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: Shannon Coker
Degree: Bachelor of Commerce
Name of Exchange University: University of Leeds
Country: United Kingdom
Year of exchange: 2018/19
Language of instruction: English

List courses taken abroad:
International marketing, How managers make decisions, Understanding social enterprise, Traditional alcoholic beverages, What is a child.

2. EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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

Poor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Excellent

Comments:
By far one of the best experiences of my life.

3. FINANCES

Total cost: $19,500
Room: Just over $6000
Airfare to host institution: $1,500
Holidays/travel expenses: $10,000
Other: $2000
Did you spend more than you expected? What was more/less expensive than you expected?

Probably slightly over what I expected, though this was more to do with all the travelling.

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

I used a Westpac global currency card and my normal Westpac card.

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

Always leave extra money in your budget to allow for the unexpected and allow you to experience everything.

4. ARRIVAL

Was there an airport pickup/buddy service available?

Yes, Leeds has a welcome team at the train station who got us a taxi to our accommodation.

5. ORIENTATION

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

Orientation was great and a fantastic way to get acquainted with the uni and meet lots of people. There was a International week, followed by a freshers week and there were social activities on every single day, as well as campus tours, faculty presentations and international welcomes.

6. ACADEMICS

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

Contact hours: about the same

Homework: less, although depended on what units you took.

Course (lectures, tests, etc.): Not all lectures are recorded.

Workload (heavier/lighter) and assessment (harder or easier): Workloads were lighter, but assessments were harder. Although the pass rate is 40%, so it evened out.
7. FACILITIES

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

All very good.

8. SOCIAL

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

Lots of nights out. The accommodation also held many events ranging from Christmas balls to BBQs. The union also held almost any event you could think of. So it was easy to meet people, you just need to go to events that appeal to you.

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?

Yes, accommodation is guaranteed.

My room was slightly small, but we have one of the largest kitchens and living rooms of all the accommodations. I was on a meal plan and lived on campus, which was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. I would highly recommend ‘Charles Morris’ or something.

10. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

What was the most difficult aspect of planning your exchange?

Trying to get units approved from both universities while travelling beforehand.

What advice do you have for future exchange students?

Go into the experience with an open mind and ready to experience anything and everything. Try and travel as much as possible, but also remember to explore Yorkshire, as there are some amazing things to see. Also take as many photos as possible.

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

1. Passport
2. Plug adaptors
3. Some cash
4. Large suitcase
5. Photos from home to put up in your room.

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.

There were no disappointing aspects of my exchange!!

I think I’ve become a lot more accepting of others and am not as judgemental as I used to be. I’m also a lot more confident in myself and my abilities.

While on exchange there was a couple of times I got homesick, but meeting up with other Perth people, or some of my new friends and flatmates, made everything better and I was usually having the best time of my life the next day. Exchange gives you the confidence and skills to be able to do anything and I would recommend it to everyone!!

Thank you for your time.