did a French language course 6 weeks prior to leaving. Upon arrival at Lyon 3 you will have a two week induction period where you will take a multi choice French test to examine your French level. From there you will be put into the appropriate class for your level and will attend French class twice a week throughout the semester.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

A shared apartment with a French housemate in the 2nd district of Lyon.

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

Pros:

- Very central location (everything was walking distance, metro outside front door, velov bikes)
- Big room, already furnished
- Warm

Cons:

- Some issues with my housemate
- Building was old, had issues with plumbing, electricity etc

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Definitely an apartment!! Try to find other exchange students to flat with.

How early can you move into accommodation?

Start of the month.

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

Had my own kitchen. Supermarkets close by and markets were on everyday of the week.

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

Finding accommodation in Lyon is difficult. The absolute best option is to book a hostel in Lyon for 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the semester. Stay in SLO living or Away Hostel & Coffee Shop; or book an Air Bnb. However in hostels you are very likely to meet other exchange students who are in the same position as you. In those two weeks join all the Facebook pages, get yourself a French sim card and go flat hunting. This really is not as daunting as it sounds!

The other option is to sign up with MY FRENCH LIFEGUARD before your departure. This is an agency sets you up with an apartment and allows you to select housemates before you leave. It is a little expensive but definitely worth it if you want accommodation sorted before you go. My friends who did this had nice apartments and great housemates.

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

It may take time, be persistent and really try to avoid staying in the student residences.

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

Definitely harder to make friendships with locals, but a good challenge if you wish to improve your French. I had a few French friends but my main friend group was exchange students.

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

The language, cigarettes and (sometimes) closed nature of the French.

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

The French aren't always willing to help and often can make things difficult. Take deep breaths and don't expect too much. Always try to speak as much French as you can before reverting to English.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

THE WINE!! Baguettes, pastries etc. The Criox Rousse Sunday markets, the language!

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

As I said before, the French won't go overboard for you so don't expect too much. Students were lovely!

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 don't think this would be an issue. France is very multicultural and progressive so no issues there.

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

No not at all. Just Aussies mocking our Kiwi accent.

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 can pay 30 euro to sign up with the sports club. You will have access to the gym and other recreational activities. My friends and I joined a yoga studio and went to some dance classes.

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

TRAVEL!! Make the most of your time in central Europe. There are so many places to go and things to see. Plan your flights well in advance to get cheap fares, while day trips to other French towns can be spontaneous. Use the website GO EURO to look up cheap buses and trains. Get yourself a Carte Jeune for cheaper train fares. The Lyon airport is expensive to get to and from so purchase your Rhone Express tickets online to save some money. And GO SKIING, even if you don't ski, you must visit the French alps which are a mere hour away from Lyon.

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

Babysitting maybe or English tutoring? I didn't work.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

None that I knew about, maybe you could ask university staff.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	A warm coat (or buy one there, Sandro)
2	A camera!
3	A small weekend suitcase (small enough to take on board a flight).
4	Marmite
5	A good attitude

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

1	Learn some French
2	Save as much as you can!!
3	Live in a shared apartment (1 st , 2 nd , 5 th , 7 th districts are best)
4	Try not to stress
5	Be a YES PERSON
6	When the partying becomes too much, rest up and recharge.

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Parc de la tete d'or
2	La Criox Rousse Markets
3	Bouchon in Vieux Lyon
4	Le Sucre – Bar/Club, Dams Pub, Macanudo Bar
5	Brunch & Coffee at Konditori and La Boite
6	Velov bikes

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2015/apr/25/lyon-city-guide-eurostar-food-wine>

H: Personal Experience

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

It really is hard to sum up the most incredible four months in Lyon. Exchange is one of the most valuable and enriching experiences one can participate in. The initial process can be daunting, stressful and leave you feeling doubtful as to why you would want to drop everything and move to the other side of the world. But it is a billion times worth every penny and tear. My time in Lyon has been life changing. I made some of the most incredible friends, explored new countries, languages, currencies and cuisine. The only advice I have is to put yourself out and go for it. I don't think it matters too much where you go but choosing a country with a contrasting culture to New Zealand makes for all the more fun. GO ON EXCHANGE and soak up every minute!!! I can't thank VIC OE enough for this opportunity! Also try to do two semesters as opposed to one, it really is not enough!! BONNE CHANCE!

If you have any further questions please email me, I'm happy to answer them all!

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