

JUN 29 2015

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: University of Auckland Direct Exchange

Quarter(s) of Participation: Winter and Spring 2015

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Stay at on campus accommodation; they also give a free shuttle to pick you up from the airport upon arrival

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

Auckland had an orientation for international students. It was helpful and covered how to's around campus, especially emails, logging in, and where campus services are. They also had a travel around New Zealand orientation that was helpful to make the best use of time in New Zealand.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure
- instruction
- teacher/student relations
- grading/exams
- administration
- library, computer, and classroom facilities

- Classroom structure was the same, lecture plus a quiz section (tutorial)
- Instruction was pretty good; I would say that some professors were more interested in teaching than others. I think it's the same at UW. Also, take classes that you actually find interesting.
- Students were welcome to ask questions in both lecture and tutorial. It felt like the same atmosphere at UW.
- Grading is tough here. Most assignments like essays in my Film, Media, TV department I got B average on assignments though I was putting an effort into them. Asking around to other students, they also got B average. In my department it was essay heavy so no

tests. Only had 1 final exams out of 4 classes but other departments its usual to have final exams. Prepare to write a lot of essays if you take Film, Media, TV classes.

- Administration, same as UW
- There is one large library that I know of (like Ode). There is a separate building called Kate Edger that houses 2 computer lab areas but they are small. The labs are always filled. That was really frustrating especially when I just needed to print something. But they do have printer only stations as well. Also the lack of pure study areas was frustrating as well. People were just eating and chatting and it didn't feel like a study area. Also, no rooms to rent just for private group study.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

I think the quality of instructors varies. All of my instructors were great except for 1 (out of 4). But they are probably on the same level of UW. You will find some passionate more than others and I think that's the same case as UW.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I would recommend FTVMS 210 or 325 for Communication/Sociology/AES students. The course is called Race & Indigeneity. It's so fascinating to learn about race and identity in New Zealand. Dr. Suzanne Woodward is very passionate and an expert on the subject and is always open to student opinions in lectures. My favorite class that I took!

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

I took similar classes that I would have taken in UW Communication department. The New Zealand film class was probably the most unrelated class as well as my Popular Music on Screen class. My Social Media/Democracy and Race & Indigeneity class were the two most related to my communication studies.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

On campus and off.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose on-campus because it was easiest to manage and I didn't have to go look off campus. I was worried about what the housing situation is like off campus so I just applied to stay on campus. Probably a bit more expensive but living close to campus is a major plus!

c. What would you recommend?

On campus! Only 10-15 minutes walk from campus at most and you will meet other students, local and international. You also get a gym membership if you live on campus. Though more expensive, you still get to experience dorm/apartment life in New Zealand.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Auckland is a very international city, with so many people living here. If you are into the arts, the art scene in Auckland is huge with lots of theatre, music, and fine arts things to go see. There's always something to go see and do, whatever you're into: sports, arts, outdoors. You are never far from hiking or camping or surfing too. If you're adventurous, come to Auckland!

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

Medical facilities are good. If you need to see a doctor or nurse, there are 2 clinics that work with student insurance on two of the universities campuses: Main and Grafton. Go here before going off campus. Also, Auckland is a very safe city. You should use the same caution especially when walking at night but I've gotten virtually zero catcalls here in Auckland and other parts of New Zealand. There haven't been any situations when I felt really unsafe. Just use common sense and walk with other people, but definitely safer than U-district or Downtown Seattle at nighttime.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

- a.** How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?
(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

I lived in the Huia residence hall so that is how I met a lot of my close friends here in Auckland. Just like living on campus at UW, they host events to get to know new people like a formal ball, social nights, cooking parties. I was also a part of the AUISN, international student club. Other UW students made friends by joining recreational sports teams. You never know who you will meet, so take any opportunities to meet new people!

- b.** Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.
(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

Not many cultural differences. Just be open to learning new kiwi slang and words. Be open to also trying interesting kiwi food specialties. Try not to be "That American" and try to blend in with locals.

7. FINANCIAL:

- a.** What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

I have an account with BECU (mastercard debit card) and was able to take cash out easily at ATM machines. Make sure to ask if you can actually use your debit/credit card directly at stores here because I was not able to. I use cash to pay for everything.

- b.** How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

It really depends. I saved a lot by cooking my meals.

- c.** Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Buying a formal dress for the university student ball, though inexpensive it will save you some money and stress if you just bring one from home.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

I wished IP&E and the UW insurance policies were also on the same page as UofA's insurance. I had to pay for two insurance plans. The office should be clear about that before we purchase because insurance is not cheap!

I also wish I was able to read evaluations from students before I left or more connections with past students who went to Auckland from UW.

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

Independent or willing to become more independent. A person who is adventurous and loves the outdoors or likes to try new things. I personally am not a 100% outdoors person but I enjoyed doing some hikes around the country. Be open and ready to try new things and meet new people! Open minded people will also be suited for this program.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I think my expectations of traveling everywhere in New Zealand was too high. I was not able to go to a majority of the South Island because I couldn't find people that had the same free dates as me. Make a list of all the places you want to visit before you arrive in NZ or have some ideas. I think if I had done that I would have done better at planning. Also, there's so much to do in New Zealand so try and save Australia for another time. I heard from folks who went to Australia during the mid-semester break that they wished they had just stayed in New Zealand because travel outside of the country is expensive and tiring. New Zealand has sooo much to offer.

