



# Exchange Program Returning Student Report

All information provided on this form will be made public and available online to future students interested in the OCAD U Exchange Program.

**When saving this form, please include your full name, program, year and term of exchange (e.g. John Smith-DRPT-Fall 2018).**

| STUDENT INFORMATION                                 |   |
|---|---|
| Student Status: Domestic                            | Current Year of Study: 3                  |
| OCAD U Program: Sculpture and Installation          |   |
| Year of your exchange: 2018                         | Term of your exchange: Winter             |
| Host University: Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design |   |
| Program at Host Institution: Glass                  |   |
| Host Country: Israel                                | Number of months spent at host country: 4 |

## OVERALL EVALUATION

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| <p>Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 is the most positive). Explain the reasons for your rating, including what you gained from your exchange experience and any challenges you may have encountered.</p> | <p>10- It has been an amazing experience. I learned a lot from each one of my classes. In the Glass Blowing Course I learned how to improve my skills at Glass Blowing and how to install light within my lamps or sculptures. At the Figurative Sculpture Class I learned a lot about how to portray human anatomy within my art. In the Independent Study course I learned how to make appropriate moulds for the glass sculptures and the whole Kiln Firing Process. I am very happy with this experience because I feel it added a lot of needed knowledge within my training.</p> |
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## PREPARATION

### Immigration Documents

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| <p>Did you need a visa to study at the host university?</p>   | <p>Yes.</p>   |
| <p>If yes, please include the type of visa, documents you needed to provide, how long it took, how much it cost and any issues you encountered.</p> | <p>I took it from the Israel Embassy in Toronto. I had to bring proof of my Canadian Citizenship, Proof of Study Abroad, Proof of Appropriate Income while abroad, Plane Ticket and Passport. It Costed about 100 dollars and it took about a week.</p> |

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| What advice you would give to future students? | This overall experience is really worth it. Besides Bezael being a very well equipped school, Israel is a country really worth visiting. It was amazing to see all the ancient sites, the Holly Tomb, Dome of the Rock, Western Wall, Dead Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Masada and many other amazing tourist attractions, while blending in with a new, completely different culture. |
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### Insurance

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| Were you enrolled in the OCAD U Health & Dental Plan? If yes, was the coverage adequate? | No  |
| Did the host university have a mandatory insurance plan? If yes, how much did it cost?   | Yes, they had a plan that costed about 1.5 dollars per day, but was very effective. |

### ARRIVAL

#### Airport

|   |  |
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| Did you receive any assistance when you arrived at your host country/city? Did you experience any difficulties getting to your residence? | The rent is high and it was very difficult finding short term accommodation.(4 months) But this might also be because I went there with my family. |
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#### Housing

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|---|---|
| How did you arrange your accommodation? Did the host university assist you? Was your place located close to the university/campus? Did you feel safe? Do you have any concerns or recommendation? | The host University was trying to help me by sending via email different announcement of vacant apartments and directed me to different websites such as Craigslist and Jangloo. I found our rental on the website called Jangloo. I felt safe and fortunate to be hosted in an apartment in a villa of a very nice Jewish Orthodox Family. I felt very safe and welcome. If there are any students interested I can always give them the contact information of my host. |
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#### Languages

|   |   |
|---|---|
| What was the language(s) spoken in the host country? If not English, how did you deal with language barriers? | To be honest it was not very easy because everyone was speaking Hebrew and the classes were taught in Hebrew as well. But they did always try to translate me what was necessary for the completion of my work. There were at times student assigned to translate for me. |
|---|---|

### Studies at the host university

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Was there an orientation session? If yes, did you attend and what did you learn?</p>  | <p>The orientation session was brief and covered all the necessary information that we needed to know for our exchange such as introduction to all the school departments, health insurance, payments, accommodation etc.</p>  |
| <p>Please describe the registration process at your host university.</p>   | <p>I received a class list via e-mail and I was advised to send them an e-mail back with my course choices. After sending the e-mail however I changed my mind and I went to the Department Office where the secretary was able to switch my classes and provide advice.</p>   |
| <p>Please describe your course plan (number of courses, name and type of courses)</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lightning Objects- Glass Blowing or Kiln Casting of Lightning Objects with addition of electricity</li> <li>2. Figurative Sculpture- Learned to sculpt in clay the anatomic details of the human body after a live model</li> <li>3. Independent Project – My subject of choice was mould making and kiln casting</li> <li>4. Organizing an exhibition and display of work – Experienced ways to organize an exhibition and display my work. Organized a final exhibition where I presented the best pieces of the work created during the semester</li> </ol> |
| <p>What was the language of instruction? If not English, how did you overcome the challenges?</p>  | <p>The language of instruction was Hebrew. But they always tried to translate me what was necessary for the completion of my work. There were at times student assigned to translate for me.</p>   |
| <p>Were there any extracurricular activities/events scheduled (cultural visits, trips, workshops, etc.)? Which ones would you recommend?</p>                                       | <p>There was an amazing trip that lasted a week in the desert where students learned a lot of amazing things such as building a kiln from clay and making pottery.</p>   |
| <p>Please comment on the differences and similarities between OCAD U and the host university (relationship between student and professor, teaching method, study environment).</p> | <p>There is a big difference between these two institutions. At Bezalel classes are smaller and they have the same colleagues and classes for their whole 4 year program. This is why the students tend to build strong friendships. The studio instruction is hands on and the focus is upon learning how to build things. The study environment occurs in the same relaxed atmosphere.</p>   |
| <p>What help did you receive from the international staff/office at the host university?</p>   | <p>I was constantly helped by Ms. Sarit Morad with everything I needed. She was always attentive and sportive. I am very thankful that she even got involved and tried to help when my mother was going through difficulties with her visa. Overall, I always felt helped and supported.</p>   |
| <p>Did you encounter any cultural barriers? If yes, how did you deal with them and what did you learn?</p>   | <p>There is a very big cultural difference within the overall society. There are different norms that one has to follow and get used to, such as dress code, addressing manners and big language barriers because not that many people from the older generation speak English. But the students at the academy were almost just as modern and open minded as everyone in Canada is. Therefore I had a great time with my colleagues and I felt great throughout my experience.</p>  |

## FINANCIAL DETAILS

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Did you open a bank account in the host country? If yes, were there any challenges? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What are the preferred local payment methods in the host country?                   | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How did the cost of living in the host country compare to Canada?                   | Click or tap here to enter text. |

### Estimated costs/expenses in Canadian currency

|   | Monthly | Total |
|---|---------|-------|
| OCAD U tuition & fees paid  |         | \$    |
| Health/medical insurance  |         | \$    |
| Immigration documents   |         | \$    |
| Transportation (airfare, bus, train etc.)                                 | \$      | \$    |
| Books and supplies  | \$      | \$    |
| Rent  | \$      | \$    |
| Food  | \$      | \$    |
| Local transportation  | \$      | \$    |
| Other expenses (entertainment, side trips, personal items, laundry, etc.) | \$      | \$    |
| <b>Total Costs</b>  |         |       |