

Student Exchange Questionnaire

Name: Kate Cregoe

Massey Degree: Bachelor of Design (Visual Communications)

Host university: Duncan of Jordanstone college of creative arts- Scotland/Dundee

Semester and year of exchange: semester 2 2017

- Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?
I've always wanted to explore Scotland and other parts of Europe in a cost effective way. The papers on offer at DJC also really appealed to me.

- Did it meet your expectations?
Yes, I absolutely loved the landscape and people of Scotland. The course I took in the Graphic Design department was amazing with all of the opportunities available. For example I was able to explore ceramics, screen printing, laser cutting, 3D printing and studio photography.

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

[DJ21009 - Idea Generation And Communication](#)

[DJ21010 - Communication Design Context 1](#)

I would definitely recommend these papers to future exchange students. I found that I learnt a lot from both of these papers as I was able to have my own personal direction and interests involved in each.

- 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, I feel that the marking system and teaching style of Duncan of Jordanstone College was more suited to me as an individual. Class sizes were smaller and students had the ability to spend individual time with lecturers during studio time. All creative work from the semester was due at the same time, at the end of semester and work was graded all together. Individual meetings were held at the end of semester to discuss grades and work. I feel this system created less unnecessary stress and allowed me to further improve and develop my work to a higher standard throughout the duration of the semester.

- Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like?
I stayed on campus in the Heathfield accommodation complex. Although it was quite expensive, I feel it was a great way to meet other local and exchange students. The apartments were tidy and comfortable.

- How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand?
I found the living expenses in Scotland to be slightly more expensive due to the exchange rate. I also spent more on travel and extracurricular activities than I would have in Wellington.

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

Whilst at Duncan of Jordanstone, a department of the University of Dundee, I joined the Equestrian team. This allowed me to travel each week with other students to a local barn to have lessons.

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

I learnt a lot about the history of Scotland and how it came to be apart of the United Kingdom. I traveled to a lot of landmarks and locations where famous battles took place and political documents were signed. I also learnt a lot about the importance of which Clan an individual or family was a part of and how it is associated with land and history.

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

Whilst on my way to my exchange I traveled to Kyrgyzstan to work with Biosphere and NABU in tracking Snow Leopards for two weeks. This was an awesome experience and one I will remember forever. Once I arrived in Dundee I spent my weekend traveling to different parts of Scotland to see famous castles, landmarks and walks. In my mid-semester break I was able to travel to Iceland and later in the year to Berlin with a few of my Scottish friends to see the Berlin Wall.

I also loved making ceramics on my course at DJC and would love to continue a practice in this when I return to Massey in Wellington.

- **What did you find challenging?**

The healthcare system. Whilst I was in Dundee I got quite sick and found it very difficult to see and get into a doctors practice.

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

I've learnt so much more about the world and how other cultures work and think. By interacting with people, students and lecturers in Dundee I feel I have made an abundance of new connections and friends. My experience abroad has given me more confidence in my own style of work and how to be more independent .

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

Take every opportunity given to you and make the most of black friday flight deals. Use all facilities available to your learning and talk to as many lecturers and students as possible to enhance your knowledge and personal growth.

- **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?**

My host University was beyond supportive and welcoming upon and during my arrival to DJC. Massey was also great for talking me through the processes involved and answering any questions that I asked.