

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Your Program of Study/Year	Graphic Design for Marketing/ 3 rd year		
Host Country	London, UK		
Host School/Agency	UCA Epsom		
Participation Dates	September 1-January 4		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" 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)			8
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	I really enjoyed my experience in London and found it very rewarding. But I did find my experience a bit stressful and lonely at times.		
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*	It was not difficult, because I was considered a student visitor and did not require a visa		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	I had a direct flight with Airtransat. I would not change this arrangement, although it would have been helpful to know the dates by the host institution offered pick up services in advance. So that I could have the option to arranged for that		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	The experience was easy and straightforward. The only thing I needed was my acceptance letter		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I did not go to the host facility right away as I was not living on campus. From where I stayed temporarily it cost between 7-12 GBP		
Section 3			
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE			

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	Not very satisfied, I felt that it was not relevant to my needs at the time.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	The only help I received was from Sue Shearer, who assisted me in getting a course changed. She was incredibly helpful and welcoming.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	It did not suit my 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?	It was a bit difficult, and I felt that I could talk to a fellow exchange student from my program at Kwantlen and other Canadians that I met outside of school.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	For the most part people were helpful and friendly

Section 4

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	I live in a flatshare with 4 others. I had my own bedroom and shared the kitchen and two bathrooms.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	I found my accommodations after arrived and moved in within a week of my arrival, and a few days before the start of term.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	It was decently comfortable.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I cooked for myself the majority of the time and sometimes I would buy premade meals from the grocery store.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	30 minutes away by train

Section 5

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What	There was an online registration, in addition to a registration you did in person at an assigned time slot. I though the process seemed a bit slow, especially getting your online account and student card set
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assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	up.
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?	Two of the three classes are mandatory so that was simple. But for our contextual studies course, because we are exchange students, what we requested prior to arrival was ignored. So my advice would be to check which class you were assigned to and if you do not like it to talk to the instructor and/or the international office to get it changed early since this particular course is quite short.
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?	The number of courses is predetermined, but I found the course load a lot little in comparison to Kwantlen. I would recommend signing up for extra workshops though.

Section 6

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Very satisfied, but I would have liked more instruction.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	In comparison to GDMA, there is less one on one time with instructors and it is more independent learning. The course load was litter with fewer projects and deadlines.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	3
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	No language barrier, classes were in English
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Overall the facility was very good. There were not as many computers, as everyone shares them, but the library offered a lot of specific resources for design. There was also specialized print equipment which was impressive, but it was hard to sign up to be trained so you could use them.

Section 7

COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	\$80
Flight	\$1300
Accommodation – per month	580 GBP
Meals – per month	70 GBP
Local transportation – per	200 GBP

month	
Health insurance – per term	Student insurance through Kwantlen
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	75GBP
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	n/a
Vaccinations	n/a
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$3500
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Groceries was less expensive than I expected but transportation was more expensive.

Section 8

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	Not satisfied. I didn't find that there were a lot of opportunities.
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 did not work or volunteer. A work visa is needed
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	I would recommend traveling around Europe as everything is very close and relatively cheap. In addition, all museums and galleries are free and many student discounts available for other activities.

Section 9

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	I didn't really have any, but it is important to be aware of the neighborhoods you are in especially at night.
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Section 10

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends? How successful were	I did not find it difficult, but one does need to approach others and not wait for them to approach you.
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you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	Found it relatively easy
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	n/a
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	The appreciation for the arts and the accessibility to the arts.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	In general, everyone I encountered were very welcoming and kind
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	At the university there are elevators and ramps set in place, but the tube in London only has certain stops that are wheel chair accessible.
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	There are not as many visible minorities, but I did not encounter any forms of racism.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	The culture seemed to be quite accepting, but I didn't see any openly homosexual individuals or homophobic behavior.

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 Passport

2 Warm coat

3 UK and EU plug adaptors

4 Unlocked phone

5 Smaller suitcase/bag for weekend trips

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

1 Find your accommodations early

2 Set up your phone and bank account right away

3 Travel as much as possible

4 Take advantage of every opportunity and don't procrastinate because the time will fly

5 Get the student railcard and link it to your oyster card

6 Most people will not say sorry if they bump into you

7 Ask questions	
8 Look up free events	
9	
10	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Experiencing something new every day.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Being homesick and lonely
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	I feel more independent and more confident in my own abilities. I also now am considering working abroad.
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	