

SEP 08 2014

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## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

**Your Name:**

**Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program:** University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia

**Quarter(s) of Participation:** Winter/Spring

**E-mail Address:**

### 1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

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

Do not recommend anything in Bardon or 390 Simpsons Rd. The pad student accommodations is very deceiving and uses false advertising in terms of student shuttle.

**b.** If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?  
**UQ had a mandatory orientation for exchange students that covered the campus, clubs, and how to register for classes, etc.**

### 2. ACADEMICS:

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

- classroom structure: all lectures were online,
- instruction: the instruction was very self motivated, lectures had a lot of overlap between exchange courses
- teacher/student relations: most of the relationship was via email, only few professors had review sessions (many of which professors forgot)
- grading/exams: all midterms/finals had to have a 50% to pass the class, most classes only had 2 exams and a paper
- administration: the administration required both an electronic and hard copy of assignments
- library, computer, and classroom facilities: classroom internet was very slow, the classrooms rotated daily, the computer lab was very limited in computers

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

Most of the classes were decent in terms of instruction. The quality of the content had a lot of overlap between the recommended "student exchange" classes. They would allow you to register for classes that "clashed" (two or more classes at the same time) since lectures were available online, which was difficult when you have 5 hour labs (miss all other classes that day)

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

MARS2005 was a great course with an amazing field trip to Heron Island.

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

All of my courses at UQ were marine related with the exception of Australian Terrestrial Environments

### **3. HOUSING:**

a. What housing options were available to you?

My companion and I shared a housing situation which was very limited due to Australian fire codes.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose to stay at the Pad, recommended student housing due to that it was the most affordable for a 2 person housing arrangement.

c. What would you recommend?

I would not recommend staying at the Pad. They have a lot of hidden fees and are not honest in their advertisements. I would recommend renting from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party in Paddington or St. Lucia, not student housing for the most economical option.

### **4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:**

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is very large and well cared for. The surrounding community is St. Lucia, which is about 20 minutes from the city.

### **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.

There were a lot of exchange deaths/robberies that occurred in my time there, but I never personally had any 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.)

My boyfriend worked at Leftys Old Time Music Hall in Paddington, so I spent a lot of time with the locals there. I signed up to do my Advanced OW diving certification, so that took up several weekends. I also met a lot of people on my exchange field trips that I connected with.

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

People in Australia use a lot of profanity that in the US we would generally avoid saying, so that took some getting used to. Most people there really don't like Americans, for most of the social community outside of school I mostly decided not to say where I was from or just say I live close to Canada.

## **7. FINANCIAL:**

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

Open a bank account and do one international wire transfer. I also got an international credit card with no foreign transaction fees from the US.

- b.** How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc. \$1500

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

The transport system is very expensive and food/alcohol is much more expensive than I had anticipated

- d.** If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them? No problems occurred.

## **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? The program itself was effective, I just would have liked more advice on the housing situations.

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.

An adventurous student with a well set budget and back up plan. The student should also be very self motivated due to that the course load is very relaxed, but because there are only a few assignments and cumulative exams it is easy to fall behind.

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I definitely had higher expectations of the living environment and the bus system. The scenery, wildlife, and diving lived up to my expectations though.

APR 17 2009

University of Queensland-EXCHANGE Summer/Fall 2008

**IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION OUTLINE:**

-Please list your name, program location, term/year of participation, and your current and permanent phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses at the top of your report.

**1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:**

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival. *Union College or another one of the nearby colleges (dormitories) working with the University of Queensland.*

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt? *The orientation was helpful for gaining information on your student health insurance, where to go for help, and gave lots of local information about the city.*

**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

*I took a variety of class types while abroad: International student classes, History major classes, and an online course. Most classes were set up to meet once a week for a two hour lecture and one hour tutorial. Lecture and tutorial sizes were comparable to UW arrangements. The UQ is well equipped with library and computer usage. The teachers were very helpful and approachable.*

*Examination was the most different. Finals took place in a room with other students not in your course, and your teacher was not present for any questions. The grading seemed fair, and rated students on a number 1-7. G.P.A.'s as we know at UW we're not used, and you worried more about your own ability to pass than competing with another student.*

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

*Contemporary Australia- Very useful for an international student to learn the current issues facing Australians and relate it back to your own country. Course was very interesting but graded extremely steep.*

