

# Vic OE Evaluation Form

PLEASE TYPE THIS EVALUATION FORM & EMAIL IT TO VIC OE AS A WORD DOCUMENT

## A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Management and International Business
Exchange Institution	Purdue University
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 2, 2013

## 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	\$650
Accommodation	\$9400 including 12 meal plan
Return Airfare	\$2500
Local Transportation	Free bus services around Lafayette with your Purdue ID. Bus to Indy about \$62 return
Meals	Refer to accommodation
Visa	Stavis fee \$180, actual visa about \$150. Flights to Auckland for Visa interview – This was the most costly part.
Health & Insurance	\$550
Personal Spending	? I did not keep track of this to give you a definite number, as I didn't subtract daily costs from my travels.
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$50 per month plan for unlimited text and calling and data (AT&T as it's the best network on campus and gets reception everywhere)
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Food was extremely cheap! I did find I had to buy certain things in the US that I did not bring from home and this was costly. Especially since I didn't want to ship it all home again. this included enough blankets etc and warm clothing as it got much colder than I was used to.

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

I spent more than I thought I would but I do not know what the average person spends on an exchange. I did travel to Chicago, Indy, San Francisco and LA and that's where a lot of my cost would have come from. I focused on enjoying my time and yielding the best experience - I did not focus on cost.

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

I got a USA chase bankcard. I highly recommend this, as there's a branch on campus and makes things so much easier!

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

Use your meal plan and dining dollars. It can be easy to go buy nicer food but you have already paid for this and this costs adds up!

Somehow find a way not to spend too much on things you cant bring home. I needed a lot of things in my dorm – some cups, bedding, towels etc. I found it quite annoying having to leave them, so go to walmart and make it cheap!

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

I'd say \$1.50, its so cheap. A Starbucks was about \$3.50- \$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?

Yes , you need to apply, it is not difficult but takes quite a bit of time. The actual visa plus fees was about 300-400 dollars excluding the travel to Auckland to actually obtain the visa.

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

Take the time and ensure you have got your application right, because if they find problems with your Visa once you get to your interview this can delay the whole process and make it more costly.

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?

No they didn't , but they have their own plan and this is highly recommended because of how strict Purdue is on accepted insurance plans.

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

I used Purdue's – United Healthcare and I had no problems.

## 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>					
MGMT35400	English	Commercial law paper	15	5	Amazing professor who was a local judge and made the class extremely interesting and insightful

MGMT32300	English	200 level Marketing	15	2	good course but in retrospect would have picked a different marketing paper. But was great to work in groups with American students in this class.
PSY1200	English	I'm not sure, this was an introductory paper	15	3	Good introductory class .
NUTR3300	English	No equivalent	15	4	Really good class as I had never done something like this in NZ. However structure of class was not good
<b>VUW Trimester 2/YEAR</b>					

### Course Registration/Enrolment

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

Registration was quite difficult. It was online based and I found it confusing finding the kind of classes I needed and what level they were in relation to NZ classes. Did not have much 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 quite successful but luckily I wasn't searching for major requirements. I'd suggest asking questions- I ended up in third year papers as a second year, it can be quite confusing.

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

Do your research and plan accordingly. If you are organized it will be a lot easier.

## **Academic Experience**

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

It was very different –classes at Purdue were longer but held no tutorials. Also assessments seemed to be in the form of multiple-choice tests instead of written answers and reports like NZ. It met my expectations as i had very good professors and high quality courses available

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?

Teaching was quite standard but this depended across classes. Same as New Zealand, but I must say Purdue is known for high quality professors.

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?

Most Purdue students take 5-6 papers per semester (depending on the credits the paper is worth) as an exchange student I was advised to take a smaller load of 4 papers and I definitely recommend this too. Doing this allows you to have the best experience whilst achieving good grades. You are only there for a limited time and do not want to spend it all studying instead of having the best experience possible.

