Study abroad experience: a student’s view

Isobel Mosley, Global Engagement Manager (Study Abroad)
Programme

• Study abroad opportunities
• Lawrie Cate, Tec de Monterrey, Mexico
• Tash Qayyum, National University of Singapore
• Sythey Russell, University of Western Australia
• Tania Santiapillai, Malaysia Campus
• Natasha Stewart, University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Canada
• Lex Townsley, University of Texas at Austin, USA
• Tianna Vara, China Campus
Opportunities

- University-wide exchange programme
- Inter-campus exchange programme
- Erasmus
- School exchanges
- Summer Schools
Where to go

- Study abroad website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyabroad
- Fact sheets and country pages
- FAQ document
- Finance webpage
- Events webpage
- School academic adviser
- Peer Advisers
- Drop-in sessions
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
Deadlines

• University-wide exchange programme: Friday 12 January 2018
• Inter-campus exchange programme: Friday 9 February 2018
• Erasmus and School exchanges: Check with your school/department
• Summer Schools: Friday 23 February 2018
Drop-in sessions

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
2.30 - 3.30pm
I’m going to Mexico - now what?

- Anticipating leaving the UK
- Sorting out Visas, housing, flights
- What was I worried about?
- What was arriving in Mexico like?
- Did I experience culture shock?
Mexican University...
Mexican University...
Travelling!
Travelling!
Travelling!
Travelling!
And now I’m back

- Coping with transition back into UK life
- Making the most of the experience
National University of Singapore

Natasha Qayyum – BSc Biology
Why I studied abroad

- Photography
- Food
- Weather
- Travel
- Academic reputation
- Job prospects
Fears

- Safety
- Finances
- Flying by myself (15 hours!)
- Language barrier
- Leaving my friends

- Ice breaker welcome events
- Resident tutors
- 24hr campus security

... Not that it’s needed
Misconceptions about Asia

- “Dangerous”
- Monsoon
- Culture shock
- Different food
- “No one can speak English”
Travelling

- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Philippines
- Myanmar
- South Korea
- Hong Kong
- Australia
The City

• Work ethic IS very competitive in Hong Kong / Singapore
• But they’re also flooded with rooftop bars and pools, shopping, restaurants, cinemas

HKD$188 just for the experience of highest bar in the world
Singapore misconceptions

- Chewing gum
- History and culture
- “Everything’s VERY expensive”
Life at The National University of Singapore

- Cheaper rent
- Cheaper tuition
- Cheaper food
- Free gym and infinity pool

... More money to spend on travel!
Life at The National University of Singapore

• Field trips
• Lots of emphasis on group projects and presentations
• Continuous assessment
• Mid term exams

• Exams finish in December before Christmas break!
• No need to spend your holiday revising!
Meeting incredible people

In Singapore

Across Asia
Arrival and first impressions

- Perth is small
- British influences
- Weather - cold
- Sunset over the beach
- Friendly Australians
- Kangaroos are cute
- Coffee and public transport is cheap
- Exchangers stick together
- Brunch is amazing
Fears

- Keeping in contact
- Time difference
- Friends
- Money
- Getting ill
- Food
- Heat
Misconceptions

- Not everything is dangerous: snakes, spiders, sharks
- Magpies
- Weather
- Kangaroos as roadkill, national animal, and burgers
- Not everything is expensive
• Campus- public
• Matilda Bay
• Close to the city
• Peacocks, Pelicans, Kookaburras, Cockatoos
• Colleges ‘on campus’
• Different workload and assessment style
• Aboriginal Australians
University Life

- Events
- Student nights
- Societies
- Formals
- Balls
- AFL
• Road trips
• Western Australia- avoid the tourists
• East Coast Australia
• Bali
• Singapore
• Independently, with friends, with family
• Road trips
• Western Australia - avoid the tourists
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• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K80rZ_hj1A
Reflecting

• More prepared for 4th year
• Meeting up with friends
• Planning a visit already
• Missing Perth
Malaysia Campus

Tania Santiapillai – Civil Engineering
Deciding

- Same University
- Different Culture
- Different Way of Life
- Different Weather
- How would I cope and adapt?
Immersing

- Challenges
- Home away from home
- Learning the Malaysian way
- Contrasting Country
- Feeling like a local
Adapting

- Balancing studying and being abroad
- UNMC located in the middle of nowhere
- Weekends away
- More organised, hard working
- Different attitude
Exploring

- UNMC’s unique environment
- International
- Cultural Awareness
- Melting pot - religions, languages, people
Feasting

- Huge variety
- Different attitude to food
- Self catered and eating out
- UNMC weekly street food market
Adventuring

- New activities
- Seize your chance
- Amazing memories
- New You?
Travelling

• Countless Opportunities
• Relatively Easy and Affordable
• With Friends
• Solo Travel
• World Traveller!
Thank You & Good Luck!
Natasha Stewart

Third Year History Student
Autumn Semester 2016
University of British Columbia, Okanagan
Off to Canada!

Why should you study abroad?

Initial Fears

Misconceptions
Initial Arrival!!
Being able to Travel!!
...still travelling...
...and still travelling...!
Coming back to England…:(

Reverse Culture Shock

Coming back for the Spring Semester
University of Texas, Austin

Lex Townsley
Fears/misconceptions

- Adding an extra year
- Time difference
- Culture shock
- Not making friends
- Post graduate course
- Cost
Arrival and first impression
The University of Texas, Austin

- Different class style
- Exams
- Clinics
- Stadium

What you think of American uni = true!

Timetabling: Fridays off!
Travelling - Chicago
4 week California road trip
4 weeks California road trip
4 week California road trip
Reflections now I am back

Confidence  Independence  Visit again?

Employability
Why China?

- Inter-campus
- Language
- Culture
- International friends
Initial thoughts

- Culture shock
- Language
- Chinese firewall
- Leaving behind friends
The Campus
What did I learn?

-Academically
-Personally
Travel in China

- Shanghai, Beijing, Xi’an, Chengdu, Guilin
- Zhangjiajie (avatar mountains)
+ so many more
Travel further afield

-Hong Kong/ Macau
-Singapore
-Indonesia
-Japan
-South Korea
Opportunity
Reflections

-Degree/ internships
-Employability
-Take every opportunity
-Travel bug
Any questions?
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Drop-ins: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 2.30-3.30pm

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