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>Student Status: ☑ Domestic □ International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Institution: University of Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty: Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Status: ☑ Undergraduate □ Graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major/Minor: Elementary Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year of Study: ☑ 1st □ 2nd □ 3rd ☑ 4th □ Other □ 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>University of Otago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City/Town:</td>
<td>Dunedin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange/Summer Program Period:</td>
<td>From: 06/01/2012 (mm/dd/yyyy) To: 10/20/2012 (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

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

- Student Visa
- Updated Passport
- Transcripts
- Bank Account Papers
- Travel Insurance

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

- None

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

- You never know how long it can take to receive a reply for your visa so I suggest you apply for one as soon as possible

**Languages**

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

- [x] English
- [ ] Arabic
- [ ] Cantonese
- [ ] 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?

- No

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?

- [x] N/A

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

- [x] N/A
**Academia**

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

I actually didn't find out if two of my courses would be credit transfer until the 3rd or 4th day of class. One of the courses was equivalent to a core course at the UofA, so I was told prior to the exchange that I would be credited for, the second one I had to send my syllabus to my advisor, who then had to get it approved by the dean. My final course (only took 3, even though you have to pay for 5) was an education option course and I didn't find out until once I got back to Canada if it was credited or not.

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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 see the available courses and times but was not able to register until the 3rd of July. They have a weird process where you wait in line for the course that you want and have to get a signature from the person in charge of that course then proceed towards your next course. You find out online (similar to beartracks) if you have been enrolled in the course or not.

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

I took three courses, even though you are required to pay for five. I took PHSE 206 Sociology of Sport, which is equivalent to PERLS 306 at the UofA. Another course I took was PHSE 306 Developmental Motor Disorders, equivalent to PEDS 471 here and the final course I took was EDUC 101 Education and Society, which was transferred as an ED option. I was enrolled in a fourth course but dropped it because I didn't think it would get transferred and didn't want to waste my time on something that wouldn't count.

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

There was no curve at this school. Whatever your mark was, is the grade you get. An A was 80-100%, B was 65-79%, C was 50-64. None of the courses I took had midterms; they all had one or two assignments and a final exam which was worth >40%.

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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 academic experience was pretty similar to the UofA. There were big lecture theaters with hundreds of students, and smaller classrooms with fewer students. Each course had a teacher's assistant who graded the assignments. There was a lot of reading required for all the courses, but considering there weren't any midterms to study for, I found that reading the readings were helpful and not time consuming. The only difference is really the accent and terminology of the professor, but you get used to it after a while.

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

I had to go to the registration building and request that a copy be sent to the university. They also sent me an unofficial copy.
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 were several libraries, each had its own focuses (education, science, etc). There was wifi in all the libraries and lounges, but not all lecture theaters had wifi. There were plenty of computers available in all the libraries. I only needed one textbook and a coursepack, but ended up borrowing the textbook from the library. The coursepack had a separate section within one of the libraries that only produced and sold coursepacks.

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

The people and school were welcoming of the visible minorities and international students. There was an academic building for international students only where students can talk to advisors, and deal with any issues they may come across.

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

In the International Building. Open to all international students.

Housing Information

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

| [ ] On-campus residences |
| [ ] 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)

There is only one residence, but the location of the house given can range from just down the street from the school, to about a 25 minute walk. There is no heating inside the houses which makes very cold during their winter. There is no curfew, you come and go as you please, but just keep in mind that you have roommate so be respectful. There are no meal plans, so you buy your own food and have a kitchen to cook it in. The kitchen comes with a table, fridge/freezer, stove/oven, microwave and sink. You were able to move in whenever but sign a fixed lease from July - December (even though the semester finishes in October), thus you still had to pay rent whether you were there or not. Travel arrangements from the airport to the school were made by the residence services. You had to send them an email in order for this to be organized, and pay a small fee to the driver. The bedrooms all had a double sized bed, dressers, nightstand and desk with chair. The bathroom had a shower, toilet and sink. We had to share one bathroom among five people.

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)

N/A
### 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.)

- There was a mentor program you can sign up for that has the university matches you with a local student who can help you around during your first few days and introduce you to people. This service also hosted several events to meet other exchange students. As part of your student fees, you had access to the recreation facility which allows you to workout at the gym, play basketball/volleyball, take aerobic classes (extra cost).

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

| N/A |

### 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?

- Bring appropriate clothing for the time of year you are going. Keep in mind our summer is their winter and it can get quite cold considering there is no heating inside the flats.

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

- Yes there was a mandatory insurance required, which costs 282$ for the semester. This was arranged with the financial aid administrator at the International Office. We were in contact through email. This payment was made in full within the first few days of arrival, whereas the housing fees could be paid per month.

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

- There wasn't much of a cultural shock since they speak the same language, it was more the cold weather I was shocked with. I went from summer one day to winter the next which I was not ready for. Also, the people's accents took some getting used to.

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

- In NZ, Maori is their other language and they have a large Maori population which was nice to see. Also, I really enjoyed how much green there was everywhere. I noticed this the most during the midsemester break driving through the south island country side. Lots of farm animals everywhere (even crossing the street) and so much open land and water.
**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>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare to host country</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>MTL--&gt;Vancouver --&gt; Auckland --&gt;Dunedin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa fees</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/term</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>only had a course pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation/month</td>
<td>$3436</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>30 June - 15 Dec 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals/month</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>meat was expensive, ate lots of fruit, pasta and veggies!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance/month</td>
<td>$47</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>282 total for 6 months through the host university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local transportation/month</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>most places i went to were walking distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal spending/month</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>clothes, toiletries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications/month (e.g. phone)</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>Vodafone cellular service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other travel</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
<td>Adventure Tours in Australia, mid semester break around the sound island of NZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What unexpected costs did you encounter? power

**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?

Having the opportunity to meet new people from all over the world. Also having the chance to explore the area on the weekends, visit some filming locations from Lord of the Rings, see nice scenery and explore the different areas of the south island (can go from sun and water in one area to snow and ski hills a few hours away)

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

Yes. It's not often that you will have a chance to meet lots of new people and experience education in another country. Sometimes you learn new things that can help further your education, things that you wouldn't have learned back at home. It also helps you become very independent. Going to a foreign place, by yourself and at first not having anyone to lean back on as all your family is on the other side of the world.

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

Take less courses and explore as much as you can. Be very socialable and don't be afraid to try new things (bungee jumping, sky diving, etc)