
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

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

Quarter(s) of Participation: SUM/AUT 2014

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

I would recommend booking a hostel for a week and looking for housing once there. Gumtree.com.au and Flatmates.com.au are the best websites to check out. Otherwise the university has an exchange society called MUSEX. Find them on Facebook as they often list housing openings as well.

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

Melbourne Uni does have an orientation for exchange students. It ran for 4 nights 2 weeks before the semester started. There are students from all over so it's a great way to meet people. You stay in one of the on-campus colleges and do activities to get to know the university and Melbourne. I would highly recommend it.

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

The classroom structure is relatively the same as is the instruction. However, it's much more important to attend tutorials (quiz sections) than lectures as you must attend a certain number in order to pass the course. Teachers and TAs are very friendly. Also, often the TAs for the course are professors themselves unlike at UW where they most often are graduate students. There are not as many graded assignments making it such that midterms and finals weigh heavily. There are plenty of libraries and computers available for student use across campus. Also, many of the lectures are recorded or lectures are available via PDF on the class website for student review.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The professors are very knowledgeable and the content is similar to what it would be at UW for like courses.

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

I took a course called Australia in the Wine World which was great. It is offered during the mid-semester break at a remote campus in Victoria. It was super interesting and I learned a lot about wine!

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

All of the courses I took were either counted toward my majors (public health and philosophy) or my minors (global health and ESRM).

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

Other than the on-campus colleges (comparable to fraternities and sororities except co-ed), there are no university sanctioned housing options.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I find my own housing after arriving in Australia. The colleges are really expensive and somewhat insular so I thought it would be better to live elsewhere.

c. What would you recommend?

Depends on the person. Look at the colleges and their mission statements to see if that is something you are interested in. Otherwise it's fairly easy to find housing after arriving. Again, use the MUSEX page as there are several options listed there and that way your housemates will likely be university students as well.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is actually a lot like UW. It is right in downtown so getting to and from school is really easy.

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.

Melbourne is great. Super safe and the people are friendly.

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.)

It's actually difficult to meet locals, believe it or not. I would suggest joining MUSEX and attending their events. Otherwise you can make friends in class, but you have to be outgoing. Joining other on-campus clubs is also a good idea.

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

Melbourne is super eccentric. People are open-minded and nothing fazes them. However, Australians are a lot more blunt, which is good to keep in mind.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

I had my parents transfer me money after opening a bank account in Australia. I would recommend using Comm Bank. They have branches all over and have a great system. They also have student insurance which is roughly \$8 a month which I would also recommend.

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

Depends on how you want to do. Rent ranges from around \$800-\$1,500 a month including utilities, depending in large part on how nice the living arrangement is and where it's located. Also, food and transportation are a lot more expensive in Australia than in the US. You can get a student discounted Myki card which is comparable to our Orca cards. Allow probably \$50-\$100 a month for transport. If you want to make all your meals all home, you could probably get away with \$250 a month minimum. Double that if you want to go out to eat on occasion. Also, going out is not cheap. As a point of reference, a pint of beer costs \$8-\$12. So if you want to go out once a week and have 2-3 beers, I'd say allow for around \$100 for drinking. If you want to go to clubs and drink fancier drinks 1-2 a week, you're probably looking at \$300 a month.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

N/A

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?

It was all great.

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

See above.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

This program should only be considered by students who are independent and can self-teach. A lot of the learning takes place outside of the classroom, so it is up to you to stay on top of your readings and put in the work necessary to do well.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I was really looking forward to going to Melbourne and it exceeded all of my expectations. It's a wonderful city and I have an amazing time. It can be tough at times given that you are on your own, without anyone you know very well, but it's worth it. Living in Australia changed my perspective on a lot of things and I am really grateful to have had the opportunity.

MAR 18 2009

Name:

Program Name, Location: University of Melbourne Direct Exchange, Melbourne, Australia

Program Term: Summer/Fall 2008

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

I stayed at UniLodge on Swanston. Although it was more expensive than I had hoped, the location of this apartment cannot be beaten. I would recommend future students stay either in one of the University's colleges or at RMIT Village Old Melbourne, though. Although my apartment's location was great (right in downtown Melbourne), the building was not very social, which made it difficult to meet other students. Through conversations with other students in my classes, I found out that many exchange students stayed at RMIT Village or one of the colleges. For those who prefer apartment-style living, RMIT Village would be a good fit. Those looking for a residence hall atmosphere would probably prefer the colleges.

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

Orientation took place a week before classes started. There was actually a week-long schedule of various orientation-type activities (all of which were voluntary), however the actual orientation (which was mandatory) was only a few hours long on the first day of O-week. Orientation covered student health care, registering for classes, where to go for international student assistance, resources for campus involvement, etc.

