



# Student Exchange Program

International Student Services

## Exchange Final Report

### Student Information

Faculty at UVic Humanities  
Major/Minor Double major in English and Gender Studies  
Host University Victoria University  
Host Country Australia  
Dates of Exchange February – June 2019

### Overall Exchange Experience

Please Rate your Overall Exchange Experience

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience? Please outline any highlights.

The most rewarding part of my exchange experience was living in a new city and in a place that I had been considering relocating to permanently. Now, I know this is where I want to be and will be actively pursuing that through the connections I have made while being here.

What was the greatest challenge during your exchange?

The greatest challenged I faced were my accounting course (evidently, not my strong suit) and coming home.

### Travel

Cost of air travel \$1437

Cost of ground transportation (ex. monthly bus pass) Approximately \$150/month

Did host university representatives meet you at the airport? No, because I arrived early.

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university?

Uber or taxi, but no easy public transit route.

## Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival?

Yes.

How easy was it to find the info you needed to know upon arrival?

Yes.

What assistance did you receive from your host institution upon arrival?

I received administration sign off for my concession transit card and student card.

## Accommodation

Is on-campus accommodation available?

Yes.

If yes, did you live on campus?

No, I did not.

Would you recommend this to future students?

N/A.

If you lived off-campus, how did you find housing?

I was very fortunate and was able to rent space off of family friends.

Approximately how much money would you budget per month for living, including accommodation and meals?

For accommodation, I was paying less than anyone else by far! I paid \$75/week, an average would be probably \$175/week, and I believe that residence was \$330/week. Food and eating out cost about \$500 per month.

## Language Programs

Is there a language program available either before or during the semester?

Yes, I believe so, although it did not apply to me.

Is there an additional cost for the language training?

Unsure as it was not relevant for me.

## Academics

Was it possible for you to get all the courses that you wanted?

Yes, thankfully.

Please describe the course registration process

The registration process is quite different to UVic. Initially, you have to submit a registration proxy form to the university for them to then enroll you in classes. From there during certain timeframes you are able to edit your selections as far as time slots etc. for those classes you nominated in proxy. The system is a little finicky as it goes through different stages of pending.

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university

I really loved my professors at VU. They do genuinely care about their students and I found them to be much more reasonably than professors I have previously had.

What do you feel is the greatest academic benefit you have gained personally from your exchange?

The greatest academic benefit I gained from exchange was experiencing a different national and international perspectives on the content I was learning in relation to English and gender studies.

## Personal and Cultural Connections

How easy was it to adjust to the local culture? What (if any) cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Very easy to adjust! I think students from other parts of Canada may have found it more challenging to adjust, but being from the west coast I found Australia/Melbourne to be quite relatable. I appreciated the laid back and social culture the most.

What kinds of cultural, athletic and social activities were available for students at your host institution?

All kinds! Lots of different opportunities depending on interests. The exchange office here also had a few different outings available to exchange studies, for example they did a trip along the great ocean road.