

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS	
Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Program of Study/Year	Journalism /4
Host Country	Austria
Host School/Agency	FH Wien
Participation Dates	August 2010 - Jan. 2011
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Practicum <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
GENERAL EVALUATION	
Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10 (one being poor and 10 being exceptional)	10
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	I loved it. I want to go back ASAP.
ARRIVAL	
How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? <small>*Always verify immigration regulations with the consulate or embassy of your host country*</small>	Austrian Embassy in Canada was not very helpful. Found them to be rude.
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	Flew to Montreal to meet some friends for one night, then flew through Zurich to Vienna. Not a long layover.
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Absolutely no problems.
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE	

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	It was fun, but in my experience the best way to get to know the other students was to party with them.. Orientation was basically party planning.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	They were incredibly nice + helpful. Helped me with getting SIM card, transit pass + course selection.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	
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?	Having a few other kwenthan students there was nice. One of the biggest adjustments was grocery shopping. Must buy your own things (+very fast!), closes early and not open Sundays / holidays. Know your Austrian holidays!
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	It depends. Speaking German really helps. Some ppl aren't very helpful if you can't. There is a large portion of ppl who are resistant to foreigners.

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	Student housing. Single room w/ two three others in my apartment. Kitchen, small fridge, no oven. Bathroom split into 3 rooms.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	I moved in over one month before start of semester, moved out before end of semester but could have stayed longer.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	It was great. Mollereistrasse was full of intl students.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	Cooked lots of pasta. Microwave also very well used. Mostly cooked for myself. Ate a lot of salad. i'm not very picky. Lots of restaurants.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	Short ride in U-Bahn plus 10-min tram ride.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What	Entirely done by intl staff. you had a meeting w/ them and they helped pick out your classes.
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assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	It was a good process, but one of the courses supposed to be taught in English was actually in German.
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?	Other than the class supposed to be in English it was fine + when I needed to drop a course that was done w/o much problem. Listen to the int'l staff but have some courses picked out.
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?	5. It wasn't a difficult course load but b/c I was always busy travelling or enjoying the city. Don't take: österreichische und europäische medien. The teacher is boring + very difficult to understand.

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Satisfied.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	Wasn't much homework. Mostly lecturing. Some class discussions.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	5 at FH Wien and 2 German courses at Universität Wien before the semester.
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	It was pretty big, but depended on the course. For instance, in first year language courses (Spanish, Italian etc) you don't need great vocab.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Didn't spend a lot of time hanging around school after class. Library small. Computer room always had a computer available. Wireless internet also available.

COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	Euros 150
Flight	\$1500
Accommodation – per month	Euros - 380
Meals – per month	Euros 250-300
Local transportation – per	Semester - Euros 130, September + August - Euros 30 each

month	
Health insurance – per term	
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Internet included in rent. Cell phone – 20-25 Euros per month.
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	
Vaccinations	N/A
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	Euros 1,000 (at the very least!)
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Paying for laundry. Euros 1.60 per wash. Groceries not very expensive. Beer is dirt cheap, and really good.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	Satisfied.
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?	Any sport you can think of. I played floor hockey and Flag football though got bored w/ them near end of semester and stopped going. Definitely worth the money though. I think it was 30 Euros per course.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	Didn't bother with either. Too busy busy, made enough \$ in summer.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Explore the city. Schönbrunn, Belvedere etc. Get out there early in your trip + find ppl to explore w/ you.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	Felt safe whole time. But some of the girls expressed that they didn't feel entirely safe in our area. I thought it was fine. Not threatened at all.
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PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends? How successful were	Easy. Just let your inhibitions go. Tons of intl students there in same situation you are.
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