

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Your Program of Study/Year	Fashion Design/Year Two		
Host Country	England		
Host School/Agency	University of the Creative Arts		
Participation Dates	Jan - June 2011		
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)			7.2
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	The school was disorganized, classes were very in frequent, and marking provided little to no constructive feedback. I felt as if the tuition offered very little actual teaching in return. However, the experience of self guided learning and finding my own London Internship were immensely rewarding and taught me a lot.		
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*	I am a citizen of Britain, so not very hard at all.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	I flew straight to Britain, finding my way on an interact transit system, much more complex then I imagined, getting lost and having to ask and be redirected. I arrived having not slept in about 48 hours at about 6:00 am and was required to take a long tour of the school before discovering I had to go buy bedding and buy food to eat, as I had not eaten in almost 24 hours. I would have been a lot better if they had let me get settled and supplied sheets.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	I was a citizen there, so it took me about 5 minutes		
Describe how you traveled	The plane flight cost \$1400 for a round trip. The train ride cost 15		

to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	pounds one way.
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Section 3

ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	I thought the orientation was fine, but the assistance regarding housing was terrible.
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What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	The international staff was great, but limited. As far as I could tell there was one women working part time, trying to retire in charge or organizing all international issues, as well as a wide variety of other programs. She was incredible and very good at her job, but still only one person.
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What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	The orientation included language testing and tea with the teachers, as well as being walked around and introduced to the students personally. I also got to sit in on crit.s (evaluation/presentation). It helped a lot.
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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?	As an English speaking country it was not entirely difficult to adjust, but I did very over whelmed by the rush and normality of pushing people off to the side. I had other students to talk to. Many of my roommates and classmates were born in other countries, and I connected to them a great deal.
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How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	Most people in my class were very interested in me and Canada and offered their help if I needed anything.
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Section 4

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	My room was actually smaller the then solitary prison cells in the Nazi camp I visited in Berlin. My shower was a bendy plastic box. I had a large kitchen which I shared with seven other students.
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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 2 weeks before term and stayed for a week after. I could have extended it another week if I wished.
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How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Some days in my room I felt a bit claustrophobic and it was hard to do homework in such a small space. My roommates were very kind and helped me a lot.
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Describe what you did	I cooked my own food. Then was a small cafe with sandwiches and
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about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	snacks, but the food was too greasy and I preferred to cook my own. I shopped at grocery store near my accommodation. There were pubs with food, a few cafes, and pizza in town.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	It was on the same piece of property as my school, about a 1 minute walk.

Section 5

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	I talked to the general enquires desk and the women there enrolled me in my contextual studies class. I was satisfied.
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?	Your program contained all your classes. The only thing you can choose is contextual studies (the written component). Ask about contextual studies early and you will be put into any topic you want.
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?	You cannot choose your course load at this school. Be prepared for a lot of self guided time, except for during your internship.

Section 6

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	No. All I learned was how to be self guided and how to deal with people with large egos.
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 style was to talk to us, often not on topic, and then let us figure it out for a few weeks.
How many courses did you take during your time	9 Credits worth.

abroad?	
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	Only terminology was different.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	They were clean, well serviced, and almost all brand new.

Section 7

COSTS	
Books and Supplies – per term	\$200 (Only because I made a corset)
Flight	\$1400
Accommodation – per month	\$1200
Meals – per month	\$300
Local transportation – per month	\$400
Health insurance – per term	\$0.00
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$250 - Cell phone and internet, including buying a phone
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	\$150
Vaccinations	\$0.00
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$1500
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Shipping all the stuff I bought back \$400. I knew transit was as expensive as it was hard to wrap my head around until I was paying it.

Section 8

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	
How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	Amazed. I Interned at two companies, explored the city, and made strong international connection in the fashion industry.

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?	None really. I think there was a Christians Club? Explore back allies, get off at random train stops. Explore. Talk to strangers. Go to Camden and chill out at a cafe.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	I do not know if you need permits to volunteer, but I think that many companies would take you on even if you do, without one. Interning here is an eye opening experience. I very much recommend interning on your visit if it is possible.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	See organized activities.

Section 9

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	I thought that the fact that one of my roommates hid his dirty dishes instead of cleaning them was a safety hazard. Other than that I had no concerns.
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Section 10

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	It was not very easy to make local friends. I made a few in school. I found that outside of school people were very cold and had a bit of a barrier up.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	There were a lot of very little things that were different, but nothing too huge and difficult to overcome.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	I found the fact that no one talked at all on public transit very difficult to deal with. The speed of walking traffic was always very much more rushed than Vancouver.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	The art community, the wide acceptance of more variety in dress, even in a professional environment. The design culture and the large and different international communities.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	I was treated very nicely by all the local people, a lot of people thought I was different and exciting and were helpful. University staff treated me fairly and nicely. Students were very kind to me and went out of their way to help in any way possible and include me in everything.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for	It would be quite easy. There are many students with disabilities there and everything is accessible.

students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	It would be fine, many people are visible minorities, both students and teachers.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	One of my best friends there was a women who was born a man who was about 7 foot tall and wore nothing bet heels and super tight lace and spandex. I'm pretty sure ANYONE would be fine.

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 Bring your travel documents

2 Canadian chips or sugary cereals, you can't get them in Britain and are a great way to make friends, because sharing is not as normal there.

3 Bring a camra!

4 Bring something to do on the long flight.

5 Clothing that can transition from cold to warm weather.

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

1 Budget for transit!

2 Visit Camden Market on Friday or Saturday.

3 Intern in London if you can.

4 Orangize yourself and understand that no one even knows what is going on. Show up and ask as many people as possible.

5 Just because everyone else is going to the pub every day, doesn't mean you always have to, but it is a good way to make local friends.

6 Travel around, book flights early on weekends on Ryanair. You have more than enough time and flights cost as little as one pound.

7 If you like second hand clothing, visit Portobello Rd. on a Friday.

8 Visit the Tate Modern.

9 Plan your project schedules considering that there will be no help or guidance available.

10 Treat this as a semester that is truly for YOU and your personal development and you will get the most out of this experience. Focus on experiences over all else.

What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?

Being the production intern at Melissa Diamantidi.

<p>What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?</p>	<p>Dealing with motivating myself while surrounded by distraction and plagued by home sickness.</p>
<p>As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?</p>	<p>I think differently. I am much more confident. I feel like I have a broader point of reference to compare my own culture too. I understand myself and how my values have been built and why. I think about things and dissect them at a stronger academic level and think about how I use language differently.</p>
<p>What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?</p>	<p>This host school is very disorganized and not the best. London is amazing.</p>