

Vic OE Evaluation Form

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Bachelor of Arts
Major(s)	International Relations
Exchange Institution	Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 1, 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	0
Accommodation	600 per month
Return Airfare	1,800
Local Transportation	30 for 4 months
Meals	40 per week
Visa	5
Health & Insurance	200 for 4 months
Personal Spending	50 per week
Communications (phone, etc.)	10 per month of month
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	I travelled during the breaks, and this exponentially increased my spending. Also, clothing was more expensive than I expected.

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

I spent about \$1,500 more than I would have liked.

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

I used internet banking a lot and only withdrew USD outside of Argentina, then changed USD on the street.

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

Bring a lot of USD in \$100 bills and change it to pesos on Calle Florida. You will save soooo much money doing this.

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

Maybe \$1-2. I don't drink either and so am not sure.

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?

As a Kiwi you can enter without a problem and then UCA takes you through the process to getting a student visa.

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

It's easy

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?

Nope, but we had to provide a copy of our insurance as proof during O week.

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

Nomads

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					
Registrando Buenos Aires	Spanish	unsure	15	3	Wasn't very technical but we got plenty of practice taking photos
Cultural Identity in Latin America	English	ANTH312	15	4	My favourite course - hard work but interesting
Revoluciones Comparadas Americanas	Spanish	HIST315	15	4	Really challenging
CEDIC Spanish lessons	Spanish	FHSS310	15	4	Outside of UCA and much better than UCA Spanish
Nuevo Cine	Spanish	FILM101	15	4	So many movies!

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

We had to choose our subjects all over again when we arrived. There was a lady available to talk over your academic choices.

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?

Take your Spanish classes outside of UCA. The language test they use to place you put some fluent Spanish speakers (i.e. from Bolivia) in to Intermediate classes.

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

By taking private classes at CEDIC, you get one-on-one or small groups of mainly conversation, tailored to what you need work on.

Academic Experience

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

There was a greater difference in workload, some classes were really hard and some were easier than expected.

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?

There were no lectures; classes took place in rooms like in school

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 UCA courses and 1 Spanish language course; I'd recommend Nuevo Cine because of the amount of Latin movies you get to see.

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

If you fail an internal, ask to take an extra exercise.

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

Modern and satisfactory

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 used duolingo.com

There was a month of intensive Spanish before the semester started, although I didn't do it.

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

A rented apartment

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

It was like a flat in NZ with other young people. It was noisy in the inner city.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Rented apartment

How early can you move into accommodation?

As soon as you find it

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

I made my own 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?

Ask the other students if they know of any vacancies during O week

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

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 made good friends with my flat mates but spent all my time with other UCA students

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

It got frustrating sometimes

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

Dinner wasn't until 9/10pm. Classes were always 2.5/3 hours long

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

The passion for life and fun

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

Pretty much the same as in NZ

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 think it wouldn't be much different to my experience

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

No

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?

So many! From polo to scuba diving to volleyball, I didn't do any though

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

San Telmo Sunday markets, go clubbing, eat out a lot, travel to Uruguay during summer esp. Punta del Diablo

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

Not any that I knew about

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

You could volunteer working with less privileged children

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	A good windbreaker jacket
2	Flat shoes - the street paving leaves a lot to be desired
3	USD in \$100 bills and LOTS of them
4	Sunglasses - you'll use them all the time
5	A slim case to keep your cards in

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

1	Expect to have to choose your courses again when you arrive
2	Take Spanish classes outside of UCA
3	Find accommodation in Palermo, San Telmo or Recoleta so it doesn't take hours to commute to uni or to restaurants and clubs
4	Change your USD on Calle Florida and wait until the blue rate is around 8 or 9 if you can
5	Try to have either Monday or Friday free of classes

Top 5 Things to do

What are your 'Top 5 Things To Do' for future VUW students at your Host University or city/country?

1	If it's on do 'Color en Movimiento'
2	See La Boca
3	Do the Orientation activities like visiting a ranch
4	Visit Iguazu
5	Enjoy Breakfast/Brunch/Lunch/Snacks/Dinner/Drinks at all the incredible eateries

I: Personal Experience

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

I went on exchange to Buenos Aires with the expectation that I would become fluent in Spanish and absorb myself in the rich and passionate Latin culture. My first glimpses of the city included sunny, wide avenues lined with trees, magnificent parks and people everywhere. Orientation week was a flurry of language immersion and meeting students from France, Holland, Colombia, the USA and more. Every one was friendly and ready to socialise at every opportunity. The week following the majority of us didn't have classes yet and so we went to Uruguay to sun ourselves. Our classes were long and I found it hard to take notes as well as translate constantly during the lectures given in Spanish. I am so glad I chose to take my Spanish classes outside of UCA as the



UCA classes were very simple, which was hypocritical because we were expected to understand and participate in classes run solely in Spanish. The weeks went by quickly in a blur of school work, partying and eating out. There was no official mid semester break, although we were given many 'feriados', which are public holidays. Some were long enough to allow international travel to places like Peru, Chile and Brazil. The exchange was an intense learning experience, nothing is like setting up in a new, foreign country and making your own way in it. I made incredible friendships and have fallen in love with South America.

