

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Your Program of Study/Year	Journalism / 3 year		
Host Country	England		
Host School/Agency	UCLAN		
Participation Dates	Jan 13 - May 22		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent
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 lived in Halls and the people I met during my exchange made it absolutely fantastic. I've made some lifelong friends.		
Section 2			
ARRIVAL			
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>	As I was a single semester exchange student, I did not need a visa as long as I limited my stay to under 6 months and did not work.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	To get to Preston I flew into London and took a 2 hour train ride North. It might have been a bit easier to fly into Manchester.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	England immigration is pretty standard. They did take away my maple syrup though...		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	It was a 9 hour flight from Vancouver to London and an additional two hour train. My round trip flight was \$1100 and my train was \$50.00		
Section 3			
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE			

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	It was a bit difficult to finalize my timetable as some of the modules I registered for no longer existed, and there were clashes. It was initially messy.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	My advisor was very nice, albeit a bit scatterbrained. As long as you're persistent with e-mails, things get done.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	To be honest, I skipped the orientation tour and got beer, along with every other exchange student. It's not a hard campus to figure out.
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?	In my flat there were three British people, myself and another exchange student. We worked off each other in the beginning.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	The town is a student town and there are numerous available resources.

Section 4

HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	University Halls
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	We could move in the first week of January and could leave June 30.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	I liked my room but the entire hall was a bit shabby.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I cooked for myself but there are many take away places and restaurants.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	The farthest I had to walk was 8 minutes.

Section 5

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What	It was confusing at first but both exchange liaisons are readily available by email and willing to offer help.
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assistance was available to you? Were you 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 got three out of four of my courses. The fourth course apparently didn't exist so that was confusing in the beginning.
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 and I travelled a lot on the weekends. The fourth course I was going to take would not have impeded my schedule that much more.

Section 6

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Studying Journalism in a different country gave me a different perspective on practises and outlets which I can carry back here to my degree program in Canada.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	Instead of three hour classes, a module was broken up into lecture and seminar. Seminars were good as you could use what you learned in lectures and build on your knowledge, putting it to practical use.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	3
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	There was none as we both spoke English.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Everything was great. The library was open 24/7 so I could go print, use resources, or take out books whenever I needed to.

Section 7

COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	\$0.00 – everything is available in the library
Flight	\$1100.00 – round trip
Accommodation – per month	\$3900.00 – per semester for international students
Meals – per month	\$200.00 – per month for food from grocery stores
Local transportation – per	\$0.00 – I walked. Train pass for students and youth

offers discounts on rail tickets. £30.00 per year

month	
Health insurance – per term	NHS is free in England.
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Free internet at uni, £10.00 a month for phone.
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	Free, no visa needed if one semester
Vaccinations	none; meningitis is free
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	I travelled more than a regular student would so the majority of my semester budget was allotted to travel.
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Food and phone bills were less expensive. Going out is much cheaper as well. Shopping is more expensive.

Section 8

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	I was not as involved with student services for international students as they catered to the more oriental exchange kids.
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?	I didn't participate in organized activities although the ISBA organized trips to different areas around the UK that looked interesting and informative.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	My visa didn't permit me to work but you could do club promoting and get paid under the table if you needed.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Travel out of Preston whenever you can. Europe is at your doorstep. It is cheap and accessible.

Section 9

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	We had ants in our flat and my bottom floor window locks kept breaking.
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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?	My flat contained three international and two British residents. All British people were welcoming and friendly. The majority of my friends were local
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	I watched British tv and felt at ease.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Some of their slang was confusing.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	I love how everything felt like a history museum
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	I was treated just how I would be if I was British and came to Canada.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	There are many developed facilities catering to people with disability - especially being deaf.
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	I was a visible minority in Preston.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Everyone has a niche area to hangout in. It's both segregated yet welcoming at the same time.

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 Laptop
- 2 unlocked phone - phones are monthly pay as you go and work all over the U.K
- 3 Warm clothes - it's colder than Vancouver
- 4 Adapters and converters for electronics
- 5 A journal

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

- 1 Tell everyone you're Canadian; they treat you slightly better upon first meeting you.
- 2 Don't just stay in your uni town. Go and explore as much as you can.
- 3 Bring more money than you think you'd need.
- 4 Bring less clothing - shopping is fantastic in the U.K
- 5 Pick more courses than you think as some of them get cancelled with no notice.
- 6 Don't wear high heels on cobble streets

7 Try to hangout with more than just exchange students. British friendships are educational.	
8 The north has a lot to offer. Don't think the British world revolves around London	
9 Seminars are important. Lectures are not	
10 Bring an umbrella or three. UCLan / Preston seems to rain and storm more than others.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	The people I met made my exchange amazing. They were the best part by far.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Running out of money.
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	I will be able to take my cultural perceptions of both countries and compare/contrast, growing as a member of the international community.
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	DO IT!