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: University of Auckland Direct Exchange

Quarter(s) of Participation: 1 semester (during Fall Quarter)

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Upon arrival, I stayed at Grafton Residence Hall. They allowed me to move in on the 7th of July before the start of the semester on the 21st of July. If you plan on flatting during the semester or the year, there are many hostels (\$25-32/night) right in the middle of Auckland that you could stay at while looking for a place.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

My program had an orientation. It covered topics such as the recreation center on campus, upcoming events, and how to navigate the website. During the orientation, we were given lots of free stuff, such as reusable bags, maps, and information packets that came in handy throughout the semester, especially at the beginning when campus was still pretty foreign.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure

I found the class structure to be very similar to that of UW. I had regular lecture classes, with weekly tutorial/worksheet section, and lab a couple times during the semester for my engineering class. My classes were all similar sized, with approximately 150 people in my lectures.

- instruction

The instruction was very similar to UW, and it was easy for me to understand the professors as the New Zealand accent is not all too pronounced.

- teacher/student relations

The teachers were easy to approach, and had office hours every week for students to speak with them. The structure is the same as for UW in terms of contacting professors.

- grading/exams

The grading for essays I found were more strict than that for UW. My tests/essays were worth 15-20% of my total grade. The final exams were worth 60-70% of my grade. There was no weekly homework for my class. The only assignments I had were three assignments for my statistics class.

- administration

The international student office was a little hard to get in contact with via email, but is right in the center of campus. They are easy to talk to in person and are helpful.

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

They are very similar to UW. Something different I noticed was that the computers in the information commons were very hard to get without a reservation. It is very easy to reserve a computer through the Auckland Uni website, and can be done as soon as day in advance to get a computer for any amount of time up to three hours.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

I found that the instruction was very good. The quality of professors, on average, was higher than at UW. I was very satisfied with the quality and content of Auckland Uni Instruction.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I recommend Maori 130, introduction to the Maori world. It is a culture and history class through the Maori (Native New Zealander) perspective. I was able to learn a lot about New Zealand's history, and current cultural issues that New Zealand faces. Very interesting class. It was also much different from my major at UW (ME).

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

I plan for my statistics class at Auckland (STATS 101) to transfer over to my engineering degree. My MECHENG 211 class, thermofluids, is the next class in engineering I was supposed to take if I was not abroad. My other two classes, ENVSCI 101 and MAORI 130, did not directly relate to my major at UW, but was very interesting and will be applied as general education credits, I&S, or VLPA.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

To the best of my knowledge, the housing that was available to me was Grafton Hall, Huia Hall, and Unilodge.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose Grafton Hall because I read through the UW study abroad evaluations and heard that Grafton hall was the best choice.

c. What would you recommend?

I stayed in Grafton residence hall. I liked Grafton for its fully catered service and for its small size, promoting a family like atmosphere. Grafton was mostly single rooms, with a couple dozen larger, double rooms. I was in a double room, and found that it had more space than my McMahon double room. The only downside I had about Grafton was that it was a long walk to city campus compared to some of the other residence halls (15 minute walk).

Another residence hall that I spent a lot of time at was Unilodge. I really liked Unilodge as it allowed residents to be more independent. Unilodge is mostly all single rooms as well, with a small amount of doubles. This residence is self-catered, and provides fridges, and a kitchenette to store and cook food.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is surrounded by the Central Business district, therefore the campus is right in the city. Five minutes away is Queen Street, which holds many restaurants, bars and stores. Campus is compact, and takes only 5 minutes to get from one side to another. Surrounding community is relatively safe, and bustling with people throughout most of the day.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

Auckland is a very safe city, especially near campus. However, it is still a big city, so precautionary measures we do in Seattle still would apply, such as being aware of your surroundings. Theft in libraries is an issue at University of Auckland, just like at UW. Other than that, New Zealand is a safe place. Hitch hiking is a popular way to get around too and is easy to do. If you plan to do it, make sure to get picked up outside of the city, since many people won't pick you up at the city center. I took a bus to the edge of town, and was very easy to get around from there. Give yourself enough time too if you plan to do it, as it could take you some time to get picked up.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?
(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

I was able to meet local students through living in the residence halls, and being part of clubs. I attended the club expo and joined club such as the Auckland Uni Underwater Club and the Tramping

Club. I would recommend joining the Tramping Club, as it is the largest and most active club at University of Auckland.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

New Zealand has many similarities with Seattle, so I did not have much of a hard time with the cultural differences. At first, the accent was hard to understand, but I simply asked them to repeat themselves. New Zealanders (Kiwis) are very kind and willing to help you out if you don't understand. For instance, I did not know the rules to Rugby, so they would fill me in on rules as we were watching a game so I could follow it closer.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

I had a credit and debit card from BECU, and a debit card from a local Washington credit union, KCU. My BECU card incurred a 1% charge when withdrawing from certain ATMs, and when using them at stores. My KCU card incurred a 2% charge. I originally had difficulty using my cards. **The way I found that it worked was select my card as credit on the payment device, and skip typing in the pin number ("Pin or Enter" Press enter). It would then ask for signature verification, and then my cards would work.** This is probably the most important piece of information to remember.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

Looking back on my expenses, including weekend traveling, mid semester breaks, rent, food, etc, I spent around \$2000 a month. My rent for Grafton hall was \$293/week for a double room. I believe it was \$340/week for a single room.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Always have plenty of money for gas. When I was in New Zealand, gas was between \$1.97 to \$2.10 per liter. A road trip really adds up with the cost for gas. Make sure to travel with a full or almost full car for savings.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

N/A

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

I was under the impression that IP&E would be a lot more structured with my study abroad preparation. I thought I would be given significant assistance with class selection and accommodation. However, IP&E were helpful with my questions regarding these things.

