

Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Courtney Bilderbeck

Massey Degree: Bachelor of Design – Visual Communication

Host university: California State University, Chico

Semester and year of exchange: Semester 2 - 2017

- **Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?**

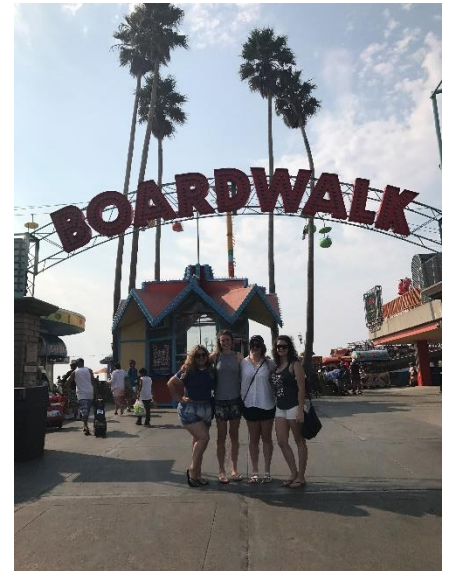
Wanted the true 'American' experience of university!! I chose Chico because it was in California and it was easy to do my uni major there.

- **Did it meet your expectations?**

Yes! It really was the 'American College' experience! Everything was so big and everyone lived and breathed the university.

- **What courses did you study while on exchange? Would you recommend them?**

Publication Design, Information Design, American Cinema and Media, Arts and Identity. Yes would recommend them all! I enjoyed doing 2 'studio' classes and then 2 classes that were more lecture style. I feel as like that was a good balance. I mostly enjoyed Publication Design and American Cinema!



- **Were there differences in the teaching methods and academic environment at your host university, compared to Massey University? If so, what kind of differences?**

Yes, the exams are less serious and happen more often in America. They have usually have something due each week instead of following the 6 week schedule like we do for design at Massey.

- **Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like?**

I stayed at University Village which is off campus but is still through the University. I would recommend this if you wanted to go through the university when booking housing, as it like a dorm but you're not right on campus. They have free shuttles and it doesn't take very long to walk!

- **How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?**

About the same!!

- **Which extra-curricular activities did you participate in at the host university?**

I started doing dancing but couldn't continue as it clashed with a class. I used the gym a lot and the classes there which was really fun!

- **What's one thing you learnt about your host country or culture?**

Everyone loves kiwi accents! Everyone loves putting their hand up and commenting in class, which is weird to me as in my classes at home sometimes no one puts their hand

up. Uni is life, their whole life revolves around uni, they never really miss classes and everyone wears the uni merch!

- **What were some of the highlights of your exchange experience?**

Travelling!! I went travelling around California during the weekends/ holidays and it was so much fun! Santa Cruz and Yosemite were really cool!

- **What did you find challenging?**

Even though I speak English, some people had no idea what I was saying sometimes because of my accent! At the start the heat was quite challenging as I had never been somewhere that was 43 degrees!

- **What do you feel you have learnt or gained from going on exchange?**

Gained friends! Also learnt to be grateful to be from somewhere like New Zealand! Became very independent and made you realise that if you can move to the other side of the world, you're capable of anything!



- **Do you have any tips for future students intending to travel to the same country or university?**

I liked living in University Village as everything is organised, however if I was to do it again I would possibly find like a flat. I just feel like being 20/21 years old it was kind of annoying as you had to have all these talks like you do when you're 17. I lived with people who were my age and older but I feel like you would have more freedom and possibly meet more people if you got a good flat!!! But University Village was still good!