

Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

A)

I'm currently in my 4th year and completing a Bachelor of Commerce with specialization in entrepreneurship at the Telfer School of Management. Choosing UniSA as your host school abroad has many benefits. Here in South Australia, a full course load is composed of 4 classes per semester. The structure of the classes really depends on what subjects you decide to take but most of them have one 2 hour lecture coupled with an hour long tutorial every week.

The style of teaching in Australia is very similar to Canadian style. One thing that I love about UniSA is that most classes are recorded and posted online. This provides a massive advantage when studying because you can re listen to lectures again if you didn't completely understand certain parts of it. Also, the Australian student visa allows students to take up to 25% of their classes online, which is another huge advantage. Having one class out of 4 online reduces the amounts of lectures and tutorials in a week therefore giving students more time to travel and/or more free time. Online classes are very flexible and allow you to complete work in advance therefore saving you once again more time.

UniSA also boasts a very broad variety of management classes that the University of Ottawa does not offer that enriches the experience even further. Outlined bellow is the 4 classes I'm currently taking followed by a quick description of the class material and assignments/midterms:

Discovering Opportunities in Property: This course is very interesting for anyone who thinks of eventually pursuing a property related career. You get to study all the different aspects of property valuation. Assessments include weekly quizzes (10 multiple choice questions) and one major property assignment. There is no final exam for this class as the major assignment counts for the majority of your grade.

Construction Management: This course is designed to show students how to effectively manage major construction sites. You go through the whole construction process of buildings. This class has one final exam and 2 major assignments throughout the semester.

Contract Management (for construction): This course examines all the legal aspects of the construction industry in Australia. You get to see how the legal system in Australia works (very similar to the Canadian system). I highly recommend this class to any student that has completed the Business Law class at Telfer because it is, in my opinion, a continuation of that class but applied to the construction industry. This class has one final exam, one midterm and one assignment.

Sports and Recreation Management: This class goes through the process of managing any sport entity. Very interesting for any sport enthusiast as you go in depth with Australian sports (Australian rules footy, cricket, football). This class has one final exam, one midterm and one assignment.

B)

Due to UniSA being located in the Southern hemisphere, the seasons are switched around (Winter in Canada is Summer in Australia). This means that the fall semester in Australia starts in February (26th) and the winter semester starts in July (22nd). Being here for the fall semester is really advantageous to any student who prefers warm weather to the cold Canadian winter. South Australia also has many statutory holidays during the fall semester. They include Adelaide Cup Day (March 14th), Easter Weekend, ANZAC day (April 25th) and the Queen's birthday (June 13th).

Orientation takes place one week before the start of classes and is commonly known here as O-week. This is quite similar to our frosh week. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet other international students and Australian students. I highly recommend any student to attend as this provides an overview of what to expect in terms of academics and it also provides a very social setting.

Another huge advantage of choosing Australia is that the mid semester break (more commonly known in Ottawa as reading week) is 2 weeks. I took advantage of this break to go to New Zealand for the full break. The break runs through the middle of April (11-22nd April 2016). Finally, the exam period for the fall semester starts the 3rd week of June (June 18th to July 2nd).

C)

Arriving in Australia is a very exciting time. The similarities of this country with Canada are plenty while still feeling very different. Because university does not start until the end of February in the fall semester, it gives students 2 months off before the exchange. This is an excellent opportunity to travel around Australia before settling in Adelaide.

UniSA was excellent in terms of keeping me updated for registration and class selection. The international office provides all the necessary information and is open to answer to any enquiries within one business day. Class selection usually takes place in mid January. The international office will email you well in advance the dates and instructions to register you're your classes. One fantastic service that UniSA offers is arrival receptions. The university will send UniSA ambassadors at the airport to pick you up free of charge to bring you to your accommodation.

D)

The cost of living in Australia is fairly higher than in Canada. Expect to pay higher prices from food to accommodation. Australia also uses the Australian dollar as their currency. In the past 5 years, the AU dollar has been more or less on par with the Canadian dollar therefore don't expect to loose much money when exchanging currency. Here is the budget I drafted before leaving (in CAD).

