

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS				
Your Name	[REDACTED]			
Your Program of Study/Year	Fine Arts – 3 rd year			
Host Country	UK			
Host School/Agency	University of Central Lancashire			
Participation Dates	September 2010-December 2010			
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)			9	
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	I had a great time there, although if I could change anything I would have gone to a larger city.			
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 had no problem getting my travel documents although I left it too close to last minute so I was a bit anxious.			
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	I took a plane direct to Manchester, then a train to Preston. I had no problems and I think it was the easiest, quickest way.			
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	I had no problems. I was a little surprised with how much they asked me even though I had a Visa, which I applied for just as an extra precaution even though I didn't need one.			
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I took a train from the Manchester airport. The flight to Manchester was about \$1200, the train was 15 pounds.			
Section 3				
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE				

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	Very satisfied. They had great introduction programs. I was a little confused by some of the terms and the "induction" process as I thought I had already done the induction as part of orientation but they were actually separate class inductions. We would just call it first day.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	Yes they were very helpful.
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?	I didn't have much trouble except for some issues with trying to find certain products etc. The grocery store there wasn't very good. I didn't have much of a culture shock though. I had no problems having friends to talk to.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	Very friendly locals

Section 4

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	I live on residence in student housing
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	I lived there for two weeks before classes actually started, as part of the orientation> I thought this was really great. I stayed for almost 2 weeks after classes ended
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Very comfortable, it was good.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I went shpping at the local grocery store but it was limited so sometimes we'd cab to a better store. We made a lot of meals in groups of friends.. mostly people I met during orientation. I missed a lot of food from home though, the resteraunts were a bit disappointing.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	Very close. Across the street. I loved that!

Section 5

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the	The registration was a nightmare. You would have to go track
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registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	down every teacher for the classes and have them sign off, and hand that form in to someone to get signed up. I didn't like this very much and it was very disorganized.
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?	I had a hard time figuring out what I could actually take. I would say just go to the international exchange person and request they help you from the get go as I had a very difficult experience with this.
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 three courses. It was fine work load wise. I probably could have taken another course, I felt like I wasn't busy enough a lot of the time. I enjoyed the life drawing course as it was long but it was also a great opportunity to practice drawing.

Section 6

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	7. I didn't really do anything that I didn't know how to do before. I did however enjoy it as I got to try new methods of working as well as practice existing skills.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	I had a lower workload than what I am used to. Deadlines were more slack (just end of the semester portfolio hand ins) Teaching was nice but I feel like I could have had more constructive criticism.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	3
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	none
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	It was good. They had a lot of computers available.

Section 7

COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	Supplies.. probably the equivalent of 500 dollars
Flight	1200
Accommodation	500/month
Meals – per month	About 400 dollars?

Local transportation – per month	I walked everywhere
Health insurance – per term	About 100 dollars but I didn't seem to need it. I had free healthcare and didn't pay for any of the doctor bills. Just prescriptions
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Internet there is free, my phone was probably the equivalent of 20 dollars a month
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	
Vaccinations	
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Missed train tickets from London, having to pay for more materials than we do at Kwantlen. Food was cheaper than I thought it would be, and so was alcohol.

Section 8

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	I didn't really do a lot with the school outside of class, I just did things with friends that I met and we'd go to other cities.
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?	There were a lot of clubs but I didn't join any
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	I couldn't work or volunteer as I only had a student visa.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Go to neighbouring cities Manchester and Liverpool for weekends. Also, take a train to London, a cheap flight to Holland or Paris!

Section 9

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	I didn't have any concerns with safety there really. The only thing that really was a bit concerning was a racial protest in the city.
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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 alright with locals, but a lot easier with international students. I made a few friends when I went out at night but during the day it seemed like I hung out with international students (mostly from Holland and USA)
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	Easy
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	None really
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	It was so similar to Canadian culture.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	Everyone was really nice.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	Not very easy. There was one girl who actually went home as she was having a difficult time getting around.
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	Totally fine.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Also fine. They have gay nights at a few clubs there and it is not closed minded at all.

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 Travel Adapter

2 Camera

3 Extra Cash for when debit and credit stop working

4 Credit card (don't rely on debit only)

5 Have online banking set up

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

1 Go to every orientation session

2 Make as many friends as you can – go to every party and meet everyone

3 Take classes in the afternoons not mornings

4 Stay around people as often as you can	
5 Walk around campus and find the secret computer labs and other spaces to work in that people don't know about	
6 Really make sure your debit cards and credit cards will not expire while you are there, be prepared	
7 The busses to Manchester and Liverpool only take 40 minutes to an hour and a half – go for the day! And go often!	
8 Walk outside the city centre, there is a lot to see that people (myself included) will miss out on	
9 Always have an umbrella handy, but it doesn't rain as much as people say it will	
10 Get to know the teachers, talk to them a lot	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Meeting people from other places (my best friends were from Holland, Australia and USA) and making long lasting friendships. I loved how cheap flights were to go to Holland and France, and the experience of being so independent and living away from home.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Living with room mates sometimes was tough, and dealing with other peoples' messes
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	I find I am a more confident, independent person and I am so much more driven towards my career now.
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	It was the best time I've ever had doing anything in my life. I am inspired to do my masters abroad.