

The Education Abroad Program office wants to hear about your experience abroad! Tell us about your experience by filling out the *Return Student Report for Exchanges/Summer Programs*. Your feedback will be used to help improve programs and services for future students and be a valuable resource for future students who are interested in studying abroad.

The Return Student Report consists of two parts:

- Part A: Participant Information
- Part B: Internship Information

Part A will not be made public. Part B will be made public and available online to future students interested in learning more about the education abroad process and program. Education Abroad Program will preserve your anonymity by not revealing your name or any personal details.

## Part A

### Participant Information

Please provide the following information.

Name:			
Student Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> International	Home Institution:	University of Alberta
Faculty:	Science	Degree Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate
Major/Minor:	Physics/Math		
Current Year of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4th <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		

## Part B

### Exchange/Summer Program Information

Please provide the following details related to your Education Abroad Program.

Host Institution:	University of the West Indies		
City/Town:	St. Augustine	Country:	Trinidad and Tobago
Exchange/Summer Program Period:	From: 01/17/2014 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: 21/05/2014 (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Did you participate on an internship during your exchange/summer program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
What immigration documents (e.g. study visa, residence permits etc.) are required to study at your host institution?	you do not require a visa prior to departure, just show evidence you are studying at UWI when you arrive at the airport, and they will stamp a certain period in your passport, you will likely have to go to immigration in Port of Spain at a later time to get the full duration of your stay stamped in the passport, and there may be a fee, the advisors at UWI will help you.		
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	the process is not too difficult, and the advisors help, whatever correspondence you get from the university before arriving will be valuable to bring.		
What tips would you give to future students regarding their student visa and other required immigration documents?	you have to learn to relax with the whole process, sometimes things in Trinidad and Tobago move a little slower than you are used to		

### Languages

What was the language(s) of instruction at your host institution? <i>Check all that apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> German <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Were there any adequate course offerings taught in English for your field of study?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Prior to your departure, did you take any language courses at your home institution? If yes, what courses (e.g. FREN 111) did you take?	no (note: the Trini accent can be pretty difficult to understand for a couple weeks before you get used to it)
How did taking a class in another language (that was not your first language) impact your learning experience? Did you instructor make any accommodations?	N/A

## Academia

What arrangements regarding pre-approval of credit transfer were you able to arrange with your faculty before leaving on your program?

The faculty of Science pre-approves courses before you leave, and you can email the advisor while you are in Trinidad to get other courses approved if necessary.

Please describe the course registration process at your host institution.

- Were you able to pre-register in Canada?
- Did you receive any assistance from your host institution?
- Did your course registration change upon arrival? If so, why?

you can pre-register, but when I arrived they said some of the courses I was registered in were not offered. despite pre-registering you will still have to register online when classes start, or at the administration building.

Please describe your academic plan (e.g. number of courses per term, course name etc.).

I was there one term and took 5 courses, Astrophysics, introduction to mathematical modeling, Combinatorics, Introduction to Optimization, and Calypso: History, Development and Meaning.

Please describe the credit and grading system at your host institution.

the credit system is similar to U of A, except a credit is given for three hours of laboratory work per week, and the term is a little shorter, so courses that were four credits at UWI were only given 3 transfer credits by my faculty at the U of A. 3 credit courses at UWI were transferred as 3 credits at U of A in my case.

How was your overall academic experience (e.g. teaching style, class structure and sizes, amount of coursework, assessment) in comparison to your home institution?

textbooks were used rarely if ever, and in many classes attendance is mandatory to pass. final exams usually carry about 75% weight.

How did you obtain a transcript for coursework completed at your host institution?

I havent obtained one, but I am able to view my grades at the university website

## Student Services

Please describe the type of facilities (e.g. library, internet/Wi-Fi access, computer labs, bookstore, health clinic, counseling services) available at your host institution.

there is a nice library, the Wi-Fi is not great but is available throughout campus, there are several computer labs, a bookstore and health clinic on campus, and I am not sure about counseling services. there is also an outdoor swimming pool and tennis court available to students, and an exercise gym for an extra fee (about CAD\$15 per term)

To the best of your knowledge, what support and services are available at your host institution for:

- Students with disabilities or special needs
- Students identifying as LGBTQ
- Students of visible minorities

Homosexuality is illegal in Trinidad and Tobago, although this doesn't seem to be enforced, most of the homosexual students were not open about their homosexuality. the campus is wheel-chair friendly, and services are available for students with disabilities, although I am not certain to what extent. The population of Trinidad and Tobago is mostly of african or east indian descent, and there are rarely any instances of racial discrimination against anyone, as far as I observed.

