Exchange participant questionnaire

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

Dates of your exchange 9/20/07 - 2/1/08  Your name Sally

Today's date 2/1/08  Host university Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Travel
Approximately how much did air transportation cost? CAD $2400
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost?  One way trip to APU from airport: CAD $20 approx.
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? Free
What documentation was needed? Certificate of Eligibility issued by the school and the Japanese government
Where was your visa processed? Vancouver
How long did it take to procure your visa? 1 week

Airport reception
Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? Yes ☐ No ☑
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? Yes ☐ No ☑
What is the closest airport to the host university? Fukuoka International Airport

Orientation
How useful was the SFU pre-departure orientation in preparing you for this exchange? Not useful 1 2 3 4 5 very useful
Comments:
Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? Yes ☑ No ☐
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? Yes ☐ No ☑
Comments:

Language programs
Is there a language program available before the term begins? Yes ☐ No ☑
If yes, how long is it?
Is there an additional cost for language training? No ☐ Yes: how much?
Comments:

Accommodation & living
Are you living on-campus? Yes ☐ No ☑
Is off-campus housing easily available? Yes ☑ No ☐
Please comment on off-campus housing:
Are you living in a university dormitory? Yes ☑ No ☐
Can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? Yes ☐ No ☑
If yes, describe: It is easier to know other students if living in the shared rooms.
What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? Is there a meal plan? Yes ☐ No ☑
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? CAD $500-1000

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 currency or ☐ travellers cheques? Oita Mirai

continued on reverse
Have you had any difficulties arranging your account at ABMs or electronically? □ Yes □ No

What is the current exchange rate between the currency used where you are now and the Canadian dollar? 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: similar to the SFU registration procedure. Go to orientation and will easily become familiar with APU's registration system.

What is the language of instruction in your courses? English, except for Japanese class

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.

Knowing that students, other than the Japanese domestic students, come from different parts of the world, classes taught in English are not as difficult as the ones at SFU.

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

My view is broadened, and now I see things differently and think differently. After completing this degree at SFU, I would like to pursue my studies somewhere else, to keep broadening my view.

Describe the campus, including its size and population, its atmosphere and facilities, its proximity to a major population centre or city, etc.

The campus is almost brand new, and people there are friendly. I am amazed by the number of students who can speak and write both English and Japanese. However, I find it difficult to meet domestic Japanese students as I can only take English classes there. Also, few Japanese students live in the dormitory, and even if you can find a few, they are mostly first-year students. Therefore, it is even harder to meet Japanese students around my age (fourth year). On the other hand, it takes about 45 mins to downtown Beppu and the transportation cost is quite expensive (one-way about 3,330 yen).

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

The experience is overall good, being able to meet students coming from different parts of the world. I recommend students who are intending to study at APU to request living in shared rooms because it is easier to make friends, more fun, and will have more chances to meet local Japanese students.