EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Communications
Major/Minor: Communications & International Studies
Host university: University of Sussex
Host Country: England
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) January 2017 to (month/year) June 2017

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $800 round trip from Vancouver to Gatwick

Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? £160 for 90 days in and around Brighton via bus

Do you have a recommended routing or airline? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Air Transat

If yes, please describe:

VISA

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian/British

Did you need a student visa/permit? ☑ No ☐ Yes: What was the cost? N/A

If yes, what documentation was needed?

Did you need a visitor visa/permit? ☑ No ☐ Yes: What was the cost? N/A

If yes, what documentation was needed?

Where was your immigration documentation processed? N/A

Since I am a British citizen, I didn't require any additional documents or visas.

How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? N/A

Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? ☑ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please comment:

AIRPORT RECEPTION

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? ☑ No ☐ Yes

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? ☑ No ☐ Yes

Please comment: If you fly into Gatwick, you can take Southern Rail from Gatwick Airport (South Terminal) to Brighton. From there, it's about a 10 minute walk to the main square in Brighton called Churchill Square. From there, you take the 25 or 26X Universities to the campus.

What is the closest airport to the host university? Gatwick Airport

ORIENTATION

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? ☑ No ☐ Yes

Was there a cost for the orientation session? ☑ No ☐ Yes, how much?

If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? ☑ No ☐ Yes

Please comment: Engaging in the orientations was the main way I met people in the beginning and made my friends. The University of Sussex has about 2-3 days of events that take place such as pub nights, game nights, and orientation for international students. I really recommend attending as many events as possible as it is a fantastic way to meet people that are in the same boat as you.
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, how long is it?

Is there an additional cost for language training? ☐ No ☐ Yes: How much?

Please comment: N/A because the University of Sussex is an English-speaking school.

ACCOMMODATION & LIVING
Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, are you living in a university dormitory? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please describe:

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? _______________

Is there a meal plan? ☐ No ☐ Yes: How much is it? _______________
If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities? ☐ No ☐ Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus? _______________

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
I can’t answer any of the questions regarding on-campus residence since I stayed off-campus. However, I will say that on-campus residency is extremely hard to find. I found out that they give priority to British citizens over international students. So, a lot of the International students were housed in hostels or had to find their own accommodation. If you are staying for two semesters, you are automatically guaranteed accommodation. But, if you are only there for one semester, it will be tough to find accommodation on campus.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this?

Is off-campus housing easily available? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:
I found an Airbnb to stay in for the length of my trip abroad. There are also home stay options that you can look into as well on homestay.com.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? _______________

Any other comments on accommodation:
I lived with a roommate and we paid about $2,000 USD a month for a two bedroom flat in Hove with a living room and kitchen. We were only a block away from the sea and were right on the bus line to the campus.
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? ☐ No ☐ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?
Since I am a British Citizen, I didn't have to go through a lot of challenges. However, I was told that you have to provide documents such as your passport, bank statements etc. depending on which bank you choose to go with.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers' cheques, local currency?)
I would suggest bringing cash in local currency for the first few weeks of your stay while you are getting yourself sorted. If you open a bank account, you can send money to yourself from your host bank back home. You can also write yourself a cheque, or take out money from your home bank account through the bank machines.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? ☐ Cash ☐ Debit ☐ Credit card
Please comment: It depends where you go. But, I always paid with my visa/credit card since carrying around cash is too much effort for me.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Please describe the course registration procedure:
The University of Sussex will send you an application form to fill out of which you will list your top 8 preferred classes. I didn't get into my top class because I didn't realize it wasn't offered in the Spring. However, I did get into my second, third and fourth choices.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Film Studies
What is the language of instruction in your courses? English
If not English, are English-taught courses available?
Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.
The teaching habits are a lot different in England than they are in Canada. There isn't a majority of assignments and essays that you would expect to see at SFU. For the classes I took, I was only ever required to do two essays for each class for the entire semester. They were weighted at 20% and 70%, which I found incredibly stressful.
The professors expect you to e-mail them if you will be missing a class. I also noticed that every time a student was late to class, they would go up to the professor and apologize with the reason why they were late during the class break (something that you wouldn't typically see back home).

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
I think I developed a better understanding of how England's school system operates. There was a little bit of adjusting that needed to be made on my end when it came to class assignments. I think the flexibility is beneficial to have as professors at SFU may also have different teaching habits.

Submission Instructions: 1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.