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

Keep up with your work and visit your professors' office hours. You do not have tutors (in my case) and therefore visiting your professor is very important. It can be quite nerve racking to do this but it is very helpful.

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

Very, very good. There are 24/7 library and computer facilities are everywhere. I had no problems with Internet wherever I was around campus.

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?

n/a

## **E: Accommodation**

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

On-campus dormitory

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

Pros: meet new people, close to campus and many things taken care of for you

Cons: have to find the right dorm for your personality type, no personal space, does not feel like home at all, inconvenient with meals etc.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

I would recommend dorms, however I strongly recommend at Purdue researching all dorms and the type of student in each dorm as there dorms vary a lot in this respect.

How early can you move into accommodation?

One week before semester. There is discretion though.

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

I took the 12 meals per week plan and additional dining dollars to use in shops during the semester. There is cooking facilities in most dorms but you must venture into the town to get the food.

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

n.a

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

Do research and ask questions- see above answers.

## **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 in America is a bit different, I find. At first glance Americans are good friends with you but if you want to establish a friendship it takes more effort and time and you (as the exchange student) must break that barrier and establish the friendship (ask to go to dinner, etc). it is quite hard as a shy person to do this but this is how Americans are and you need to adapt to their culture. It's much easier to make friends with international students, but you are there to meet locals and immerse yourself in their culture! I found it quite difficult but I gained a lot from this.

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

Relatively easy. Purdue is strong for Greek life; I took part in certain Greek activities but did not enjoy it or understand it. However your role is to accept it and have the experience regardless of what you think.

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

Greek life. I did not agree with many aspects of it and it ruled Purdue's social scene my only recommendation is to be open -minded and take on the new experience.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

How friendly people were and how interested they were in me and New Zealand.

How did local people treat you? By university staff and faculty? By students?

Very well – they were all keen to learn about NZ and willing to help me.

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 can't see any problems- Purdue is a large school and every person can find a group of people to fit in with. I really felt like I meet a huge range of people at Purdue and there is so many school groups you can join too.

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?

Purdue has so many facilities and extra-curricular activities. I took part in intramural sports which are social sports ranging from football to quiddich (yes harry potter). My RA made teams and I took part in water polo, football (US and UK versions) and even paintballing.

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

there are so many facilities at Purdue. Massive recreation centers with pools, basketball courts, gyms etc. you can do classes like yoga etc. Hang out with friends in the dorm, use the Purdue facilities or get involved in extra curricular activities – there are so many clubs to join. Otherwise you can go to Indianapolis or Chicago.

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

There are opportunities and I was personally offered a job at Hollister and co. On-campus work pays minimum wage and isn't really desirable, but it is an option if your visa allows it.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

There was a volunteer program for international students called boiler out – I took part in this.

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

**1** Warm jacket (it will get cold!)

2	Something from NZ, people love tot try NZ food
3	Things to make your dorm more homely
4	Gifts for people. I wish I did this
5	

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

1	<b>Be open-minded – meet different kinds of people, do new things</b>
2	Push yourself outside your comfort zone
3	Don't stress, things will go wrong but you are there for the experience. If it all goes wrong its all part of the experience
4	Ask questions. Make an effort to learn about the people and culture. It can be really insightful.
5	

### Top 5 Things to do

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

1	<b>Travel as much as you can around the country</b>
2	Attend an American football game
3	Go and see "greek life" . enter a fraternity and see the traditions that surround this, it is so weird but interesting
4	
5	

### H: Personal Experience

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

My exchange to Purdue University was fantastic. I went when I was 19 years old and very shy- this experience not only made me become a more confident person but also challenged myself in every other way. Purdue is in a small town very different from NZ, it was a very big change but ultimately rewarding. I met some fantastic people and did entirely new things. I also got to travel to new places around the USA.

I think it is a fantastic opportunity that definitely changes you for the good. I matured in my academics but also on a personal level and had a great amount of fun at the same time.