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

N/A

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

This program is best for students who want an independent study abroad experience. Auckland is a big city and allows as a good hub for travel around New Zealand. I would recommend this study abroad program if you are into the outdoors and want to go to a large school.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Overall, I had a great experience. I took easy enough classes to allow me to travel almost every weekend. I am glad I took the classes I took since they were very interesting. I made friends with the fellow international students at Auckland Uni. Being with the international students allowed us to relate to each other when dealing with cultural differences, homesickness, and just hanging out.

If you are interested in contacting me, please feel free to email me at dunawg@uw.edu

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: University of Auckland Direct Exchange

Quarter(s) of Participation: Winter and Spring Quarters

E-mail Address: |

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1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Housing is available almost a month before school starts. The university housing will pick you up at the Auckland airport and give you a ride to your accommodations.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

There was no program orientation but there was a University of Auckland orientation that covered subjects such as advice and safety tips for living in Auckland. They told us how and where to get bus cards and grocery cards, where to shop etc. I found it helpful.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure
- instruction
- teacher/student relations
- grading/exams
- administration
- library, computer, and classroom facilities

Classroom structure was much like the university of Washington. There were larger lectures and some classes had corresponding quiz sections and labs. The instructors were approachable and had office hours. Most of your grade was comprised from a few exams. The final exams were worth up to 60% of your grade. In all my classes they were at least 45% of my grade. Before exams you get a one-week break to study. Then the exams are spread out over two weeks so there is a lot of time to study. I didn't have tons of tests or graded material for my classes but when there was a test or a paper it was worth a lot. Campus is small so there aren't tons of places to study. They had a short loan library that I liked to study at where you can rent class textbooks or other books for up to 6 hours. There is also a library and a commons area to study. Computers are difficult to access during the school day because there are few of them and most students commute and stay on campus all day. Classrooms are much like UW very nice with good technology. There are always friendly people to help you especially at the international office.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Quality and content of instruction was good just like UW. Most classes would have a few lecturers and not just one to teach different subjects. The classes tend to be a bit more challenging since they only go to school for 3 years on average to get a degree so 1st year classes are more like our 2nd year classes and so on.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I loved my history class. It was History 102, history of sexuality. It was a unique class to anything at UW. Two enthusiastic and knowledgeable professors taught it. It was not that difficult of a class and it was very fascinating.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

I am a biology major so I was able to take classes that could count for biology classes back home like Marine 202.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

When I applied for housing the only option available was a studio at Unilodge.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose Unilodge.

c. What would you recommend?

Unilodge is nice because it is close but it was mostly international students, which can be fun, but I was looking to meet more Kiwis. It was right by central downtown area which was nice as well. It was close to everything. They have other options than single rooms, which I would recommend. I did not love living by myself. I would recommend Carlaw because it is close and really nice though that seems to fill up when their housing opens in August (for school in March). My friends lived in Parnell Student Villiage, which was flat style living. It was fun for them to have roommates and their place was very nice but it was really far away (20 walk to uni if you're moving quickly) and also fairly far from the main downtown area.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Campus is small but still has as many students as UW so it is crowded. It is located in the middle of the city and is centered on a main city street so you have to fight through traffic and wait at traffic lights between classes. It is very pretty though and lush, lots of palm trees and hibiscus flowers growing, which I loved. It was in a nice area of town too.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

My friend went to the hospital for a sprained ankle and had no problems with the facilities. There are not many unsafe districts. Auckland as a whole is very safe. Though walking alone late at night in the city probably isn't safest. One of the most unsafe streets is Anzac Avenue, which is where unilodge is located. In the day it is fine though, just at night the lower end of it is sketchy but there is always access to unilodge from another street so that's where I went at night. The housing accommodations with the university had great security and I never worried about theft.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

I made friends with Kiwis in my classes and then my friends who I went down with who were on a program knew a whole bunch of Americans who met Kiwis where they were living. Also the communal kitchen in unilodge was a great place to meet people.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

Not many huge differences. You don't say bless you to people after they sneeze. They know a lot about Americans but all of my friends did not stereotype me. There were no gender issues.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

Since I was only there for 5 months I just brought enough cash to exchange. You don't need tons of cash there most things you can use credit card for so I did not spend lots of cash. My bank had a credit card with no foreign transaction fees. My friends who had bank of America were able to get money from a partner bank down there at ATMs. My other friend had USAA which allowed her to

get a certain amount of money from an ATM for free every month. Otherwise you would have to pay a few to get money from at ATM.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

Rent: 1000 a month I believe

Food: 400-500\$ a month

Transportation: 15\$ a month- I rode the bus a lot to visit my friend in Parnell so it depends where you live and how much you want to ride the bus vs. walk

Miscellaneous: Depends, I would recommend not to buy books cause you can just rent them in short loan and if you don't eat out you won't spend money with that. The only other expense is travel and activities, which can range based on your budget.

