

Vic OE Evaluation Form

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	BSc
Major(s)	Psychology
Exchange Institution	Nanyang Technological University
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 2 year 2012

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	\$130
Accommodation	\$905
Return Airfare	\$1200
Local Transportation	\$7 average for a 2 way trip to town
Meals	\$5 per meal
Visa	\$40
Health & Insurance	\$50
Personal Spending	\$300
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$10/month
Other fees (specify)	Traveling outside singapore \$1000
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	-unexpected cost: dental checkup -less than expected: food, transportation, books -more than expected: club entrance fee

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

-I spent less than I expected mainly because the living cost was much lower.

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

-cash is most convenient, but keep bills of everything and sum up your spendings each month. Also always keep an eye on how much money you got left so you know your limits.

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

-if you are staying less than one year and are planning to open a bank account there, make sure you understand the possibility of you being penalised/charged, if you close your account prior earlier than a year.

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

-I'm not sure because they barely sell soft drinks, but a can of tea and juice is about \$2, and a bottle about

\$3-\$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?

-you have to apply for a 'student pass', which is \$30. However you will be receiving the student pass in Singapore. In order to enter the country in the first place you need some sort of letter, in which you have to apply for in advance (2 weeks?). This letter gives you entry to Singapore and is used to claim the student pass later on along with other documents.

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

-If you follow all the steps on the internet guideline carefully then you will go through the process smoothly as well.

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, it is about \$40 per semester.

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

-It was the university's, I never claimed anything but my friend did, and it seemed like all went well

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 2012					
Biological Psychology	English	Psyc233	15	4	Requires high amounts of self-study and book reading.

Personality & Individual differences	English	Psyc2xx	15	3	
Personnel Psychology	English	Psyc322	15	3	Involves 4 spreaded out internal test, requires constant study.
Service Marketing	English	Mark315	15	3	

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

-Online registration, very limited space per class, people who are majoring gets the priority. You cannot enrol into 2 courses that clashes. Minimal help, if you really need to get into a course you need to contact them directly eg. through e-mail.

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 into everything I want but I had to run around quite a bit in order to get that.

-Advice: enrol in plenty of courses in the beginning because pulling out later is much easier than trying to get in late. If you really to get into a course don't just wait, e-mail them and ask for ways they can help you.

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

-see above.

Academic Experience

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

-It is shocking to have a 3-4 continuous hours of lectures, none of my classes are like that at Victoria. Some lectures are hard to understand due to the different english accent I'm used to.

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?

-I feel that the workload there is less, but this might be because I was not doing part-time jobs. There is not as much work to submit in tutorials.

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?

-4 courses should be alright. I would recommend Personnel psychology because the course project simulates a real job recruiting experience which is quite interesting. Also I would

recommend a psychology negotiation course (HP314c) it is very interesting and is applicable to daily life.

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

-make sure you know how you will be evaluated eg. the type of test, etc. It is quite different from Victoria and can be confusing.

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

-Great! awesome! sufficient!

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?

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

-university hall

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

-pros: without the university compartment making it very easy to go to-from lectures, you also enjoy all the student price friendly items all the time eg. food at canteen

-cons: there are rules you have to follow, sometimes hall activities can be very loud at night.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

-university hall

How early can you move into accommodation?

- 1-2 weeks prior to the first lecture day? (not sure)

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

-you can buy food from canteens, or you can cook them at the hall at a communal kitchen

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

Do you have any tips of advice for future students when applying for accommodation?
no, everything is a random allocation

G: Personal & Cultural Connections

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

-I would say I was successful to a certain point.

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

-It was not too hard.

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

-The local english is pretty hard to understand, but you can always ask them to repeat.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

-the food.

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

-local students treated me nicely, other locals in the city are not always nice. The staff and faculty was polite and helpful.

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?

-disabilities: it would be hard for people with impaired vision or hearing.

-Minorities: it does not seem to be a problem

-gay,etc.: I don't think the culture is comfortable with those people yet.

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

-I did not experience any.

H: 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?

There are plenty! several dance clubs, sport clubs, social service clubs, and many more.

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

-go into town and go see whatever is happening, there is always something going on.

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

not much, I don't have the knowledge

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

I know there are some, but I do not know the details.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1 Umbrella/something to cover you from the rain.

2 Flip flops, make sure they're alright if they get wet.

3	Sunscreen, sunglasses
4	camera
5	Light clothes.

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

1	Make friends with locals, they will tell you all the insider knowledge you need to know.
2	Don't rely on the internal free buses, they don't come on time.
3	The facilities and pools are free for use. Certainly bring a swimming suit, the pool is so pretty!
4	Keep in mind that there are no transportation to the university after midnight except taxi (very expensive).
5	There are plenty of canteens on campus, so if you're bored go to the next one.

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Check out Marina Bay (the infinity pool and the casino)
2	Visit Gardens by the bay
3	Eat all the desserts you've never seen!
4	Shopping at Bugis street, orchard road, sommerset, etc.!
5	Go out on Singapore's national day and see the national parade from a big screen

I: Personal Experience

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

I had an amazing experience during my exchange in Singapore. Its vibrant and colorful city had outreached my expectations; the light performances on the wharf, the never-ending varieties of festivals and the busy pedestrians rushing on the street were ready to be encountered any time of the day. I was highly impressed by the future-oriented minds of the people and its culture, which was carved in every roots of the society from building designs to the educational system. I have certainly enjoyed myself on this exchange and it had certainly broaden my views of the world. Thank you so much for this great opportunity!

