

Victoria Abroad Evaluation Form

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

A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	BA
Major(s)	ANTH and MDIA
Exchange Institution	University of Windsor
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 2 - 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	\$150.00
Accommodation	\$3284
Return Airfare	\$6000
Local Transportation	\$300
Meals	\$2500
Visa	\$100
Health & Insurance	Unsure- as I got it as a deal with my travel agent/ insurance. Be aware of high chemist fees though.
Personal Spending	\$2500
Communications (phone, etc.)	\$0- I choose just to rely on wifi/ Skype as I could access it almost anywhere.
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	N/A- though perscriptions are expensive, so if you have a medical condition I would recommend bringing as much as you can from NZ.

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

I was realistic and strict to my budget- so with the exception with a few trips I didn't initially plan for I spent close to what I saved.

By what means did you maintain your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, foreign bank account, travelers checks, etc)?- getting a travel card- I used loaded so I could transfer NZ- too CAD and not have to pay the bank fees.

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

If you are staying in Res- the meal plan covers you really well for food, so don't be too stressed out about budgeting for that cost.

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

1.50

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 I did. But only because I knew I would be doing a lot of travel between the US and Canada. Just be aware that if you need one that requires an interview, you will need to travel up to Auckland. Its a brief interview but Wellington does not have an american embassy so be prepared for that to be budgeted for.

Do you have any advice for future students when applying for visas to your host country? - n/a as in Canada you do not need one unless you are studying for 2 trimesters you will need a study permit which you get from the canadian customs officer.

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. I can't remember exactly how much as it got mashed in with all my other fees.

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

Just the one association with STA Travel. - deal seemed worth the money though I did not have to use it at all.

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					
Health, Culture and Society	English	ANTH 307	15	3	Highly engaging, lots of examples that sparked and maintained my interest in the subject.
Food, and Global Sustainability	English		15	3	A little bit dry, but the opportunity to do practical research was refreshing.
Media Technology and the Environment	English		15	3	Highly engaging, prof guides you through examples with detail and clarity
Methods of Mass Media Criticism	English		15	3	Easy to follow and understandable course.
VUW Trimester 2/YEAR					

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

The exchange co-ordinator (Michelle) took your preferred course options and got them approved by the profs. Quick, easy, and efficient.

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 my first choices- I think it is important to keep them in mind early so when asked for them, you can submit them to Michelle quickly which raises your chances of getting in.

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

Same with at Victoria, go for things that appear to interest you, because its much harder to swap classes further along.

Academic Experience

How did your academic experience differ from your time spend at Victoria? Did the academic experience meet your expectations? I found it very on par with what I have come to expect at Victoria.

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? Workload was about the same. Teaching style is always dependent on the lecturer and not the university.

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? Depending on how many points you need I'd say about 4. Its manageable and their courses only equal 15 of our points so you may need one extra to hit your degree requirements.

What advice would you give VUW students about succeeding academically at your host university? As per at home. Balance- sleep, social, and study.

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your host university? - standard, through, I mostly relied on my personal computer and online data bases. But could always access what I needed.

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? N/A

E: Accommodation

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

Residence (on campus)

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

Pros: close to all facilities, great way to socialise and meet new people. Cons: a bit too noisy at times but

there is always quieter study spaces.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

How early can you move into accommodation?

Two days.

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? How satisfied were you with the food?
Downstairs kitchen- but I mostly utilised my meal plan at the on campus food places.

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

Do you have any tips of advice for future students when applying for accommodation?- MAKE FRIENDS AND ASK QUESTIONS

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students? - Pretty easy for me because most of my classes required group work so I met people that way.

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

Its pretty comparable to New Zealand- so it was pretty easy to adjust.

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

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

friendliness, and use of the word 'eh'

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

Fine- they found my accent amusing so I was novel. Everyone was helpful and approachable

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? - very inclusive from what I could gage.

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

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?- there was many clubs around- but I did not really sign up for them. I know a lot of the boys joined sports clubs such as soccer, and table tennis.

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

Downtown- being a border city its very easy to travel to either the US or other parts of Canada.

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus? Off-campus? N/A as I was only here for one trimester I was not eligible.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?- unsure.

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Warm Clothes
2	Snow Friendly Boots
3	Enthusiasm
4	A Smile
5	Our Flag- it comes out every now and then

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

1	Make Friends
2	Prepare for Jetlag
3	Prepare for people struggling with your accent.
4	Remember to utilise all the help available to you like you do at home!
5	Learn to pour milk out of bags

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	SPRINGS! (its a trampoline park)
2	Ice Hockey Games- Detroit (its like a 20 min drive)
3	Shopping! Range is way bigger.
4	Poutine!- Google it.
5	ADVENTURE

H: Personal Experience

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

Intially, I was nervous as all heck! But over the course of the time I spent here, I have seen some amazing things, expanded my horizons, and become very thankful for what I have at home. I have also had the pleasure of making friends both from Canada and all over the world that has provided me with the opportunity to adventure even further. Putting yourself 26 hours away from home teaches you a lot about where you fit in the world, and opens your eyes to both how hard and wonderful it can be. I am so thankful for this experience and would do it a hundred times over.