*Australia's Marine Environment- The professor was enthusiastic and engaging. This course is recommended for any visiting student with curiosity about the Great Barrier Reef and the marine life. Course has opportunity for very informative and exciting field trips.*

*Major Turning Points in World History- This class was an excellent way to view the world from another country's perspective. Lectures were long, but often included guest lecturers. Tutorials were most helpful here, really allowing students to think about history and what the effects have been leading up to today's current issues.*

*Spiritual Traditions of India- Class was switched to online mode two weeks in due to ill professor. Class consisted of readings and paper assignments. Would have benefitted more had not the format been changed.*

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

*MARS2005- Australia's Marine Environment*

*AUST1000-Contemporary Australia* Both courses give a good sense of Australia and why you are there. My advice is to not take major only classes as you have much to learn about the country you're visiting.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education? *Australia's Marine Environment related most to my major in Biology. The other history/cultural classes were for my own enrichment of the opportunity to study abroad and learn about another country*

### 3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you? *Unaffiliated colleges (dormitories), off campus apartments*

b. Which did you choose, and why? *I chose a college as it provided a close network of students to meet and submerge with Australian-college culture.*

c. What would you recommend? *Staying in a college is a great way to meet Australians as well as other international students. It provides a good foundation and social network while you're away from home.*

### 4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community. *The campus is surrounded on three sides by the Brisbane River, and has great public transport by bus, train or ferry to surrounding areas. Very welcoming environment on campus and gorgeous weather.*

### 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 felt very safe at all times. On campus health care was available for any illness I faced (common cold). I never felt threatened in any of the districts I visited.*

### 6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? *By living in a College many cultural excursions were planned (ie pub outings, sports teams, theater groups, dance competitions). Also the Australian people are very friendly and many conversations took place with store owners or bank workers on daily errands.*

(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.) *The tendency to walk on the right side of hallways, stairwells, etc. is reversed so I had to adjust to staying to the left.*

### 7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.? *I used Bank of America who has an alliance with Australian WESTPAC. You can just withdraw money without any fees from those atms.*

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc. *I lived in a housing facility with dining provided costing about \$5000 for a five month stay. Additional costs for transport was not more than \$50 a month.*

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred. *Travelling, although plane tickets around Australia were fairly priced.*

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

If so, how did you address them? *Getting my financial aid relased in time to pay my accommodation was a huge hassel. The UW provided no help whatsoever and was late on releasing my aid. Luckily I kept in close contact with my accommodation College and they worked with me.*

### 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? *The IPE and financial services has a huge gap between them. Each would refer me back to the other and no one was there to help with my financial issues involving studying abroad. Hiring some sort of study abroad financial advisor would be of huge benefit to the IPE office.*

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

**9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:**

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited. *This program is suited for a student who wishes to submerge themselves in another culture without the safety of other Americans or UW Students. The student must be outgoing and willing to meet new people as well as seize opportunities. The study must also be confident enough to take care of themselves and ensure their own happiness abroad.*

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

*Academically I was worried that my non-major classes would be exceptionally difficult because the students down there are all in major-only classes. The general education type courses offered at UW did not exist there. Realistically though I was able to adjust and excel in any area I took on. Also if I ever came across any problems their campus, like ours, has resources to aid you through the process.*

*Personally I had no idea what I was going to expect upon entering Australia. I thought it couldn't be too different from American and on the outside they appeared very similar. I was surprised though at the little differences like vocabulary usage and small cultural norms that added up to create a very different environment. The culture is very easy to adjust to being an outsider and was a great place for anyone willing to make themselves right at home. I never expected to learn as much about myself as I did. Being your own person to rely on brings out strength and independence and forces your true character to come out.*

JUL 16 2015

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## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

**Your Name:**

**Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program:** University of Queensland Study Abroad

**Quarter(s) of Participation:** Winter/ Spring Quarter

**E-mail Address:**

### 1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Gumtree Australia is a great place to look into if looking for cheap accommodation. I lived in Chapel Hill, which is about 7km away from UQ St. Lucia. It was a bit difficult at times since the bus came hourly. Would highly recommend looking into somewhere around Indooroopilly or a suburb where the bus comes frequently and nearby. Able to find decent priced accommodation as well at the St. Lucia area.

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

Exchange program did have an orientation and certain were required for international students. Helped adapt to quickly learning bus routes, school facilities & meet new people who helped greatly with buying books, finding accommodation, etc. During orientation is when I met someone who helped me find a roommate! Moved in with her 4 days after coming to Australia. Roommate turned out to be amazing! Will be visiting her in Europe sometime in the next two years.

