

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: BAC MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Major(s) at Deakin: MEDIA & COMM, PUBLIC RELATIONS

Age: 19

Gender (please circle) Female Male

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

Host University: University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Host Country: USA

ACADEMIC

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

ARTSTPIC 311 PHOTO EXPRESSION, JOURNALISM 220
FOUNDATIONS ADVERTISING, SPEECH 203 PRACTICES I,
SPEECH 345 PERSUASION

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?

Most of my classes were in a tutorial & seminar setting. However, two ~~were~~ also included lectures.

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?

There was more work and I had class 5 days a week (15 contact hrs). A lot more quizzes, assignments & tests. However, the work was easier than at Deakin.

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

Quizzes, tests, exams, assignments, group presentations. I hardly had to write any essays. There were many more assessment tasks than at Deakin.

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

Yes I was because I found that teacher requirements were different & so having so many assessment tasks & extra credit opportunities in most classes gave you the best chance at obtaining a good grade. The classes are much smaller and personal.

COST

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

Deakin University Travel Grant	11.5%
Deakin Scholarship	-
UMAP Subsidy	-
Personal Savings	22.8%
OS-HELP Loan	-
Other Loans	-
Family Contribution	65.7%
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?

I ~~was~~ unanticipated the cost of travel. However, when I was in whitewater the living expenses were cheap.

9. Please outline your approximate monthly budget whilst overseas

Housing	\$ 375
Food	\$ 250
Text Books	\$ - rented from library
Local Transport	\$ 20
Entertainment	\$ 240
Clothing	\$ 30
Phone	\$ 50
Other Expenses	\$ -
Total	\$ 965

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

Travel	\$	<u>1500</u>
Accommodation	\$	<u>450</u>
Meals	\$	<u>390</u>
Other Expenses	\$	<u>900</u>

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	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	alone
<input type="checkbox"/>	with hosting country students
<input type="checkbox"/>	with Australian students
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provided by university accommodation	Bad food but meal plans compulsory. Order minimum meal plan (10 per week) and cook in dorm kitchens.
<input 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?

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).

It seemed to be easy to find a job on campus at the start of the semester but were only paying around \$6 per hour. You need a social security number to work in the US.

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.

I found the on-campus health centre to be substandard. I had an asthma attack & had to wait 2 hrs for treatment because they had no free appointments & the nurse told me I was just hyperventilating! Go to the medical centre on Main St. or the emergency department in Fort Atkinson (15 min car ride) if you can get there.

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.

This was difficult as it required a lot of paper work & I have still not heard from the company 2 months later. However, Linda Eshelman from the international office helped me to complete the forms.

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?

This was particularly easy, living in the dorms most people were friendly and interested in talking to you. It took me only a couple of weeks to make good friends.

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?

A mixture of other exchange students & American students. I wanted to experience the American culture so I spent a lot of time with Americans. However, I was also close to other exchange students as we understood each other & were able to travel on the weekends together.

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

It is in a small town and the town is basically centered around the campus. It is fairly warm during summers (30's) and freezing during winter (-'s). I really enjoyed the snow, the majority of people were very friendly and the town is safe.

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

A lot of Americans don't really understand sarcasm. Thanksgiving, homecoming & Halloween were all unique experiences that I enjoyed greatly.

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:

A backpack for books
A mix of summer & winter clothes.
Under Armour thermals
beanies, gloves, scarfs
Laptop if you have one

LEAVE BEHIND:

Australian winter jackets (these will not be warm enough! Buy a coat over there. usually around \$45/100)

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

What would you preserve?

I was very happy with my decision to stay in the wells west dorm. The wells towers by far had the best facilities & for the most part everyone was friendly.

The only thing I would change about my experience would be to stay a year instead of a semester & go to a different health centre!

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?

Whitewater is a rural town in South Wisconsin and was unlike anything I have experienced in my life, being a city girl. I soon came to love the town as it was safe, even at night, and being a college town a lot of fun.

The only frustrating part about whitewater was the lack of transport. The only ways to get around are to take a taxi, walk or make friends with someone with a car.

I would take part in the host family program as I found it worthwhile

Winter there is extremely cold but the snow is beautiful. Make sure you take warm clothes!