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 at Melbourne Uni was similar to that of UW. My schedule was made up of large lecture-style classes, which were accompanied by smaller tutorials (similar to UW's quiz sections). These tutorials were made up of no more than 15-20 students and allowed for more in-depth discussion and understanding of readings and lecture material. One of my tutorials was actually instructed by the course professor. Teacher/student relations seemed similar to those at UW as well. Teachers made themselves readily available to students. One thing that struck me as interesting was that, although the overall education and classroom atmosphere seemed much more casual and laidback than that at UW, grading and exams were much more difficult. While I have received perfect marks on some exams and assignments at UW, it is near impossible to do so at Melbourne Uni. That being said, lower scores are not considered as bad as they might be here. I had no problems with administration. I had to make a trip to the administration office when I encountered a problem during registration (I was travelling on my Australian passport, which created a few complications in various parts of the exchange), but

the people there were very helpful and knowledgeable about what course of action needed to be taken. The classroom facilities were very similar to those at UW.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The professors and tutorial instructors at Melbourne Uni were very engaging and clearly knowledgeable in their course subjects. I never once questioned the abilities of my instructors. The courses were rigorous while not being overwhelming, and kept a good pace.

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

My two favourite courses were Australia and America (Professor Richard Trembath) and Australia Now (Professor Michael Cathcart). The first was a course that compared the two histories of the United States and America. Because of the course content, there was a mix of students (Australian and American), which led to great discussions during tutorials. The second course is one that is directed toward exchange and study abroad students. Although local students are allowed to enroll, it is intended for foreign students. It gives students a good overview of basic Australian history, Australian society, environmental issues, and other current concerns facing the country. It's a great course to help students become more familiar with the country they are living and studying in.

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

When I originally decided to do an exchange in Melbourne, I thought I would be taking mostly communications courses while abroad, as I am a journalism major. However, before I left I found out I could only take one more communications course without running the risk of maxing out my communications course credit load. Luckily, I was still able to take one communications course (Computer-Mediated Communication). It was interesting to take this class as a way to compare media in Australia to that in America. The other three courses I took simply because they sounded interesting. I am a senior and had fulfilled almost all of my requirements when I went to Australia, so I was lucky enough to be able to choose courses based on what sounded most interesting to me. Obviously, all the courses I took will be valuable, whether or not they counted for specific graduation requirements. All four courses gave me a broader understanding of useful concepts and histories.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

There were several housing options available to me. So many, in fact, that I was very overwhelmed with finding the right choice for me. The University of Melbourne has colleges (like residence halls) available to students. There are also several apartments (some associated with the university or intended for students, some not), as well as the option of renting a house.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose to live in a student apartment. I had lived in the UW residence halls for the past three years (including the most recent year as a resident advisor) and didn't want to be stuck in the residence hall atmosphere anymore. That made me immediately look past the colleges. I almost lived at RMIT Village Old Melbourne, and part of me wishes I had lived there. It was an apartment complex close to campus, intended for students. It was sort of a cross between a residence hall and a full-blown apartment. The thing that made me change my mind about living there (I had

filled out an application and been accepted) was the size of the living space. Unlike a real apartment, I would have lived in a single room with one dividing wall between me and my roommate. The room also had a small kitchenette and bathroom. After living in such a confined space in the UW residence halls for three years, I really wanted more room. So, I instead opted to live at UniLodge on Swanston, a student apartment that is part of the larger UniLodge chain. It was in a great location and I had the room I wanted, but the building did not foster social interactions or community. Looking back, I wish I had stuck with my original choice of RMIT.

c. What would you recommend?

For those looking for a residence-hall atmosphere, I would recommend the Melbourne Uni colleges. For those looking for apartment-style living without sacrificing a social atmosphere, I would recommend RMIT. For those who prefer to be more independent, I would recommend UniLodge on Swanston (or any of the other UniLodge apartments – they all have slightly different personalities and target audiences).

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is much smaller and more condensed than the UW campus. Although it probably has a comparable number of buildings, it probably takes half the time to walk from one end to the other than it would to do the same at UW. The campus is located just a 15-20 minute walk from the Melbourne CBD. It also has a tram station just outside, with trams to just about anywhere you could want to go. The streets surrounding the campus are filled with restaurants and interesting stores. The campus and surrounding areas felt very safe and friendly. There are many students walking around, as well as business people who have come up to Lygon Street for lunch or a coffee in the afternoon. Melbourne also has a thriving nightlife. There is always something going on, no matter what time of day or night it is.

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.

All study abroad and exchange students are required to get OHSC (Overseas Health Student Cover). You register and pay for this service when you return your offer acceptance, and then pick up your health card during orientation. I had some problems with this, though. Since I am a dual citizen with Australia and the United States, I decided to travel to Australia on my Australian passport. Because I am an Australian citizen, I couldn't receive OHSC coverage. I was also ineligible for Medicare because I wasn't a permanent resident. Instead, I had to purchase private health coverage. None of this was explained to me when I informed the university I would be travelling on my Australian passport and made for a very stressful beginning to my 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.)

