

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: Tim Chang

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Music Specialist Studies)

Name of Exchange University: University of Bristol

Country: United Kingdom

Year of exchange: 2019

Language of instruction: English

List courses taken abroad:

- History of Music II: Western Art Music (1750-present day)
- Curriculum Design for Learning
- Political Concepts

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:

I had an excellent time in Bristol! It's a very artsy city, so I would totally recommend it for anyone studying or passionate about arts!

3. FINANCES

Total cost: \$15,000

Room: \$6,000

Airfare to host institution: \$2,000

Holidays/travel expenses: \$2,000

Other: \$5,000

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

I spent more than I expected, unfortunately. Luckily, I allowed myself a significant buffer so I was fine in the end, so I recommend saving up more than you think you'll spend!

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

I opened an HSBC Everyday Global Account here before leaving. This allowed me to convert money to GBP as needed without international transaction fees.

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

If you go on exchange for a semester as I did, keep in mind that your visa prohibits you from working. I recommend shopping at Asda for groceries rather than Tesco or Sainsbury's. It's a bit of a walk to get to, but prices there are so much cheaper!

4. ARRIVAL

Was there an airport pickup/ buddy service available?

Not when I went, unfortunately, since I arrived in the middle of their academic year. However, it was quite easy for me to settle in, as your fellow exchange students will be quite helpful!

5. ORIENTATION

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

After the first week or so, the international office largely left us to our own devices, but we exchange students regularly organised unofficial events, which were lots of fun!

6. ACADEMICS

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

Contact hours: Fewer

Homework: A lot more

Course (lectures, tests, etc.): There are more essays than exams; weight of individual assessments higher.

Workload (heavier/ lighter) and assessment (harder or easier): Heavier workload, harder to do well (fail grade is 40%!!!)

7. FACILITIES

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

Library, WiFi + email were pretty similar to what we have here.

8. SOCIAL

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

It's really easy to make friends there. Don't say no to social events and really put yourself out there, and you'll have heaps of people around you in no time!

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.

There are a variety of options for on-campus accommodation. These range from relatively cheap, self-catered flats like Riverside (where I stayed) to expensive catered halls in the northern parts of the city (v. little action there, wouldn't recommend tbh).

10. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

What was the most difficult aspect of planning your exchange?

Budgeting was definitely the most difficult part of planning. In fact, I had to keep a close eye on my finances throughout my time abroad.

What advice do you have for future exchange students?

Try to get into contact with other exchange students as soon as you can! Lifelong friendships can be formed through these connections, so try your best to put yourself out there!

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

1. Warm clothing! (esp. if you're going during spring semester!)

2. A good camera (there are some seriously good sights in England!)
3. Photos of friends & family (will help lots when you're homesick)
4. Some Aussie snacks to share with your new friends! (Trust me, it helps!)
5. An open mind!!! ^.^

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.

I'm happy to say that I didn't have any really bad experiences while I was abroad! I picked units that I was really interested in, but also wasn't too catastrophically difficult. This allowed me to really concentrate on exploring the city, country & continent around me with the friends I made around the world!

Thank you for your time.