New Zealand is an expensive place so be prepared to spend a bit more money than you do in the states. Groceries especially are very expensive.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Baggage can be very expensive while traveling. Also I went to Australia for two weeks and had to get a visa to go there that cost 30\$.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

I did not use Financial Aid.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

I thought they were very helpful and always available to ask questions.

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

n/a

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

Someone who is very outdoorsy, wants to explore a very naturally pretty area. Someone who is fine exploring a country on their own without guidance every step of the way. Someone who needs specific classes for their major and a program does not specifically suit their needs.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

My expectations fit what happened. My classes were not too difficult so I had time to explore. I did not realize how expensive everything would be there so I did not travel as much as I wanted to. New Zealand is bigger than one might expect so it is harder to get around everywhere than you might have thought. I loved my trip though and would do it again in a heartbeat. Everything was so beautiful there and the people were friendly. Overall it was a great experience!

IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION:

M

University of Auckland

Semester 1: March – July 2013

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1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. *Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.*

Unilodge, International House, Princeton Apartments

- b. *If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?*

The orientation covered the in and outs of moving about the university. They gave us a tour around the campus and explained where to find certain resources. For the most part, exploring the university on my own proved to be more beneficial for my adaptation.

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure

The classroom structure is very similar to that of UW courses, with main lectures ranging from twenty to a few hundred students and then additional tutorial classes administered by teachers assistants. Tutorial classes often went over material from lectures.

- instruction

Instruction was also very similar to that of UW professors. Professors carried out lectures and tutorial classes were taught by teachers assistants, who were usually graduate students.

- teacher/student relations

Teachers encouraged and made it very easy for students to contact them for questions and other discussions outside of the classroom as well as during the classes. They offered specific office hours and provided email addresses in which they responded in a timely fashion. Due to this, I was able to attain a very close relationship with a couple of my professors and was comfortable getting the assistance when needed.

- grading/exams

All courses gave an in depth explanation of how assignments and exams were graded at the beginning of the course. Each class I took had two exams, one in the middle of the semester which was about 20% of the final grade and a final exam which was 50% of the final grade.

- administration

Administration was extremely friendly and helpful.

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

I took a few very helpful library and computer tutorial classes that taught me how to research in the university database.

- b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The quality and content of instruction was also very similar to that of the UW, professors were very credible and were definite experts in their area of instruction.

- c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I would most definitely recommend and Pacific Studies courses, they are a great way to get to know the community in which you are in as well as learn about new cultures.

- d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

I was able to take courses at the University of Auckland on topics that have always interested but are not offered at the UW, that ended up being my favorite courses in all of my college career.

3. HOUSING:

- a. What housing options were available to you?

University housing was available as well as student apartments and hostels that were close to the campus.

- b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose to live in a student apartment because I liked the location and I wanted to live on my own.

- c. What would you recommend?

Depending how comfortable the student is with meeting new people, I would recommend living in an apartment. I enjoyed the freedom of having my own place, but I also met new people through other extracurricular activities, whereas other exchange students who lived in university housing mainly hung out with people from their buildings.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is in the heart of the central business district of Auckland city. It is 5 minutes walking distance from the main street in the city with all of the major business. It is also about a 10-15 minute walk from the waterfront. Next to the campus is a very large city park which. The bus system is very thorough and easy to get the hang of.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

Fortunately I did not have many safety concerns while abroad, I felt safe while on campus most often.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

- a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?

I auditioned for a production and consequently was part of the first Pacific production held in the Fale Pasifika on campus. I also joined the University of Auckland Samoan Student Association and spent an average of three hours a week practicing for a cultural competition that I later attended after the semester in which I was able to meet students from universities throughout New Zealand.

- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.
(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

I used an international credit card connected to my parents' accounts, as well as debit cards that my parents had access to, so they could add money if needed.

- b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

Rent \$900

Food \$300

Transportation \$50

Miscellaneous \$200

- c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

N/A

- d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications?

If so, how did you address them?

I had to inform scholarships that I was attending a semester and not two quarters.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

- a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

I was very informed upon arrival to my exchange.

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

This exchange would be great for students interested in studying Pacific Studies.

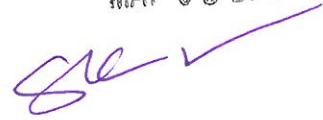
10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

This exchange went beyond my expectations. I took courses that I absolutely loved and became passionate about studying. I also joined different extracurricular activities that lead me to meeting my best lifetime friendships. Choosing to attend the University of Auckland in New Zealand was one of the best life decisions I have ever made.

IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION OUTLINE:

MAY 03 2013



Auckland, New Zealand
July 2012-November 2012

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION: a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival. b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

A. I was picked up at the airport by the University of Auckland service and taken to my living quarters within an hour of arriving in New Zealand. You can easily sign up for this service prior to arriving in New Zealand.

