



# Exchange Report

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## THE BASICS

Your name: [Alli](#)

Your email address: [Allij@uvic.ca](mailto:Allij@uvic.ca)

Your partner university: [University of Newcastle](#)

Your UVic major during the exchange: [Science](#)

UVic session(s) during which you did your exchange: [Jan 06 - Apr 06](#)

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## GENERAL EVALUATION

Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [5](#)

Comments: [Australia was so much fun. We were sad to come home.](#)

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## ARRIVAL

How satisfied were you with your experience of arriving in your host country or city? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [3](#)

Comments: [The school is well out of the city centre. However we loved the country upon arrival although it rained for the first 2 weeks.](#)

What assistance, if any, did you receive when you arrived at your exchange destination?

[None](#)

How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)?

[Difficult. I was in Fiji with no internet, but I figured stuff out.](#)

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## ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to students at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [N/A](#)

Comments: [Didn't attend orientation.](#)

How easy was it to find information you needed to know right away?

[Signing up for courses was a stressful experience.](#)

What help did you receive from the international staff or office? [They kept our mail.](#)

What was your impression of the international staff or office? [Awesome, very helpful.](#)

What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one, and how well did it suit your needs? [Didn't attend.](#)

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site and were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing? [Yes, you make friends rapidly.](#)

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## HOUSING

How satisfied were you with the housing available to students? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [2](#)

Comments: [We didn't get into residence \(on campus housing\) and were told we needed to find housing ASAP. This](#)

isn't true. There are tons of places posted at the beginning of school.

How early could students move in to housing at the beginning of term?

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities?

How satisfied were you with the food?

How close are the residences to the university?

Could students stay in the residences during major holidays?

Which residence would you recommend to UVic students?

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? [Rather easy. We found a place in 2 days.](#)

What should future UVic exchange students know about living off-campus? [Live downtown if you aren't serious about school.](#)

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### **COURSE REGISTRATION**

How satisfied were you with the registration process at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [2](#)

Comments: [We didn't get to sign up for courses 'til we arrived in Newcastle.](#)

Please describe the registration process at your partner university.

[You pick courses and add them to your shopping cart.](#)

What kind of help was available?

[If you need help the international office is available. Ask another student.](#)

How successful were you in registering for classes you wanted?

[It was hard, but all worked out.](#)

What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your partner university?

[Have your classes/courses picked before arriving to school.](#)

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### **ACADEMICS**

How satisfied were you with the academic program at your partner university? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: [5](#)

Comments: [The profs were very nice and always willing to help.](#)

How did the style of teaching at your partner university compare with that at UVic?

[More laid back. First name basis.](#)

How did the workload compare to what you would expect at UVic?

[The workload was less.](#)

How many courses did you take in your first term abroad?

[3](#)

Your second term?

[N/A](#)

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other UVic students visiting your partner university?

[It depends if you require more units for graduation.](#)

What specific courses would you recommend to visiting UVic students?

[History.](#)

Why?

It helps learn all about Oz.

What advice would you give UVic students about succeeding academically at your partner university?

Attend classes.

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your partner university?

Awesome. There's always a free computer available in the library.

What electronic devices would you recommend a UVic student bring (laptop, PDA, etc.)?

A laptop is not necessary. I would suggest an ipod for the train ride to school.

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### **COSTS**

Note: All in Australian currency

Books - per term: \$70 - I only bought one text.

Accommodation - per month: \$350 per month.

Meals - per month:

Local transportation - per month:

Health insurance - per term:

Personal spending - per term:

Communications (phone, etc.) - per term:

Other university related fees - per term:

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### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 3

Comments: The gym is very expensive. The university has many sports teams to get involved with. I spent most of my time attempting to surf.

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students?

What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

Go surfing - the water is pleasantly warm.

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?

Read about the country and travel to places that interest you.

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus?

Unless you live on campus this isn't recommended.

Off-campus?

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

Not entirely sure.

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### **SAFETY AND HEALTH**

How safe did you feel at your exchange site? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best rating):

Rating: 5

Comments

What are the biggest safety concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site?

Finding your house after a night of drinking.

What are the biggest health concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site?

Take sunscreen!

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### **PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

What was it like making friends? The same as here.

How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students?

Easy.

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site?

You learn to adjust to the accent and slang.

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?

None.

one. What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

The large consumption of beer.

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?

GREAT - Apparently Aussies love Canadians.

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?

Easy. They have a good program to help students with disabilities.

For students who are visible minorities in your host country?

Aboriginal students.

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## TAKING STOCK

What are the three most important things for students to take with them when they go to your host country or region?

For traveling purposes:

-Headlamp

-Photos of your homeland, most Australians haven't seen snow

-A camera to keep your memories.

What are the three most important things you would tell a UVic student who is going to your partner university on exchange?

- Go traveling

- Take full advantage of the pass/fail for courses.

Is there any other information that you think might prove useful to UVic exchange students attending your host university?

- There are no bus/train passes like at UVic

- The gym is crazy expensive

- Use the discount card ALL over town. Even on booze.

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience?

Meeting myself. Getting new insight of what I want in life and it resulted in me changing my degree.

What was your greatest challenge on the exchange?

To go to class and not take off traveling.

How has your perspective changed as a result of the exchange?

- My view of life is altered.

- I am a life long traveler.

What else do you want to say about your exchange experience?

- Go for it.

- Go beyond your comfort levels and try something new.