

Deakin University Exchange and Study Abroad Program Final Evaluation


With this evaluation the Education Abroad Office hopes to learn more about your exchange or study abroad experience. The information you provide is important as it will help the Education Abroad Office improve its programs and it will also give other students interested in participating in the programs more information about your exchange or study abroad destination.

The evaluation is confidential and we appreciate honest and frank responses as your answers help other students decide on their exchange or study abroad destination. It also helps us improve the programs for future students.

Please attach extra sheets if the space provided is not enough. We appreciate long and detailed answers!

Thank you in advance for completing the questionnaire.

PLEASE RETURN THE EVALUATION TO:


Education Abroad
Deakin University
70 Elgar Road,
Burwood VIC 3125
Fax: 03 9251 7754

Course at Deakin: Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) / Bachelor of Arts

Major(s) at Deakin: Literature, Sociology (History)

Age: 20

Gender (please circle) Female Male

Semester(s) and year of exchange/study abroad program: Semester 2, 2007

Host University: Agder University (Universitetet i Agder)

Host Country: Norway

ACADEMIC

1. Please list the units you took at your host university.

NORSEC (Norwegian Society, Education & Culture)

2. Compared to Deakin, what kind of teaching methods did the lecturers at your host university use (e.g. lectures, seminars, tutorials etc)?

How did this affect your academic experience?

Mostly tutorials. We went on a lot of fieldtrips also. Norwegians are very 'outdoors' people so they like to bring you out into Nature.

3. Compared to Deakin, what was the workload (e.g. class hours per week, assignments, field work, labs etc.) and the level of difficulty like?

Attendance was not strict, but classes were daily. There were quite a few fieldtrips with the lecturers and not really any weekly assignments. At the end of the semester there was a group assignment (50%) and an oral exam (50%). Level of difficulty was slightly easier than Deakin (but only for NORSEC, others had a heavier load).

4. How was your course work assessed (e.g. exams, essays etc.)?

Group assignment worth 50%, blind-marked by two of the lecturers. Oral exam (teachers and topics were random for each student) in front of two lecturers, who gave a grade on the spot.

5. Overall, were you happy with the academic component of your exchange/study abroad program?

Very happy, I learnt a lot about a country I previously knew nothing about.

COST

6. How did you finance your exchange/study abroad program? Please list by percentage (%).

| | |
|---|-----|
| Deakin University Travel Grant | 15% |
| Deakin Scholarship | 0% |
| UMAP Subsidy | 0% |
| Personal Savings | 50% |
| OS-HELP Loan | 30% |
| Other Loans | 0% |
| Family Contribution | 5% |
| Income from working while studying at host university | 0% |
| Outside scholarships (please specify scholarship) | 0% |

7. How did your living expenses abroad compare with your living expenses when in Australia?

Much less Slightly less About the same Slightly More Much More

8. Were you successful in keeping to a budget? Yes No

If yes/no, what were the reasons for this?

A lot of what people did in Norway became about spending as little money as possible. When you're living somewhere with such a ~~good~~ strong currency its easy to spend too much money. BUT I didn't not do anything because of the price, you only do things once.

9. Please outline your approximate monthly budget whilst overseas

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Housing | \$ 8000 450 |
| Food | \$ 400 |
| Text Books | \$ 70 |
| Local Transport | \$ walking is very cheap! |
| Entertainment | \$ 100 |
| Clothing | \$ 50 |
| Phone | \$ |
| Other Expenses | internet \$ 20 |
| Total | \$ 1100 approx. |

10. Please outline your approximate travel costs (if any)

Travel \$ 3100
 Accommodation \$ 0
 Meals \$ _____
 Other Expenses \$ _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

11. Was accommodation arranged for you by the host institution? Yes No

If no, how did you find accommodation?

Very nice. Two people shared a bathroom and kitchen, each person got a bedroom to themselves. Quite big a close to town/uni.