Melbourne Uni has a student exchange group called MUSEX. It is comprised of Melbourne Uni students who have been on exchange or study abroad programs, who

then put on programs and activities for current international students. They put on many activities throughout the semester that provided great opportunities for meeting other students (both international and Australian). They planned many programs during the first month or so, to really help students meet each other, and then spread them out more over the rest of the semester. I also volunteered to help out with the student magazine for a little while. I have lots of family living in Australia, some of whom live in Melbourne, including a cousin who is near my age. I spent a lot of time with her and her friends.

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

Since I grew up in Australia until I was eight years old, I wasn't as surprised at many cultural differences as other Americans might be. One stereotype of Americans that came out during one of my tutorial discussions amused me. An Australian classmate commented, "Well, don't almost all Americans own a gun?" I knew before arriving, but was pleasantly reminded, about how Australians in general are much more laidback and casual.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

I opened up a bank account at NAB (National Australia Bank). I then did a wire transfer from my Bank of America account to my NAB account of all the money I thought I would need during my time there. I knew a lot of people who didn't open Australian bank accounts, but every time they used their American debit cards or withdrew money from Australian ATMs, they were charged an international usage fee. I found it much easier (and in the long run, cheaper) to have an Australian bank account.

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

I probably used about \$500AUD/mo, not including rent (my apartment gave the option to pay all rent upfront and receive a slight discount when compared to paying monthly). My rent was a little over \$1000AUD/mo. Make sure to bring extra money for vacations and weekend getaways. Spring holidays are two weeks and most people go away. I went to Adelaide and Sydney. My airfare was about \$180AUD. I was lucky enough to not have to pay for accommodation while away (I stayed with friends and family), but spent over \$500AUD in presents and other purchases.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Mobile phones are much more expensive in Australia than in the US. As a result, I avoided getting a cell phone for as long as possible. Also, as stated above, be sure to keep in mind holidays and long weekends you may want to go away during.

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

I used a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. It was dispersed as necessary toward my tuition while I was away without any problems or complications.

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?

Overall, the IP&E office's services were unsatisfactory. It could improve the timeliness of its notifications to study abroad and exchange participants. For example, I was not notified about the office's receipt of my acceptance offer and program information until almost a month after it arrived. The delay in notice caused problems with accepting my offer (I missed the deadline and had to call overseas to explain why). Also, I was not notified in a timely manner when I was approved for the courses I had chosen (before receiving my offer acceptance). I would also recommend that the IP&E keep in better contact with their program participants before they leave, while they are away, and when they return. I felt like I was constantly having to remind the office of things or ask them questions that I thought they should have been doing or telling me. Sometimes, I felt like the IP&E office had forgotten about me.

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 suited for a student who is independent and wants to really experience living in another country. Direct exchanges are much more hands-off than departmental study abroad programs. In study abroad programs, you are taking UW courses with UW students and taught by UW professors for a three-month period; I consider it like attending UW while on extended vacation in another country. However, direct exchanges are one-to-one, meaning you are all alone. You aren't in a program with anyone; you are simply a student attending an institution which happens to be in a foreign country. This requires students to be much more independent. The length of exchanges (one to two semesters) also require this (study abroad programs are only three months).

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I think my expectations about my exchange experience were very realistic. I understood that I would need to be independent and actively seek out others in order to meet people and get the most out of my time abroad. I was also excited to revisit the country of my birth and reconnect with old friends and family. Although the experience was different than what I had expected, it was not any less than what I had expected.

SS ✓

University of Melbourne Exchange
Semester 2(July-December), 2011
Email:

1. Arrival Overseas/on-site orientation:

- A. I stayed at RMIT village in North Melbourne and I highly recommend it. It was really close to campus, just a few minutes to walk. There were events held at the village, which made it easy to meet people. I had friends that lived in the residential colleges and they seemed to really like those too, those would be closer to a sorority or a fraternity. Really easy to meet people too. With the village you have your own kitchen and everything so you can be a little more independent.
- B. I did the "Welcome Week" orientation at the University of Melbourne. I found this to be a great way to meet other people from abroad and I would definitely recommend this. It was a great way to get to know the city and to meet people in the same boat as you.

2. Academics

- A. The School was pretty similar to University of Washington classes. There were the lectures and then the quiz sections every week. The workload was about the same and depending on the classes you either had essays or tests as the midterms and finals. I thought it was all very similar to here. Not a major shock at all.

It was always easy to make appointments with professors, as it is here too. And if you needed to use libraries and computers they were open most of the time. It was honestly very similar to the UW campus when it came to school. With the different departments and computers in the libraries and such. Difference over there was that you could leave all of your things when you went to search for books and no one worried about people stealing things!