### 2. ACADEMICS:

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

- classroom structure: Structure was like the UW's in the sense of lecture and then tutorial the next day. Everyone goes straight into their degree focus in Australia.

- instruction: Straight forward with expectations and class structure in the beginning like most of UW's instructions.

- teacher/student relations: Teacher and student relations at the UQ seem quite friendly and nice. UQ being a smaller school makes one feel not like a number but a student. Teachers are quite caring.

- grading/exams: Some exams are done online. First time doing a final exam online in my bachelor degree program was done at the UQ.

- administration: N/A

- library, computer, and classroom facilities: Libraries during finals and exam times can be quite packed. Finding a computer can be a little difficult at times compared to UW where there are more libraries and classroom facilities to go into.

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

The content of instruction in classes like my Chemistry covered much of the Chemistry book but also parts that were not necessary to exactly know for the class examinations but just for overall knowledge that many students appreciated. Chemistry exams were very straight forward and not surprising like the science exams at the UW.

Sociology course involved no book however articles required on a weekly basis to read. Much of the weekly tests were based mostly on weekly lectures. Professor was very well spoken and related a lot of the topics to our daily lives.

Public Relations course was very hands on and allowed us to work on a group project (like one would do in PR) and pitch an idea of a State wide program involved in desexing dogs and cats. Very hands on and Professor was very up with helping us find jobs involved in this area. Class was very text based.

Special Event Management was another class that didn't have a text book and was very lecture based for the examinations. A pitch involving creating a real-life event to occur was involved. Very relatable to real life work like Public Relations course.

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

Would definitely recommend Special Event Management (EVNT2003) for business majors and Public Relations (COMU 1052) for those interested/ in the Public Relations/ Communications field.

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

Study abroad coursework didn't exactly relate to my UW international studies major however the course helped greatly with basic foundational skills when looking for a job.

**3. HOUSING:**

**a. What housing options were available to you?**

Housing options such as through the UQ rental student site, Gumtree Australia and through word of mouth is available to students.

**b. Which did you choose, and why?**

I chose to stay with an Aussie girl I met through word of mouth during my first week. I chose to stay with her due to the similar basic ways we preferred for the household and was very open to show me around Brisbane!

**c. What would you recommend?**

For those desiring a closer UQ St. Lucia experience, living on campus is highly recommended. Making a way with finances would be worth it. However living around Indooroopilly wouldn't be bad either! Great access to stores, cinema, frequent buses to school and other suburbs. Gumtree Australia is recommended to find cheaper accommodation-definitely meet those you think about moving in with first and the place.

**4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:**

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

UQ St. Lucia is quite small compared to UW-the whole campus can be mapped out well by the first week if you try. There are a few restaurants by the campus (7-10 minute walk). Food on campus is decent but the walk to Hawken Drive is worth it. Food market on Hawken drive as well to buy groceries. UQ Lucia is like a big loop.

**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.

UQ Lucia is a lot safer than the UW campus and area. However I did sadly lose my camera on campus a few weeks before I left and wasn't reported back: hence, someone stole it ☹ Be safe with belongings!

**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 became very much involved from the first week of school itself with UQ Lucia's club: CCM (Christian Campus Movement). They meet once a week, have prayer on Tuesdays and have Sunday service on Campus itself. The club is filled with Christians and Non-Christians where the purpose of the club is to give support and love with one another and live life together. I was taught very much of Aussie culture by some and growth in my spiritual walk.

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

The closing of stores much earlier than the Seattle region was a little frustrating in the beginning but over time, I got used to closing hours. Example: clothing stores (5pm). Some Aussie words like serviettes (napkins) were of a few words I need explaining for by my Aussie roommate ☺

## **7. FINANCIAL:**

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

Commonwealth Bank is a great banking system for international students: no fees to start a bank account. My US bank account: Bank of America and my Aussie bank account were connected throughout the months by wiring. A service fee of about 50/transaction was done. So recommending when transferring: transfer large amounts over and not tiny ones multiple times.

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

Per Month, I would recommended about \$1,000-1,400.

Rent: about 800/ month

Food: 100-300 (depending on how much you go out and eat)

Transportation: 50-100 (depending how far you go out and are willing/not willing to walk)

Activities: 50-200

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

No unexpected expenses: eating out of home can really add up! Living at St. Lucia would save so much money on bus rides.

