

Vic OE Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Engineering
Major(s)	Software Engineering
Exchange Institution	Nankai University
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	2013 2 nd trimester, 2014 1 st trimester.

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	\$20.00
Accommodation	\$300 a month, not including internet, in the dorm
Return Airfare	\$1,600.00
Local Transportation	Dirt cheap, 1.6 rmb for 1 km I think. 8Rmb minimum
Meals	8rmb at school cafeteria
Visa	\$20 every time you withdraw, I recommended wiring money
Health & Insurance	\$120 for the whole year
Personal Spending	The cheaper everything is the more you buy...
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$20 a month plan
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	

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

I spent more money than I expected but this is primary due to my spending habits. I one was to eat at the cafeteria and only go out once a week the costs would be a lot lower.

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

I recommend opening an account with Bank of China, then transferring funds from NZ. Be prepared to wait and make sure you provide BOC with your phone number so they can get a hold of you when the funds arrive.

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

Meet a friend and move out of the dormitory, best decision I ever made.

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

<\$1 in most convenient stores.

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. It was simple. Go to the embassy with the required stuff and will issue you one. 1 week or more.

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

Yes, make sure the form that use get from the Chinese embassy is up to date and has all the requirements. So you don't have to re do a lot of the procedures in China. Go early in the morning and wait in a long line, submit your body to overworked nurses and sub standard equipment. And pay for it.

Bring the scan of your lungs with you. I wasn't given one when I took the test and paid over \$100 for it. It doesn't even need to be yours, take one from a bin, the nurses don't even look at them. But you must have one.

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, 120 dollars for the whole year.

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

Purchase from university.

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					
Chinese	Mandarin	60	60	4	

VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					
Chinese	Mandarin	60	60	4	

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

Difficult and confusing. Write everything down and ask other students. You will have a brief conversation to one of the teachers and she will decide which level you should be placed in.

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 didn't do any other classes because I enjoyed more time out of the classroom. But the China travel class was fun and didn't require a high level of Chinese or a lot of work.

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

Only one teacher speaks English, ask other students for help.

Academic Experience

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

It was more centralized. You have classes in the same room and 4 different teachers and 4 different student teachers. You feel like everyone knows you and you know everyone.

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?

It keeps you very busy if you do all of which is required, but I doubt that all the students do 2 hours of revision a day on top of homework.

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?

Just go onto the class into which the teacher places you in, and take one culture paper.

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

Turning up to class gets you points, participating in class also.

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

Non existent.

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 study Chinese in Vic.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

Dormitory then I moved out to a apartment.

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

Dormitory is easy, they clean your room and change your sheets when your in class. Mailing stuff is great because its safe and there are people there 24/7 who take your parcels. Unlike renting an apartment where you need to be home to receive packages, also need to buy a lot off stuff like bedding.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

I definitely recommend apartment because you have space, actual space, you don't need to stand up from your chair when ever your roommate wants to go to the toilet. Also internet is dirt cheap in China, I don't understand how the international dormitory can justify the high cost for their limited internet. Also kitchen unless you plan to eat out everyday. But living in a dormitory at first would be better, until you're more

confident.

How early can you move into accommodation?

The day you arrive

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

In the dormitory its almost impossible to cook in their mini kitchen which has hot water, microwave and a stove. Situate one per floor.

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

The are agencies set up just for foreigners who help them find housing, if you are 厉害 you can use 58.com

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

Barter with the landlord, there is nothing in China which isn't negotiable.

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. Chinese love to communicate with foreigners.

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

Very difficult at first, lots of frustrating moments.

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

Study Chinese, meet friends who have been in China a long time who can show you they Chinese way of doing something, usually faster and cheaper.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Freedom. Despite the Chinese Government, the great firewall, cameras everywhere, Tianjin is a very free place for someone who likes to let go.

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

Everyone is very polite. Chinese like to show their best side to foreigners, don't be afraid to ask for help.

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?

There aren't that many facilities for people with disabilities. Gay and such are treated just like anybody else in Tianjin by most. I have meet some gay and lesbian Chinese and foreigners.

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

There were a lot of Japanese students in my university (they even had a dormitory just for them). They were treated well by most. People who post extremest material online are a small minority, most Chinese are very understanding and nice to all cultures. I'm sure there were some bad moments, but I didn't see any.

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?

Not many. Don't expect the school to help you, need to network.

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

Travel to Beijing at least one on the weekend, feels a lot more progressed

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

Its illegal with a student visa. But there are a lot of English Teaching and modeling opportunities for Caucasians.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

none

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Chocolate!!
2	Cheese!!
3	Protein!! (if you use it)
4	Extra chewing gum
5	More Chocolate

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

1	Don't bother bring any diarea pills or such unless you have a history with problems.
2	If you're going into summer bring summer clothes, it can get really hot.
3	Maybe set up a vpn before you leave for China, a lot of useful stuff like a lot of wiki pages, youtube, google, google play, are blocked. While a lot of pornography sites are still working. Interesting inst it?
4	Don't go to places where there is no set price because you will almost certainly get over charged based of your skin color.
5	Always use the meter in taxis. Or use baidu maps to see how much it should cost

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	易买得
2	大悦城
3	滨江道
4	天塔
5	

