

### Study Abroad Evaluation

General Information			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Host Country	Australia		
Host School/Agency	RMIT University		
Participation Dates	Jan- Jun 2014		
Your Program of Study	GDMA		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize why you rated your experience the way you did	great experience. awesome culture+people, great travel, decent school		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	e-visa, permits were easy to get via web		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	flying to Melbourne via Hong Kong on Cathay. transport was long but fine.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	no surprises.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	host institute provided transport free on request. advise about 1/2 hour		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	very satisfied- RMIT has a very organized exchange program.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your evaluation of your host schools international staff or office?	staff were helpful in telling me what I needed		
Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)			
How was new student			

orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	good info about the city.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources available for you to talk to about what you were experiencing?	easy - Melbournites are very progressive.
<b>Housing</b>	
Describe your accommodation in your host country.	rented an apartment
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	month before, two months after. you specify when applying for visa
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	very
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	cooked mostly. satisfied ate out + drank out.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	10 minute walk
<b>Academics &amp; Course Registration</b>	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	my courses were specified before I left and modifying them was easy
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	look into all courses not just those of your year level
What course load would you recommend for future students? Are there particular courses you would recommend?	4/5 courses
<b>Academics &amp; Course Registration (cont'd)</b>	
How satisfied were you with the	

amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	satisfied -
How did the style of teaching compare to Canada? How did the workload compare to Canada?	workload - lighter teaching style - not as one-on-one
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	4
If applicable, 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?	great design printer, good library, computer labs were often inaccessible
<b>Cost</b>	
Books and Supplies/per term:	\$ ~100
Flight:	~ \$1600 ?
Accommodation/per month:	\$1300 + electric/water
Meals/per month:	—
Local transportation/per month:	\$80
Health insurance/per term:	\$350
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$40/mo phone \$60/mo internet
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	\$500
Vaccinations:	—
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	a lot. alcohol, movies, music, entertainment cost more
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	everything is more expensive in Melbourne.
<b>Extra-Curricular &amp; Social Activities</b>	
How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities available at your host site?	very - plenty of design conferences, vibrant cultural community
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future	design lectures, bike tours, photography tours, food tours, overnight tours

students?	
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	not sure - work needs a special bank acct. but you can work on the standard exchange visa. I didn't work
<b>Health and Safety</b>	
Did you feel safe in your host country?	Yes
Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	
<b>Personal and Cultural Connections</b>	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not international) people and students?	Very. Australians are very friendly and open.
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	not difficult at all. very much like Vancouver
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	the complete lack of poutine.
What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?	amazing coffee. vibrant live music scene. lively, welcoming design community
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	very friendly
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	the buildings were dense. lots of elevators
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	Melbourne is very progressive. outside of cities there is more racial prejudice
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	↑                    ↑                    ↑
<b>Overall</b>	
What are <b>five</b> important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	

← + TAKE PICTURES

1. Literally everything is way more expensive. Shop at Aldi.	
2. Don't be afraid to explore bars - the live music is amazing.	
3. Make friends with locals and you will find some amazing hidden jewels.	
4. Pack for all seasons - Melbourne gets four seasons in a day.	
5. Drink coffee.	
What are ten important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?	
1. Bring more money than you think you need. Way more.	
2. GO to RMIT's student tours! They are often free.	
3. If in design, make use of the awesome Building 9 facilities.	
4. Get your Victorian Concession card for deals and cheaper transit.	
5. Spend time getting lost in Melbourne.	
6. Get the most out of your teachers.	
7. Use the library. It's great.	
8. Never stay with Unilodge.	
9. Keep a journal/blog.	
10. Watch Your Belongings.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Exploring Melbourne with new friends, being immersed in the culture is invaluable
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	<u>budgeting</u> + initially meeting people. <b>MONEY</b>
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I'm more open, very interested in exploring the culture of my own city.
What else do you want to add out your study abroad experience?	Save up. Have an open mind. Try new things.