

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 type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International	Home Institution:	University of Alberta
Faculty:	Science	Degree Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate
Major/Minor:	Chemistry		
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:	Université Catholique de Lille		
City/Town:	Lille	Country:	France
Exchange/Summer Program Period:	From: 05/30/2013 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: 06/27/2013 (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?	Short stay Schengen Visa		
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	N/A		
What tips would you give to future students regarding their student visa and other required immigration documents?	You can get the visa on the same day that the documents are handed in, and all the documents required are on the Consulate General of France in Vancouver website.		

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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.
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 was really tough at the beginning because I had never learned any French before I went there, and the French teacher cannot really speak English, so she taught the level 1 class using 90% of French.

Academia

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

They said the credits that I could obtain would be decided after I came back.

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?

By submitting the form provided by the host university, I was able to choose my elective class and some students managed to change it after the class started. I did not encounter any problem in registering the courses because as long as you submitted the "Host Application Package", everything would be ranged by the host university and the program advisor would notice any problem after she reviewed your forms.

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

I participated in the summer program, so basically I took two courses, French in the morning and another elective course "World Class Museum", in my case, in the afternoon. A few field trips were included and also counted for credits.

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

ECTS credit system is used in France, and 6 ECTS credits are equivalent to 3 credits at the U of A, I believe.

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 really fun and I liked the elective course, most of which classes were taught in different museums so that you do not just sit in the classroom and take notes. There is moderate amount of homework and easy exams.

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

I got the faculty email one month after I came back to Canada.

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.

Wi-Fi, Library with an access card and dining hall.

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, but I believe they do have.

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

There is an "European Academic Program" office where interns, teachers and advisors are available to help us.

Housing Information

<p>To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?</p>	<p>There are different dorm buildings and mine has wi-fi but no elevator, while other building may need cable but have elevator.</p>
<p>What type of housing did you stay in?</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus residences <input type="checkbox"/> Off-campus housing <input type="checkbox"/> With a host family <input type="checkbox"/> Other: </p>
<p>How satisfied were you with your housing choice?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Not at all 2 3 4 5 = Very satisfied </p>
<p>What should future students be aware of when choosing on-campus residences?</p> <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> 	<p>Utilities such as wi-fi, and what would be provided in the dorm, because it was freezing cold in my dorm and no heating was provided because it was June in the northern city of France.</p>
<p>What should future students be aware of when choosing off-campus housing?</p> <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> 	<p>Safety and location, and unilities, of course.</p>

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.)

It was pretty easy to make friends because students from all over the world live in the same dorm. Also, we have field trips (it was awesome)!

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?

It was cold in late May and early June in northern France so bring sweaters just in case! Thieves are the most important to be aware of and do not stay around the train station late at night, it is dangerous!

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

Yes, I bought it along with my flight tickets.

Cultural Adaptation

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

French people do not speak English and you would be the main target of thieves if you are speaking English with big luggage. As well, sometimes even sign language does not work. You may probably have to wait 2 hours for your main course, and restaurants usually open at 7 pm.

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

Dessert!

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	\$ 1500	Brief Description	return flights
Visa fees	\$ 100	Brief Description	Flights to Vancouver not included
Books/term	\$ 0	Brief Description	
Accommodation/month	\$ 0	Brief Description	
Meals/month	\$ 0	Brief Description	
Health insurance/month	\$ 100	Brief Description	
Local transportation/month	\$ 0	Brief Description	
Personal spending/month	\$ 500	Brief Description	
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	\$ 0	Brief Description	
Other travel	\$ 2000	Brief Description	
What unexpected costs did you encounter?	Missed flight and extra charge for luggage		

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?

I visited 5 countries and over 20 cities in 2 months, and it was fun.

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

N/A

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

Plan ahead before you go and if you plan to travel to many places in Europe, get an europass which you have to buy outside Europe.