

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 Science
Major(s)	Computer Science
Exchange Institution	University of Windsor
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 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	200 (books are ridiculously expensive so I used my tablet and ebooks)
Accommodation	3500
Return Airfare	2700
Local Transportation	120 – taxis and busses (including Detroit Tunnel Bus)
Meals	750 Meal plan + 300 grocery
Visa	200 + flight to AKL
Health & Insurance	600
Personal Spending	3000
Communications (phone, etc.)	15 per week unlimited txt/data
Other fees (specify)	3500 on America camping trip 1500 on skiing and Toronto visit
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Have to pay to visit national parks Tipping is customary at restaurant and taxis

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

Pretty close

By what means did you maintain your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, foreign bank account, travelers checks, etc)? I opened a local bank account free and wire transferred money internationally. I think this is a good option as the exchange rate was at a peak and I saved a lot

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

Try and use your meal plan as much as possible. Share taxis with people

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

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? I got a USA visa as it is easier when you want to cross the border often and I did a month long camping trip on the West coast of USA after exchange

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

Very simple process just takes time and money

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?

Green shield insurance is mandatory. \$200

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

Southern Cross, was the cheapest I didn't need to claim anything though

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					
Database Management Systems	English	SWEN 304 Databse Ssystem Engineering	15	2	Fairly easy course covering how to use SQL language and basic database structures
Object-Oriented Software Analysis/Design	English	SWEN 301 Structered Methods	15	1	Easy course more on the Business Analysis side of software production
Adv Object Oriented Sys Design Using C++	English	COMP300	15	5	Hard course on how C++ works and what the program does at each step
Artificial Intelligence Concepts	English	COMP307 Intro to AI	15	4	Fairly hard course with heaps of topics to cover in a short time

Course Registration/Enrolment

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

There is a exchange coordinator who will help you and tell you what to do for each step

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?

Very easy to enroll. Use the universities internal course search tool and tell the echange coordinator what courses you want to apply for.

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

Academic Experience

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

The culture is very laid back and everybody is nice and friendly

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?

Less work in most courses and there are tutors and help groups instead of tutorials and workshops for my courses

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?

4-5 papers standard

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

Stay on top of the work and assignments through out the year as most of the final grade is not from your final exam

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

Smaller than Victoria but there are computers available. The library is two levels and most people go there for group study

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?

Flats owned by the univeristy

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

Had your own room and a kitchen to cook, 5 bedrooms per flat. Was really fun.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

Clark flats as it is most fun and most exchange students live here

How early can you move into accommodation?

Just arrive, get your key and open your door

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

You must get a meal plan but there are lots of options to use it around campus and off campus at reasonable prices. Off campus the price is doubled though

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

I wouldn't recommend off campus in the winter as walking through a foot of snow to get to class might get boring

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

I got a single room in Clark and found it was big enough.

F: Personal & Cultural Connections

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students? **I joined clubs inside the university and the Frisbee club for the region and made heaps of friends.**

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

Fairly easy since everyone speaks English and is very nice

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

Tippling was different but just tip 15-20% ask people how don't be shy

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Everyone was friendly and wanting to help

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

Everyone loves kiwis there and wants to tell you how they want to travel to NZ one day

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 would be easy there are clubs in the university that support you**

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

None

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?

You can sign up to clubs on clubs day or at the Gym easily.

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

Go explore Ontario or go to an event at Detroit

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

Not sure I didn't get a visa so no working

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

Lots of interns available to Toronto and very easy to apply on the student portal

5 things to take to your host country or region

1	Very warm Jacket if going in winter
2	Pineapple Lumps/ NZ lollies
3	Power adapters
4	Something for the long plane ride
5	Good shoes for winter

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

1	Check how many layers others are wearing youll probably need an extra
2	Don't yell squirrel if you see one people will look at you funny.
3	Join clubs to meet friendly Canadians
4	Share taxis to downtown its to cold to walk and should only be total of \$10
5	Get groceries every Tuesday on the free grocery bus

Top 5 Things to do

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

1	Travel to Toronto to see all the tourist attractions
2	Take the bus to Detroit to see NBA, MLB and other events
3	Go to Point Pele
4	Go to Tim Hortons at least once a day
5	Go Skiing!

H: Personal Experience

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

The Exchange was an amazing experience that I will never forget. I met so many cool people and did so many cool things. The host university treated me so well and made sure I was setup and comfortable in my accommodation. Meeting so many people from all around the world on exchange was awesome. When people ask me what my favourite part is, I cant choose because

everything was so awesome. Every day is as exciting as the last and make sure you do the most you physically can.