B. It covered the basics of university life. It included a campus tour and general information about the school. It also put you in contact with students who also were in the same type of program as you. I ended up meeting people in the orientation that I am still really good friends with today.

2. ACADEMICS: a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system: - classroom structure - instruction - teacher/student relations - grading/exams - administration - library, computer, and classroom facilities b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction. c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students? d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

(OVER)

A. The overall classroom structure was pretty much the same as the UW. There were giant lectures for the mainstream classes, and smaller "quiz sections" and laboratory sections as well just like ours. The teachers were not as involved with the students however. At UW you can really get the sense that the teachers want you to succeed where as at Auckland they came across as nearly apathetic. Overall there was less work to do, but the tests and papers that were given were a lot more intense then what is generally give at UW. There was also less prep time by the teachers for Final and Midterm exams. The libraries and other study facilities are a lot nicer at the UW and a lot more user friendly.

B. Like previously stated the teachers were a lot more involved in the students learning at UW then at Auckland. The content was about equal in difficulty but the teaching styles were a bit different. In larger lectures there is more discussion at UW. Also there are several different lecturers per course where as at UW there might be a few guest lecturers but generally speaking there is one lecturer per course.

C. I would recommend taking courses that teach a bit about NZ's history and its culture if they are available. Also I would lean towards courses that you write essays for on your final exams rather than ones that are short answer or multiple choice because they seemed a bit easier.

3. HOUSING: a. What housing options were available to you? b. Which did you choose, and why? c. What would you recommend? A. Flatting in the city, hostels, University Dorms or Flats.

B. I chose a Dorm because it was the simplest option and provided food so I didn't have to worry about cooking and shopping.

C. I would recommend staying in either the University Flats or The University Dorms if you can afford it. Flatting in non-university accommodations is less expensive, but you don't have the same social experience. Dorms are really good for getting to know people in place that you know absolutely no one.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE: Describe the campus and surrounding community.

It was a city campus so it was not very far away from the inner city, about a 2 minute walk. The campus has a lot of older buildings, but the Business School has really nice new buildings. There is a central area that has the library, student food court area, the gym and the student pub and other facilities located around it in the center of campus. The campus is not very large compared to UW and most of my classes were within a few minutes of each other. The community was really friendly and there are a lot of international students at the school so you get to meet people from all over the world on your trip. The night life is pretty good for people who like that sort of thing. The city is also really close to beaches and other tourist/outdoors activities.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

N/A

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS: a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.) b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

A. I went to a few sponsored events and met a lot of people through my classes and through my dorm. I also went out to the pub on the weekends and ended up meeting people there. I also went to several sporting events as well.

B. I had no real cultural challenges since part of my family are from New Zealand, and for the most part New Zealand is a more laid back version of the States.

7. FINANCIAL: a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.? b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc. c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred. d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications? If so, how did you address them?

A. I just used my American ATM card to get money from atms as well as a credit card. You can certainly get a bank account but I never found the need to.

B. I spent about 8-10 thousand total on food, rent, plane tickets and traveling expenses (food on vacation, renting cars, and other touristy stuff). So that is around 1500 per month, most of that on food/rent (after you take out the plane ticket).

C. n/a

D. n/a

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION: a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved? b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

A. The service went smoothly as far as I could tell. Only recommendation I would make is to put students in better contact with people who have already been to UW from Auckland and students who have been to Auckland from UW.

B. N/a

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE: Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

Someone who is ready for an adventure is not afraid to put themselves out there. You need to be fairly outgoing or willing to grow beyond your boundaries. You also need to be independent and able to take care of yourself and not miss home because you are a very long ways away from everything familiar.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE: How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal

I feel that my expectations academically were pretty much met. I wish the teachers were more involved but overall it was good. I feel that I got what I wanted from the trip. I realized that I don't need my parents to survive, that I am ok without them and ended up hardly missing home at all. I feel like I've also paved the way for myself to one day travel to many different places and experience many different cultures. I loved meeting new people and forging new friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime.

Auckland, New Zealand Direct Exchange
Summer-Fall term 2012

je ✓

1. a. Apply for housing before arrival such as Grafton Hall, Parnell student village (farther from campus). Otherwise find a hotel or hostel to stay in until you find housing.
b. Orientation covered a tour of campus with instructions at various sites, useful information regarding campus and activities, as well as a meet and greet. The orientation helped me adapt by meeting with other international students who were studying at the University of Auckland. Also, during the campus tour we not only went to important buildings on campus, but were guided through useful things that could be done at those locations.
2. a. -Classroom structure: very similar to the University of Washington. A good mix of both large and small sized classes, and large classes usually contained quiz sections.
-Instruction: Same as University of Washington
-Teacher/Student relationship: Same as University of Washington
-Grading/Exams: Grading a bit harder than the University of Washington but some classes may only contain one exam with no midterms but essays instead. Because there were fewer assignments, the grading for each was a bit harder.
-Administration: Same as University of Washington
-Library, Computers, and Classroom facilities: Similar to the University of Washington. Specific computer study rooms but computers are to be checked out for a certain amount of time using student ID.

