

# Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

## A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Marketing and International Business
Exchange Institution	WHU Otto Beisheim School of Management
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Tri 1, 2015

## 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	\$50
Accommodation	\$3000
Return Airfare	\$2500
Local Transportation	\$200
Meals	\$1500
Visa	\$0
Health & Insurance	\$400
Personal Spending	\$1000
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$200
Other fees (specify)	\$300
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	I spent a lot more on travel than I expected.

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

I spent less money overall than I had expected.

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

I had a cash passport that I got in NZ but I also had a credit card.

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

Save as much money as possible because you will want to travel a lot more than you expect because the town is really small and the workload is very small.

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

2.50-3 Euro which is about \$3.50-4.50 for a cup of coffee.

**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?

Did not apply for a visa. EU passport.

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

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, my university required health insurance and wanted the highest cover possible. Mine was a good deal for \$400 for over 6 months total.

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

Southern Cross, and yes I would recommend it.

## 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
<b>VUW Trimester 1/YEAR</b>					
Marketing Communications	English	MARK301	15	4	Quite interesting and straight forward
Creating Social Value	English	Unspecific Management points	7.5	4.5	Very interesting and completely different to anything I have done in NZ
Individual Decision Making and Motivation	English	Unspecific Management points	7.5	2.5	Very "science" based
Interdependent Decision	English	Unspecific Management	7.5	2	Very similar to the paper above, not that great at

Making and Coordination		points			all. Quite boring.
Organizational Change	English	Unspecific Management points	7.5	3.5	Quite an interesting paper with interesting content.
German A1	German	GERM103	20	4.5	Very useful to learn for getting around the country. A nice teacher and very practical German skills taught.
<b>VUW Trimester 2/YEAR</b>					

### Course Registration/Enrolment

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

VicOE did almost the whole process. WHU has a lot of exchange students so it was super easy.

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 all of the classes I wanted apart from one but I was able to change that class and still get points.

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

Get in fast because the good ones fill up. Don't try to get into the limited entry ones because they prioritize the local students and you are likely to miss out.

### Academic Experience

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

Much less of a work-load and the content was very easy in comparison to the classes I have at Victoria. Classes were more condensed and taught over a shorter period of time.

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?

Style of teaching was very similar but the workload was way lower than I expected.

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?

About the same workload as me or one extra paper. I wouldn't do less than this.

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

Take the English based courses. Go to lectures and do papers with group work because you will get good grades.

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

Very good facilities, very impressive and modern. Many computers for the amount of students.

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 took a German course at my university but I went ok without German because so many people in Germany speak amazing English.

## **E: Accommodation**

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

Apartment building, hostel style complex.

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

I had my own bathroom and kitchen and was living with other students but it was a lot more expensive than other options of accommodation.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

I would highly recommend the university provided accommodation at the university because it is good quality, with other students and everything you need is provided.

How early can you move into accommodation?

Three days before the semester starts.

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

I had my own kitchen facility, but without an oven. I was satisfied with this.

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

No on-campus living options because the university is very small. There was lots of accommodation options

close to the university so it was all in walking distance.

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

Get in fast because it is first-come first-served.

## **F: Personal & Cultural Connections**

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

Making friends with the locals was a lot harder than I expected but I did manage to make a few friends.

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

Very easy to adjust, the only hard thing was the language barrier really.

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

The language barrier was hard. I also found that the guarded nature of Germans was often difficult to interact with.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

The food, the music, Berlin!

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

Very well by the staff and faculty. Pretty well by the local students.

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 is not the best place to go if you are different from the main stream. I would recommend Berlin area or a bigger city ahead of the town I went to.

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

I didn't have any problems.

## **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?

Exchange student parties and activities were very common.

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

We travelled all the time in the weekends!

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

Student café that you can work at but not many other options really.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

The university has lot of partners who do internships and lots of opportunities to go to work for companies once the semester ends. They are very helpful with that.

### **5 things to take to your host country or region**

<b>1</b>	<b>Warm clothes</b>
<b>2</b>	Camera
<b>3</b>	Travelbug
<b>4</b>	Speakers
<b>5</b>	Decorations for your room

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Be prepared to mingle a lot</b>
<b>2</b>	Don't go with a boyfriend/girlfriend left at home
<b>3</b>	Don't go to this town if you like big cities
<b>4</b>	You will not do very much work and you will party hard.
<b>5</b>	The exchange students are some of the coolest people you will meet in your life!

### **Top 5 Things to do**

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Visit Berlin</b>
<b>2</b>	Visit Munich
<b>3</b>	Go to Tauschie Tuesdays
<b>4</b>	Attend some of the university parties
<b>5</b>	Plan to travel to a lot of different places.

## 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 probably the best thing I have ever done. You find out so much about yourself as a person and make so many lifelong friends. I am so glad to have gone to Germany because being in a country with a foreign language was an added experience and challenge. My university was extremely accommodating of the exchange students and this made it easy to get good grades and have fun. The town was cute and had a good community vibe but also encouraged us to travel a lot in the weekend since there wasn't that much to do.

