

Student Evaluation Form

A. Student Information

Degree(s) enrolled in at VUW	Business Administration of Commerce
Major(s)	ECON & ACCY
Exchange Institution	UC Irvine
VUW Trimester(s) and Year of Exchange	Trimester 1 of the year 2012

B. Finances

Please provide an estimate on how much you spent on your exchange (in your host country's currency).

Food & personal spending	US\$1800
Accommodation	US\$3360
Return Airfare	US\$1700
Local Travel	US\$2000
Books, misc. levies (e.g. student association)	US\$900
Visa	US\$160
Insurance	US\$600
Other (please specify)	US\$2000, clothing, gifts
	Total = US\$12520

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

My financial expense actually is higher than I originally expected to spend.

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

Foreign bank account, such as Wellsfargo and Chase.

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

Open a checking account at the local bank, there is a wellsfargo branch on UCI campus.
 Student checking account is free.

Were there any extra or unexpected costs which future students should be aware of?

As goods are cheaper in US compared with in NZ, you may want to buy lot things

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

A can of coke is about US\$1.50, a cup of brewed coffee is about US\$1.60.

Please submit your completed Evaluation form, photos and Consent form to the Exchange Office via email (exchangestudents@vuw.ac.nz).

C. Visas & Insurance

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

Just prepare every document that are required.

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

I used the insurance that offered by UC Irvine, called UC SHIP. It's very convenient if you are living on or near campus.

C. Academics

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 (if applicable)	VUW points/credits value	Rating (1-5)	Comments
Fundamental German	German & English			2	
Intro to business and Management	English	MGMT 101	15	2	
Behavioral Economics	English			4	
Corporate Finance	English	FINA 201		3	
International Money	English	ECON 338		4	
Intermediate Economics C	English	ECON 202	15	3	

How did you find the teachers at your exchange university?

They are great and with strong personalities.

How did your academic experience differ from your time spend at Victoria?

Study at UCI is more intense than that at Victoria, the final exams are right after the instruction, there isn't a whole week before for you to prepare.

How did your academic experiences differ from what you expected?

Some courses are easier than I expected, but some are clearly not. I need to highly participate in discussion session in order to fully understand the material.

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

Talk to the people who have previously taken those courses, seek advice about the class structure and how the professor is. More important, select a good TA!!

D. Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

On-campus housing.

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

It is safe and close to every facility on campus, but it's a little far from the grocery stores if you cook for yourself and don't have a car.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

There are some off-campus housing communities which are also very conformable and convenient to everything, search early before you come.

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

Directly call the administration of each housing office to make sure if they have any spot available, or use the UCI housing network find roommate.

F. Culture

What were some of the hardest cultural differences you faced while abroad?

People in States are very straight-forward, it's hard to get used to it at first.

How would you recommend students to prepare for these differences?

Adjust yourself, and be open to people. Get involved and meet people.

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

I went to an interview for a part-time position as accounting assistant, it went very well but they rejected me simply because I'm not a citizen in States, but I'm fully eligible to work part-time. My advice, try to apply for more internship, regardless the results, it's a good practice.

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G. Other opportunities

Did you take part in an internship or any volunteer activities while on exchange? If so, please explain.

Yes, I got an internship as business administration intern at Orange County.

Are there are great clubs or associations etc. you recommend other students get involved with while on exchange at you host uni?

Yes, there are a lot clubs on campus, like Business administration association, and leadership association, lots fun activities going on there.

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

1. Going to the beaches nearby, such as Laguna Beach, Huntington Beach, and the San Clemente pier is so beautiful.
2. Shopping at South Coast Plaza, Irvine Spectrum, Fashion Island at Newport beach
3. Disneyland
4. Go and have Pha at 3 am.
5. Go and see a newly-released movie

H. Personal Response

I had a wonderful time while on exchange. The most valuable benefit I gained from my exchange in USA is the people I met. During my exchange, I traveled to a lot places, LA, Chicago, Niagara Falls, Boston, New York City, Washington DC, Miami, Hawaii and some national parks. Along the road, I met many interesting people, young musicians going to perform during a musical festival in New York, world travelers from Europe. We told our stories, laughed, shared our opinions about travel, work and life. That's the magic of travelling, it made more confident about myself and open to the world. Through the interaction with people from different background helped me better understand humanity. To some extent, my exchange experience changed how I see things and myself. I became clearer about what kind person I want to be than ever.

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