

Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

I attended Monash University during our winter (2nd) semester, which is there fall (1st) semester. My program of study is international management, which falls under the Business and Economics department at Monash University. I was enrolled in 4 courses including International Finance and management, Leadership development, and Prosperity, poverty, and sustainability, which was an economics course. Although I was only taking 4 courses (I would usually take 5 at uOttawa) I had a very similar time commitment to my course readings and assignments. I had approximately 11 hours of contact hours per week (in class for lectures or discussion groups) as well as additional hours spent on pre and post class activities for each class. A lot of work is done through their online school portal 'Moodle' which is very similar to uOttawa's application 'blackboard'. After using blackboard for so long, it was a little difficult to adjust but it didn't take long to get the hang of using a new system. Many of my professors rely heavily upon Moodle for course work and are taken much further than the functions of blackboard. Most of my classes, I would have 2 hours of class per week, but then an additional 2 or 3 hours of watching videos, online quizzes, or discussion posts put together by my professors. I personally really enjoyed this system as it allowed me to do a lot of my work on my own time, when I was ready and willing to learn. Being abroad, and wanting to travel as much as possible, this online system worked great for me and was really facilitating to my study habits. All lectures are also recorded online, which was also a nice feature when thinking about traveling. All of my assignments were very similar to the format at uOttawa, except there were no midterm exams, all my marks came from assignments and the final exam, which were usually 40-50 percent of my grade which is similar to uOttawa's course format.

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.

For 2017, Orientation began on February 13th. Many of the orientation events were mandatory for International students so you must arrive before orientation. Orientation was two weeks long and classes started began on February 27. Monash has a mid semester break which takes place for one week. In 2017, the break was from 17-21 of April. We will also get April 14th and 25th off for public holidays. We will then receive another week off prior to exams called SWOT vac, SWOT vac is a week designed to give students a study period before exams. Exams run for 3 weeks with the last day of exams being June 23.

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

Arrival was made easy and simple though a few pre-arrival services offered by Monash. They offer a linen pack (Sheets, duvet, pillow case, and a towel), which I was able to pick up upon arrival. Offered through the University is a free shuttle service that picked me up and brought me straight to my accommodations. Once I arrived, I signed in, I was

given my keys and I had my room. After you are settled into your accommodations, orientation week starts. Orientation is very well organized. All of the mandatory sessions for international students are well marked with a detail description of what you need and where you need to go. Orientation covered everything from settling in, to course registration. For business and economic students, course registration was on the Wednesday.

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Living in Melbourne was not a significant change compared to Ottawa. Many of the day-to-day purchases were similarly priced, but it was more expensive in Melbourne. I was able to purchase a return flight from Ottawa to Melbourne for approximately 1600\$. This was a really good deal with most flight being around \$2000.

Housing: I lived on the campus residence. Housing was approximately \$1000 a month or \$33 a day.

Transportation: Many locals have their own car, as this is the easiest way to get around, so transportation costs were relatively low unless we went into the city. Their public transportation system is amazing. They have a similar system as Ottawa's presto pass called Myki. Unfortunately students only receive a discounted transportation cost, but it's about half of the regular fare. I spent approximately \$10 a week on public transit.

Travel: I took a trip about every 2 weekends. The cost for the weekend would depend heavily on how many people joined. On average it was around 10 people, which was perfect for renting cars. With the rental fee and accommodations (Airbnb) along with meals and activities I averaged just over \$100 for a weekend trip.

Textbooks: I didn't spend a lot of money on textbooks while I was at Monash. For the most part, professors tried to limit class material to free resources available through the Monash library. I only had to buy one textbook, which was \$153.

Meals: The price of food each week was very dependent on if I felt like cooking or not. Monash does not offer a meal plan, but they do have a cafeteria where you can purchase food. Food at the Café ranged from \$5-10. The food options changed daily and had a range of options including vegetarian. They were very aware of food allergies as well. Each residence floor has its own kitchen. I did a lot of my own cooking, and spent approximately \$60 a week on groceries. Fruits and vegetables were significantly more expensive than in Ottawa. It was definitely cheaper and healthier to cook my own food. A way to get around having to cook on my own every single day was to form a cooking group. There were 4 of us in a cooking group and we each took turns cooking for different nights.

Meals purchased at restaurants were fairly expensive ranging from \$15-35 depending on food and drinks

Activities: There were usually organized events that were happening each week. Many of these activities included going to places like trampoline parks, trips to the city, sports, or club events. The trampoline park was \$13 for 1.5 hours, trips into the city were usually

\$10-30 depending on food and drinks. Sports and clubs were usually around \$10. All together I probably spent around \$30

Clubs: There were many clubs to join and they cost approximately \$10 to sign up for and then club events were usually an additional cost. Almost all of the clubs had BBQs during the week so there aren't many days that you go without a free lunch if you are strategic about when you walk around campus.

Extras: They have a gym on campus where a membership costs \$250 per semester (Includes weight room, pool, and exercise classes) or they have many outdoor gym options for free. All of the courts such as tennis, squash, or basketball, all had to be rented at an average price of \$15 per hour.

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Once accepted by uOttawa for the exchange (Spring 2016), I didn't hear back from Monash University until October (Fall 2016). The first email I received was my acceptance letter. Once you receive the acceptance letter, you must pay for your overseas health insurance, which is mandatory before you can continue doing anything else. Once the health insurance is completed, you will send Monash an email with your receipt and then the process will continue. The next step was to apply for a Visa. I applied at the beginning of December and it took about 3 weeks to receive. It probably would have been sooner if I didn't apply during the holiday season as other people I spoke with had a week or less return time. To receive the visa, I needed a valid passport, overseas health insurance, and a letter of confirmation that I would be attending Monash University as a student (Acceptance letter was enough for this).

You must also apply for student housing before you arrive. The deadline for applying for housing was December 16th 2016, and once accepted the deadline for confirming your housing was January 4th 2017. To confirm your housing, you are required to make a \$500.00 AUD payment to secure your spot. You will get your deposit back during the semester

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

Address:

I stayed in Deakin Hall on campus. Deakin is one of the oldest accommodations they have but it is by far the best residential hall. It may not be as nice as the other, newer, halls but the community at Deakin exceeds all the others. At Deakin, everyone gets to know everyone. All the residential staff makes an effort to make sure you are settling in well and are always around if you need them. Deakin also has a large number of exchange students, which is nice when you are trying to coordinate trips or even just looking for help from other people who are going through the same thing you are.

Cost:

Initial cost of housing was a \$500.00 AUD deposit. After that, it was approximately \$1000.00 a month or \$33.00 a day

I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

Overall, studying abroad in Australia at Monash University was one of the greatest experiences of my life. The people I have met and the memories I have made are things I will always remember. The atmosphere in Australia is vastly different than Canada, but in a good way. When I first arrived, I didn't feel as though there was much different from Canada, other than the weather of course, but the more you become immersed in the culture it is clear how different these two countries are. I learned a lot about life and myself over the last semester, but despite all the travel, friends, and activities, I also learned a lot in my classes and it was nice to see the world from a different perspective.