The Education Abroad Program office wants to hear about your experience abroad! Tell us about your experience by filling out the Return Student Report for Exchanges/Summer Programs. 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 studying abroad.

The Return Student Report consists of two parts:

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

Part A will not be made public. Part B will be made public and available online to future students interested in learning more about the education abroad 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Institution:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Status:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Undergraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major/Minor:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year of Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Part B

**Exchange/Summer Program Information**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Institution:</th>
<th>Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City/Town:</td>
<td>Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange/Summer Program Period:</td>
<td>From: (10/17/2016) To: (02/28/2017)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did you participate on an internship during your exchange/summer program?**

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

**What immigration documents (e.g. study visa, residence permits etc.) are required to study at your host institution?**

 Canadians are required to apply for a student visa once they have already arrived in Munich, as well as all visitors in Munich staying longer than 3 months must register their address. Both of these things are done at the KVR (Kreisverwaltungsreferat). Canadian students do not need to apply for anything prior to leaving for Munich.

**What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?**

None! But the lines can be quite long, so better to do it early before you get busy.

**What tips would you give to future students regarding their student visa and other required immigration documents?**

Keep tabs on your tenant agreement from your residence - you will need it for multiple things throughout the year!

### Languages

**What was the language(s) of instruction at your host institution? Check all that apply**

- [ ] Arabic
- [ ] Cantonese
- [x] English
- [ ] French
- [ ] German
- [ ] Spanish
- [ ] Mandarin
- [ ] Japanese
- [ ] Other:

**Were there any adequate course offerings taught in English for your field of study?**

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] N/A

**Prior to your departure, did you take any language courses at your home institution? If yes, what courses (e.g. FREN 111) did you take?**

I did not.
How did taking a class in another language (that was not your first language) impact your learning experience? Did you instructor make any accommodations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did taking a class in another language (that was not your first language) impact your learning experience? Did you instructor make any accommodations?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It improved it a lot!! It makes being in the country more enjoyable if you can read signs, pick up pieces of conversation, and order things in the native language. It will also be appreciated by the locals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academia

What arrangements regarding pre-approval of credit transfer were you able to arrange with your faculty before leaving on your program?

I got my classes pre-approved before I departed, but changed my courses a lot while I was in Germany so I had to keep emailing updated versions to get them approved. IMPORTANT: I signed up for several “seminar” classes at LMU, as they are a common class to take. The University of Alberta DOES NOT RECOGNIZE SEMINARS FOR CREDIT!!! They base credit transfer on number of lecture hours - and these seminars do not have lectures, only presentations by fellow students.

Please describe the course registration process at your host institution.

- Were you able to pre-register in Canada?
- Did you receive any assistance from your host institution?
- Did your course registration change upon arrival? If so, why?)

You register online once you are in school. There will be a date specific to your faculty given to you where you go and find out how to register for courses, and have the opportunity to ask questions from an advisor.

Please describe your academic plan (e.g. number of courses per term, course name etc.).

Please describe the credit and grading system at your host institution.

6 ECTS = one 3* course at the U of A. Most classes were worth 3 ECTS in the bio faculty, and included 1.5 lecture hours/week (one day) The grading system was on a scale of 1.0 to I think 5.0, where 1.0 was a perfect grade.

How was your overall academic experience (e.g. teaching style, class structure and sizes, amount of coursework, assessment) in comparison to your home institution?

The lectures were similar, with a powerpoint projected at the front of the room. The final exams I had were all written, no multiple choice.

How did you obtain a transcript for coursework completed at your host institution?

For me personally, the transcript was sent to the U of A by the international office without me having to do anything except request that it be signed by the biology coordinator at LMU.
Student Services

Please describe the type of facilities (e.g. library, internet/Wi-Fi access, computer labs, bookstore, health clinic, counseling services) available at your host institution.

There are several libraries with wifi, not sure about computer access because I have a laptop. I did not get any textbooks. There is no health clinic associated with LMU, you have to go to a medicenter. But it is required that you get European/German healthcare in order to enroll at LMU, so it makes it easy to go to the doctor there (it will be covered).

To the best of your knowledge, what support and services are available at your host institution for:

- Students with disabilities or special needs
- Students identifying as LGBTQ
- Students of visible minorities

I do not know, I didn’t see any obvious signs of specific support for these groups.

Please describe where you could find exchange student advising or receive academic counseling at your host institution.

At the international office on the main campus.

Housing Information

To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?

On my application I checked off that I wanted housing to be found for me, and so I was placed in one of several different student dormitories. These housing complexes are located in various areas around Munich, and none that I know of are within walking distance. I was 8km from the main campus.

What type of housing did you stay in?

- [ ] On-campus residences
- [x] Off-campus housing
- [ ] With a host family
- [ ] Other:

How satisfied were you with your housing choice?

1 = Not at all satisfied
2
3
4
5 = Very satisfied

What should future students be aware of when choosing on-campus residences?

