



Exchange Experience Reports

BI Norwegian Business School, Norway

Host University Evaluation

Reports

Name: Valerie R. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty :** Management 1

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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?

BI was very helpful during the registration process. They sent us a list with all the courses offered and asked us to choose the 4 courses we would like to follow. I did not have any problems and got the 4 courses I wanted. They answered every question I had concerning prerequisites. The hardest part was waking up in the middle of the night to complete my registration at the given time.

Were your courses as academically rigorous as your McGill courses?

They were similarly rigorous to my 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



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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.

Readings and content were very similar. However, teaching style and evaluation techniques were very different and more student focused. Discussions and activities were often the learning focus of the lessons, and we were not evaluated on learning content by heart but more about how we understood/could relate to it (no multiple choice, a lot of essays and cases).

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	It was better!
<input type="radio"/>	Pretty similar
<input type="radio"/>	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?

Professors were a lot more involved in our learning process as they were discussing with us during lessons and outside of lessons. Most professors were very knowledgeable and had a lot of experience, which they loved talking about.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

Essays, cases, seminars, presentations and exams (no multiple choice, and sometimes 100% final exam).

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 type="checkbox"/> Similar methods to McGill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Different methods from McGill

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

The way the academic calendar was set was great, as it favored understanding the material and learning rather than "cramming". The exam period ran for more than a month, allowing us to study fairly and completely grasp the course material. Furthermore, classes ran 3hrs



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long and the breakdown was the following: 15 minutes of break every hour, therefore maximizing our focus time. It was somewhat weird for me at first, but I learned to really enjoy it as I realized that I was a lot more focused in class.

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 international office was really helpful

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 school was in one massive building (one faculty school). Everything could be found in the school with many other options around. The school was very accessible and had a lot of different study/social spaces, which I enjoyed a lot.

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

I lived in student housing very close to the university. BI offers guaranteed housing for international students, which was great. We had a choice of 3 different "companies" to choose student housing from.

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

Most English classes are filled with Exchange students with very few BBA Norwegian student. Don't be scared to reach out to the Norwegian students in your classes! They can seem shy at first, but once they have warmed up to you, they are very nice and helpful!

Take advantage of all the opportunities within BI! There are so many clubs who are welcoming to exchange students. The student society, clubs and international office all organize fun activities. Meeting Norwegians will help you learn more about the culture.



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

Don't only stay in Oslo! Norway has a lot to offer, and other European countries are so close. It is very affordable to travel, and student deals are often available.

Most people speak English, therefore don't be scared to ask questions!