



## Student Exchange Evaluation

Every student loves to hear of other's exchange experiences. These forms are very useful when selecting your exchange destination.

Please include as much information as possible. Feel free to use additional pages, enclose photos, links to blogs/ videos etc.

### 1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: LARA BORSHOFF

Degree: JURIS DOCTOR

Name of Exchange University: UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Country: CANADA

Year of exchange: 3 (POST-GRAD) Language of instruction: ENGLISH

List courses taken abroad:

Law of Homicide (LAW 404) Mining Law (LAW 394)  
Topics in Environmental Law (LAW 391D) = Major Project Regulation  
(LAW 391D) Women Law & Social Change (LAW 307)  
Topics in Intellectual Property: Video Game Law (LAW 423C)

### 2. EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

How would you rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10?

Poor

Excellent

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Comments:

Brilliant. Vancouver is so beautiful and I made great friends.

### 3. FINANCES

Total cost: \$15K +

Room: \$2600 CAD

Airfare to host institution: \$2000 AUD

Holidays/travel expenses: \$12 000 approx

Other: NOTE: I travelled for a month before and after exchange.

Did you spend more than you expected? What was more/ less expensive than you expected?

Yes, but it was worth it. Groceries are really expensive. So is Vancouver generally but I guess that's the price you pay for a beautiful city. Liquor taxes and tipping also make it expensive.

What was the best way of accessing money during your exchange programme?

I used a Qantas Cash travel card. In hindsight it would have been worth setting up a Canadian bank account.

Do you have any advice about finances, budgeting or the cheapest way of living/travelling?

If you're into skiing - Whistler season pass is good value. Hire gear from Sports Junkies / buy second hand clothes. \$5 meals at the chain of restaurants called the warehouse. No ubers - taxis aren't so cheap: use buses and apps like Car to go, Evo.   
 4. ARRIVAL The rest is obvious - cooking at home, cheap Air BnBs etc.

Was there an airport pickup/ buddy service available?

Not to my knowledge, but I got the bus to Vancouver from Seattle so I don't have that information.

## 5. ORIENTATION

What was Orientation like? Was it useful? Were there social activities?

Orientation was fun and there were good social activities which was great for meeting people. Some parts were boring but I still think it's worth going.

## 6. ACADEMICS

What differences did you find between the UWA system and the system at your host university?

Contact hours: Canada had slightly less contact hours.

Homework: Less in Canada - can get away with not doing all readings

Course (lectures, tests, etc.): Similar level of difficulty

Workload (heavier/ lighter) and assessment (harder or easier): Lighter workload in Canada or assignment at the end. Assignments did tend to be longer though.

## 7. FACILITIES

What were the library/ Wi-Fi/ email facilities like at your host institution?

Great, no complaints. Stunning views from the law library.

## 8. SOCIAL

What kinds of social events were there? Was it easy to meet people?

The UBC Exchange Student Club runs great social events. Going to parties at the Pit and Koerner's are also great for meeting people. The Exchange Club runs weekend trips to places like Banff - good value and also a good way to meet people.

## 9. ACCOMMODATION

Was on campus housing available? What were the rooms like? Were you on a meal plan or did you cook your own food? Are the residences close to the university?

Please add any additional information that you think be of interest with regard to housing.

Yes, on campus housing is available. I stayed at Fairview Crescent which I would highly recommend - it's a pretty, townhouse style residence. It was a 20 minute walk from my classes. A lot of people miss out on getting on campus housing but I hear it helps if you put down housemate preferences (this is what I did).

## 10. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

What was the most difficult aspect of planning your exchange?

Budgeting - come up with a rough guide beforehand but also don't be rigid to the point you miss out on opportunities.

What advice do you have for future exchange students?

- Don't stress too much about uni and travel as much as you can, Vancouver Island (esp. Tofino), ESC trip to Banff, Seattle etc.
- If you're studying law, think about whether you prefer assignments or exams when choosing subjects.

What are the 5 most important things to take with you when you go to your host university?

1. Warm clothes, plenty of pairs of jeans

2. A good umbrella
3. Exercise clothes for lots of hiking
4. Passport
5. Don't stress, you can buy stuff there if you forget

### 11. General impressions

What were the most rewarding aspects of biggest disappointments of your exchange experience? How has your perspective changed as a result of your exchange experience?

Remember that students are interested in reading about both good and bad experiences.

The friends I made and the incredible weekend trips were the most rewarding parts.

Living in a sharehouse and having to ~~z~~ juggle more balls than at home gave me more confidence in my ability to manage stresses and still do pretty well at uni.

I would love to live or work in Angola in the future, so I suppose that has been a change in perspective.

**Thank you for your time.**