



Study Abroad Evaluation

General Information			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Host Country	Australia		
Host School/Agency	Edith Cowan University		
Participation Dates	February - June 2014		
Your Program of Study	Graphic Design		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize why you rated your experience the way you did:	It was a fantastic excuse to travel and experience new things.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	It was relatively easy but stressful. I would recommend getting /applying for these documents ASAP.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	Lived on campus so walked to/from class. Took public transit and cabs around the city. Booked flights to travel between cities/states.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	I was very nervous because they are incredibly strict about bringing foreign items into the country - declare these items.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	Traveled to Sydney by plane, 23 hour flight. Took another flight to Perth, 5 hour flight.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	It was helpful at first, but not once I returned as Caitlyn stopped responding to my emails about transfer credits.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your evaluation of your host schools international staff or office?	The assistance from ECU was fantastic. They were friendly and incredibly helpful and prompt with their replies. They were available over the phone.		
Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)			
How was new student			

It was helpful but took too long.
They tried to teach us about Australian culture.

orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	It was helpful but They provided snacks and brought in typical to Aussie culture (vegemite). native wildlife.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources available for you to talk to about what you were experiencing?	I would consider it very easy to adjust. Fortunately, there were no language barriers. Having my friends with me who were going through the same experience also made it easier to talk about.
Housing	
Describe your accommodation in your host country.	Stayed in residence housing on campus. Nice, new facilities. Lived with 5 other roommates.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	I believe you could move in 1-2 months before the semester and 2 months max after the semester.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	NOT comfortable at first until I lodged a room/condo transfer.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	Our condo featured a full kitchen, minus an oven. Cooked my own meals most of the time. Groceries were expensive. Food was more or less the same as in Canada.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	It was a 5 minute walk to campus.
Academics & Course Registration	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Registration at ECU was easy. Helpful staff did not make it a frustrating experience. There was an office on campus that was always open (most of the time). Very satisfied.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	Make sure you have your documents ready and can provide the required information. It makes the process easier/faster, for both parties.
What course load would you recommend for future students? Are there particular courses you would recommend?	I would recommend taking 5 classes, or 4. I would definitely recommend the Illustration class with Stuart Medley.
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the	

amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Not satisfied as much of the information was review.
How did the style of teaching compare to Canada? How did the workload compare to Canada?	Style of teaching was pretty similar. I felt they treated us as ^a younger audience. Workload was similar as well.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	I took 5 classes.
If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	N/A
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	We were in Mac Labs just like the our program at Kwantlen. Internet/WiFi did not always work (like Kwantlen). They had a pretty good library ^{with lots of quiet space (unlike Kwantlen).}
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	Art supplies ~ \$180
Flight:	approx. \$2500
Accommodation/per month:	\$256 every two weeks.
Meals/per month:	approx. \$100/month
Local transportation/per month:	approx. \$25/month excluding cabs
Health insurance/per term:	\$180 total
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) - per term	approx. \$550 for pay-as-you-go phone packages and to internet.
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	approx. \$300 - had to renew passport and obtain entry visa.
Vaccinations:	NONE
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) - per term	approximately \$5000 ↳ traveled and shopped a lot
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Agencies were more expensive than I thought. Internet was expensive.
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities available at your host site?	They were the good. It was fun exploring the surrounding suburbs - shopping, boutiques, coffee shops, bookstores, etc.
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future	There were quite a few residence events/parties to encourage other residents to meet and get to know each other.

Would recommend exploring the city on your own terms - not with the school.

students?	
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	I didn't work. Some of my friends (other exchange students) got jobs but were short lived.
Health and Safety	
Did you feel safe in your host country?	Most of the time. Did not like being "out" at night and would try to avoid it.
Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	↳ Avoid being alone in the city at night. We were often heckled by rowdy groups of men.
Personal and Cultural Connections	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not international) people and students?	Moderately successful. Made good friends with my Australian roommates and other students in my art classes.
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	Relatively easy to adjust. Australians tend to like Canadians.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Australia can be a bit of a chauvinistic society sometimes while also a bit racist toward ethnicities other than caucasian.
What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?	They were friendly and are fun-loving. I loved the animals and environment.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	→ Women are not treated with the same degree of respect as we are in Canada. Women are seen as more as objects. in public and on the streets.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	I think it would be relatively easy. They are accomodating to to students with special needs or struggling with the course material.
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	As I mentioned, they are still <u>slightly</u> racist. Nothing extreme, but may not be as a friendly or quick to help.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Although there were many LGBT students at our school, more western states are not as accepting of this. The country still stands as
Overall anti-gay marriage.	
What are five important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	

1. Australia is expensive.	
2. Experience its natural environments and wildlife. Australians are friendly.	
3. Australia is a big country.	
4. Australia has amazing wildlife and animals.	
5. Australia is an incredibly beautiful country.	
What are ten important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?	
1. Living on campus is probably the best/easiest option.	
2. Switch classes if you are not enjoying them to ensure you get the most of it.	
3. Try to meet other students in your program.	
4. Make friends with the teachers - let them know you are on exchange.	
5. Try to travel during semester breaks.	
6. Don't buy too much stuff as it is difficult/expensive to bring it all home.	
7. It can be fun to live with roommates (although luck of the draw).	
8. Don't stress too much about homework... but pass.	
9. Try to remember to make the most of it of your experience - sometimes you can forget.	
10. Treat yourself sometimes - it's a once in a lifetime experience!	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Experiencing the beauty of the country and interacting / observing its amazing wild life.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Travelling to / and from Australia from Canada. It was a draining and long process by yourself.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I want to travel more and visit other parts of the world! It's not as scary as it used to sound
What else do you want to add out your study abroad experience?	I'd like to go back to Australia.