b. I thought the quality and content of instruction was excellent. I always knew what was required of me and could easily get extra help if necessary.

c. FTVMS 111G- Media and society: Very interesting course with a lot of engaging content and student involvement.

d. I was able to take courses abroad that applied for credit to my major, Public Health, minor, Global Health, and requirements to continue my education in graduate school for Physical Therapy. I was also able to take a general course that fell within one of my personal interests, and a course that helped me to understand more about the New Zealand, and Pacific Island culture.
3. a. student dorms (only Grafton Hall housed upper classmen), student apartment villages (further from campus), off campus housing
b. Grafton Hall because it was close to campus and I would be able to live not only with international students, but students from New Zealand as well.
c. Grafton Hall was a nice mix of students from around the world and New Zealand. The environment was very fun and friendly with fun residence hall activities. The location was nice as well, close to campus and downtown areas.

4. The campus is almost in the heart of Auckland. It is very close to the main downtown streets but far enough away to not become crowded with everyday shoppers, workers, and tourists. The campus has a safe feel to it and is very pretty, with beautiful parks near the center and around it.
5. I always felt safe when I was studying in Auckland and walking around the areas where I needed to go.
6. a. I integrated into the culture through where I lived. I lived in University housing with both international students and the majority of residents New Zealanders. I made a lot of friends that way. I also participated in a soccer league against the other University housing. I joined the Tramping club and Auckland Snowboarding Club, making friends while exploring the beautiful country. I also went out and experienced the night life at pubs, bars, and clubs.
7. a. I used my online banking account to access and transfer U.S. money so I used my debit and credit card for most of my purchases. There is a charge taking money out of the ATM so I always made sure to get a substantial amount when taking cash out.
b. Depending on what activities the individual wants to do while in New Zealand, they could spend anywhere from \$500-\$700 a month.
c. unexpected expenses: skydiving. Another U.S. exchange student did have an unexpected speeding ticket.
d. no financial aid
8. a. The IP&E services were very effective. The office could improve by contacting abroad students once throughout their program just to check in.
9. This program is best suited for a student who wants to travel to a beautiful country, filled with exceptional hospitality but who will not get the extreme culture shock from being away from the United States. It is a good program for those wanting to experience a fascinating country but with English as their primary language and a University very similar to that of UW.
10. My academic and personal expectations were very realistic and far exceeded when studying abroad in New Zealand. I was able to study and learn all the material required of me for my courses and maintain a strong GPA, while still exploring the country and meeting a lot of fascinating and lifelong friends.

MAR 10 2011

✓ Done

IPE program evaluation:

Auckland, NZ (University of Auckland)
Summer/Fall Semester (2).

1.

#1. Arrival overseas/on-site orientation:

a.) There are many student housing through-out campus some are closer than others. I was in Parnell student village, it's about 15-20 min. walk to campus but it's a very nice walk through the park. It is also a great place to meet people because most of the residents are international students. Another popular place was AUT building, it is 5 mins from campus and is a modern complex with floor to ceiling windows with a view of down-town Auckland.

Another option is to look for housing off-campus but do it while in Auckland instead of back home. Stay in a hostel for a couple days and search around.

b.) The orientation was a week-long activity and it was basically for us to meet other international students. You don't have to go to all of the events just the ones that interest you. Ambury Farm excursion is definitely worth going to, it's beautiful.

#2. Academics:

a.) The instructions abroad are similar to UW's system. There are primarily 4 levels (100-400). There are TAs but they are called "tutors" and quiz sections are "tutorials". Many classes do not require text-books but a course pack. There are many facilities such as a computer lab and student study center.

Grading is a little different from UW in that most professors do not give A+ or A's so a B in NZ is equivalent to approximately 3.5-4.0 in our system.

- b) The quality and content of instruction depended on the course and professors. (similar to UW)
- c) I highly recommend Law and Society with Jane Kelsey. She is very passionate about the topic and it shows in her lectures. Also it allows a history into NZ laws and culture. Very based on Maori customs and laws.
- d) Some of the courses I took fulfilled my major requirements, others were for my minor and the rest was general.

#3. Housing:

- Look at "arrival overseas".

#4. Program/exchange site.

The campus (city), there are 4 other campuses but I was at University of Auckland, City Campus. There are many hills all around the city so bring comfortable walking shoes. It also rains a lot during the 2nd semester. Down the street from the campus is "Queen St" which is downtown Auckland. There are bars and shops. It is also close to the Harbor. Across campus there are two parks. There are many neighborhoods within the city and there is a Link system that goes around the city every 15 or 20 minutes.

Parnell is the creative, hip, artsy neighborhood. Many older (30's) professionals who live there. The Link stops running at 11 pm so I usually had to take the cabs if I went out late. It's about \$12 for a 5 min.

ride. The campus itself is pretty spread out and the only buildings that dedicated to specific departments were law, business and engineering. The others were just spread throughout campus.

#5. Health and safety:

It was relatively safe but at the orientation the staff told us not to walk through the parks alone at night. Everything that you would not do back at home ~~about~~ do not do it while you're abroad.

There is a health center on campus and part of the exchange program requires you to purchase health insurance.