- B. The instruction was also very similar to the classes I have taken here. There were lectures that you had to go to every week and usually videos were shown as examples and they would usually have slides for main points. Then you had your quiz section, which was much more discussion based and you were required to participate in these classes. The size of the classes was about the same as here too, just depended on the class. One difference was that you could overlap classes if you want in order to take all the classes you want even if some of them were at the same time. And then the professors would usually put the audio from the class online for you to watch on your own time.
- C. I took "Australia Now", which was an awesome class if you want to learn all about different aspects of the country which I thought was really cool. I recommend this class to everyone; there were a lot of international students in this class too. I also took "Lifestyle and Consumer Culture", which personally I just thought was really interesting. It was very culture based and it was a fun class.

- D. The course work for my classes over there were similar to some classes here but with an Australian professors aspect which was usually a little more laid back and I felt like they were so honest compared to some professors at UW. I didn't take any classes I really needed for my major, I mostly took things I thought looked interesting and would give me general credits.

3. Housing:

- A. There were a few different housing options. You could live on campus in "colleges" which were mostly co-ed buildings. This was kind of like what they had for dorms but they were a lot more like sororities and fraternities. You stayed in the same one all four years (if you were Australian) and there were events held, food was included, and you competed with the other houses. I had friends that did this and loved it. It seemed like a ton of fun and everyone that did this had a very easy time meeting a lot of people. There were mostly Australian's that lived in these houses but there would be a handful of internationals in each one too. The facilities of all the ones I went to were really nice and especially if you are a sophomore or junior I would recommend this. There are a lot more young people in these houses I would say, but my senior friends that stayed in these houses liked it too. Then there were a few campus options that were student based but not part of the school. A lot of people lived at RMIT village, which has about half Australian students and half international students. There were a few other places that were like the Village, but I can't remember the name of them. I heard they were also pretty good but most people knew of RMIT Village and wanted to live there.
- B. I lived at RMIT village and it was easy to meet people here too but not AS easy as in a college. I loved it though. I met so many people. They held events in the courtyard. There was great security that was on watch all night and during the day. If there were ever problems it was easy to contact the front desk to get help. It was pretty expensive, but so was every housing option. You get a roommate and you share a kitchen and bathroom with that person. There was a study room there, and a common lounge with a television and also a "glass house" that had pool tables and a television. There was also a café connected to the apartments so you could get lunch and coffees there during the day when it was open. I loved it here and I wouldn't have wanted to live anywhere else after seeing all the other places.

4. Program/Exchange Site:

The campus is about a 5-minute tram ride into the city and about a 15-minute walk to Melbourne Central. It was so easy to get around and the public transportation here was great. The trams were so easy to figure out and when you are an exchange student you get a student card to use on the public transportation so it makes it a little cheaper. I used the trams and the trains tons. I didn't really use the bus though. The city was amazing, lots of good food and shopping and it was so easy to get too. The campus was also really close to the Victoria Markets where I did almost all of my food shopping. It

was really cheap and all of the food was fresh and it was even fun to go there to buy everything you need! I would say that the campus was similar to UW. Nothing major that was different. They had a big area that had food, just like our HUB and lots of little cafes all over the place.

5. Health/Safety:

I felt way safer over there than I do here. You can walk around the city at night and feel safe over there. The city was super clean and you didn't ever see any homeless people or anything of the sort. I thought this was so cool. Also on campus you always felt safe, I would leave my laptop for 20 minutes to go find a book and grab a coffee and it was completely normal. Obviously you need to always be cautious but compared to here I think you are safer over there.

6. Cultural Aspects:

- A. When I did the Welcome Week program at the University I met a lot of international students. We had all just gotten there so it was easy to meet other people that didn't know anyone either. I wanted to meet a lot of Australians so after this week I made sure to meet them where I lived. There are about 430 students that live at RMIT Village so it wasn't hard to meet people. I became really close with a group of people from the Village and ended up spending all of my time with them.
- B. There really weren't many cultural differences or challenges that you would have a hard time adopting too if you have lived in Seattle. It was very similar.

7. Financial:

- A. I ended up just using my Bank of America card the whole time that I was there. A lot of people just opened an Australian account and used that when they were there. It was probably better to do that so there aren't any charges when you withdraw money.
- B. Australia is about double as expensive as it is here. I would buy most of my food at the market and cook myself but if you did go out to eat, something cheap would usually be at least \$10-\$12. Transportation wasn't too bad and you could even walk most places. I think with the student card it was about \$2 to use the tram and that would last you for 2 hours of using all the trams. Rent was really expensive over there, about double of what I pay here in Seattle. Everything in general was a lot more expensive then I had anticipated. I didn't get a job when I was there but a lot of students ended up having too so that they could afford to live there.
- C. Basically everything was unexpected to me. To buy a beer out was usually about \$9 for a pint and even buying any alcohol in the stores was crazy expensive. Even snacks at a convenience store were expensive, probably about \$3 for a bag of chips. So you just have to make sure you save up money before you come and budget well while there. Buying all my food at the market was something I learned fast and I saved a lot of money by doing that.

