

Massey University Communication Internship Student Profile

Student: Kimberly Trask

Study Abroad Provider: ISEP

Home University: Whitworth University

Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Communication

Home Town: Snohomish, Washington, USA

Exchange Period: Semester Two, 2016

Bio: I study communication at Whitworth University in Washington. To me, studying abroad presented the unique opportunity to learn about what I love in a different part of the world and at the same time be so fully integrated into a foreign community. Massey's communication program stood out to me because it gave me the opportunity to complete the electives my degree as well as gain internship credit. The classes I took were Organizational Communication, Risk and Crisis Communication, and a course called "Rich World, Poor World," from which I gained credit for my sociology minor. Choosing to leave my home university and attend Massey for a semester was worth every penny; I know that this is a decision I will rejoice in for the rest of my life.



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Daily Routine & Projects: My daily routine in the Mobility Office usually consisted of working on a project for the office. I helped make a promotional video for Massey's Study Abroad program, and a voice-over video for New Zealand students applying for a J-1 Visa to the United States. Among other administrative tasks, I also did quite a bit of research for the Mobility Office. I looked into the other universities Massey is partnered with to see what courses they have that could be approved for credit for Massey students studying abroad. Making "course maps" with this information will provide students with more



knowledge about what universities abroad will best work for their degree. Since Massey just opened up the new degree in Commercial Music this year, part of that research included finding universities that have similar music programs to Massey's, so that the music students could have a variety of exchange options as well.

Internship Course & Earning Credit: The Communication Internship course consists of not only the hours you spend interning, but also of weekly write-ups on what you did, and three communication assignments throughout the semester. In each assignment you apply different theories and practices you have learned thus far in your degree to your internship experience. For example, I created a consultant's report in which I developed a suggestion to improve the communication in my workplace. The final assignment is a scholarly case study analyzing the entirety of your internship experience. What I enjoyed most about the Communication Internship course is that it is designed to be flexible to a student's schedule. My office and I came up with the hours I would work, and I chose my own due date for each of the communication assignments I turned in to my overseeing advisor.

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Favorite Part: The best part of this experience was the network and relationships I gained in the process. I always welcomed the escape from my “student life” routine to come to work and be productive and have the chance to enjoy conversation with other adults about things other than homework. Having Kiwi coworkers around the office was also helpful in learning more about New Zealand. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a great team and integrate into a second international community outside of the student body, learning the tricks of the trade from some of the best.

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