Exchange participant questionnaire

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

Dates of your exchange: October 2006/ Feb 2007

Your name: Luis

Today's date: Oct 7/07

Host university: Universidad Complutense
(Madrid, Spain)

Travel

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1200 CAN
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $300 CAN

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? $100 Euros

Where was your visa processed? Bogota (Colombia)

How long did it take to procure your visa? 3 months

What documentation was needed? Fill the foreign airport, letter from university, proof of economic assets

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? Aeropuerto Barajas

Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival? Yes ☐ No ☐

I could not attend the orientation because (I do not know the answer to this question)

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? ____________________________

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: It is difficult to find accommodation in Madrid.

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? $6000 Euros 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? $900 Euros (Min)

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? BBVA

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

What is the current exchange rate between the currencies in use where you are now living and the Canadian dollar? 1 Colombian Pesos = 1000 Canadian dollars

1 US dollar = 1000 Colombian pesos

continued on reverse
Academic details

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

Please describe the course registration procedure:  
You have 3 weeks to try the courses you want and you can register after, there is always space.

What is the language of instruction in your courses?  
Spanish

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.

The classes have about 30 students each, the quality of the instruction completely depends on the quality of the professor, it is hard to generalize, I had some excellent ones while others were not so good. All the academic activities including events, workshops, department campagnes, and classes occur in one building which is the faculty building. This allows you to participate more easily in the life of faculty which is something that stuy does not really have (at least for my studies). It was an opportunity to take various courses in Latin American Politics which is an area of interest I got involved in discussion, group and events in the faculty related to Latin American politics. This was extremely beneficial for my academic development.

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

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

There are 2 campuses I was in the smaller one which is outside Madrid. It is called "Campus de Somosaguas" The Complutense University is one of the biggest in Spain, so the campus is enormous. The main campus is in the city center and everything is accessible through Madrid Metro. The other is inaccessible through the bus and it is 20 minutes away from Madrid. The atmosphere changes completely depending on the faculty where you are at.

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

The life in the faculty of Political Science is very dynamic, there are lot of activities going on all in the same place. This allows you to connect with several people and make friends easily. In the faculty there are several exchange students from European countries mostly from.