8. Program/Exchange Administration:

- A. They didn't administer my program but it was easy to get information in both countries if you tried. None of the information was handed to me but if I went and asked it was accessible. For this program you definitely have to stay on top of everything because there is no one there to tell you what to do or when to do it.

9. Program/Student Type:

- A. For this program I definitely think you need to be independent and outgoing. If you aren't used to doing things on your own this program would probably be a little bit of a struggle because you aren't with a group of people, you land in the country and you are on your own. This was what was so amazing though and the Welcome Week at the school has a bunch of students in the exact same position as you. I think you need to be outgoing too if you want to have a good time. I made sure to participate in the events thrown at RMIT Village, where I lived, which is where I met a lot of people. It was really easy to meet international students but I had to work a little harder to meet the Australian's because they already had a group of friends, but I managed too and I had the best time of my life.

10. Overall Experience:

I would recommend going to Australia to everyone that has ever thought about it. I can't even explain how much fun I had over there. I met some of the best people and I am still in contact with them, waiting until I can go back to see them again. I met lots of great international students that I did some traveling with to Fiji and New Zealand. The laid back culture is so easy and fun to get used too. The only thing I recommend that I wish I had done would be to go for a year instead of just 6 months. I was wishing I could extend my stay after a few months but since I have to graduate I couldn't. Go for a year, it is the best experience you will ever have.

AUG 16 2013

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Melbourne, Australia
Winter/Spring 2013 – one semester
Email: mail.com

IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION OUTLINE:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

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

Personally, I already had my accommodations figured out by the time I arrived. We (my roommate and I) met a University of Melbourne student that was in graduate school at the University of Washington. He had a friend who wanted to rent out his apartment for part of the year which worked perfectly for me and my roommate. I recommend having your housing figured out before your arrival, it allows you the freedom to explore the city as soon as you get there without worrying about where you will sleep at night.

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

My program had an orientation but it did not help me very much. I don't remember there being an orientation at the University of Melbourne geared towards international students but the general one that I attended only dealt with signing up for classes.

2. ACADEMICS:

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

Classroom structure: The classroom setting and structure is almost exactly the same as the classrooms at UW. There were bigger lecture halls that the professor would give lecture in and there were smaller classrooms for tutorials.

Instruction: It is virtually the same as the UW. Lecture is nearly always a PowerPoint presentation and that can be difficult focus on for the entire class period. However, the professor and tutorial leaders are available outside of the classroom for extra help but you have to reach out to them.

Teacher/student relations: They made sure that everyone was comfortable with asking for help if they needed it.

Grading/exams: Every course I took graded heavily on just a few assignments. For example 50% or 70% of the course grade would be determined by one midterm or final project. This was refreshing because I didn't have to deal with having assignments every week but I really needed to make sure that I did not fall behind on my schedule to complete the bigger projects.

Administration: At times our international student advisor was difficult to reach but in the end it all worked out.

Library, computer, and classroom facilities: There are multiple libraries on campus and plenty of computers. Classrooms were clean and there were always enough desks for the students. Some of the newer classrooms were air conditioned which was a relief in the hot Australian summer.

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

The course I enrolled in were Australia Now, Making Movies, Hollywood and Entertainment and Philosophy. I had already completed all of my departmental courses at the UW and I only had VLPA's

left to complete. I enjoyed all the courses very much and the quality of instruction was very high. I highly recommend Australia Now for any international students. It focused on Australian history, politics, and social issues. I learned a lot about Australian culture and it enjoyed the class immensely.

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

See above answer.

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

It counted as VLPA credits. That was all I needed to complete my undergraduate degree at UW.

3. HOUSING:

- a. What housing options were available to you?

Residential Housing, RMIT University and renting apartments.

- b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose to rent an apartment. It was cheaper and we got very lucky with the landlord (as mentioned in answer 1.a.) The location was only a block away from Melbourne Central (the city center) and it was on the top floor of a high rise building so we had an amazing view of Melbourne.

- c. What would you recommend?

Renting an apartment has its advantages. There are no quiet hours, you can be independent and you would save money. However, you need to go above and beyond to befriend people in Melbourne. My roommate and I were lucky and found friends in a reasonable amount of time but others found it difficult and ended up only bonding with their roommate.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

It felt like the campus was much much smaller than the UW. The building were old and looked majestic, the campus was clean and there was always some event going on in the main grassy area. Nearly all the trains that go through the city center travel to campus so it was easy to find transportation.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

There were no health concerns that I dealt with. Safety on campus was not an issue for me. If you use common sense (ie not leaving your laptop unattended) then you should be fine. Melbourne felt like a safe city to me and I didn't worry when I walked around at night. Though I was never alone, and I do not recommend walking alone.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

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

The first week of classes there was a pub crawl. It was a lot of fun and I definitely recommend attending it. I also joined an club, met a lot of people there even though I didn't attend all the events.

- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.

I didn't experience any cultural differences except the fact that everyone was very relaxed and easy going. It was easy to adapt that type of attitude and I know I brought it back to Seattle.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

For the scholarship from the university I had to set up an Australian bank account. I opened a Commonwealth account and transferred money from my Bank of America account into it. That way I would only pay the transfer fee once and be able to access multiple ATM's.

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

I would say I spent upwards of \$1500 a month.

- c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

I wouldn't say this was unexpected but unplanned. I traveled more than I thought when I was in Melbourne. I went to Thailand, Fiji, Singapore and New Zealand and that added up.

- d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications?
No complications.

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 the services worked well. Whenever, I had a question I would send an email to Shannon and I received a timely response.

- 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.

If they go alone (ie without anyone they know from the US):

Outgoing

Open minded

Self Starter

Independent – knows how to manage money and time

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

My expectations were realistic. I did not expect my time abroad to be a fairy tale and I think that attitude helped. I loved my time there! I still talk to the friends I made there and they were amazing! Academically it got overbearing at times but that was because I neglected to manage my time correctly. It all worked out in the end and I made memories that will last a lifetime!

Melbourne

Y.Y.

FEB 05 2008

1a. Students can stay in a dorm on campus. However, the conditions of the rooms are extremely basic consisting more or less of a squeaky cot, old, brown, warped wooden closets and bureaus, and a simple table complete with 1980s office chair. The floors are not unlike the vanilla tiles you find in your high school science classroom.

I stayed in the Rydges Hotel on Bell St which is located 20 minutes south of the campus. This accommodation serves as part hotel/ part student housing. Rydges provides a free shuttle service to and from La Trobe as well as the city which is actually a 30 minute shuttle ride south of the hotel. The rooms have their own toilets as well as washing facilities. Each room is stocked with a single size bed, TV, DVD player, mini fridge, a desk lamp for studying, as well as shelf and cabinet space for your clothes, books, etc. A community kitchen as well as waste disposal is located on each floor. Extra ground amenities include TV rec room, study room, workout facility, pool and sport court, BBQ grills, and bar area. If you're looking for a place just to keep your stuff, this is the place for you. If you want to spend your time abroad lounging away inside a heavenly pad, then keep searching.

1b. Orientation service covers a few key things like what number to call if you're in trouble (000) or how to find on-campus work, but it isn't necessary to understand university curriculum and procedures. You've made it this far. Why not ask for help from everyone around you? Orientation does provide you the chance to sign up for group surfing trips which I observed to be "the thing to do" for only \$140 AU per trip. My suggestion: make some local friends and your trips are free. I attended because I was already on campus checking out the buildings I would be attending classes in. I also got sucked in by the free lunch hosted by the cultural groups. But, orientation does also give you a chance to make some friends who are in the same situation as you are in which is a good way to transition into the community.

2a. Classroom structure is much of the same as classes taken at UW wherein you sit in a lecture and divide up into smaller tutorial sections, or "tuts," for a better chance at asking questions on confusing topics and issues. As in any university, instruction is totally based on the experience of the professor. The longer they've been teaching, the more effective the instruction. Teacher/student relations fall along the same line. If you show you care about your studies (by making it to office hours), you'll have a more meaningful and influential relationship with your professor. I'd suggest visiting once or twice towards the beginning of the quarter to show that your interest in your studies surpasses that of the great weather and warm waters.

Grades are based on a scale of 0-100% and ultimately marked using the letter-grade scale of A-F. The administration cares about the students' needs, but you may find it a bit hard to catch them as office hours don't always mean they'll be in their offices. The library is fairly resourceful, but I did most of my studying at the city library in downtown Melbourne which houses the largest collection of books and other resources in all of Victoria. The wait for computers is nonexistent during classes but naturally picks up between classes. If you have a laptop, bring it to school as there is a Wi-Fi connection throughout the library.

b. The quality and content of instruction can bring you to boredom at times, but what lecturing professors aren't? The topics and subjects covered in class are all relevant to the course name.

c. I recommend Art History students to take a course by Richard Haese. He's a great professor who is very knowledgeable on post-modern art and has done extensive research in regards to Australian Art both Aboriginal as well as Post-Modern.

d. The art history classes gave me a better sense of my direction within the Art School at UW and of how I would like to structure the remaining time I have left at the U.