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

There were no problems with financial aid to fund exchange program.

## **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?

N/A

**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.

Program best suited for a student already in their degree and aware of what classes they need to take exactly. Or best suited for a student who is really thinking about doing a certain degree but wants more hands on experience with that field (UQ allows more hands on). Anyone in the field of Marine biology and oceanography-Australia is the place to go!

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

My expectations both academically and personally were fairly realistic. The school is quite hands on and the faculty is amazingly nice. When in the degrees (from the start)-the faculty really preps students for the real world work field. Would love and am thinking about going back for a master's program at the UQ.



JUL 23 2015

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

**Your Name:**

**Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program:** Direct exchange to University of Queensland

**Quarter(s) of Participation:** Semester 1, 2015

**E-mail Address:**

### 1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

*Residential college. Emmanuel College is the best by far!! My second choice would be St. John's.*

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

*My program did have an orientation, but my residential college was far more helpful at getting me oriented to life in Australia.*

### 2. ACADEMICS:

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

- classroom structure

*As a Biology Major, it was nearly identical – large class sizes for most classes, smaller as you advance in your degree.*

- instruction

*Again, nearly identical*

- teacher/student relations

*Help was available if you needed it*

- grading/exams

*I wrote more papers than I do at UW in some of my courses, but other than that pretty similar*

- administration

*UQ is very helpful to international students in general*

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

*I studied at our study center at College usually, but went to the campus libraries occasionally and they were quite nice*

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

*Similar to UW. Loved the uni.*

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

*BIOL2001 – Australia's Terrestrial Environment was a fun and informative class. I also took BIOM2020 (Gross Anatomy), NUTR1023 (a nutrition and exercise class), and BIOL3212 (an*

*advanced evolutionary biology class). I went in my 4<sup>th</sup> year, so I just picked classes that would transfer over well to my degree back home. I'd obviously recommend easy classes if you can (anything 1000 or 2000 level for the most part), but I did well with difficult classes (ie: anatomy) and still had fun*

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

*It was all in my major*

### **3. HOUSING:**

**a.** What housing options were available to you?

*I lived at a residential college (Emmanuel College). Leasing and subletting were also available, but I didn't look in to this almost at all.*

**b.** Which did you choose, and why?

*College is the ultimate uni experience if you can afford it. This is how you can get a real Australian uni experience – you hang out with mostly Australians, have tons of organized events, and have awesome living and food organized for you. College has tutors and advisors to help you with any issues at Uni.*

**c.** What would you recommend?

*College!!!!!!! It is expensive to live in Brisbane regardless, and college provides food and lots of events. You can also apply for scholarships – I got one for my GPA!*

### **4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:**

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

*Brisbane has all the benefits of a big city without being too unsafe or overcrowded. It has great night life, good public transport, and is close to campus. UQ is similar to UW in that it has a sort of "university district" - St. Lucia – that is just a short bus ride from the city. UQ is very similar in size and layout to UW, but everything is newer, and there are a lot more amenities directly on campus (a pharmacy, gym, hair salon, tons of good food options, among other things).*

### **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.

*Brisbane is infinitely safer than Seattle. I never once felt uncomfortable walking at night or on my own like I sometimes do in Seattle.*

### **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.)

*College was the biggest way I integrated in the culture by far! I also joined a social soccer team at UQ.*

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

*I was quickly labelled the "feminist friend". Brisbane is pretty conservative, but the people there - mean well and are generally open-minded. There is a big drinking and sexual culture there, but I never felt pressured to do anything I wasn't comfortable with. They generally love Americans there, but have very particular ideas about what Americans were like.*

## **7. FINANCIAL:**

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

*I brought cash and started an account at Commonwealth, but since I paid for housing before I got there and didn't get a job, this was sort of superfluous. I just used my Chase Debit, and accepted the international fee since it was so small and the American Dollar is doing well compared to Australia's at the moment.*

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

*Depends on where you live. College provides all meals, but we still went out to bars and out to eat during the week occasionally. I also did some travelling, but it all depends on what you want to do.*

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

*Storage containers at college – they provided bedding though.*

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

*Just make sure they know you are going abroad!*

## **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?

*They were very helpful! Can't think of any complaints*

**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 independent, self-motivated and open-minded.*

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

*Very! I loved my experience, and would go back in a heartbeat!*