EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Business Administration
Major/Minor: Human Resources & Entrepreneurship
Host university: University of the South Pacific
Host Country: Fiji
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) 07/12 to (month/year) 06/13

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1550-1750 CAD
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $22 FJD = ~$13.50 CAD

Do you have a recommended routing or airline? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please describe: Fly into Nadi - Cheaper and can see entire south coast on bus ride over

VISAS

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian
Did you need a student visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost? 0
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Did you need a visitor visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost? 0
If yes, what documentation was needed? You'll enter on a visitor visa and USP will change it to a student visa
Where was your immigration documentation processed? In Fiji
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? 8 wks, don't plan to leave country before mid-sem. break
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: I was met at the drop off for the Coral Sun bus in Suva since I gave them my itinerary ahead of time. Otherwise, it's a cheap taxi ride to USP (~$6 FJD).

What is the closest airport to the host university? Nausori (Suva)

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? 0
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: Orientation involves a 3 day village trip which is a great introduction to Fijian culture and a great way to meet other international students. I liked it so much that I volunteered to attend the orientation for the second semester I was there as well. They'll do course registration (but don't usually finish) and answer questions.
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, how long is it? You can take Beginner Fijian as a class. Not sure about Hindi.

Is there an additional cost for language training?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes: How much? Not sure

Please comment:

The Alliance Francais in Suva gives the best Fijian lessons, which is where all the expats go. It's possible that it's expensive but I have heard it is well worth it. I wouldn't recommend the Beginner Fijian course (currently) as it is not very structured and not well taught. I wish I found about the Alliance earlier so I could take classes there.

**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: 10th Hall - a good mix of international, regional (South Pacific) and local students

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?  3 minute walk

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

Not very good - extremely slow, hard to connect and goes down quite often. It’s on a quota so you can’t use too much. You’ll soon realize that you don’t even need it! Not fast enough to make Skype calls usually. If you need faster Internet, I would buy a Vodafone internet stick. They are cheap.

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:

Varies a lot in terms of price, cleanliness (bed bugs), safety, hot water & laundry facilities, location, flatmates, and landlords. I lived on campus the first semester and off campus the second semester. I’d recommend living on campus because living off campus was a huge hassle (bad landlord, got broken into, more $$, etc). The International Office should help you for your 1st semester to find a suitable place. Make sure the place has a gate AND bars on all windows and doors.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? 630 CAD

Any other comments on accommodation:

I really enjoyed living on and off campus. If you are there for 2 semesters, if you apply as soon as you can, you will probably get a place for your first semester. BUT if this is Semester II, you are NOT guaranteed a spot in residence for Semester I (if you do Semester I first and then Semester II second, you can keep the same room). This happened to me and I was not given much notice to find a place to live. There were rooms available when I physically got back to Fiji, but I was travelling at the time and didn’t want to wait it out. Luckily my friend (also international) from the semester before was in a similar situation and I could sublet from her. Most flats require a bond (deposit) which you will ONLY get back if you rent for a year. Residence is a bit strict - no boys in the girls hall, no girls in the boys hall overnight, and it is a dry campus. I am glad I could have best of both worlds!
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?

Almost everything is cash based. You need to get a TIN number (like a SIN number) and I don't think it would be worth it if you are only there for a semester. I took out cash in large amounts to minimize international charges. You can pay residence with a credit card.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers' cheques, local currency)?

Local currency or take out money from an ATM at the airport.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? □ Cash □ Debit □ Credit card

Please comment:

Some places will accept credit card but they will usually charge extra.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No □ Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:

You’ll do it mostly (if not entirely) during Orientation week and the first week of classes. They didn't care about prerequisites when I was there so I could take any classes I wanted at any level. You’ll probably have to run around and get signatures from professors/advisors during the first week.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Mostly Management & Public Administration

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.

Structure similarly to SFU, but still feels a bit different. Classes are 1 hour long, 3/week at different times. There is usually quite a few more class hours. In general, I had great experiences with overseas professors and not very great experiences with the local/regional professors. Some classes were better than at SFU, and some were worse. Most Marine Science classes and Geography classes have lots of field trips. The second semester I avoided taking any 100-level classes, but that was just me.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

I was a bit lost at SFU and in the Business program, but I feel like it has given me a better focus. I met a lot of people working for international organizations (UN, IMF, etc) and it has led me into a clearer career path. I think it will help me to choose my concentration and classes, and give me something to work for!

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.