



# 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: Drawing & Painting	
Year of your exchange: 2018	Term of your exchange: Winter
Host University: Laguna College of Art & Design (LCAD)	
Program at Host Institution: Drawing and Painting	
Host Country: US	Number of months spent at host country: 5

## OVERALL EVALUATION

<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. This school is everything I imagined it to be. The atmosphere and people surrounding me was incredible. Everyone was very helpful upon my arrival and it was a very safe city to be placed in. My ideal dream was to paint landscapes on the beach, go to school by the ocean, and live in an environment that supports what I want to do for a living. The only challenge I faced was coming up with the cost of everything. A challenge and change that I experienced here were the 6 hour classes. Their classes aren't 3 hours like OCAD and this made for a long day at school. The course load is also very heavy, however manageable if you spend your time wisely. Overall, the people and location was an absolute dream and could not have pictured this exchange going any better!</p>
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## PREPARATION

### Immigration Documents

<p>Did you need a visa to study at the host university?</p>	<p><b>Yes. I had to get a USD visa and transfer all that I have saved onto this card. It was also in US Dollar so you will lose a lo of your money that is put onto this card.</b></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><b>USD Visa. There was a 200 dollar fee, this was also done online through our bank and only took about a week to receive.</b></p>

<p>What advice you would give to future students?</p>	<p><b>Save lots of money before going and be outgoing. I would have never met the people I did if I was shy, everyday I made the effort to make a new friend whether that was at school, at the dorms, or at the beach when I played volleyball. I also recommend getting involved with the city or town you are in. It makes the experience so much more amazing and unforgettable friendships. For example, they had art walks for the first day of every month. This encouraged the art students to mingle and walk around the art galleries. They served wine and food at these galleries as well and was a good opportunity to meet new friends!</b></p>
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### Insurance

<p>Were you enrolled in the OCAD U Health &amp; Dental Plan? If yes, was the coverage adequate?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Did the host university have a mandatory insurance plan? If yes, how much did it cost?</p>	<p>No.</p>

### ARRIVAL

#### Airport

<p>Did you receive any assistance when you arrived at your host country/city? Did you experience any difficulties getting to your residence?</p>	<p>My parents dropped me off in California to get me settled which I highly recommend doing because I wouldn't have been able to get all my utilities without a car. Its also intimidating going alone to a new country not knowing anyone to even seek help. However, when I got to the residence the dorm advisors were very helpful and showed me where to get anything I needed and introduced me to some of the people in the dorms I would be living with.</p>
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#### Housing

<p>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?</p>	<p>The location of the dorms was perfect. 5 minute bike ride from the beach and 5 minutes from school. There is also a shuttle that takes you from the dorms to thr school because the road is very dangerous to walk on.</p>
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#### Languages

<p>What was the language(s) spoken in the host country? If not English, how did you deal with language barriers?</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
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### Studies at the host university

<p>Was there an orientation session? If yes, did you attend and what did you learn?</p>	<p>Yes. I attended and learned everything I needed to know about the school. Its very small so its not a lot of information and easy to figure out.</p>
<p>Please describe the registration process at your host university.</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>Please describe your course plan (number of courses, name and type of courses)</p>	<p>I took 5 courses 3 drawing and painting and 2 illustration courses. I took a landscape course, perspective, rendering, a modern and contemporary art course and mural painting</p>
<p>What was the language of instruction? If not English, how did you overcome the challenges?</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>Were there any extracurricular activities/events scheduled (cultural visits, trips, workshops, etc.)? Which ones would you recommend?</p>	<p>I did not hear of any however I made my own extracurricular activity by playing volleyball no the beach after school or on weekend for exercise and lots of fun! I went to a couple museums however they are in LA and very far, I had a friend who drove me there so this is why its crucial to spread your wings and meet new people!</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>The professors at LCAD are amazing. It is a smaller school so there is a lot more one on one time with the professors to help guide you. Personally, this was the perfect school for me in terms of style. They are very traditional and a lot of realism is forced at this school. I do not do abstract work so if that's your main focus, this school is not for you.</p>
<p>What help did you receive from the international staff/office at the host university?</p>	<p>Personally, I never saw them once. I saw Julian who was a guidance counsellor for dorm students and he discussed a lot of information with me.</p>
<p>Did you encounter any cultural barriers? If yes, how did you deal with them and what did you learn?</p>	<p>None.</p>

## FINANCIAL DETAILS

Did you open a bank account in the host country? If yes, were there any challenges?	No.
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?	VERY expensive to live here. Especially when our dollar isn't very good.

### Estimated costs/expenses in Canadian currency

	Monthly	Total
OCAD U tuition & fees paid		\$ 3900.00
Health/medical insurance		\$ 200.00
Immigration documents		\$ 200.00
Transportation (airfare, bus, train etc.)	\$	\$
Books and supplies	\$	\$
Rent	\$ 1400.00	\$ 7000.00
Food	\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00
Local transportation	\$	\$
Other expenses (entertainment, side trips, personal items, laundry, etc.)	\$	\$
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$11,900.00</b>