Exchange participant questionnaire

Complete and return this form at the halfway point of your overseas program.

Dates of your exchange: Feb. - May 2007 Your name: Catherine

Today's date: Sept 14, 2007 Host university: The American University in Cairo

Travel
Approximately how much did air transportation cost? 1200 Canadian dollars.

Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? 10 - 15 Canadian dollars.

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

If yes, please describe: ____________________________________________

Visas
Did you need a student visa? □ Yes □ No

What was the cost? 600 Egyptian Pounds (~120 CAD)

Where was your visa processed? The Mugamma. (Many times the AUC will do it)

How long did it take to procure your visa? approx. 2 weeks

What documentation was needed? 13 size photos, AUC student confirmation, Passport (from 1550)

Airport reception
Were you met at the airport by representatives of the university? □ Yes □ No

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

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

Orientation
Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival? □ Yes □ No

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

Is there a language program available before the term begins? □ Yes □ No

If yes, how long is it? 1 week (10 days), 4 hours per day, colloquial Arabic - very important

Is there an additional cost for language training? □ No □ Yes: how much? ____________

Accommodation & living
Are you living on-campus? □ Yes □ No

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

Please comment on off-campus housing: Much more affordable - AUC will rip you off.

Are you living in a university dormitory? □ Yes □ No

Can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? □ Yes □ No

If yes, describe: ____________________________________________

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? 650 CAD

Is there a meal plan? □ No □ Yes. How much is it? ________

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities? □ Yes □ No

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? 300 - 400 CAD (if off campus)

Financial details
Is it easy or necessary to organize bank transfers for your time away? □ Yes □ No

If yes, what is the name/address of the bank you used? ________

Is it better to take □ Canadian or □ American □ money or □ travellers cheques?

What is the current exchange rate between the currency in use where you are now living and the Canadian dollar? 5.2 Egyptian pounds = 1 CAD the American dollar ________
Academic details
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ Yes □ No

Please describe the course registration procedure: Done in person with the Chair of the ISSO (International Student Services Office).

What is the language of instruction in your courses? English

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university, with specific reference to changes that might be implemented here at Simon Fraser University.
Because the AUC is an American Institution, instruction style was virtually the same as at SFU, with changes varying with professor and his or her cultural background and personality.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
The main academic benefit I received was having the opportunity to study political science and history, along with other social sciences, from an alternative perspective. Cultural and language immersion was very rewarding also.

Describe the campus, including its size and population, its atmosphere and facilities, its proximity to a major population centre or city, etc.
The AUC campuses all are in the heart of downtown Cairo, although this will be changing shortly with the soon-opening new campus being built on the outskirts of Cairo.

Comment on any other aspect of your experience which you think might be appropriate for students considering this exchange.