

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS				
Your Name	[REDACTED]			
Your Program of Study/Year	Bachelors of Business Administration (Accounting)			
Host Country	Austria			
Host School/Agency	FH Wien			
Participation Dates	September 1 st to December 24th			
Type of Study Abroad	<input type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Section 1				
GENERAL EVALUATION				
Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10 (one being poor and 10 being exceptional)			7	
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	I really enjoyed being in Europe and having the experience to live in another country. I found the classes were fairly easy and academically I didn't get as much out of it as I would have liked.			
Section 2				
ARRIVAL				
How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? *Always verify immigration regulations with the consulate or embassy of your host country*	The visa was really easy to get. I sent the documents to Ottawa and had them back with in days.			
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	I flew from Vancouver to Amsterdam then Amsterdam to Vienna. I wouldn't change anything about it.			
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	I had no issues or surprises clearing customs.			
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I was picked up from the airport by a buddy, that was provided by the school. She also picked up my key to my accommodation prior to my arrival.			
Section 3				
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE				

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	They were good. It was really really helpful having a buddy. She picked me up from the airport and I was able to ask her questions via facebook or text message which was convenient and quick.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	They helped me with courses and academic stuff. I didn't really need to ask them many questions other than school related things.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	The orientation was good. They explained things about the country and the culture which was helpful, as well as information about the school and classes.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?	It was hard to adjust to not having a support network like at home. One of the other students from Kwantlen messaged me just after I arrived, which was very helpful.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	I found the Austrian people to be very abrupt and slightly rude at times.

Section 4

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	I lived in an apartment building for international students. I have my own bedroom and shared the kitchen and bathroom with two roommates.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	I come right at the beginning of the term and left before their term ended.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	The accommodation was nice and I had no issues.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I either cooked my own meals or went out. The food out was always really good.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	It took about 30 minutes to get from my accommodation to the school. (That was via underground and then tram.)

Section 5

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your	Part of the registration was done online and was fairly easy to do. Some parts were more difficult because of the language barrier but
--------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	for the most part was simple. The classes were finalized after a meeting with an exchange coordinator.
How successful were you in registering for classes? What advice would you offer to another exchange student about how to register at your host institution?	Registration was fairly simple but there were parts that were more difficult because of the language. Picking courses wasn't too bad because you could drop or add classes once you arrived. They also recommended some courses that were rated well by other exchange students.
How many courses did you take per semester? What course load would you recommend for future students? What particular courses would you recommend to other students?	I took 8 courses (most of which were geared for exchange students) and they were all fairly easy. If you are looking for a more academic experience try choosing classes that aren't created by the exchange team. 8 classes was not stressful and it allowed me to travel when I wanted to.

Section 6

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I found the classes that I could take (in English) were mostly created by the exchange people. They were pretty easy and they covered a lot of the same information. Some stuff was helpful.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	The style of teaching was mostly the same. The workload was much less than in Canada. In Vienna we did a lot of presentations but there was usually no written report along with the presentation. In Canada I find there is usually a large report AND a presentation. In general the workload was much less.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	I took 8 classes.
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	I took all English classes so the language wasn't usually an issue.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	The library and computer lab were quite small compared to Kwantlen. I don't think they have as many students though so it was never over crowded. Other than being small they were nice and worked well.

Section 7

COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	1 book to learn German = 25 Euro
Flight	\$1,200
Accommodation – per month	380 Euro
Meals – per month	40 Euro

Local transportation – per month	about 30 Euro
Health insurance – per term	\$100
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	10 euro for minutes on a phone
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	\$0
Vaccinations	\$0
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$800
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Didn't really have any unexpected costs.

Section 8

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	They were fine.
What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to you while in your host country? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	I couldn't work I only had a student visa. You need a working Visa to work.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	I would recommend travelling as much as possible! See other parts of Austria and Europe.

Section 9

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	I didn't have any safety concerns.
--------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Section 10

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making	It was harder making friends with local people. It helped having a
-------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------

friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	buddy as I went out with her and her friends a couple times but other than that meeting locals was hard.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	Generally, it was an easy adjustment. I had been to Europe and Austria before so there wasn't any surprises. The things I did take time to adjust to were the people working in stores were not very polite and the grocery stores there are very small.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	The things I did take time to adjust to was the people working in stores were not very polite and the grocery stores there are very small.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	I liked the food and coffee. I also enjoyed that on Sundays people would be out for walks or runs with their families!
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	The university staff was very nice and always welcoming. The students were also very nice.
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?	I think visible minorities would be fine in Vienna. They have many different ethnicities there and I didn't see any discrimination.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	I think for the most part they would be alright.

Section 11

TAKING STOCK

What are the 5 most important things one should take with them when going to your host country or region?

1 Walking shoes.

2 a non-disposable grocery bag!

3 a light rain coat.

4 water proof boots (for the winter)

5 Nicer clothing (yoga pants were not normal there)

What are the 10 most important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency:

1 The grocery stores are tiny and they are everywhere. They don't have one stop shop type shopping.

2 The employees in stores can be somewhat impolite but it is not directed at you.

3 On Sundays NOTHING is open. (except one grocery store in the whole city)

4 Don't go to the one open grocery store on Sunday... it is soooo busy.	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	I liked meeting people and it was nice being able to help other students with their English.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	My greatest challenge was meeting people and putting myself out there. I am fairly shy so that was new to me.
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	My perspective on education is much different.
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	I enjoyed it very much!