3a. The housing options available to me were: To live with relatives in the outskirts of Melbourne, to live in the dorms on campus, or to find off-campus housing.

b. I chose off-campus housing as my relatives lived close to two hours and two bus transfers away from the college and dorms were to immature and freshmanly.

c. I recommend off-campus housing for those looking to experience more of Australia than just the chance at studying at a foreign university. The campus grounds are a 45 minute bus ride north of the downtown area (or "the city" as Aussies call it). If you can hack a 45 minute commute every day to and from school, try finding a place near Brunswick St. which is comparable to a Broadway Ave in Seattle or Chapel St. which is Melbourne's Belltown.

4. The campus looks like a country-side penitentiary with poor, steel-gray fencing, dirty brick buildings, and sun-dried grass patches. What once may have been a lush green campus accompanied by natural river and marsh ponds has been turned into a golden spit of depression brought on by Australia's ongoing drought. The surrounding communities are quiet, smalltime, suburban communities that don't really exist. There is nothing but houses and a few small community plaza shopping centers here and there. If you are looking for something to do, especially after 5PM, you're best bet is to head straight into the city, the meeting place for all Melburnians.

5. As guns are illegal to own anywhere in Australia, the only real dangers are knives, beer bottles, billy clubs, chains, brass knuckles, and the all-too popular drunken club bloke. Aussies love their beer but not as much as they love to fight when drunk. Be conscious as even a smile in their direction at 3 AM can be taken the wrong way and eventually lead to your checking-in at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

6a. I integrated into the culture by deciding to study abroad alone, even to the point that I didn't know who else came with me from the UW. I met other students while wandering the floors of my off-campus apartment as well as hitting the town on nights when I knew there were people to share a taxi home with (trams and buses don't run often, if at all, after midnight). You meet most people in the community at the beach, bars, and coffee shops around town. Aussies love to sit and chat, so be prepared to start your day with a three hour lunch at a coffee shop, followed by a day at the beach, and ending with drinks at the bars.

b. The only real cultural difference was trying to understand the Aussie lingo and accent. They do their best to cater to your foreign ear, but do yourself a favor and learn the Aussie terms. Another thing to take into account is that the True Blue Aussies hate Americans, more so because of our current leader than anything else. Know your political standings and how to own

Also, Melbourne is huge! Anyone looking to stay six months to a year should brace for the \$3.20 AU all-day public transport fares. You'll find yourself using PT more often than not. Nothing is within walking distance. Have fun mates!

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

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

Quarter(s) of Participation: 1

E-mail Address:

DEC 15 2014

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
Home stay, Apartments in Melbourne CBD or next to Melbourne University. Don't recommend staying in suburbs far from the city with limited transport (buses)
- b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?
The orientation was not all that helpful – don't remember a single thing from it

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:
- classroom structure: lectures are about 50-300 in size, depending on the level of the course (the higher the level, the smaller the size). One of my third year courses only had 15 in lecture. Mainly presented from PowerPoint, which are recorded and stored on the uni's student portal for remote access.
 - instruction: lecture style similar to UW
 - teacher/student relations: smaller lectures and even smaller discussion sections (ranging from 8-20) allow for close discussion with tutors (equivalent to TA's). Most queries are run through the tutor and not the lecturer directly, but emailing the lecturer bridges that gap easily. Similar to UW in that sense. Discussions are more interactive than UW quiz sections tend to be
 - grading/exams: Grading is painfully slow. 5 weeks after submitting my final essays, I'm still awaiting my marks. Expectations differ from UW – high emphasis on correct referencing on essays. Not sure about exams since I only had one, which was multiple choice.
 - administration: no interaction with them
 - library, computer, and classroom facilities: Some libraries are nice to study in, scattered across the campus that's smaller than UW. Main library pales in comparison to Odegaard's recent renovation. Other facilities are comparable.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

As a whole, I liked the independent nature of the course. Lecture based instruction like UW, but the discussion sections actually allow for dialogue between students, material, and tutors. They're not treated as a supplementary lecture, like at UW, which doesn't facilitate conversation or the opportunity for students to grapple with material outside of contact hours. Quality of instruction sometimes was poor; lecturers often just read the slides verbatim, and didn't offer much explanation or clarification. Students were almost better off reading the slides from home – except that sometimes the slides weren't uploaded quickly enough, nor in a format that was friendly. Not impressed with the online system, which was prone to crashes and technical problems very frequently. Not as smooth as Canvas. Aside from discussion sections, quality was subpar to UW.

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

All of the courses I took were incredible – lecturers were great, but not vital to taking the subjects. Aboriginal Land/Law/Philosophy. Anthropology: Studying Human Diversity. Indonesian in Social Contexts. Sociology of Youth.

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

It didn't – I wanted to take courses that would broaden my perspective and knowledge, ones that I wouldn't be able to take at UW, and ones that I wouldn't have to take as part of my major. Glad I made that choice, and would definitely recommend it.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

Homestay, On-Campus Housing

b. Which did you choose, and why?

