

## Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS				
Your Name	[REDACTED]			
Your Program of Study/Year	GDMA / 3			
Host Country	Canada			
Host School/Agency	University for the Creative Arts			
Participation Dates	Sept. 20 – Jan.23			
Type of Study Abroad	Exchange	Practicum	Independent	Other
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.	The school was very satisfactory but I found course organization/management to be poor.			
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 very easy to get my visa.			
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	Everything was smooth			
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Other than arriving too early, It was simple. I was stamped in as a visitor and was told to leave the country and re-enter to get my visa stamped. This mistake was on behalf of the Canadian Gov. Always check the dates they issue your visa for!			
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	Air + car, about ten hours total. Airfare was about \$1500 CAD			
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE				
How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	Assistance was mostly available if needed.			
What help did you receive from	The only thing was submitting my application for residence			

the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	on campus – which I did in person three days after I received an acceptance letter — my documents were then lost by my correspondent; I awaited a reply for two weeks before I discovered they had been misplaced. I failed to receive a space in halls.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	N/A
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?	There was someone to speak to but it was unnecessary. I found adjustment to be relatively painless – though I did get homesick and frustrated at times when the honeymoon period ended!
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	Very receptive – most people are willing to help. I have not experienced any hostility.

**HOUSING**

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	I lived in a house.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	N/A
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Very comfortable. I mostly lived half way between the school and London.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I cooked at home and the food was great. The shops have good deals but if you want anything baking related, Waitrose is the best! And you can get Root Beer and “Cloudy” Lemonade there; though otherwise they are pricey. The pubs have great food and Brick Lane has the best curry restaurants.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	I allowed for one hour of travel time because I had to take the train – but it could take 45 minutes or less.

**COURSE REGISTRATION**

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Registration was clearly communicated through student mail and it was easy to show up and provide my passport and student number.
How successful were you in registering for classes? What advice would you offer to another exchange student about how to register at your	I was not given the contextual studies course I chose before I left for England and had to speak to the course coordinator and fill out a form to request my preferred class. The coordinator was unwelcoming and difficult at first but I was able to take the course of my choosing at the end.

host institution?	
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?	3 courses. I personally enjoyed Pop Culture for contextual studies but no matter what course you take, they all cover the same concepts like "Gender and Identity" or "Communication" through different topics like "Postmodernism" or "Music Journalism"

#### ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Satisfied but felt I was falling behind whilst away from Kwantlen.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	The teaching was very different; there is a lot more self-initiated content and learning. The workload is very manageable and felt like a good break from the intensity of Kwantlen. However, the school provided more opportunities for students to participate in the design industries' events and other creative events in London. I felt that the Graphic Designers' Society of Canada or even the schools could provide the same opportunities to students through discounted or sponsored tickets.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	3
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?	All of these were acceptable. The specialized equipment was fantastic and I wish we had access to a screen print room. Students could do letterpress, screen and emboss.

#### COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	about \$70 CAD or less.
Flight	\$1500 CAD
Accommodation – per month	\$500 CAD (usually closer to \$800)
Meals – per month	Aprox. \$360 CAD
Local transportation – per month	Unknown. I advise future students to apply for a 16-15 Railcard and get it linked to their Oyster card for discounted, streamlined travel.
Health insurance – per term	Unknown.
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Unknown. Maybe \$30 CAD.
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	Visa cost me \$211 CAD but within a week had risen from \$100 CAD so it varies.
Vaccinations	N/A

Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	Budgeted for about \$1200 CAD for 4 months but was working part time whilst there (total of 8 months) and did not keep a tight track of spending.
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	When it came down to it, I found the cost of living to be par with Vancouver but grocery shopping can be more economical in London. Cinema tickets and clothing can more often be the same prices as here only in pounds, not dollars.
<b>EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>	
How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	Very
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?	N/A
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	To work you need to be sure you have a visa that allows you to – I applied for a National Insurance Number when I arrived.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Explore! There is plenty of tourist literature for London. I recommend leaving the country as flights to Barcelona, for example, can come cheap; and Paris is very accessible.
<b>SAFETY AND HEALTH</b>	
Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	I wouldn't want to be in Easy London by myself at night!
<b>PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS</b>	
What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	The students were very friendly and people I worked with became good friends.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	Fairly easy.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	No.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	History! And humour. And pubs. And galleries and museums are free!
How were you treated by local	People were mostly welcoming but in general, the English are less

people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	friendly than Canadians.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	Easy. I suppose it depends on the disability.
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	Easy.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Easy.

### TAKING STOCK

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

- 1 Visa
- 2 Proof of address ~~is necessary~~ (may be needed to set up bank account)
- 3 a journal
- 4 a converter for plugs. 😊
- 5 money! do everything you can and want to.

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

- 1 Take advantage of tours / events in the city. Museums and galleries are free! - GO TO SAATCHI GALLERY!
- 2 Watch out for "Pikeys" - they want a fight.
- 3 Go to the cheap concerts - lots of awesome bands play in London
- 4 Eat at Brick Lane. No matter what restaurant, it will be good.
- 5 Research the city - so many interesting facts! "I Never knew That About ~~Canada~~ London"
- 6 Look up contacts of friends and family in London or nearby.
- 7 Check out ~~Camden~~ Camden Town.
- 8 Learn the transportation system
- 9
- 10

What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Independence.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	money. I worked whilst there.
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	I love Canada.
What else do you want to	