

# Student Exchange Questionnaire

**Name:** Elena Burger-Guimaraes

**Massey Degree:** Bachelor of Design (Photography)

**Host university:** Munich University of Applied Sciences

**Semester and year of exchange:** Semester 2, 2015

- **Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?**  
Because I already knew German, close to my grandparents and family and friends.
- **Did it meet your expectations?**  
Over and above
- **What papers did you study while on exchange? Would you recommend them?**  
Communication for innovation, Photography project – Encounters, Photojournalism, Marketing, American and British Humour, Participatory leadership and facilitation, Intercultural Conflict Prevention, App design. And yes I would recommend all of them except marketing was a little dry. App design was fantastic as were British Humour, Participatory leadership and facilitation, and Intercultural Conflict Prevention.
- **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 think there was a culture of getting work done here in Munich but also more of a responsibility for your own studies. If you didn't do the work that was your responsibility to catch up. But overall there was also quite a bit of freedom.
- **Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like?**  
Off Campus. I don't think I could have had it much better. I had a lovely room on the top floor of a families house. So great facilities and I was able to borrow a bike. No need to buy anything.
- **How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?**  
I think for in Wellington they were fairly similar.
- **What extra-curricular activities did you participate in at the host university?**  
I didn't do much at the actual Uni. I went on the International students trip to Dachau. But I did do a Forro Brazilian dance course that I got a discount for as I was a student. It was fantastic!!
- **What's one thing you learnt about your host country or culture?**  
Just how many lakes and beautiful little places there are around south Germany but also Germany as a whole. I am also always blown away by the rich history.
- **What were some of the highlights of your exchange experience?**  
Seeing so many darling darling beautiful people! Meeting lovely new ones! And lots of exploring.

- **What did you find challenging?**  
Having only 4 days a week to go exploring! Getting used to having a lot more papers. Navigating on the uni site to find information.
- **What do you feel you have learnt or gained from going on exchange?**  
Hugely doing something that at the beginning completely scared me. I have learnt and relearnt what I am capable of. There have been many many friendships, beautiful moments with people, closer relationship with my family, adventures! So many things! It's also been an opportunity to reinvent myself and relook at what is important to me.
- **Do you have any tips for future students intending to travel to the same country or university?**  
Feel the fear and do it anyway. Get yourself organised and go. Get in touch with someone who has already been so you can ask any questions you might have.
- **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?**  
The working out of the budget beforehand was a great reality check I thought. The interview process and connection with other students was a great help.