- Application process for housing
- Utilities and furniture
- Meal plans, cooking facilities
- Housing rules (e.g. curfew, how early can you move in, closure during major holidays etc.)
- Assistance from host institution staff (e.g. airport pick-up, orientation)
What should future students be aware of when choosing off-campus housing?
- Lease agreements, deposits, tenant rights
- Utilities and furniture
- Location and neighbourhoods
- Safety and security
- Type of resources available to look for housing (e.g. Craigslist)

The earlier you apply, the more likely it is you will receive housing. It can be VERY hard to find cheap accommodation in Munich, and student housing is going to be one of the cheapest options. If they can’t get you housing (try to use the coordinators from LMU Housing and Studentenwerk!!) look on the facebook groups for the various complexes (e.g. Stiftsbogen, Heiglehof, Studentenstadt) to see if anyone is subletting. I stayed in Stiftsbogen - you share a kitchen with around 6-7 other people, often dishes have been left by previous tenants but you may want to get one good pan and pot for yourself and keep them in your room so they aren’t used and left dirty by housemates. Get your own dish tow! There was a noise curfew at 10 or 11 I think, enforced by security. You can move in on the first of the month. You need to find public transportation to get there. Pay attention to when the office hours are to pick up your key - you don’t want to arrive too late on your first day and then have nowhere to sleep because the office is closed! They often have very sparse hours!

Student Life
What would you recommend to future students who are looking to meet other students at your host institution? (e.g. extra-curricular activities such as student groups, intramurals, residence events and activities, volunteering opportunities, etc.)

ENROL IN THE LANGUAGE COURSE offered by Studentenwerk!! I skipped the language option (which started September 1) but signed up for the excursion program. All of the friends I met through that, had already met each other as well as lots of other international students in the language course before I got there. If I could redo anything, it would be to do that language course! Even though it means you get there a month and a half before the actual semester starts. But then you get to go to Oktoberfest with a lot of new friends!

What work or internship opportunities are available for students on and/or off campus?

I found a part time job babysitting on Betreut.de. It is hard to find other jobs if you don’t speak German.

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?

Did your host institution require a mandatory travel/health insurance plan for exchange students? How did you arrange this?

Mandatory European or German health insurance. It was around 80 euro/month. The school makes sure you have it when you are enrolling in classes (matrikulation). The insurance provider they recommend is TK (Techniker Krankenkasse). You can sign up for this on campus during your matrikulation date, and at this point you will already need a European or German bank account.

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

Many offices have very sporadic hours and are closed a lot of the time.

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

The Bavarian culture is awesome - beer halls are so cheerful, made for socializing and having a good time over a maß and some schnitzel. Oktoberfest might be one of the most fun places I have ever been to.
Costs and Budgeting
Please describe your basic costs in Canadian dollars. This will help future exchange/summer program students plan their own budgets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost (CAN$)</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare to host country</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
<td>One way in September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa fees</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/term</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>Brief Description I didn’t need to buy any books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation/month</td>
<td>$480.00</td>
<td>This was the rent - there is also a $600 damage deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals/month</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>Penny, Aldi, and Lidl are cheap grocery stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance/month</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>Mandatory by LMU, from TK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local transportation/month</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>Brief Description With the LMU student ID, you can use public transportation from 6pm-6am and on weekends. To fill the remaining house (aka school hours..) you have to buy a top-up pass for $134. A non-student pays about $100/month for the public transit pass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal spending/month</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>Brief Description Clothes, shoes, cover at clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications/month (e.g. phone)</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
<td>Brief Description At Aldi, you can get a sim card for 12 euro and then pay 15 euro per month for data cards - you input their code online to top up your data. 15 euro gets you 5GB of data. And in Germany, everyone texts/calls using Messenger or Whatsapp so data is really all you need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other travel</td>
<td>$600/mo</td>
<td>Brief Description I went travelling a lot!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What unexpected costs did you encounter?</td>
<td></td>
<td>I lost my res key - that’s a 150 euro charge. Didn’t know I would be required to get German health insurance on top of my travel insurance. Didn’t know that the enrollment fee would be about 220 euro.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding your International Experience

Please indicate how you financed your program. This will help future students plan their own budgets. Check all that apply.

- Scholarships from UAlberta
- Scholarships from Host Institution
- Student loans
- Family contributions
- Personal savings
- Employment while in host country
- Other:

Final Thoughts
What were some highlights of your experience abroad?

Going to Oktoberfest with new friends, hiking in the Bavarian alps, going to nearby lakes, meeting people anywhere I travelled to, travelling alone (to Switzerland!), having group dinners in res, and in general gaining confidence to do things outside my comfort zone and ending up with a group of amazing friends from all over the place.

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

I would absolutely recommend it. At times it may seem like you’re hitting roadblock after roadblock and it can be really confusing to organize such a major thing between two different universities (you start to forget who you’re emailing..) but at the end of the day, you likely won’t even remember the annoying bits. LMU is a great school, but simply moving away to a different country and getting the chance to immerse yourself in it for half a year or a year is just the most incredible experience!

Please provide any final information/tips for students interested in studying abroad that you would like to share.
Just go for it! You might be scared at the beginning, talking to strangers and figuring things out on your own. But there is always discomfort involved with growth. And if you screw up, these people may not ever see you again anyway! So get out there and strike up a conversation with someone that looks like your age, invite them out for a beer, join a sports team (I did!), and plan trips with people or join a pre-planned trip with your school! Again - do the offered language course! German is fun to try and you’ll instantly have people to talk to!