#6. Cultural aspects:

a.) I participated in the family dinner program where approximately 3 exchange students are connected with a Kiwi family and are invited to dinner at their home. I am still in contact with my host family and it was a wonderful experience. Quiz night was also a big thing at Pubs and Bars and the same people host/show up for it so it's a great way to learn about NZ and meet some people. There are also inter-resident sports tournament where different teams from student housing compete with each other.

b.) There was not many cultural differences or challenges that I encountered. NZ is very rich in Maori cultures and you can see it everywhere. There's Maori symbols and languages on buses and classroom walls. Rugby is enormous over there, so be open to it definitely. Also, Americans of course are stereotyped as ignorant and ethno-centric, loud and obnoxious so do your best to not fall under the stereotypes.

#7. Financial:

a.) My bank charged me \$1.50 for every withdrawal

overseas so I would withdrawal large amount each time and deposit it into my NZ account. There's a bank on campus called the National Bank and they cater to international students.

b.) I would recommend about \$500 - \$600 not including rent. Groceries and pretty much everything else is really expensive. I would say it costs about \$75 per week for groceries. With rent it would add on about \$1,300. Rent was on a bi-weekly rate at \$695 approximately. Also if you'd like to take weekend trips add on \$300-\$400, because the trips usually involve renting a car, hostels, food/eating at restaurants, and excursions (bungee, ziplining, gondolas etc.). So a total of about \$2,200/month should be enough to live comfortably.

c.) Some unexpected expenses I incurred was fees from the university itself. I thought that everything I paid was through the IPE department but once at abroad the University asked me to pay some fees to cover student services and other things.

d.) There was complications with Financial Aid because since Semester 2 in NZ starts beginning of July, my loans were not distributed to me until summer (B term) of UW's schedule, which was weeks after I already started at Auckland.

#8. Program/exchange administration:

a.) The IPE was effective in their services but I wished that the paper work process was organized better so that we were not scrambling at the end trying to figure out which forms needed to be turned in and fees and other charges.

#9. Program / student type:

The type of student that would be good for this program is someone who is open to making friends and being in an unfamiliar setting without familiar faces. The direct-exchange program is different from other abroad programs at UW in that you are basically on your own. You are not in a group with other students studying the same thing.

#10. Overall experience:

My expectations of my study-abroad experience was realistic because I did not come into thinking that every day while I was abroad was going to be great and I won't have work to do and I would have friends right away and travel all over. At the orientation the international programs in Auckland tells us to throw out any expectations we have because there will be days where you're so homesick you want to go back, you're not going to have instant friends, the first couple weeks will be nice until later on in the exchange when you experience culture shock and want your normal activities and routine back.

These are all things that should be kept in mind so it does not come as a shock when you experience it abroad. My experience was amazing because I did not have these grandiose expectations. I met some of the most amazing people, saw breath-taking beaches, mountains and sunsets. It is something that I will always remember and it is definitely an experience that I will never regret doing.

JUL 08 2015

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: Direct Exchange University of Auckland

Quarter(s) of Participation: Spring Semester (Win/Spr Qtr)

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

It depends on what the student is looking for. Dorms such as "UniLodge" will be similar to dorm situations at UW. I would probably recommend meeting some friends and getting an apartment/flat to rent for the semester.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

There were basic information about New Zealand in general and about the University of Auckland. The first day was helpful, the rest not so much.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure: very similar- class sizes ranged from 50- 200ish, with similar lecture halls and one-three teachers with additional TAs.

- instruction: very similar as well- often powerpoint slides with key details further elaborated on in class. Lecture recordings if you miss class- although I never used lecture recordings.

- teacher/student relations: relationships are available to make if the student reaches out, otherwise similar to UW if you sit in the back and don't participate relations will not be built.

- grading/exams: grading was more final exam based- accounting for 40-60% of the final grade. One of my classes had a midterm, the rest had assignments and course work.

- administration- similar to UW

- library, computer, and classroom facilities- similar to UW, several libraries with computers available, although sometimes all occupied. Libraries close earlier around 8pm.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Thorough instruction and reasonable expectedness of knowledge.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

Geology of NZ was interested to learn about the history of the country.
Other EnvSci classes were interesting but repetitive as there were only a few to choose from.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

It fit in very well as classes seemed to overlap content

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

Dorms, apartments, flats, hostels.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I lived in a hostel upon arrival as there were no room in the dorms although I applied months in advance. Then I lived with friends in an apartment.

c. What would you recommend?

I would try to get an apartment as the dorms from what ive heard aren't extremely conducive towards meeting a lot of people as people are all in their respective rooms. Hostels while traveling around are a must.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Campus is nice, smaller than UW's but mostly along one main street stretching several blocks. Nice scenery of trees, grasses, etc. Good on campus food options if you look past the quad- there are amazing food vendors (clubs) around.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?
(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

Clubs were very fun- I really enjoyed the Scuba club and met many cool people and went on fun weekend trips with them. Sports are also a good way, however I was recovering from an ankle injury and did not participate as much as I would have otherwise. Pubs aren't an amazing way to meet people. Its better to go out with a group of friends because you cant depend on the pubs or clubs to be full of people.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.
(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

The only main difference was the accent- integrating into a relatively similar culture seemed smooth.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

For me, bank of America has a partner bank in Westpac there, so no transfers were necessary.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

At least \$1000- relatively expensive there. It depends on where you are living for how much rent will cost- student dorms could be 250/week and flats could be 150/week. To get around the city is easy by bus, to go on trips car is recommended- find a friend with a car or buy one there and sell when you leave!

