

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: D32 - BACHELOR OF ARTS / BACHELOR OF LAWS
Major(s) at Deakin: ARTS; PSYCHOLOGY + CRIMINOLOGY
Age: 21
Gender (please circle) Female Male
Semester(s) and year of exchange/study abroad program: Semester 2, 2007
Host University: KEELE UNIVERSITY
Host Country: UNITED KINGDOM (ENGLAND)

ACADEMIC

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

LAW 30028 LAW, MEDIA + POPULAR CULTURE
LAW 30042 CRIMINAL LAW III
LAW 30023 INTERNATIONAL LAW + GLOBALISATIONS
LAW 30017 HEALTHCARE LAW
JAP10005 ADVANCED JAPANESE (EXTRACLASS - NO COST - NO CREDITS)

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?

I chose elective modules which were taught seminar style + I didn't particularly like this because I was expecting lecture/tutorial style - which they do for core law subjects. The law electives at Keele as opposed to their core law subjects were very theoretical and sociologically based, like my Arts degree, so it was a tad boring, but their core law subjects are taught similarly.

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?

Very similar. For elective law subjects much less workload during semester than Deakin - as Deakin law electives are taught similarly to core anyway. The assignments were just as difficult + needed just as much work as Deakin. The class hours were a little less than Deakin but similar.

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

I chose elective subjects assessed only via 4,000 word essays. Yet the core subjects have 100% law exams which are CLOSED BOOK!! so you must memorise ALL cases, and you make take a Statute book - with NO notes in it.

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

Yeah, I thought it was quite similar, if not a little easier than Deakin which is nice when you're on exchange. I suppose I would have enjoyed more Walker law in my subjects re/cases + legislation, as the elective subjects at Keele are very theoretical + sociological like Deakin Arts subjects.

COST

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

Deakin University Travel Grant	<u>\$1,500</u>	
Deakin Scholarship	<u>N/A</u>	
UMAP Subsidy	<u>N/A</u>	
Personal Savings	<u>\$3,000</u>	
OS-HELP Loan	<u>\$5,000</u>	
Other Loans	<u>N/A</u>	
Family Contribution	<u>Help throughout in some small Bank deposits</u>	<small>maybe \$500</small>
Income from working while studying at host university	<u>N/A</u>	<small>all up in separate contributions</small>
Outside scholarships (please specify scholarship)	<u>N/A</u>	
Youth Allowance	<u>\$230 per fortnight</u>	

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?

You basically need about \$10,000 dollars if you're not attempting to work - yet obtaining work can be difficult. Having constant youth allowance was reassuring. If you go travelling first don't spend all your money! Make a food/shopping list + shop @ cheap supermarkets. Don't buy unnecessary clothing. Don't rely on the fact that you will find work, think of it as a bonus.

9. Please outline your approximate monthly budget whilst overseas

Housing	\$ <u>400-</u>
Food	\$ <u>230-</u>
Text Books	\$ <u>250-</u>
Local Transport	\$ <u>230-</u>
Entertainment	\$ <u>200-</u>
Clothing	\$ <u>100-</u>
Phone	\$ <u>90-</u>
Other Expenses	\$ <u>100-</u>
Total	\$ <u>1600</u>

For 6 months 9,600

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

Travel	\$ 2,500 return Airfare	\$3,000 Europe Tour
Accommodation	\$ (incl in Europe Tour) + Extra Travel 500	
Meals	\$ 800	
Other Expenses	\$ souvenirs 1,500 + Tickets (entry to places)	

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

If no, how did you find accommodation?

You could live on campus but I lived off campus with my boyfriend. I found it on an internet site Keele set up called "Keele student pad" and just general searching group properties in the area.

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

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

15. If you moved, why did you move?

N/A

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
if visa
- mostly
Bar work

No if no visa - They changed the law while I was traveling Europe - hard to find work less than 6 months

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

N/A

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).

make sure you get a visa for England even if the website says you don't need one - that was my problem because when you get there you find out you do need one. 5

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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?

more difficult for me because I chose not to live on campus, and Keele is a very campus based university with approx 3,000 rooms and students who live only 20min being residences. Also, I was not doing any core subjects so only saw classmates once a week.

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?)

Flanny said that, I did still meet some wonderful people.

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

Host country students, because I was there to meet and make friends with the people whose country I was staying with. yet, I also spent a lot of time with my house mates who were Indian, American & french speaking Canadians.

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

The beauty of the campus. The great public transport, buses to Keele went every 10 mins. The fact that there is a nightclub on campus - a very social uni - more so than dealing because many more students live on campus.

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

Potatoes, Beer. Slight language differences despite both having English as our native language. Lack of space i.e. roads smaller, cars smaller, houses much smaller. The drinking/pub culture.

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:

I am an organisational freak so I took everything, & there was nothing I missed or wished that I had with me.

LEAVE BEHIND:

I took way too many clothes. You really only need a couple of things to mix and match plus you buy heaps of clothes overseas - buy socks and socks over there, then leave them behind - all the little things like toiletries that weigh down your luggage you can buy there & leave there.

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

What would you preserve?

I would have lived on campus. I would have got a visa to get a job → help to meet people and have extra cash. I would preserve the lifelong friends who I made there, had a ball with and miss terribly!

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?

- You can never take too much money, but you can take too little. It's hard to rely on a dwindling bank balance & that any stable income
- live on campus
- don't wait for people to talk to you, you must put yourself out there and talk to strangers and get involved in as many activities as possible otherwise you won't meet anyone and you will be lonely.
- don't constantly compare things b/w countries and referring to ours as better, people get offended.
- no matter how cold you think it's going to be, it will be colder.
- Take a million photos
- Travel as much as you can!