

The Education Abroad Program office wants to hear about your experience abroad! Tell us about your experience by filling out the *Returned Student Report for Internships*. Your feedback will be used to help improve programs and services for future students and be a valuable resource for future students who are interested in working abroad.

The Returned Student Report consists of two parts:

- Part A: Participant Information
- Part B: Internship Information

Part A and B will be made public and available online to future students interested in learning more about the internship process and program. Education Abroad Program will preserve your anonymity by not revealing your name or any personal details.

Part A

Participant Information

Please provide the following information.

Name:			
Student Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Home Institution: (please select one)	Univeristy of Alberta
Faculty:	Science	Degree Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni
Major/Minor:	Biological Sciences / Psychology		
Current Year of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4th <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		

Part B

Internship Program Information

Please provide the following details related to your Education Abroad Program Internship.

Host Organization:	University of Western Australia	Position Title:	Undergraduate Researcher	
City/Town:	Perth	Country:	Australia	
Was your internship paid?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Internship Period:	From: May 6 2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: August 9 2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)
Did you participate on an exchange or summer program during your internship?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
What working language(s) did you use in the workplace? <i>Check all that apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> German <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			

What is your proficiency in these working language(s)? <i>Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Fluent</i>	Advanced
Prior to your departure, did you take any language courses? If so, what level?	No
How important is it to be proficient in the working language(s) for your internship?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1= Not at all important <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 = Very important
What immigration documents (e.g. work, residence permits etc.) were required to live and work in your host country?	Student visa
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	none
What tips would you give to future students regarding their visa/work permit?	Don't get a student visa if you will stay less than 3 months or if you will leave within the span of 3 months and return. You will save \$500.

Position Details

What were your expectations at the beginning of the internship? Have these expectations been met?

To conduct research in the field of genetics and learn new techniques as well as produce tangible results. Thankfully, all these expectations were met.

Please describe the duties and responsibilities you had in your position.

Test a new DNA sequencer that was recently released worldwide and determine its efficiency and potential use by African farmers in the field.

Please describe the working conditions (e.g. hours worked, atmosphere, environment etc.).

Worked in a lab and a desk for 8-10hrs a day in a University.

What challenges/issues did you encounter during your internship? (e.g. language barrier)

Living in Perth is expensive.

How has the internship impacted your academic and/or professional goals?

It has greatly broadened my horizons. I now feel more ready and confident in my abilities to travel to a different country on my own and conduct my own independent research. I can collaborate with international researchers and form connections all over the world.

How did you meet people outside of work?

Through the mosque/religious events. Through soccer.

Housing Information

To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?	Renting a room in a house (house share). Student residences.
What type of housing did you stay in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Private housing <input type="checkbox"/> Company accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> With a host family <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
How satisfied were you with your housing choice?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Not at all satisfied 2 3 4 5 = Very satisfied
What should future students be aware of when looking for similar housing? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lease agreements, deposits, tenant rights• Utilities and furniture• Location and neighbourhoods• Safety and security• Type of resources available to look for housing (eg: Craigslist)	Make sure all verbal agreements are also done in writing and signed. Agree beforehand on what constitutes fair usage of electricity and water if your rent include bills. Agree beforehand on cleaning schedules as well frequencies as well maintainence of property. Also consider distance to your university/workplace as well as the cost of transportation.

Health and Safety

Are there any specific health/safety issues that future students should be made aware of? What precautions can you recommend to mitigate or eliminate these issues?

Beware of poisonous snakes, spiders, and sharks in the summer.

Cultural Adaptation

What cultural differences (if any) did you find particularly challenging?

Australian accent was a bit difficult to understand sometimes.

What parts of your host country's culture did you most appreciate?

Their kindness and welcoming attitude and friendliness.

Costs and Budgeting

Please describe your basic costs in Canadian dollars. This will help future internship students plan their own budgets.

Airfare to host country	\$ 1500	Brief Description	Return ticket
Visa fees	\$ 550	Brief Description	Unnecessary. Could get an electronic ticket authorization or \$20
Books/term (if applicable)	\$ 0	Brief Description	
Accommodation/month	\$ 800	Brief Description	For a single room in an apartment.
Meals/month	\$ 400	Brief Description	Eating out is very expensive in Perth. Mostly home cooking.
Health insurance/month	\$ 75	Brief Description	Look into different insurance providers. Prices vary.
Local transportation/month	\$ 150	Brief Description	Public transportation is very expensive and inconvenient.
Personal spending/month	\$ 100	Brief Description	Gym membership.
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	\$ 50	Brief Description	Vodafone AU. 10GB data, unlimited tex/call.
Other travel	\$ 0	Brief Description	
What unexpected costs did you encounter?	Public transportation was too expensive.		

Funding your International Experience

Please indicate how you financed your program. This will help future students plan their own budgets. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from UAlberta <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from Host Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Student loans <input type="checkbox"/> Family contributions	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal savings <input type="checkbox"/> Employment while in host country <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
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Final Thoughts

What were some highlights of your experience abroad?

Exploring the country. Meeting new friends and forming connections. Doing really interesting research that has the potential to eradicate hunger in Africa. Living independently and learning to become self sufficient.

Would you recommend your internship program to other students? Why or why not?

Absolutely. It is an unforgettable experience. You will learn in a span of 3 months what others learn in a span of year.

Please provide any final information/tips for students interested in working abroad that you would like to share.

Have extra money in case of emergencies. Plan for extra time in case you decide to visit neighboring countries. Step out of your comfort zone and make new friends. To do so you can join activities that are familiar to you in your home country – i.e. sports, religion, international organizations such as Toastmasters.

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience. Your opinion is important to us and will help enhance the programs and services for students working abroad.

To submit this report, please upload the report on Moodle (via the Education Abroad Online Pre-departure Course).

Protection of Privacy - The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the *Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be protected under Part 2 of that Act. It will be used for the purpose of managing the consent for disclosure of personal information process; Parts A and B will be made available on the Education Abroad Program website to help future students learn more about the internship process and the internship program you chose. The Education Abroad Program will preserve your anonymity by keeping your name separate. Please direct any questions about this collection to:

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By highlighting this box, I grant the Education Abroad Program permission to publish Parts A and B of this report and place it in the Education Abroad website (www.goabroad.ualberta.ca) to assist students conducting research on Education Abroad Programs.

Full Name: Ammar Ghalab

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): Sep 7, 2016.