

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.

Name:			
Student Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> International	Home Institution:	University of Alberta- Augustana
Faculty:	Bachelor of Arts	Degree Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate
Major/Minor:	Physical Education		
Current Year of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> 4th <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		

Part B

Exchange/Summer Program Information

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

Host Institution:	Queens University		
City/Town:	Belfast	Country:	Northern Ireland
Exchange/Summer Program Period:	From: 09-16-2013 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: 01-01-2014 (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Did you participate on an internship during your exchange/summer program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
What immigration documents (e.g. study visa, residence permits etc.) are required to study at your host institution?	Study Visa, Passport		
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	None, the process was quite easy but it took awhile to receive the Visa.		
What tips would you give to future students regarding their student visa and other required immigration documents?	Start early and make sure you know what type of Visa you need- they are very expensive if you apply for the wrong one.		

Languages

What was the language(s) of instruction at your host institution? <i>Check all that apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese <input checked="" 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:
Were there any adequate course offerings taught in English for your field of study?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 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?	
How did taking a class in another language (that was not your first language) impact your learning experience? Did you instructor make any accommodations?	

Academia

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

No arrangements were made because credit transfer cannot be guaranteed. I am still unsure of what will transfer back to my University. I think that this is the only flaw in the GoAbroad program. I would be much more likely to study abroad again if I was guaranteed course transfer.

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?

I was able to pre-register in Canada and received assistance from my host institution in officially enrolling in my classes. Course registration was a simple process and did not change when I arrived on campus.

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

I took Microbiology, Chemistry, and Spanish. These 3 courses are a full term load in the UK.

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

One course = 10 ECTS. 30 ECTS make up a full term. 60 ECTS are gained for a years study.

ECTS Grade and QUB equivalent:

A= First Class

B= 65-69

C= 60-64

D= 55-59

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

It was similar in that the professors are helpful and friendly. However, more time spent outside of class working on the module is expected. Also, midterms are less commong. The class sizes were larger- but I come from a fairly small University.

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

I have not obtained one yet- It can only be sent once the term is finished in Belfast (I came home early for Winter Term at my home University). This is around the end of January.

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.

Extremely good facilities. 2 Libraries, WiFi access everywhere, lots of computers in the library, small bookstore but helpful in getting the books you need. I never used counseling services or a health clinic so I cannot advise on those facilities.

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

To the best of my knowledge, the support and service that I know if best is for international students (visible minorities). There is a lot of support offered for people who may be of a visible minority. An entire building at QUB is dedicated to International Student Support, offering events and help.

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

At the International Student Support Office or the Student Guidance Centre. Both of these places were easily accessible and very useful.

Housing Information

To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?	Many different options- depends on your preference. I stayed in QUB housing and lived in a house of 14 international students and it was my favourite part of the entire exchange. However, it is possible to live in accommodation that is not associated with the University.
What type of housing did you stay in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus residences <input type="checkbox"/> Off-campus housing <input type="checkbox"/> With a host family <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
How satisfied were you with your housing choice?	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Not at all satisfied</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 2</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 3</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 4</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 = Very satisfied</div> </div>
What should future students be aware of when choosing on-campus residences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Application process for housing</i> • <i>Utilities and furniture</i> • <i>Meal plans, cooking facilities</i> • <i>Housing rules (e.g. curfew, how early can you move in, closure during major holidays etc.)</i> • <i>Assistance from host institution staff (e.g. airport pick-up, orientation)</i> 	Apply early so that you are more likely to get the housing you want. Buy an adapter for your electronics before you get there. Find out what utilities are provided so that you are not disappointed, etc. when you arrive, My accommodation didn't have a curfew and no closure times, but there was housing at QUB that did- so, again, it is important to make sure you understand the terms of your accommodation before you arrive.
What should future students be aware of when choosing off-campus housing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lease agreements, deposits, tenant rights</i> • <i>Utilities and furniture</i> • <i>Location and neighbourhoods</i> • <i>Safety and security</i> • <i>Type of resources available to look for housing (eg: Craigslist)</i> 	Be cautious, as it would be extremely difficult to enjoy your experience abroad if you were living in off-campus housing that caused you stress or wasn't what you expected. Especially if you are new to travelling or living on your own.

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.)

Join as many groups or extra-curriculars as you can! I met some of my closest friends through a Surf Club at QUB- and I went surfing in Ireland as a bonus!

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

You need a Work Visa to be able to work or volunteer in Northern Ireland. If this is something you want to pursue, make sure it is legal for you to do so.

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?

I would advise that students should bring prescriptions with them if they are able so that they don't have to go through the process of visiting a health centre, etc.

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

Yes, but it was available through UofA (Undergraduate I Have A Plan)

Cultural Adaptation

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

The accent was definitely quite difficult to understand at first- especially if the person was from Cork or Dublin. However, the Irish are extremely friendly and like a bit of banter with international people.

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

The emphasis on Christianity. There are a lot of Churches in Belfast- making it easy to find a place to go if you are religious or curious about religion. I found an amazing church and went for my entire 4 months in Belfast. That church was a huge bonus to my experience.

Costs and Budgeting

Please describe your basic costs in Canadian dollars. This will help future exchange/summer program students plan their own budgets.

Airfare to host country	\$ 2000	Brief Description	Slightly more expensive because I had to change my return date.
Visa fees	\$ 500	Brief Description	This would be more expensive if you want a work visa. I had a Student Visa.
Books/term	\$ 150	Brief Description	Minimal.
Accommodation/month	\$ 750	Brief Description	
Meals/month	\$ 250	Brief Description	Greatly varies based on preference.
Health insurance/month	\$ 20	Brief Description	
Local transportation/month	\$ 0	Brief Description	I walked virtually everywhere.
Personal spending/month	\$ 300	Brief Description	Going out, Shopping, Sightseeing.
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	\$ 30	Brief Description	Cell phones are much less expensive there.
Other travel	\$	Brief Description	
What unexpected costs did you encounter?	I had to buy a few new pairs of shoes.. I completely didn't expect to be walking as much as I did. Invest in a great pair (or three) of shoes and you will be much more likely to explore the city, walk to		

Funding your International Experience

Please indicate how you financed your program. This will help future students plan their own budgets. <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from UAlberta <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from Host Institution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student loans <input type="checkbox"/> Family contributions	<input checked="" 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?

The accomodation I lived in. I met my boyfriend and 2 of my now best friends because we all lived in the same house. It was amazing to meet people from all around the world in the same experience as you. It helped a lot with the hard things as well!

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

Yes! Absolutely 100%. Ireland is an absolutely beautiful country, the culture is diverse and addicting, the people are friendly and hilarious, and the city is vibrant and vast. I loved Belfast so much and QUB had a great academic oppurtunities.

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