

# Vic OE Evaluation Form

PLEASE TYPE THIS EVALUATION FORM & EMAIL IT TO VIC OE AS A WORD DOCUMENT

## A: Student Information

VUW degree(s)	BDI
Major(s)	Industrial Design
Exchange Institution	Technical University of Eindhoven
VUW Tri & Year of Exchange	Trimester 1, 2014

## B: Finances

Please detail your basic costs in New Zealand dollars. This will help future students plan their own budgets. (Enter your number rounded to the nearest dollar.)

Books	-
Accommodation	150pw
Return Airfare	2,400
Local Transportation	One off bike cost \$100
Meals	70pw
Visa	Apply for a WHS (Working Holiday Scheme) Permit, it's only available for NZ and Australian Citizens and costs 41 Euros/ 65ish NZD. Definitely the cheapest option!
Health & Insurance	350
Personal Spending	Depends on Assignments and additional travel. I spent a lot on travel, but this might be different for each person.
Communications (phone, etc.)	As my flat had wifi along with the university, trains and city centre, I went the whole 6 months only doing a couple of 15 euro top ups for important calls.
Other fees (specify)	
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were more or less than expected?	Everything is pretty relevant cost wise to New Zealand.

How did your financial expenses compare to what you originally expected to spend?

It's definitely important to have back up money, but after paying for flights and accommodation with my savings I was still receiving student living costs from Study Link. This was more than enough to get through week to week costs. More savings needed for additional travel.

By what means did you maintain your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, foreign bank account, travelers checks, etc)?

I used a Mastercard Cash Passport. It was extremely handy! You can pre load it in NZ with Euros, along with other currencies. They charge a small cost for exchanging money, but nothing for overseas ATM usage. Which is a plus because most places like cash. However if you want to buy stuff like festival tickets online

you will need a Dutch account. Luckily a friend had one and we would all use her account and then pay her back :)

What financial advice would you give students attending the same university as you? Have backup money just in case you encounter unexpected problems.

What was the average cost of a can of coke or coffee in your host country? It definitely depends on where you are. Out at shops 1.50 Euros, \$2.20 NZD?

**C: Visas & Insurance** *\*Please note this information is recommended by VUW students & current at the time of their exchange. For all up-to-date visa information you must check with the embassy/consulate of your host university.*

Did you have to apply for a visa? If so, was it difficult? What was the process, how long did it take and how much did it cost?

I applied for a WHS permit which costs 41 Euros. However, I was a bit naughty and applied over there and late. I never ended up getting charged, and am still unsure if I was classed as a resident, this caused a few panic attacks travelling between countries. Not recommended haha.

Do you have any advice for future students when applying for visas to your host country?

Get onto it pretty quick once over there. TU/E is good at setting you up with a town hall meeting and giving advice on arrival. If you can sort it out before you leave, that's definitely a plus.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance? Or a particular insurance they recommended? If Yes, what was it and how much did it cost?

Yes, TU/E wanted a full insurance. It ended up costing approximately \$350 NZD

What insurance company did you use and would you recommend it to future students?

I went with Southern Cross.

## D: Academics at Host University

Which courses did you take while on exchange? Please rate the difficulty of each course (1-5, 1 = Very Easy & 5 = Extremely Difficult) and leave any comments you may have.

Course Title	Language of Instruction	VUW course equivalent or elective	VUW points/credits value	Rating (1-5)	Comments
<b>VUW Trimester 1/YEAR</b>					
DG632 – Material Matters	English			2	Great Lecturer and a different take on materials to VUW. Fieldtrips!
DG504 – Product	English			3	Introduction to business in design. Quite boring.

Platforms					
DG291 – Creative Electronics	English			5	Very hard if you're not accustomed to electronics and physics equations and formulas.
Playful Interactions - Kika Play	English			3	Product design for a client (Prinses Maximus Centre)
<b>VUW Trimester 2/YEAR</b>					

**Course Registration/Enrolment**

Please describe the registration process at your host university. What kind of help was available?

How successful were you in registering/enrolling for classes you wanted? What advice would you offer to next year's exchange students about registration at your host university?

Do you have any advice for future students when choosing and applying for courses?