Homestay because of price and flexibility

c. What would you recommend?

Either is great, but on-campus or next to campus will be much more expensive and offer less of a local experience (more social one). Depends on what you're looking for

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Smaller than UW, but spread out with buildings scattered near the city. Extremely close to the CBD, just about 15-20 minute walk, which is great for outings. Some areas north and west as well, with some suburbs to the East (where I stayed). Pretty great location

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.

Hospitals are very close by, with facilities on campus as well. Didn't have any issues though, so no personal experience with the safety/health services

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.)

UMSU International held some orientation meet&greet events that I went to for meeting people. This helped greatly, as they paired me with a bunch of people throughout that O-Week, whom I got to talk with and help introduce me to other people as well. Ended up joining their Ambassador program and met tons of people that way. Spent most of my social life with them, as well as other Exchange students from the MUSEx club. Played futsal/badminton to meet people, also went to the gym where I met up with people I met through soccer tryouts. Home stay helped me connect with locals outside of university life, which granted me a richer and unique experience that other Exchange students never got.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.

(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

Australia wasn't very different from the States; contrary to popular belief, however, Australians live along the coast in very urbanized areas and not in the Outback. That was the only real stereotype that I came in with, which was easily dismissed. Not much of a culture shock apart from the difficulty of getting accustomed to their accents, which are quite rough and hard to decipher at first, but takes about a week to get used to. By the early middle of the program, I began to take a greater liking to Australian slang and phrases than to American ones. They seem to have a way with words that produces greater emotion and visualization than ours does; there's more character and flavor to their way of speech, and obviously their spelling conventions.

Never encountered any gender issues nor social etiquette that differs much from the States. If anything, Australians are a bit more lax on these perceived rules/regulations than we are. Encountered a couple of racial issues, however, on very busy streets. Racism is still prevalent, and there seems to be a large divide between locals and internationals at university and even in the outside world. Differential treatment occurs based on accent (which sometimes signals where you're from). Americans will have it a bit easier than say Malaysians. Ugly truth.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

Bank wire transfer – there'll be a conversion factor and a fee, so it's best to just do a lump sum at once rather than incremental. Just open a local bank account (Westpac is a partner to Bank of America), transfer lump sum from home, then spend how you like using local currency. ATMs are abundant in Melbourne.

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

Rent: 1100 including meals/utilities per mo.

Transportation: depends on location, trams run throughout the city, but only N/S outside of the city. Living East, I walked to campus every day instead of using the tram (\$3.6/for up to 2 hour unlimited on/off journey). I used them on the weekends, but being an exchange student granted me a concession discount (\$1.8). So approximately \$25/month. Taxis are very expensive, use trams/buses/trains when possible as they all cost the same fee and use the same "myki" card

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Got scammed on original homestay plan – be very careful which website you use!!!

Bought a portable charger for my trip to New Zealand – buy in the states if you can. If you think you'll need it and your luggage isn't overweight, then I suggest buying it. Especially electronics – as they cost a fortune in Melbourne. There are several department stores in the city, so don't have to worry about overpacking clothes. Some medications/toiletries are very expensive as well, so bring them with you.

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

Not applicable

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.

Independent student who is versatile enough to adapt to a different grading/teaching style quickly.

Adventurous enough to explore all Melbourne has to offer, both indoors and out, but not seeking any extreme environments/destinations

Willing to explore the city by foot (walking about 3-4 miles a day) to save transportation costs

Efficient with money and time management

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Because this wasn't my first choice for study abroad due to academic ranking, I came in with absolutely no expectations. If anything, I came in with an arrogant attitude, thinking that my courses would be a breeze based on their course description. This was a positive when it came to everything outside of academics, as I was able to appreciate everything about Melbourne for what they were instead of criticizing them for what they weren't based on my expectations.

So in terms of academically, I was a bit unprepared at first, but tried to learn the system and was able to pull it up at the end. The program is best suited for those who have general education credits to fulfill.

Personally, couldn't have asked for a better opportunity. I believe that what I've learned will carry throughout my life, and I really plan on revisiting Melbourne because of the connections I was able to establish there. The connections I made were only possible because I had no expectations – I just put myself out there with a "Oh, that sounds cool, let's try that" attitude that wouldn't have been possible had I gone in with my mind already made up about what I wanted to do/accomplish. My advice to anyone thinking of going on a program like this is to be truly open minded, especially about coursework. I learned about Aboriginal law and philosophy, Sociology of Youth, Indonesian in social contexts and Anthropology – all of which would've been impossible back at UW, so I'm grateful to have had the flexibility to have taken those courses. The coursework complemented my personal experience in Australia, as every single day was full of novelty that was both personal and academic. Highly recommend this program because of the overall life experience it grants, but not if someone is looking to study a specific subject/course at this university.