

Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Amber Brierly

Host University: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Semester and year of exchange: Semester 2, 2013

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

I chose Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University because of its reputation as the best school for Aviation and aerospace engineering in the world. This tied in really well with my degree of Aviation Management.



- **Did it meet your expectations?** It was the most amazing university with very specialized classes. The university is very academically focused and has the latest technology.

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

I studied Airport Management, Aviation Labour Relations, International Aviation Management, Corporate and Business Aviation and Airline-Airport Operations. I highly recommend Airport Management, Corporate and Business Aviation and Aviation Labour Relations, both were really fun and had a lot of class participation, not to mention the opportunities for field trips.

- **Were there differences in the teaching methods and academic environment at your host university, compared to Massey University? If so, what kind of differences?** This was surprisingly noticeable, ERAU lecturers give students homework weekly, with lots of small graded assignments due rather than two large assignments like Massey University. Also, the end of semester exams are usually worth 40% instead of 60%. Lecturers are very helpful and will assign you extra credit projects if you ask for them. Each class is usually held 3 times a week (MWF) or 2 times a week (T,TH).

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

I stayed on campus during my first semester, however I moved off campus in my second semester. It was quite common for exchange students to live off campus at my University, however a car was recommended. Accommodation on campus is your typical dormitory which is shared with a room mate. While living off campus you can have your own room and cooking facilities.

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

Living on campus is quite expensive per semester, however meal plans can be purchased also to take the hassle out of cooking. Living off campus is significantly cheaper and much the same to flatting at home in New Zealand. However, if you do live off campus find out if there is public transportation or if you need a car. Living in America is cheaper than renting in New Zealand.

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

I was a member of the exchange group which organized numerous trips around Florida. I went to Disneyland, Universal Studios and St. Augustine with them. I was also a member of the Crew team at ERAU which gave me the opportunity to participate in a team sport and meet friends that will last a lifetime.

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

Just because the country speaks English doesn't mean that the culture is the same. Americans are very proud of their country and I found the biggest difference was having to constantly tip while dining out at a restaurant or for services such as haircuts.

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

Meeting new people, not just from America but from around the world. I have made some really strong friendships from around the world and that's something I'll always have.

- **What did you find challenging?**

The most challenging thing was finding time to go sightseeing in the weekends and holidays!

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

I feel that I am able to better understand foreign cultures, while improving my confidence and ability to talk in large groups. I have gained great experiences which I feel have shaped me to the person I am today.

- **Do you have any tips for future students intending to travel to the same country or university?** Sign up now! It is the most valuable experience I have ever had and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