**Academic Experience**

How did your academic experience differ from your time spend at Victoria? Did the academic experience meet your expectations?

How did the style of teaching at your host university compare with that at VUW? How did the workload compare to what you would expect at VUW?

What would you recommend as an appropriate course load for other VUW students visiting your partner university? What specific courses would you recommend to visiting VUW students? Why?

What advice would you give VUW students about succeeding academically at your host university?

Stay on top of everything as it comes in and don't be afraid to ask for help.

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, and internet access at your host university?

All very similar to Vic.

If you went to a country where English is not the native language, how did you prepare for this? Were there any intensive language courses provided by the host university?

Dutch people are generally very good at English, but TUE does also offer additional Dutch classes.

## **E: Accommodation**

What form of accommodation did you stay in?

A flat – Friendly housing

What were the pros and cons of this form of accommodation?

Everything was paid for upfront, so there was no concerns paying rent and other costs weekly. It's also a good way to meet people from other countries and learn about their cultures.

What accommodation would you recommend to future students?

If you can get into the Vestide flats in the northern area of the circle they have an awesome shared garden and community feel. It's like a mix between a flat and a hostel, plus super close to TUE.

How early can you move into accommodation?

Quite late, pretty much as uni is starting. Makes things quite rushed.

What options were available for meal plans or cooking facilities? How satisfied were you with the food?

I did all my own shopping and cooking, it's a great way to try new things and learn a bit of dutch. There were no meal plans.

If you lived in off-campus housing, how easy was it to find? What should future VUW exchange students know about living off-campus?

Very easy. TUE should organize it so that you will end up with either Vestide or Friendly housing. From there you select your room and house form their sites.

Do you have any tips of advice for future students when applying for accommodation?

Try find a place within the circle.

## **F: Personal & Cultural Connections**

What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not

international) students?

It is fairly easy to make friends through uni courses. You are often placed in groups. I also made some friends by joining and playing Korfbal.

What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange country/university?

I underestimated the impact of moving to place that has a first language other than English. Finding specific shops without knowing what they're called can be difficult. But it only took about 2 weeks of exploring to get my bearings.

What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? How would you recommend students to prepare for these differences?

Although most Dutch people do speak English learning a bit of Dutch would definitely help.

What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

The Dutch way of life. The love public holidays, shops aren't really open on Sundays and bikes!

How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?

All were really nice, they are accustomed to foreigners and happy to help.

As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university? For students who are visible minorities in your host country? For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?

The Netherlands is quite multi-cultural and accepting.

Did you face any issues regarding discrimination in your host country? What were they, and what advice would you give to future students?

No, none at all.

## **G: Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

I really like netball, so I joined the closest equivalent Korfbal. I think a sport is a really good way to meet people. The on campus gym also offers some pretty cool classes and the university itself hosts lots of exchange student activities/mixers.

What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?

You are so close to so many other countries that you can really go anywhere in the weekends and holidays.

What opportunities were there for students to work on-campus? Off-campus?

I didn't really look into it.

What volunteer or internship opportunities were there for students?

Lots of internships in Eindhoven!

### **5 things to take to your host country or region**

1	Cold weather gear for the beginning, bike suitable – gloves and scarf
2	Camera
3	Good back pack
4	Basic Dutch
5	Good travel shoes

### **5 pieces of useful advice would tell a VUW student going to your host university**

1	Have extra money to travel
2	Take courses that are different to VUW ones, but still interest you
3	Try their local food
4	Buy a bike ASAP
5	Don't panic if things change once you get there

### **Top 5 Things to do**

*What are your 'Top 5 Things To Do' future VUW students at your host university or city/country?*

1	Travel!! If you are with friends I would definitely recommend couch surfing. It's cheap and a great way to immerse yourself in the culture.
2	Enjoy biking
3	Spend time in Stratum – their version of town
4	Visit Maastricht for the carnival parade
5	Attend the Milan Design fair

### **H: Personal Experience**

Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience. Plus, don't forget to submit some photos to the exchange office!!

I thoroughly enjoyed my time overseas. The people I met and the places I visited were amazing. It was interesting to attend a different university and learn different things in a different structure. However I often found it hard to focus on my study because the travel was what really took my fancy. I would definitely recommend this experience to everybody.