

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Commerce
Major(s)	International Business, Accounting (Minor)
Exchange Institution	Copenhagen Business School
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 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	200
Accommodation	8000
Return Airfare	3500
Local Transportation	500
Meals	5000
Visa	
Health & Insurance	800
Personal Spending	3000
Communications (phone, etc.)	300
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Accommodation was much higher than expected. No real unexpected costs.

How did your financial expenses compare to what you originally expected to spend? - *I spent much more on accommodation and subsequently this meant my expenses were much higher.*

By what means did you maintain your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, foreign bank account, travelers checks, etc)? *I used a mix of credit cards, cash and cash passport. I would not recommend cash passport due to the hidden costs and I would recommend cash where possible.*

What financial advice would you give students attending the same university as you? I would recommend planning in advance as much as possible. *I would recommend eating at home where possible as eating out anywhere is super expensive. Line up accommodation early, buy a bike and take some warm clothes and good shoes.*

What was the average cost of a can of coke or coffee in your host country? **Unsure of coke but coffee was around \$6-\$7!!**

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? - **I had an EU passport so no problems. You do need a registered address to gain a CPR number (critical for study and living in Copenhagen) so lining up accommodation is key.**

Do you have any advice for future students when applying for visas to your host country? **Organize accommodation with a registered CPR address which will make the whole process really simple – the best way to do this is through the host university..**

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? **Not sure, I used Southern Cross Travel Insurance which covered me for a year and cost about NZD\$500. It was a really good option and was full cover.**

What insurance company did you use and would you recommend it to future students? **Southern Cross, I would definitely recommend them.**

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					
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					
Marketing, Essentials and Trend Drivers	English	Elective	15	3	Interesting Scandinavian perspective along with typical and new marketing theory
Creative Wordmaking for Innovative Product	English	Elective	15	4	Lexicon theories – was quite abstract and challenging

Development					
Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility	English	Elective	15	3	Really good course including many esteemed lecturers from all over Europe in interesting positions in the corporate world
Who Owns the Future – Big Data and Artificial Intelligence	English	Elective	15	3	Really fascinating course with great materials and interesting topics

Course Registration/Enrolment

Please describe the registration process at your host university. What kind of help was available? ***This was all done well before arrival and was online, very easy and there was plenty of help from both the CBS and VicOE teams.***

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 all the courses I wanted. The best thing is to get in early and register as soon as the online registration opens.***

Do you have any advice for future students when choosing and applying for courses? ***I'd recommend doing the courses in English and do things of interest. You're there to enjoy the experience, you're not expected to spend the whole time studying. So choose something that piques interest and you'll be more likely to enjoy it. There are plenty of great courses available.***

Academic Experience

How did your academic experience differ from your time spend at Victoria? Did the academic experience meet your expectations? ***The academic experience was not dissimilar from NZ and really met my expectations. I found the Danes have a nice approach to learning, and there is plenty of self management required. This suits me nicely, and allowed for plenty of time to explore Copenhagen and get to know the people and the place.***

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? ***The teaching style was pretty informal with small class sizes, casual lecturers, kind of similar to VUW. The workload was a little lighter and if anything slightly more***

self reliant learning.

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? ***CBS had many interesting courses that would appeal to many students. 4 papers was a totally manageable workload. I would recommend the sustainability based papers, and the innovation based papers. CBS is a leader in these areas and have a fantastic approach to the papers with many guest lecturers from the 'real world' who make it relevant and interesting.***

What advice would you give VUW students about succeeding academically at your host university? ***I think taking a similar approach as you would to VUW – keep up with the readings and do the homework. The CBS faculty staff are enormously helpful and they are a fantastic resource for getting the most out of the experience academically.***

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your host university? ***All the technology and wifi worked really well except there are very few seats available in the library – bookings are essential. I recommend using public libraries and other public spaces as workspaces.***

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 did a crash course in Danish before beginning the semester and it helped for a moment but I just ended up speaking English as the Danes seemed to prefer that than bad Danish.***

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in? ***Airbnb, shared with a family and finished in an airbnb.***

What were the pros and cons of this form of accommodation? ***Pros – lived with real Danes, in well located places – Cons – super expensive, inconsistent as I was continually moving.***

What accommodation would you recommend to future students? ***Getting a flat well before arriving, through the university and having some kind of backup plan if that falls through. There is a massive housing shortage in Copenhagen and it is really hard to rent a place just through traditional channels. Going through the university is key.***

How early can you move into accommodation? ***I'm not sure to be honest, as soon as one arrives there?***

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? How satisfied were you with the food? ***I cooked regularly as I stayed in houses and people's homes. The food was just what I cooked and supermarkets generally have all the same things as New Zealand supermarkets.***

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? What should future VUW exchange students know about living off-campus? ***Very hard to find. Repeat – very hard to find. There is high demand for accommodation and I would highly recommend arranging this early on. And I would highly recommend organizing this through the host university.***

Do you have any tips of advice for future students when applying for accommodation? ***Start early on, be diligent and do it through the university.***

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students? ***It was fine, the Danes are nice people and not too dissimilar from NZers. I made good connections with some of the people I stayed with but this was through Airbnb and vaguely unrelated to university. The Danes were very welcoming of me and I had no problems getting along.***

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange country/university? ***It was fine. There was plenty of warning about culture shock etc but I was totally happy to be there and genuinely loved every minute of it. The university is enormously international so it was pretty easy to adapt.***

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? How would you recommend students to prepare for these differences? ***There was nothing outrageous to be honest. Of course there are cultural differences but I really didn't find it challenging and I don't think students travelling there would either. The best way to prepare is to do a little research before arriving and be open minded!***

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate? ***Everybody riding bikes and their warm personalities were the best things about the Danes.***

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students? ***All were very kind people to deal with. Most people were overly nice and only willing to help out where possible.***

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? ***No problem at all, I would highly recommend it – CBS is very multi cultural and warm and welcoming.***

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 to be honest. Arrive having done a bit of research and an open mind and I'm sure it will be ok.***

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? **Lots are available, there is something for everybody. I would recommend getting involved with Sustainability 360.**

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays? **Get to see as much of Copenhagen as possible and travel around Denmark and Scandinavia as much as possible. Go to Louisiana – an amazing art gallery only a short train ride away. Go to Bornholm – a small island out of Copenhagen. Go to Sweden – Stockholm, Gotenberg or Malmo – both not too far away and totally worth the trip.**

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus? Off-campus? **Not sure but there is a very strong careers centre that would be the first port of call.**

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students? **Not sure about volunteering to be honest. Internships are definitely available at the big firms and they recruit from CBS regularly.**

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Warm clothes
2	Good Shoes
3	Good Attitude – keen to chat/meet new people
4	Know how to ride a bike
5	A decent amount of cash – quite pricey place

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

1	As above really – the most important thing is having an open mind
2	Get accommodation sorted asap
3	Take as much cash as possible and try to get in as much travel around Scandinavia as possible
4	Do Sustainability papers
5	Don't be shy of the bar – lots of Danes love drinking

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Buy a bike and ride it everywhere
2	Go to Louisiana
3	Live in Norrebro and get to know the neighbourhood
4	Make friends with Danish people – they're awesome
5	Go to one of the Mikkeller beer bars

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 experience was everything I hoped it would be. Copenhagen was an amazing city, the Danes are amazing people and CBS was a fantastic university. I just wish I could have spent longer there. I think two semesters would have been a better option. It was super stimulating to travel and meet new people and seek out new experiences. I would highly recommend it for anyone.