Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Jessica Wilson
Massey Degree: Bachelor of AgriCommerce
Host university: University of Edinburgh
Semester and year of exchange: Semester 2 2017, Second Year

- **Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?**
  I chose the University of Edinburgh due to its reputation and the courses matched up well to what I needed for my degree. It is also close to an international airport which meant it would be easy for travel around Europe.

- **Did it meet your expectations?**
  Yes it did, Edinburgh was even more stunning than I imagined with plenty to do.

- **What courses did you study while on exchange? Would you recommend them?**
  I studied Principles of Finance, Organisational Behaviour 2, and Critical Thinking in Marketing. The only one I wouldn't recommend is Principles of Finance if you haven't completed the first year finance paper at Massey.

  I would definitely say if you are a second year only to take one honours level paper as those ones are for 3rd and 4th years completing their disseratations so are designed to be a lot harder.

- **Were there differences in the teaching methods and academic environment at your host university, compared to Massey University? If so, what kind of differences?**
  I found the classes to be very different compared to Massey. You only take three papers per semester, and have far less course hours per week with a bigger focus on individual study and learning (the topics for our assignments were mostly never covered in class). Exams are also much more heavily weighted, accounting for 70% up to 100% of your grade. My courses only had one assignment each dring semester. My second year classes were huge compared to Massey, but my honours course only had about 40 of us in it.

- **Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like?**
  I stayed in university accomodation close to campus. The accommodation itself was alright, but it was a good location close to the main shopping street, supermarkets and a short walk to campus.

- **How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?**
  I found rent to be more expensive than New Zealand, but most other costs to be around about the same. Groceries and alcohol were definitely cheaper, in particular fruit and

vegetables. The New Zealand dollar dropped during this time which definitely had more of an effect.

- **What extra-curricular activities did you participate in at the host university?**
  I was involved in the Equestrian Club and Hillwalking Club, the hillwalking club in particular I loved as the trips away on the weekend were fantastic as was the Ceilidh.

- **What's one thing you learnt about your host country or culture?**
  The big debate between the North and South, and Scotland vs England.

- **What were some of the highlights of your exchange experience?**
  Having the chance to travel around Europe including doing hikes around the UK. The highlight was most likely the All Blacks vs Scotland match at Murrayfield, Scottish fans are very passionate so it was highly entertaining to be there with plenty of singing and chanting. Also because I have a few friends living in Europe it gave me a chance to go visit them.

- **What did you find challenging?**
  It may sound a bit silly, but trying to explain to people what I was trying to say due to the kiwi accent and slang.

- **What do you feel you have learnt or gained from going on exchange?**
  How to quickly adapt to a different lifestyle and university style of teaching and learning.

- **Do you have any tips for future students intending to travel to the same country or university?**
  Don't be intimidated by how some of the students take University a lot more seriously than at Massey, go with an open mind and travel heaps – especially around the UK.

- **Do you have any comments on the support provided to you by Massey University and/or by the host university before/during/after your exchange?**
  Even though Edinburgh has so many exchange students, they are very helpful especially with course clashes and send regular updates/emails.