

Part B

Exchange/Summer Program Information

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

Host Institution:	LMU Munich		
City/Town:	Munich	Country:	Deutschland
Exchange/Summer Program Period:	From: 09/05/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: 07/31/2017 (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?	Residence permit, Student visa		
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	None it went incredibly smoothly		
What tips would you give to future students regarding their student visa and other required immigration documents?	Don't worry about it. They give Canadian citizens 3 months after their arrival to obtain their Visa and the process is very straight forward. Make sure you have all your documents.		

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 checked="" 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?	No, and I should have since I took courses in German.
How did taking a class in another language (that was not your first language) impact your learning experience? Did you instructor make any accommodations?	It made things very difficult academically during the first semester, but it forced me to learn a lot of German in a very short amount of time. Thankfully, most of the professors accommodated for my lack of language experience by allowing me to write the final exam in English.

Academia

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

None, but they assured me that they would do their best to accommodate for me. This was due to the fact that I switched all my classes from the previous ones I initially intended to take.

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?

Very simplistic: attend and write the final exam. It seemed very odd but I came to really appreciate it. Since the grade is based on the final exam, if you felt like you didn't understand the material well enough, you weren't forced to write an exam. It allowed a lot of freedom to explore various subjects of your interest.

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

I took 36 ECTS first semester:

Optik (in german) 9 ECTS

Partial Differential Equations (English) 9 ECTS

Thermodynamik und statistische Physik (german) 9 ECTS

Philosophy of Space and time (advanced seminar) 9 ECTS

Second semester I took 27 ECTS: Information Theory/ Information Field theory (9 ECTS, English), Funktionentheorie (9ECTS, german), Elektrodynamik (9 ECTS).

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

Based on "hours worked", the ECTS credit system is based on the expected time a student needs to devote to learning the material and attending classes. I'm pretty sure it works out to 25-30 hours/ 1 credit point. All grades were based on a final exam.

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

I would say that my answer to this question is personally biased. Had I known more German I probably would've gotten a lot more out of it. I really enjoyed the challenge. Overall the coursework and material is much more demanding and involved than anything I had seen before. I honestly felt ill-equipped for most my academic work. Due to the work I put in and the time spent teaching myself a lot of the material, I feel so much more proficient and capable back at my home institution.

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

In-hand before I departed.

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.

Wifi was available around the whole campus area with eduroam. There were numerous libraries I had access to scattered throughout the university area. As far as many of the other facilities, I can't offer an accurate description, as I did not use them, but they were certainly available.

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

There were not any overtly obvious support services that I remarked, I'm sure they existed nonetheless. The campus environment was very open and supportive for all groups.

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

At the Physics faculty for any academic related matters on Schellingstrasse. For everything else, most importantly for transcript and credit transfer matters, there was an international office on Ludwigstr. (next to/attached to the main LMU building).

Housing Information

To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?	There were numerous student residences around Munich that involved a mixture of exchange and regularly enrolled students. The most notable and populous being Studentenstadt (closer to Garching and TUM) and Olydorf, which I stayed in.
What type of housing did you stay in?	<input type="checkbox"/> On-campus residences <input checked="" 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> 	I actually did not have a choice on the accommodation I received from the program. They were able to find me a place in Olydorf and that's what I got. I was very lucky and fortunate to end up in such an amazing residence. Student residence can obviously be opted out on and I could have searched for a place on my own had I wished to do so. a
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> 	The best advice I could give would be trying to get in at a student residence since the housing market in Munich is very expensive and competitive. Either than that, everything is very accessible due to the extensive train system and since majority of the student residences are run by Studentenwerk the whole procedure is relatively standardized across student residences.

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.)

Fortunately, the residence I lived in hosted a plethora of activities that I could get involved in without having to seek them out. There were lots of student run organisations that were all easily accessible, information wise, to all students. As far as meeting other students, especially being an exchange student, the opportunities were ample and easy to come by.

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

This is something I did not look into much but I could have worked with the visa I received (and I'm sure everyone receives). There were job postings around, just a matter of seeking out such opportunities.

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've never felt as safe in city as I did in Munich. There's really very little to worry about there.

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

Mandatory health insurance was required.

Cultural Adaptation

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

Very little, I only found it very stimulating to be around such a diverse network of individuals from all over the world.

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

It sounds very stereotypical, but the efficiency was incredible. It made things very easy and streamlined, even things that I would take for granted. The people were straightforward and respectful. I really enjoyed most aspects of German culture.

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	\$ 700	Brief Description	One way flight
Visa fees	\$ 0	Brief Description	My grant paid for it
Books/term	\$ 0	Brief Description	Textbooks were not mandatory
Accommodation/month	\$ 340	Brief Description	Olydorf
Meals/month	\$ 400	Brief Description	I love to eat
Health insurance/month	\$ 90	Brief Description	Technischer Krankenkasse rate
Local transportation/month	\$ 30	Brief Description	This is the cost split over 6 months, though it's a one time payment
Personal spending/month	\$ 100	Brief Description	
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	\$ 40	Brief Description	
Other travel	\$ 200	Brief Description	
What unexpected costs did you encounter?			

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from Host Institution <input 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?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to so many other countries and the chance to explore the world - The amount of meaningful relationships I have made with people from all over. It gave me a strong sense of what the basics of human connection truly are. I think this was the most impactful experience for me. - It gave me an incredible scope on the sheer amount of opportunities I can create for my life. There are many lives to lead and all the time in world to lead them.
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Would you recommend your education abroad program to other students? Why or why not?

Take the opportunity while you can. It doesn't cost as much as one assumes and will give form to and develop many of the perspectives one has on the global community.
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Please provide any final information/tips for students interested in studying abroad that you would like to share.

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Thank You for Completing the Report

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 email the form to goabroad@ualberta.ca.

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. Part B will be made available on the Education Abroad Program website to help future students learn more about the study abroad process and the program you chose. The Education Abroad Program will preserve your anonymity by keeping your name, student ID and any personal details separate.

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X By checking this box, I grant the Education Abroad Program permission to publish Part 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.

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Date (mm/dd/yy): 10/03/17