

THE BASICS

Your first name: [Karley](#)

Your email address: kdtalbot@uvic.ca

Your partner university: [Murdoch University](#)

Your UVic major during the exchange: [Combined Biology and Psychology](#)

UVic session(s) during which you did your exchange: [Spring 2008](#)

GENERAL EVALUATION

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

Rating: [3](#)

Comments: [I enjoyed Australia, but I found the education system to be too liberal and not extensive and I found it difficult to really learn anything. All of what I learned was based on my reading the text book and having a very brief overview of the material in the 1 or 2-hour lecture once a week.](#)

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: [4](#)

Comments: [My arrival was good. Nothing bad to report.](#)

What assistance, if any, did you receive when you arrived at your exchange destination? [I received assistance in finding off-campus accommodation.](#)

How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? [Very Easy](#)

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: [4](#)

Comments: [Assistance was obtained easily and was for the most part very successful. No complaints.](#)

How easy was it to find information you needed to know right away? [Fairly Easy](#)

What help did you receive from the international staff or office? [Help with signing up for classes.](#)

What was your impression of the international staff or office? [That they were well organized, knowledgeable, and helpful.](#)

What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one, and how well did it suit your needs? [There was a orientation week. It gave international students a chance to meet others and provided them with a lot of information about Perth and Australia and what to expect. It was fairly well suited for my needs, but some of the orientation was just repetition and not worth it.](#)

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? *It was fairly simple to adjust to Perth, but at the same time, there are still some things that were hard to get used to at first. I talked to my sister since she came to Australia with me, but other than her, if I needed to, I could have talked to someone at the International Office at the University*

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: *4*

Comments: *I lived off campus very close to school which the University offices provided aid in finding for me which was very useful.*

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

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? *N/A*

How satisfied were you with the food? *N/A*

How close are the residences to the university? *Very close*

Could students stay in the residences during major holidays? *I don't know*

Which residence would you recommend to UVic students? *N/A*

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? *Very easy*

What should future UVic exchange students know about living off-campus? *It's more expensive and it's more difficult to develop friends if you don't already know people inside the village*

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: *5*

Comments: *It was very simple. The International Office did most of the work for you and helped if there were any problems.*

Please describe the registration process at your partner university. *You email the student advisor at the host university the courses that you want to register for. She checks availability and sends an email back to let you know if it will work. If it does and you confirm it's what you want, she will register you for the courses. Once registered, you have to go in and register for the specific lecture and tutorials that will work best for you. Once a lecture and tutorial (in my case) were chosen and saved, registration was complete.*

What kind of help was available? *She helped me figure out Murdoch's website and registration process and figure out which classes worked best for me.*

How successful were you in registering for classes you wanted? *Very successful*

What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your partner university? [If you need help, go and get help at the earliest time possible.](#)

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: [2](#)

Comments: [I had too much free time and didn't get as much out of the courses as I had wanted to.](#)

How did the style of teaching at your partner university compare with that at UVic? [It was fairly different. Murdoch was more laid back and go at your own pace while I find UVic to be more hands on and informative](#)

How did the workload compare to what you would expect at UVic? [It was ¼ of what I would do at UVic.](#)

How many courses did you take in your first term abroad? [Full course load is 3 courses](#)

Your second term? [N/A](#)

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other UVic students visiting your partner university? [3 courses is definitely manageable](#)

What specific courses would you recommend to visiting UVic students? [It depends on the major, but Psychology of Abnormal Behavior was very interesting.](#)

Why? [Because it was a very interesting course](#)

If you studied in a non-English speaking country, what was the availability of courses offered in English? [N/A](#)

What advice would you give UVic students about succeeding academically at your partner university? [Keep up with the reading as much as possible, despite having excessive amounts of free time.](#)

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your partner university? [Internet was dial up which was a pain when you brought in your lap top and you had to pay for downloading and would get logged out if you were on too long each day and wouldn't be able to log back on. This was a problem during exam studying time as I was in the Library for hours and hours. The library was large and there were "Silence Areas" which were available for those that wanted to study successfully.](#)

What electronic devices would you recommend a UVic student bring (laptop, PDA, etc.)? [Laptop for sure.](#)

COSTS

Please indicate currency: [1 CAD = 1.15919 AUD](#)

Books - per term: [350.00](#)

Accommodation - per month: [412.00 plus utilities bi-monthly](#)

Meals - per month: [unknown, but eating out becomes very costly with ~ 20-25 dollars per meal](#)

Local transportation - per month: [For a student with a registered smart rider and depending on how often you leave Murdoch area and travel towards the city it can range anywhere from 40-80 dollars per month](#)

Health insurance - per term: [OSHC was 300.00](#)

Personal spending - per term: [4000-5000](#)

Communications (phone, etc.) - per term: [prepaid phones depending on use can be anywhere from 30-60 per month](#)

Other university related fees - per term: 100.00

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: 4

Comments: [The Northwest Trip was the highlight to my time at the university](#)

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students? [a variety of clubs and sports were available](#)

What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students? [The Northwest Trip](#)

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays? [Visit surrounding areas outside of Perth like Rottnest Island and Margaret River](#)

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus? [Unknown \(The cafeteria I think is the only option\)](#)

Off-campus? [A lot of opportunities everywhere](#)

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students? [unknown](#)

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: 3.5

Comments: [My house was broken into while we were sleeping, but up until then I felt fairly safe](#)

What are the biggest safety concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site? [Depending on where you're staying \(in what suburb\)](#)

What are the biggest health concerns for future exchange students going to your exchange site? [Viral infections](#)

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making friends? [It was difficult for me, not so for others](#)

How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) students? [Kind of difficult, but group projects helped.](#)

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? [Fairly easy. Aus is similar to Can](#)

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? [The conversation skills. With the accent and their really laid back language it was very difficult to understand what they were saying at first.](#)

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate? [The laid back, life is easy attitude helped me to not stress out as much](#)

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students? [I was treated equally](#)

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university? I believe it would be fairly easy. The most difficult would be access to seats in the lecture theatres

For students who are visible minorities in your host country? For the most part, Australians are accommodating to all minorities

TAKING STOCK

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

Laptop

A variety of different seasonal clothing

Bathing suit

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

Keep up with the readings

Don't get distracted by the amount of free time you seem to have because it will come back to haunt you at the end of the semester

Don't be fooled with the grading system. It is difficult to obtain high marks no matter how hard you work on assignments.

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

Don't be shy. You have to actively try and make friends because people don't tend to come up to you first

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience?

Meeting new people and getting a different view of their academic system

What was your greatest challenge on the exchange?

Meeting people and developing friendships

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

It's not always sunny and hot in Australia, but even their harshest winter is similar to our mild fall.

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

If you really want the Australian experience, take your semester during Australian spring (Semester 2)