



Student Mobility/Exchange Program Returning Student Report

OCAD U Program: Advertising

Host University: RMIT U

Host Country: Australia

Faculty/Department at Host Institution: Communication Design

Semester: Winter (March - June)

Date of Report: July 15th 2018

1. OVERALL EVALUATION

How would you rate your exchange experience overall?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **it was Excellent!!!!**

Why did you choose this host institution? What key factors or issues influenced your decision?

I choose this institution because I wanted to be in Melbourne City as I had read up on the amazing community and cultures that help make it up. It was very similar to Toronto which made it easily adaptable to live in.

Please share a couple of your most positive experiences and a couple of the biggest challenges you faced.

The most positive experiences was meeting all the other international students. RMIT U did a very great job making everyone feel welcome and showed us around the city during orientation. The biggest struggle was missing family and friends back home.

2. PREPARATION

Please describe your preparation for the exchange, including banking, travel documents and student visa application. In retrospect, would you have done anything differently?

In preparation I had to get my Australian student visa which I did online, which wasn't a hard process just took long and there is a list of documents you need before you start the application. Banking wasn't a problem I just told my bank I was moving to Aussie for a while and it was fine.

Are there any important items (e.g. art and design supplies, documents, specialty foods, health items) that a student should take to your host country?

I needed my laptop and camera as I study communication design. I also got a an entire 6 month physical prescription of my medication as I didn't want to change brands while being in a new country.

3. ARRIVAL

Was anyone at the airport, train station, etc. to meet you? Did you experience any difficulties upon arrival?

At RMIT U, they offered a free private driver upon arrival at the airport which brought me to my destination of stay. Made me feel very welcomed and it was easy to settle in.

When should students plan to arrive at the host university? When did you arrive? Would you have benefited from arriving earlier?

I arrived one day before orientation, I traveled to different countries before hand so I wanted to only be in Aussie when necessary for the semester. It was great timing, lot of other international students arrived around that time aswell.

Was there an orientation session offered at your host university? If yes, did you attend and what did you learn?

Yes I attended orientation I was great, learned lots about the university and the city it was located in.

Is there a coordinating office for international students, including exchange students, at your host university? Is there a staff person you would recommend students approach with their questions?

Not sure. There was an email account you could message but I never had difficulty with anything so I didn't use the service once.

4. ACCOMMODATION

Where did you live during your exchange? Were you happy with your accommodation?

I lived at a student accommodation in the CDB of Melbourne only 5 minute walk from campus. It was wonderful and convenient. It was called Iglu Melbourne City Residence

Did you have any difficulties arranging accommodation? Did the host institution assist you?

No I just searched online before I arrived, reserved my flat and paid through secure online banking process. Very simple, hassle free.

5. STUDIES AT HOST INSTITUTION

To better understand the similarities and differences between academic studies at OCAD U and at your host university, please comment on the following:

Level of academic difficulty and challenge: I wasn't very challenging if you showed up to class.

Time spent in class (# of hours per week) : 10 hours a week

Time spent working on projects outside of class (# of hours per week) : 8 hours

Studio-based work: %80

Written assignments: none

Interaction between students and professors: %90

6. SERVICES

Were there any extracurricular activities/events scheduled for exchange/international students at your host university (cultural visits, trips, workshops, etc.)? Which ones would you recommend?

Tons of extracurricular activities, the student union is called RUSU, very well organized. I joined the surf club and it was great, went on trips with them and got to meet lots of people.

What were the library and computer facilities like?

Library was great I studied there for quiet space and borrowed books for personal reading all the time. clean, easy to find and helpful staff.

7. COST OF LIVING

How did you prepare yourself financially for your exchange? Did you pay for the experience entirely out of your own savings? Did you receive loans and/or financial awards (scholarships or bursaries)? Did you have help from family?

I paid for tuition on my own. My flight was a gift from a family member and my parents and I always have been splitting my costs of living since being in university. Living costs such as food, going out and traveling was out of my own savings.

In general, was the cost of living in your host country higher, lower, or similar to that in Canada? Please explain.

Aussie dollar is almost at par with Canada but because they have a higher minimum wage so some things costs a bit more then average in comparison to Canada. Shopping at the market helped save lots of money on food. Going out at night was very expensive because the liquor in Aussie is taxed heavily.

8. EXPENSES

Exchange rate with host country: \$1 CAD = \$1.02 AUD

Time spent in host country (month/year - month/year): Feb 2018 - June 2108

Would you estimate that you spent more, less, or the same amount as an average, local student attending your host institution? Spent more on accommodation and nightlife at my host uni.

Please complete the following budget to give other students an idea of what they can expect to spend in the host country.

Basic Expenses in Canadian Dollars:

1. Tuition and general fees (paid to OCAD U): \$	\$3400
2. School supplies: \$	\$0
3. Rent or university residence: \$ /month = \$	\$1300
4. Rent-related expenses:	
A) Electricity/Water: \$ /month	included
B) Telephone: \$ /month	\$12
C) Cable: \$ /month	included
D) Other (specify) \$ /month	\$200
5. Groceries or Meal Plan: \$ /month = \$	\$300
6. Personal expenses (toiletries/cosmetics, etc.): \$ /month = \$	\$40
8. Laundry: \$ /month = \$	\$14
7. Transportation: \$ /month = \$	\$10
9. Leisure (Sports, Entertainment, etc.): \$	free at uni
10. Travel health insurance: \$	\$37
11. Medical expenses in host country: \$	n/a
12. Round trip plane ticket: \$	only got one way -\$1100
13. Travel/trips during exchange: \$	\$5000
14. Student visa: \$	\$500
15. Other expenses (please specify): \$	
Estimated Total Expenses: \$	12,000

9. ADAPTING TO YOUR HOST COUNTRY

Did you experience any “culture shock” during your exchange? How did you deal with it?

Do you have any advice for students on how to adapt to life in your host country?

In Aussie they speak English just like Canada but the accents and slang for terms are so different it something was confusing talking to locals. It was a lot of fun, learned some new words that I will bring home with me.

Was there a lot of interaction between local students and exchange/international students? What is the best way to develop friendships with students from your host institution?

Yes, i met most of my friends in my student accommodation which was both local Aussie's and international students. When you live with them everyday its easy to make friends. Also clubs at university help as well.

Was there anything that you felt was strikingly different from what you expected?

I thought it was only hot in Australia its gets COLD in Melbourne during winter season, it even snows in some parts outside the city. Pack a light jacket and a toque because I didn't!

10. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

%100 best experience of my life. Recommend to anyone willing to embark on an adventures. Made friends for life all around the world and will visit them. Going to university was whatever, but going away was AMAZING.

Please email your report to International Student Services at international@ocadu.ca.