

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 Arts (International Studies)

Major(s) at Deakin: International Relations & Politics

Age: 21

Gender (please circle) Female Male

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

Host University: Universidad del País Vasco (Basque Country)

Host Country: Spain

ACADEMIC

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

spanish Intermediate 1
spanish Intermediate 2
Global Economics
political Institutions of the E.U

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?

It was mostly discussion rather than lectures, especially in spanish. Almost no reading though very beneficial to me as I'm an oral learner.

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?

I had a 2hr class a day for spanish and then the other subjects were twice a week for 75mins each. spanish had a lot of homework, but the others didn't - although there was a siesta break to chill out during and do all your homework.

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

It was based on the American system with lots of mid-terms and final exams, but very little essays. Although written compositions in spanish were assessed.

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

Yes. teaching staff very friendly and understanding. plus some classes taught in english, others spanish and some a bit of both which helped academically.

COST

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

Deakin University Travel Grant	10%
Deakin Scholarship	
UMAP Subsidy	
Personal Savings	35%
OS-HELP Loan	30%
Other Loans	
Family Contribution	25%
Income from working while studying at host university	
Outside scholarships (please specify scholarship)	

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?

Food was a lot more expensive than I thought.
Travel in Spain was fairly cheap, but out of the Basque Country it became expensive. And travel to/from uni was very expensive.

9. Please outline your approximate monthly budget whilst overseas

Housing	\$ 600
Food	\$ 900
Text Books	\$ 150 overall.
Local Transport	\$ 120
Entertainment	\$ 400
Clothing	\$ 300
Phone	\$ 160
Other Expenses (travel.)	\$ 400
Total	\$ 14,550

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

Travel		\$ 1000 .
Accommodation		\$ 300
Meals		\$ 300
Other Expenses	Entrance into places etc.)	\$ 100.

ACCOMMODATIONS

11. Was accommodation arranged for you by the host institution? Yes No
If no, how did you find accommodation?

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

Yes No

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	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 4	5
Single person flat or house	1	2	3	4	5
Rooming House	1	2	3	4	5

14. For most of the program, did you live

<input type="checkbox"/>	alone
<input type="checkbox"/>	with hosting country students
<input type="checkbox"/>	with Australian students
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	with other exchange or international students

15. If you moved, why did you move?

16. Please indicate arrangements you made for meals

<input type="checkbox"/>	Provided by university accommodation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Self-catering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eating out/take away
<input type="checkbox"/>	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?

The uni had lots of jobs up around on walls etc. And lots of opportunities to teach english. I just chose not to.

20. If you worked, did you work

- during the semester?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
- during vacations or holidays?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
- legally with work permission?	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 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).

see above.

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?

Lots of students lived with Spanish students, so could meet them that way - also great to do if wanting to improve language. Could also get language partners to practice Spanish - organised by uni. Overall, fairly easy to meet and interact.

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?

At the start, I spent most of my time with other international students. We bonded together because of language barrier. But by the end, I spent every opportunity with Spanish to practice my Spanish. But mostly traveled with international students.

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

Staff in USAC office were amazing - always wanting to help and always organising trips for us. Lots of opportunities at uni to do extra stuff - i.e. sport, hiking, language, jumping etc and a lot free. But be prepared to see alcohol at every lunch table and see people rolling joints before class.

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

I was in the Basque country which is very different to the rest of Spain. It's very political and I saw lots of political demonstrations etc at school and in the street. Also saw domestic violence in the street which was also confronting. But then towards us, the people were so welcoming. Siesta break was amazing - wish we had it in Australia - although sometimes annoying if you needed to go to the shops and they were closed! Family was important to Spaniards, and always saw families out together. But be prepared to walk into a bar at 10am for a coffee and see a dog running around, kids playing and the smell of hash everywhere. Get used to smokers!

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:

Lonely Planet guide, computer photos of family/friends, and a few clothes that you love. Also leave plenty of space to bring home stuff - or else be prepared to chuck stuff for ship home. Make sure you take your language dictionary.

LEAVE BEHIND:

Winter clothes - buy them there! We don't have clothes (as stylish) or as warm as you'll need.

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

What would you preserve?

In the USAE program, you can only miss two classes per subject before it affects your grade - a little frustrating if you want to travel.

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?

Be prepared, if going to Basque Country, to see a lot of violence and political demonstrations - even at uni! If you want to improve your Spanish, don't go to touristy places - even San Sebastian - you'll hear a lot of English! And be sure to get language partners - helps so much! And just speak Spanish - doesn't matter if you say it wrong, they get the idea. Use Facebook or Myspace, but so easy to keep in contact with new friends. And Skype a great way to talk to family/friends at home. But just have fun!