Food: 150\$ x 26 weeks =	3 900\$
Airplane ticket:	3 000\$
Visa:	500\$

Health Insurance:	360\$
Housing:	7 200\$
Extra travel:	11 250\$
Textbooks:	100\$
Activities: 100\$ x 26 weeks=	2600\$
TOTAL	28 910\$

This budget is a very accurate projection of my expenditures. Here are a few explanations on the costs outlined above.

Food: Very subjective. This really depends on how much and how well one wants to eat. For 150\$ per week I have a lot of food. Being more frugal, I could probably get by with 100\$ per week but the quality of the food would significantly drop.

Airplane ticket: This includes return airfare from Ottawa to Adelaide.

Housing: This is also subjective because it really depends on the place you want to stay in. I'm currently staying at Urbanest Adelaide, which is a student apartment accommodation. Most of the students staying here are internationals and some Australians. It is centrally located in the CBD of Adelaide and is very close to UniSA's city East and West campuses, hence the higher price tag.

Extra travel: This really depends on the amount of travel a student is willing to do. For this amount I have done quite a lot of travelling. I have been to Hawaii for 2 weeks on our way to Australia, backpacked the Australian East coast from Sydney to Cairns for 3 weeks, a few weekend trips to Melbourne, a weekend trip to the outback and a 3 week trip to New Zealand. By far the highest expense was backpacking the East coast of Australia. The distances travelled between cities are very long and the cost of living in Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns is astronomical. Depending on what you want to see and do this cost will vary the most.

Textbooks: Fortunately, I only had to buy one textbook for one class.

Activities: Many activities are offered throughout your exchange. This includes going to the movies, going out for drinks, restaurants etc... Once again this expense is highly subjective depending on your budget and spending habits.

E)

The visa application process for Australia is very straightforward and easy. It is all done online and there is no need to visit an embassy. The cost for the student visa is quite expensive (500\$). It allows you to enter and exit Australia as many times as you want for your visa period. It allows you to enter Australia immediately after the application is processed and you can stay in Australia up to 2 months after exams end allowing plenty of time to travel. You also need health coverage for the entire duration of your stay in Australia. This can be arranged through UniSA. The international student office will email you with the details on how to purchase insurance through them.

The application process takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. You can only apply for your visa 3 months prior to your arrival date in Australia. You also do not need a visa to book your flight, consequently it's a good idea to book very early on to get the best deal.

F)

Here follows the address of my accommodation:

Urbanest Student Accommodation
12 Bank street
Adelaide, South Australia
5000

This accommodation is a big apartment building only with students. It is within proximity of everything. The grocery store is a 8 minute walk and the public transportation (tram and bus stops) stops are right at the doorstep of the building. I'm currently staying in a 6 person shared apartment where the kitchen and living room are common areas. My room is very spacious and I also have a private bathroom with shower. The room includes a king single bed and large desk with plenty of storage.

One of the best things about Urbanest is the 1st floor, which is the building's common area. This is where you meet students that stay not only in your apartment but the whole building. There are frequently social activities on this floor (nearly every night). I strongly believe that the 1st floor social area alone makes Urbanest worth staying at. The other accommodations in the city do not benefit from such a social area.

G)

The student visa allows 20 hours of work per week (part-time). I do not seek out employment.

H)

Things I recommend include:

- Travelling the Australian East coast before studying. It was the best trip I have ever made by far.
- Go to Urbanest. If you enjoy being social, meeting new people and having a good time you will not regret it! After hearing from students that are staying in different accommodations, Urbanest is the best choice.
- Enjoy it while it lasts because time flies once the exchange starts

I)

I can honestly say that this exchange changed my life! So far it has been the most exciting endeavour I took up. Summed up, this exchange allowed me to meet lifelong friends from all over the world and exploring new and exciting places. This exchange will be by far the single best memory of my university degree. If you feel unsure just do it, I can promise that you wont regret it.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me! Ill be more than willing to provide information about my exchange.

Cheers mates!

