

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
Major(s) at Deakin: International Relations
Age: 22
Gender (please circle) Female Male
Semester(s) and year of exchange/study abroad program: Sem 2'07, Sem 1'08
Host University: SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
Host Country: USA.

Email if you have questions: ejm@deakin.edu.au

ACADEMIC

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

U.S FOREIGN POLICY
DEV + FOREIGN POLICY IN AFRICA
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS
WORLD LAW
MIDDLE EAST PERIPHERY
PHOTOGRAPHY 1
HATHA YOGA

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?

'Classes' tend to be what we would call a seminar at Deakin. It could be large or small depending on the popularity of class. Interaction is encouraged although not as relaxed as a Deakin 'tute'. It really depends on your 'teacher's' style as to the atmosphere.

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?

Semesters were longer (~17 weeks) with more contact hours and a lot of reading that you actually had to do to keep up. You are not left to your own devices as much as at Deakin. Most classes have an oral presentation, a paper and 2 exams (at least); mid term + final.

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

All papers and exams are graded by your teacher unless they choose to cross mark with another teacher. Exams are in class and sadly cheating is common as you can bring whatever you like into the room and it is not strictly controlled.

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

Yes, it was very interesting to study I.R in the U.S.A and ~~view~~^{see} their perspectives. People said studying in the U.S would be easy but it depends on you classes and if you want to do well.

COST

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

Deakin University Travel Grant	-
Deakin Scholarship	-
UMAP Subsidy	\$4500
Personal Savings	\$10,000 - \$15 000
OS-HELP Loan	-
Other Loans	centrelink youth allowance: \$350 per F/N
Family Contribution	\$1000 - \$2000
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 + love at home in AUS!

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

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

I was very careful in my first semester but relaxed in the 2nd semester.
GET A JOB! It will help + you won't worry. Plus you'll meet ppl.

9. Please outline your approximate monthly budget whilst overseas

	Sem 1	Sem 2
Housing	\$ 750	450
Food	\$ 200	200
Text Books	\$ 300	100
Local Transport	\$ 45	45
Entertainment	\$ 150	150-200
Clothing	\$ 100	100-200
Phone	\$ 60	60
Other Expenses	\$	
Total	\$ 1605	1105-1255

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

Travel \$ _____
Accommodation \$ _____
Meals \$ _____
Other Expenses \$ 5000 approx for year

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

If no, how did you find accommodation?

www.craigslist.org IS AMAZING!
You will find housing, furniture, jobs etc.

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	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?

I moved at the end of my first semester due to my housemates. Some of them were immature and disrespectful.

Ask the honest questions when you meet potential roomies. Do you want to party midweek? At the house? etc etc.

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 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?

Cash in hand - my roommate got me the job.

20. If you worked, did you work

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

Get in during your orientation week as jobs go VERY FAST!
Ask on campus 'cafés' if they need people
Be prepared to be flexible!

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?

I made a point of living off campus + with Americans. This was for 2 main reasons:
1) I was 21+ - most students on campus are freshman + you cannot drink
2) I wanted to meet Americans + live 'in' the city

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 my time evenly. I joined a sorority which opened up a whole social network other exchange students didn't know existed. I was also heavily involved in the IEFC (exchange student club) which allowed me to meet all exchange students and Americans wanting to go on exchange.

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

1) It is a commuter school
2) You have to join clubs to find the social scene.
3) It is as much about being in SF as being at SFSU i.e. The school and the city will merge.

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

West coasters are very friendly and want to point out your accent and are interested in your country. Don't make a big deal of their ignorance - have respect! They respect authority in a 'yes sir, No sir' way. i.e. don't mess with authority + always be polite.

San Francisco is an amazing city!
You will find it hard to leave!

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:

- laptop
- camera! duh!
- \$\$\$ to buy everything there! It's all cheaper that included shampoo!

LEAVE BEHIND:

clothes - or at least accept that you will go shopping. Clothes are so cheap in the states so don't go out and buy things in AUS to take with you. Hair straighteners will NOT work as AUS plugs are 220-240V and the USA are 110V.

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

What would you preserve?

I wish I had done more roadtrips and used my weekends more for travel although this depends on your study load + how long you are staying.

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?

Do your research wherever you end up going. Google map the area, investigate public transport. Try to make contact before you leave AUS. You will get out as much as you put in!! Seriously consider if you want to live off or on campus. The type of school will effect the atmosphere.

NB: Dorms in the US are dry (non-alcoholic) If you are in a city you may want to live in the city not on campus so you can get out + about easily. If you are in the country you will probably want to live on campus. Lastly, when living in the USA don't dwell on their lack of understanding of the rest of the world. If it bugs you, vent to another exchange student but if you play up your 'foreignness' you may well find it harder to integrate. Try everything once!