12. If the host university arranged accommodation, did you have a choice of housing?

Yes No

BUT if you wanted a specific location they were flexible.

13. What kind of accommodation did you live in?

(Please rate your level of satisfaction with each setting on a scale of 1 = lowest to 5 = highest)

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| University accommodation with meals | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| University accommodation, self-catered | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Host Family | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Shared Flat or House | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Single person flat or house | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Rooming House | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 5 |

14. For most of the program, did you live

- _____ alone
- _____ with hosting country students
- _____ with Australian students
- _____ with other exchange or international students

15. If you moved, why did you move?

No, I didn't.

16. Please indicate arrangements you made for meals

- Provided by university accommodation
- Self-catering
- Eating out/take away
- Provided by host family

WORK

17. Did you work while participating in the exchange/study abroad program? Yes No

18. Was employment easy to find? Yes No

19. If you worked, how did you find your job?

20. If you worked, did you work

- during the semester? Yes No
- during vacations or holidays? Yes No
- legally with work permission? Yes No

21. Please write any comments you have in regards to finding a job in your host country (please feel free to comment even if you did not work).

A lot of people did find work close by and because of the strong currency they were getting paid double what they would get at home for the same work.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

22. Did your host university provide information and services to exchange/study abroad students on health and safety and legal issues relevant for your stay in the host country?

Yes No

23. Did your host university have appropriate emergency/crisis response measures in place?

Yes No Not Sure

24. Did you need medical attention at any point by the host university? Yes No

25. Did you need medical attention at any point during the program? Yes No

26. If you needed medical attention, please describe how easy or difficult this was to obtain.

27. Did you claim anything on your insurance whilst on the program? Yes No

28. If you made an insurance claim, please describe how easy or difficult this was to make. Please also make any comments you think may aid future students when making an insurance claim.

LIFE AT YOUR HOST UNIVERSITY AND IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY

29. How easy or difficult was it to meet and interact with host country students?

Quite easy, we were given host 'buddies' in the first week then after that it was up to us to keep in contact with locals.

30. With whom did you spend most of your time with (e.g. host country students, Australian students, other exchange/study abroad or international students?)

What were the reasons you spent most of your time with those students?

Other international students. We were all in the same situation but from many different places, so there was always something new to do or talk about.

31. What aspects of the host university stand out in your mind?

Great facilities, very friendly staff and lecturers, huge cafeteria, great gym facilities, very helpful international office staff.

32. What aspects of the host culture stand out in your mind?

Equality, Norwegians are very politically correct and have access to all with their nation's rich welfare state. Nearness to nature. They are always outdoors, which is great because it leads to a much healthier older generation who keep contributing to society well into their 80s or 90s.

SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

33. Thinking back about what you packed, list those things which you didn't take abroad and later wished you had – and vice versa – those things which you took and didn't need or could have purchased on site.

TAKE ALONG:

Anything that will keep you warm! But saying that, be smart about the materials of things, because you can still be warm in -10°C with 3 layers if you have the right ones.
Australian things: vegemite, etc. People want to see what's different over here.
Good shoes must be packed.

LEAVE BEHIND:

Bulky clothes. Take a backpack, not a suitcase because it'll come in handy to see the country.

34. What changes would you make to your exchange/study abroad program?

What would you preserve?

Make sure you try to learn the native language. As English speakers, we have an advantage because most people travelling can talk to us. But don't take that for granted.

35. What kind of advice would you give to students who are thinking about going on this program? Is there anything else you would like to tell students about your experiences?

The only thing that was a little strange about this course was that it was all in English and I was one of three native English speakers in a class of sixteen. Just be prepared for slow lectures, sometimes in broken English! But I think the course being in English was half the challenge for the others but for the three of us it was easier obviously.
Be open minded to hear about other cultures. Australia is a more easy-going, laid-back country (which I thought was a big stereotype before) so people might seem rude when they don't intend to be.