

# 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: Daniel Brett-Mitchell

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Name of Exchange University: University of Vermont

Country: United States

Year of exchange: 2018 Language of instruction: English

List courses taken abroad:

Physical Chemistry Preparation (CHEM167), Advanced Organic Chemistry 1 (CHEM241), Intermediate German (GERM051), Microbiology and Infectious Disease (MMG101), QR: Elements of Statistics (STAT111)

## 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:

Fantastic experience, although finding units that covered units at UWA was tough

## 3. FINANCES

Total cost: maybe around \$11,000 Room: around \$5,500

Airfare to host institution: around \$1,800 Holidays/travel expenses: around \$500

Other:

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

About what I expected

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

I used a NAB traveller card

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

Book any flights as early as possible, and try to fly during the week when flights are cheapest

#### 4. ARRIVAL

Was there an airport pickup/ buddy service available?

No, I got a taxi from Burlington airport to my dorm building for around \$15 USD

#### 5. ORIENTATION

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

Orientation lasted a week and consisted of information sessions and some trips to the local shopping centre. I found it pretty useful. There were social activities, but they mainly happened during the first week of classes.

#### 6. ACADEMICS

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

Contact hours: around 14 hours, so more than I would have at UWA

Homework: maybe around 2 or 3 hours per week average, but overall less than at UWA

Course (lectures, tests, etc.): lectures aren't recorded, more in-class tests but they're possibly easier than at UWA

Workload (heavier/ lighter) and assessment (harder or easier): Workload felt lighter, but some assessments are harder and some are easier, just depends on the courses you take

## 7. FACILITIES

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

Library was similar to Reid at UWA. Wi-Fi was good and is available throughout campus. You get assigned a student email similar to UWA, and works pretty much the same

## 8. SOCIAL

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

During the first week they had events like a sunset cruise and paintball, and they had events for the different holidays. Yeah it was somewhat easy, especially because all the exchange students live in the same dorm building

## 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.

All exchange students had to live on campus. Double rooms that were decent. All exchange students had to be on a meal plan, and the food at the nearest hall was only alright, but the ones that were a bit further away were better. The residencies are located on campus, so it's easy to walk to classes

## 10. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

What was the most difficult aspect of planning your exchange?

Finding good flights to Burlington since it doesn't have an international airport

What advice do you have for future exchange students?

Book all flights before you leave to make it easier on yourself

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

1. Passport to receive your student ID

2.

3.

## 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.

Living on campus with all your mates is very fun, but the rooms are minimally furnished and not that great. There was always something going on, so you rarely get downtime, which can start to wear you down towards the end of semester, but also means that you never really feel homesick as there's no time to. The nearest dining hall was generally pretty poor although there were better ones a bit further away. Overall it was a fantastic experience, even though I began to get really worn down and homesick in the last few weeks of the semester.

***Thank you for your time.***