



Exchange Experience Reports

University of Queensland, Australia

Host University Evaluation

Reports

Name: Andrew Y. **Term Abroad:** F'18 **Faculty:** Kinesiology 1

Name: Tara S. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Education 3

Name: Andrew Y. **Term Abroad:** F'18 **Faculty:** Kinesiology
Academic life

How easy was it to figure out your course selection at your host university?

- Super simple!
- Relatively straightforward
- Pretty difficult to navigate
- It was complicated and frustrating

What did the process look like? Was it easy to register in your preferred classes?

The emails I received from the host university made it very simple as it contained concise instructions.

Were your courses as academically rigorous as your McGill courses?

- Yes, they were as rigorous as my McGill courses
- They were similarly rigorous to my McGill courses
- No, they weren't as rigorous as my McGill courses

We'd love to know more about the academic level of your courses compared to McGill. Please explain your answer to the previous question using examples, ex: assessments, readings, labs.

Although few courses were very well constructed that allowed me to learn incredible new information in my field, there were a few that taught subjects that were not necessary. In result, the exams were more "trivial" and did not focus on the main subjects of the course.

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How did the teaching quality at your host university compare to what you're used to at McGill?

- It was better!
- Pretty similar
- It was much worse

Tell us about it! How did it differ from the teaching quality at McGill? What can other students expect from their profs and course work?

The professors and the teaching ways were surprisingly very similar to McGill's. Hence, future students should not be scared of the change.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

Exams and assignments, similar to McGill.

How would you describe the evaluation and grading methods at your host university? Please select as many adjectives as applies!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unfair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transparent | <input type="checkbox"/> Complicated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to understand |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Similar methods to McGill | <input type="checkbox"/> Different methods from McGill |

Student Life

Were you satisfied by the welcome and orientation services provided to you by your host university?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Pretty satisfied |
| <input type="radio"/> I was able to figure things out, but it took some time | <input type="radio"/> Pretty confusing |
| <input type="radio"/> Very confusing, I was lost | |

What is the best resource that helped you find your way at your host university?

The professor I have contacted prior to my arrival for research taught and showed me the campus very well. In addition, the university hosted a lot of tours which allowed me to locate my classes easily.

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What was the campus environment like at your host university? Please describe your experience on campus with regards to safety, social opportunities, accessibility, etc.

Firstly, the campus environment was absolutely beautiful. It was like a nature park. However, I found that people were more independent and "clicky", whereas McGill felt more social and welcoming.

Where did you live? Was it easy to find housing? Did you receive any support from your host university?

I lived at an international student residence. This was very easy to find.

What advice would you share with students travelling to your host university? Briefly give up to 3 tips!

Definitely take the most out of the free sources you're getting! there are so many advantages as a student it is incredible how people don't capitalize them. For example, there are opportunities for you to come up with a good idea and get funds and other resources from the university. There are variety of clubs that will meet your hobby/interest, where you can make great friends.

What advice would you share with students who will live in your host city? Briefly give up to 3 tips!

I advise that if you would like to get the full experience, do not live at an international student residence, but rather find houses/apartments that are looking for roommates. There are numerous Facebook pages that advertise these, and my good friend was able to live with other Australians which helped him learn about the culture even better.

Name: Tara S. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Education
Academic life

How easy was it to figure out your course selection at your host university?

- Super simple!
- Relatively straightforward
- Pretty difficult to navigate
- It was complicated and frustrating

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What did the process look like? Was it easy to register in your preferred classes?

It was a bit backwards in the sense that you submit your course selection before knowing the schedule, and if they conflicted or not.

Were your courses as academically rigorous as your McGill courses?

- Yes, they were as rigorous as my McGill courses
- They were similarly rigorous to my McGill courses
- No, they weren't as rigorous as my McGill courses

We'd love to know more about the academic level of your courses compared to McGill. Please explain your answer to the previous question using examples, ex: assessments, readings, labs.

I took courses unrelated to my field, however they were all very stimulating, interactive and filled with readings that as McGill, you can get by without doing depending on the course.

How did the teaching quality at your host university compare to what you're used to at McGill?

- It was better!
- Pretty similar
- It was much worse

Tell us about it! How did it differ from the teaching quality at McGill? What can other students expect from their profs and course work?

The teachers were very engaging and made an effort to encourage dialogue in the classroom.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

Exams, essays, quizzes

How would you describe the evaluation and grading methods at your host university? Please select as many adjectives as applies!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transparent | <input type="checkbox"/> Complicated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to understand |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Similar methods to McGill | <input type="checkbox"/> Different methods from McGill |

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Is there anything else you'd like to share about the academic experience at your host university?

The exams are shorter, and more concise compared to McGill!

Student Life

Were you satisfied by the welcome and orientation services provided to you by your host university?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear	<input type="checkbox"/> Pretty satisfied
<input type="checkbox"/> I was able to figure things out, but it took some time	<input type="checkbox"/> Pretty confusing
<input type="checkbox"/> Very confusing, I was lost	

What is the best resource that helped you find your way at your host university?

The international office had plenty of resources, and everything was so clear. It was far better than McGill in my opinion (in terms of online resources, access to the information and orientation).

What was the campus environment like at your host university? Please describe your experience on campus with regards to safety, social opportunities, accessibility, etc.

The campus was inclusive, had everything we needed on site, and very spacious. It only lacked quiet study areas – every single study area, people were talking. I often went to the state library – which was although a little further, so beautiful.

Where did you live? Was it easy to find housing? Did you receive any support from your host university?

Yes, I went on flatmates.au and tested my luck! Had an overall great experience and was right off campus. 71 upland road, Saint- Lucia!

What advice would you share with students travelling to your host university? Briefly give up to 3 tips!

Bring sweaters for fall, it does get cold!! Travel and visit as often as you can and join QUEST! Visit Byron bay, gold coast, Noosa, sunshine coast. It's all worth the time. – and super accessible via bus/train.

Their sushi rolls and GYG is amazing. Please do yourself a favor and try it :)

What advice would you share with students who will live in your host city? Briefly give up to 3 tips!

Brisbane has so much to offer! The cultural diversity is incredible, so really look into city events and attend as many as you can!