

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS				
Your Name	[REDACTED]			
Your Program of Study/Year	Fine Arts, 4th Year			
Host Country	United Kingdom			
Host School/Agency	University of Central Lancashire			
Participation Dates	Jan. 10, '12 - May 22, '12			
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

GENERAL EVALUATION	
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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.	My experience was academically & emotionally fulfilling. In a short few months I have grown exponentially as a person.
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ARRIVAL	
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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>	Fairly easy
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Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	Arranged my own travel by plane & train. Shuttles were available, but I arrived early.
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How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Very smooth. Once the official saw how prepared I was w/ documents he was very lenient.
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Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	It took 24 hrs of travelling and about \$1000. Additional expense
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ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE	
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How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	Very satisfied with orientation. It was very thorough (almost too thorough) but very pleasant. Great for making friends.
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What help did you receive from	
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the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	The International Help office was hard to get in contact w/ at times, particularly w/ registration. Many exchange students had problems w/ them.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	Orientation was very thorough & great for making friends.
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 difficult at times, but all the exchange students experienced the same thing so we all helped each other.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	Very receptive.

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	I found a shared student flat ^{10 mins} off campus.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	was able to move in right away. Landlord let me move in before pmnt. Paid in one lump sum. Stayed til end of my contract, but was told could stay later.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Very comfortable.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	Grocery shopped & cooked at home. Many meal options available on & off campus.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	10 mins walk.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Registration was hectic. Had to run around & get signatures from profs. Not many options were avail in my field but 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?	I was fairly successful. I would suggest doing research ahead of time & making sure you find your profs in a timely manner.
How many courses did you take per semester?	3

What course load would you recommend for future students? What particular courses would you recommend to other students?	3 was a good number. Could have done more maybe.
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ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Very satisfied. My Fine Art instructor was a highly accomplished artist & illustrator.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	The style of teaching was more liberal. The workload depended on the student, but liberal in that sense also.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	3
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	Generally none. A few funny phrases.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Library was 24 hrs! Great facility. Everything available.

COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	\$ 300
Flight	\$ 1000
Accommodation – per month	\$ 300
Meals – per month	\$ 250
Local transportation – per month	\$ 60
Health insurance – per term	?
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$ 200
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	∅
Vaccinations	∅
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$ 500
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than	

you expected?

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?

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?

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?

Lots to see within the UK & easily accessible. Manchester, Leeds, London, Newcastle, Edinburgh, etc.

Did not work, but volunteered for the LGBT society.

There were 2 trips arranged by the school. I attended one ~~at~~ to the Trafford Centre which was informative. I did a lot of travelling on my own. I joined my school's LGBT Society which was fun. We had weekly meetings & many social events. There were all sorts of activities available.

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.

Be mindful of traffic. Opposite driving concerns things.

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?

Every building was wheelchair accessible.

Local's very accommodating. They were used to foreigners. Same for staff & students.

The self-deprecating sense of humor. Very outgoing people. They like to drink.

Some strange accents. Blunt British humour.

Fairly easy.

It was easy through orientation, but you have to seek friends out. I made friends in class, at bars, & at LGBT society.

For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	Not a problem. Preston was very multi culti.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	The town was liberal, but still not had some rural mindset. One student was gaybashed while I was there. There That's can happen anywhere though

TAKING STOCK

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

- 1 A computer w/ appropriate plugins / adapter.
- 2 Appropriate clothing for cold.
- 3 Confidence
- 4 A good umbrella
- 5 A strong liver.

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

- 1 Be outgoing & don't be afraid to make friends.
- 2 ~~Don't be afraid.~~ Try new things but stay true to yourself.
- 3 ~~Don't be afraid to ask for help. It's okay to ask for help & good to separate yourself.~~
- 4 Things are expensive. Remember the conversion!
- 5 Google map/GPS things before you go out.
- 6 Don't be afraid to ask directions & lots of them.
- 7 Be careful crossing the street.
- 8 Be prepared to serve yourself @ the grocery store.
- 9 Buy a good quality umbrella. Rain is strong & windy.
- 10 Don't eat mushy peas. They're terrible.

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

Making new friends who you'll keep forever. You bond quickly when you're all going through the same stuff.

What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?

~~Creating a new social network.~~
Balancing my new life w/ the one I left.

As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?

I am more open to living other places & going to where the work is.

What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?

Everyone should do this once in their life. It has been an incredibly

enriching & rewarding experience.