

Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Laura Harkness

Massey Degree: Visual Communication Design

Host university: Loyola University, New Orleans

Semester and year of exchange: 2018, Semester 2

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

Loyola University looked like a beautiful and impressive place to study. I saw it offered good support towards international students and had a cool international club. The courses also really appealed to me as they offered interesting and different programmes to New Zealand. New Orleans looked like there was a cool mix of art, music, nature, and culture. I also liked how it seemed a bit different to all the typical cities in America. However, I have always been intrigued by the American lifestyle and opportunity so jumped at the idea to study there.



- Did it meet your expectations?

The student exchange went over and beyond my expectations. So cool.

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



Interactive Design + Narrative: Highly recommend, bit strange but you learn interesting skills in design systems and work with interactive scenarios.

Advanced Type 1: Wouldn't strongly recommend but it was alright, similar to type at Massey, however, Type 2 sounded cool.

Motion Design + Narrative: Highly recommend, this was my favourite! I had fun learning cool motion graphic skills.

Design History: Good theory paper.

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

One of the big things was the classes were a lot smaller and your lecturer would have a lot more one on one time with you. The amount of students taking design was very small too, I almost knew every design student from every year level, all levels were mixed up in the classes (eg. my Design History class had 100 level students and 300 level student together). There was also the fact you are graded on your attendance and marked down if you're tardy. I also found the level we worked at was a bit lower to New Zealand, it was a lot easier to get an A.





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

I stayed on campus in Carrollton hall and shared a room with an American student. It was nothing flash but had the necessities: room, lounge, and bathroom. I was also about a 5-minute walk away from classes and close the gym and food court.

- How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?

The accommodation was similar a price to nz halls. However, since I didn't have a car or kitchen I spent a lot more money on transport and food. It was also a social activity to eat with everyone. And I went on a few trips and tours that cost a wee bit.



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



I gymed a lot and briefly joined the frisbee team. I also went to a few sorority events. Other than what the university provided, I would go for walks and runs around the park, hang out with friends at the local bars and head into the French quarter or magazine street for shopping and food.

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

New Orleans had a big mix of culture, everyone came from all over. I enjoyed meeting lots of different people and learning about their cultures. You would get cheek kisses as a greeting when entering a Spanish party or constantly be referred to as "Guuuurrlll" from black friends. However there was also a lot of division between the cultures; Latinos, African American, and white people all split up into different groups. I was quite surprised at this.

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

My main highlight was the people I met. We made the most of every moment and got super close in such a short amount of time. Within the first weeks we were off on a road trip to Florida, later we also spent a long weekend in Los Angeles and spent Thanksgiving in Mexico. These were definitely highlights. It was also cool being able to build a lifestyle with new people in a new place.



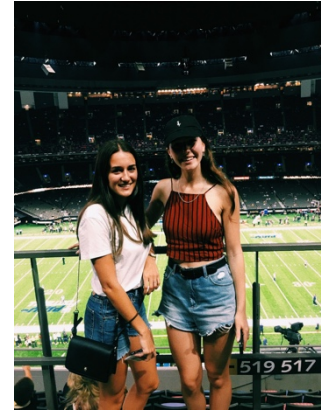


- What did you find challenging?

One thing that was challenging was balancing work and play. I was always saying yes to everything, staying out late most nights and then having to wake up early for class the next morning. So I struggled to make time for study and sleep after all that.

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

As cheesy as it sounds, I now understand the value of living in the moment. At the start of the exchange, I knew time would fly so I decided to make the most of each day and always say yes and do something interesting. Whether it was a basic evening walk in the park or night out on bourbon street I wanted to be doing something. At the end, time did fly but every day was awesome. Reflecting on this I wanted to continue making the most of time in New Zealand.



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

Say yes to everything. Especially at the start, that's the crucial time to get to know everyone.

Have fun, your in a new country where no one knows you, which really gives you the chance to learn more about yourself and create a life.

Make some awesome memories, and write it down – make a blog or a diary, at the end its fun reading back on all that happens. And its cool to see how you change over time.

- 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?

They were great! Lots of information was provided that made the trip smooth sailing.