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Only unexpected expenses were trips/activities that I hadn't planned out but cost money.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office’s services. What service could be improved?

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program’s administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:
Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

Individual who is proactive and looking to do some exploring and meet and do new things.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:
How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Realistic, accomplished what I set out to do.

JUL 09 2015

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: University of Auckland Exchange

Quarter(s) of Participation: Winter and Spring Quarters of 2015

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival. \

There are a number of student apartments available for Auckland students. While I lived in UniLodge, I'm not sure I'd recommend living there as I felt it had a lack of a community bond. I'd recommend living in Carlaw, another student apartment area. Carlaw seemed much more involved and connected with its tenants.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

N/A

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure
- instruction
- teacher/student relations
- grading/exams
- administration
- library, computer, and classroom facilities

Auckland's instruction was very similar to UW's in terms of class structure, teacher/student relations, and facilities. The areas the two schools differed are in grading/exams and administration. There a heavy weighting towards final exams. With the exception of one class, all of my classes had final exams worth greater than 50% of my grade, something I wasn't a huge fan of because I find it rather unfair for one single event to determine your grade in a class over the course of a semester. Administration differences stemmed mainly from more officialized positions such as receiving Justice of Peace nominations and applying to the Examinations Office to take my final exams out of time and place.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

I found the quality and content of the instruction of my computer science classes to be rather subpar. There's a heavy, heavy emphasis on theory. This isn't bad in itself, but the classes I chose to take are more tailored towards providing real world skills (Software Development, and Databases), and I didn't receive any of that. I thought maybe the assignments and the labs would cover those real world skills, but they hardly touched on them.

The other two classes I took that didn't pertain to my major (FTVMS 100 and SPORTSCI 101) were interesting and I found the quality and content of those classes much better. Better instructors and better organization of the classes made me feel like they were more worthwhile.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

FTVMS 100 is a great class if you're interested in different aspects of media and media production. SPORTSCI 101 is also an intriguing class as there's nothing like it at UW. The first half of SPORTSCI 101 was essentially intro to physics, but the second half talks a lot about the human anatomical structure (muscles and bones) as well as diving into different functions of the body and nutrition as well.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

Two of my study abroad classes related to my major, while the other two classes were classes I have expressed interest in in the past but haven't been able to take or explore.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

On-campus housing through Auckland as well as off-campus apartment flats.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose on-campus housing because I wanted to make sure I was surrounded by other students as I didn't know anybody going over to Auckland.

c. What would you recommend?

Definitely on-campus if possible. It is a bit more expensive than surrounding options, though housing in Auckland in general is quite expensive relative to Seattle. Being surrounded by other students and having quick access to places like the gym and other student apartments made the experience more convenient and worthwhile.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

I can only really say for city campus, but Auckland is nestled right in the heart of Auckland and right next to downtown. Everything is very urban and almost anything you could need is within walking distance.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

I didn't have any health or safety concerns.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

I felt like I integrated right into the culture and community. New Zealand is very similar to the US in terms of culture.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

I wouldn't call it a challenge, but it was interesting to me how people classified me as American rather than Asian. This is entirely due to the fact that I wasn't on American soil where a majority of the people would be American. That was an interesting point to me.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

I saw a number of methods of transferring money, and I believe my situation is rather unique but also probably the preferable option. I opened a free Charles Schwab checking account, which allows for fee-free ATM withdrawals anywhere in the world from any ATM. The only downside to this card is in New Zealand it registers as a credit card rather than a debit card, and so sometimes making purchases is harder with their EFTPOS system which doesn't always accept credit cards.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

The following are the estimates I had for myself:

Rent (\$300NZD/week = \$1200NZD/month)

Food (\$20NZD/day = \$600NZD/month)

Transportation (\$40NZD/week = \$160NZD/month)

Social Events (\$30NZD/week = \$120NZD/month)

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

The main unexpected expense I had was when I came back from New Zealand and had to pay an extra bag fee at the airport. The regulations of what you're allowed to carry onto the plane change from US to NZ. In NZ, you're only allowed to carry on 7kg of stuff (doesn't matter number of bags).

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

As far as I know, there weren't any problems. The main thing I ran into was making sure UW knew I was still a full-time student even when I still had yet to take finals and the rest of UW had grades posted already.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

IPE helped me through the entire process surrounding study abroad and were extremely effective and helpful throughout.

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

N/A

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

I would describe the ideal type of student for a NZ study abroad program to be one who really enjoys the outdoors. A large part of the reason I chose NZ was for the outdoors experience and what NZ had to offer.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I believe my expectations were realistic, both academically and personally. Academically, I wanted to make sure I was still making progress towards my major as I had just recently been admitted to the department and didn't want to fall behind immediately. Personally, I wanted to explore my other serious hobby of photography and different genres of photography (i.e. travel/adventure and landscape photography). Both goals were realistic and I believe I worked towards both very well.