

Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Amberley Geddis

Massey Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Philosophy)

Host university: Edinburgh University

Semester and year of exchange: Semester 2 2015

- **Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?**
I narrowed my options down to an English speaking country to help myself out, and I thought a smaller city like Edinburgh may also be easier to manage than a place like London.
- **Did it meet your expectations?**
I wasn't too sure what to expect, but yes it definitely looked medieval and like the pictures.
- **What papers did you study while on exchange? Would you recommend them?**
I took the Philosophy of Psychology, ancient aesthetics and ancient ethics. I would definitely recommend the Philosophy of Psychology paper, the lecturer was good.
- **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 definitely. In a couple of my papers I had the same lecturer and it may just be his style of teaching, but it was a little difficult to grasp at the beginning. There were no power points, but you were given a sheet of paper instead of the main points of the lecture, and were expected to take notes. This made it a little difficult to write and listen at the same time, and also made it a little boring and uninteresting as his style of teaching wasn't terribly interactive at all. If you had any questions you had to write them down and ask them a day or two later at the tutorial, where I think it's sometime easier to just ask them as they come in the lecture so you still have your thread of thought and context surrounding the question.
- **Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like?**
I stayed in university accommodation and it was really average. I think just the cost of living in the UK is just a lot more expensive than in New Zealand so it's a little hard to judge what is a reasonable price etc for that sort of accommodation. It was expensive and not the cleanest and furnished, however it does the job.
- **How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?**
Expensive, everything is just more. Fresh fruit and vegetables are only slightly cheaper than meat for example, and so being a vegan didn't make it any cheaper by any means.
- **What extra-curricular activities did you participate in at the host university?**
I joined the vegan and vegetarian society, the korfbal society for a bit and the philosophy society. I loved the weekly guest speakers that were organised for the

philosophy and psychology departments.

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

I didn't know that a lot of Scottish people don't like the English too much. I really didn't know much about the history of the U.K., so it was interesting learning about that, and how it is still rather present today. It takes a long time for attitudes to be stamped out of a culture or society.

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

Definitely meeting other people on foreign exchange and exploring Edinburgh and the rest of Scotland together. There was a lot going on in Edinburgh it seems, lots of fairs, markets, socials, cafes and pubs to go to.

- **What did you find challenging?**

Taking notes, concentrating and listening during some papers was challenging, but I got the hang of it eventually.

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

I've learnt about other systems of education and how easy or hard it is for people from different countries to be able to study and then how their grading systems work has actually been really interesting for me.

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

Definitely go for more than one semester if it is affordable. At the end of the fall semester you feel like you're just getting to know the people in your classes before it's all over, which is a shame. It goes really fast.

- **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?**

Edinburgh was very informative, they sent many emails about everything going on, so the support there was great. Massey was also very supportive helping me sort out my application and requirements before going abroad.