

## 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:

A316 (BA (Prof. & Creative Writing))

Major(s) at Deakin:

Writing

Age:

52

Gender (please circle)

Female

Male

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

1st semester 2008

Host University:

Massey University - Wellington campus

Host Country:

NZ

## ACADEMIC

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

News Media Processes 219.204  
Intro to Journalism  
Prof. & e-business Writing

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?

Lecs + tutes

- News Media Processes - 1 hr lec and 2 hr tute (1 of each)
- Intro to Journalism - 1 hr lec and 1 hr tute (ran one after the other)
- Prof. & e-business Writing - 2 hr lec and 1 hr tute ( " " )

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?

Massively different. At Deakin I'm used to 2 straightforward assignments per semester, maybe one at WK8 and one at WK11.

At Massey - first one due WK3 and after that they just kept coming - the (sheer volume) of work req'd was a shock to my system.

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

News Media Processes - 3 essays  
Intro to Journalism - interviews + essays x 3  
Prof + E-business Writing - 2 MAJOR assignments

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

I'm happy I maintained my Dist. average. - None of my tutors were inspiring "teachers" but they were all very nice + approachable.  
Generally though, I feel that the sausage factory approach to churning out assignments did not equip students to RETAIN <sup>much of</sup> what they'd gleaned while hurrying to finish assignments.

**COST**

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

Deakin University Travel Grant		_____
Deakin Scholarship		_____
* UMAP Subsidy	\$A4,000	32%
Personal Savings		_____
* OS-HELP Loan	\$A 5,299	42%
Other Loans		_____
Family Contribution		_____
Income from working while studying at host university		_____
Outside scholarships (please specify scholarship)		_____
* Centrelink	\$383A per fortnight = \$8,447	26%
		Total: \$12,746

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  
*between these 2 - (Some things were a lot more, some a lot less)*

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please outline your approximate ~~monthly~~ budget whilst overseas

		<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
Housing	\$ 2,235*	\$125	\$500
Food	\$ 1180	\$66	\$264
Text Books	\$ 146	\$8.25	\$33
Local Transport	\$ 434	\$24	\$97
Entertainment	\$ 252	\$14	\$56
Clothing	\$ 190	\$11	\$44
Phone (mobile + ph cards for local)	\$ 95	\$6	\$24
Other Expenses	\$ 7,710	\$428	\$1713
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____		

\* housesat for free for 7 weeks for an old friend  
~~4280~~

finished study early June then went holidaying

if u mean travel outside of getting to NZ + bk, then

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

Travel	\$ <u>196</u>
Accommodation	\$ <u>200</u>
Meals	\$ <u>80</u>
Other Expenses	\$ <u>376</u>

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

If no, how did you find accommodation?

My own pre-trip research plus the help of my sisters who live in Wain (they went & checked out places for me before I came over).

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

Yes  No

I was told I was too old for homestay + later I heard that a lot of people rip students off in homestay so that's probably why they didn't want me.

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	5

14. For most of the program, did you live

4 weeks alone (house sat)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ with hosting country students  
 \_\_\_\_\_ with Australian students  
 \_\_\_\_\_ with other exchange or international students

2 weeks Loafers Lodge (own room, cook own meals etc)  
8 weeks Capital City Lodge (" breakfast + dinner are provided")  
rest of time stayed on where I was housesitting

15. If you moved, why did you move?

I moved from Loafer's Lodge because of the smell in the kitchen due to uncollected rubbish piling up.

I moved from Capital City Lodge because the NOISE pollution became unbearable.

16. Please indicate arrangements you made for meals

<input type="checkbox"/>	Provided by university accommodation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Self-catering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eating <sup>out</sup> / take away
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provided by <del>host family</del> Capital City Lodge
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	at Uni cafe

**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?

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20. If you worked, did you work

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

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).

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**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.**

*Very easy.*

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

*I was advised to do this on ~~the~~ return to Melbourne.*

**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.**

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## 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 - ~~the international office~~ same language - culture differences but - they don't mind the sheer volume of work - I guess they're used to it.

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?

I spent time with my sisters, visiting old friends, directing a play and doing assignments.

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

It's small. Library is open till 10pm but. Only one cafe - they can charge what they like and boy, they do! It's close to town.

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

- Meat is really expensive + very rich-tasting.
- Lots of things are cheaper. Some things very expensive.
- EVERYONE says thank you to the bus driver when they get off!

## 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:

SHOULD'VE TAKEN

My cable that goes from my camera to the computer.

### LEAVE BEHIND:

SHOULD HAVE LEFT.

About 10 items of clothing I just never ended up wearing as I bought about 5 things which I sort of lived in (it's colder here).

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

What would you preserve?

I would research more what clothes cost in a host country, see what they cost at home, do the math, weigh up the differences and perhaps not have to buy stuff over here.

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?

GO! JUST GO!

Even though I was returning to a place I used to live in – and I have had to overcome challenges here I didn't foresee – I can't have imagined spending first semester at Deakin.

It breaks up the 3 or 4 yrs – it increases your confidence – it's culturally invaluable.

Just do it!