Please describe where you could find exchange student advising or receive academic counseling at your host institution.

there is an international student office and they offer an orientation meeting at the start of the term, you can visit them any time. I also found the professors very approachable and helpful. other academic counseling services may be available I am not sure

## Housing Information

To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?	there are four halls of residence, milner (co-ed on campus), Sir Arthur Miller hall (co-ed near campus), Trinity hall (female only, on campus) and Canada Hall (male only, on campus) there is also lots of private housing options available nearby.
What type of housing did you stay in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus residences <input type="checkbox"/> Off-campus housing <input type="checkbox"/> With a host family <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
How satisfied were you with your housing choice?	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Not at all satisfied</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 2</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 3</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 5 = Very satisfied</div> </div>
What should future students be aware of when choosing on-campus residences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Application process for housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Utilities and furniture</i></li> <li>• <i>Meal plans, cooking facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Housing rules (e.g. curfew, how early can you move in, closure during major holidays etc.)</i></li> <li>• <i>Assistance from host institution staff (e.g. airport pick-up, orientation)</i></li> </ul>	you can apply for housing from Canada, milner hall was very nice, utilities are included and there are kitchen and laundry facilities as well as communal study areas, a computer lab, basketball court and ping-pong table. there are no meal plans and there is no curfew. you can stay on hall up to one week after your last exam, and if you move in before the first day of class you will be charged extra (about CAD\$25 per day). expect to have a roommate if you go to milner, you are very unlikely to get a private room.
What should future students be aware of when choosing off-campus housing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lease agreements, deposits, tenant rights</i></li> <li>• <i>Utilities and furniture</i></li> <li>• <i>Location and neighbourhoods</i></li> <li>• <i>Safety and security</i></li> <li>• <i>Type of resources available to look for housing (eg: Craigslist)</i></li> </ul>	you can likely find listings online, there are also often postings on bulletin boards around campus. most of the housing is pretty close to campus, the locals recommend you don't walk around too much at night, but I found it pretty safe.

## Student Life

What would you recommend to future students who are looking to meet other students at your host institution? (e.g. extra-curricular activities such as student groups, intramurals, residence events and activities, volunteering opportunities, etc.)

**there are lots of groups and volunteering opportunities, deffinatly join the Biological Society, they go on lots of fun hikes and trips. Milner Hall also has plenty of differant accivities throughout the term. people are quite social in Trinidad, it easy to meet lots of new people.**

What work or internship opportunities are available for students on and/or off campus?

not much, and the wages aren't very appealing

## Health and Safety

Are there any specific health/safety issues that future students should be made aware of? What precautions can you recommend to mitigate or eliminate these issues?

not really, the crime rate is high in Trinidad, but the area around the university is pretty safe and the campus security is very present, also most of the danger is quite avoidable, generally gang related, and occuring in areas you wouldn't want to go to anyways.

Did your host institution require a mandatory travel/health insurance plan for exchange students? How did you arrange this?

I was required to provide proof of up to date immunizations, but just for the basic stuff like tetnis and measels. there is a health clinic on campus free for students.

## Cultural Adaptation

What cultural differences (if any) did you find particularly challenging?

the accent is a bit difficult, but people will talk more clearly to you if they notice you are having trouble, and you get used to it after a while.

What parts of your host country's culture did you most appreciate?

everybody is so happy and kind, they love music and dancing, and everyone on campus is very social. The people are pretty easy going, but also extremely motivated, they have a strong work ethic and know how to unwind as well.

## Costs and Budgeting

Please describe your basic costs in Canadian dollars. This will help future exchange/summer program students plan their own budgets.

Airfare to host country	\$ 800	Brief Description	united has frequent flights for about 800
Visa fees	\$ 20	Brief Description	this varries, I don't know why, I didn't pay much
Books/term	\$ 100	Brief Description	my classes didn't have textbooks, but some classes do
Accommodation/month	\$ 230	Brief Description	950 for the term
Meals/month	\$ 120	Brief Description	depends on you, groceries are similar in cost to canada, fast food and street food is much cheaper
Health insurance/month	\$ 0	Brief Description	I just used my lhaveaplan from U of A
Local transportation/month	\$ 25	Brief Description	transportation is cheap, and you don't have to go anywhere unless you want to.
Personal spending/month	\$ 75	Brief Description	beer, etcetera
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	\$ 10	Brief Description	cell phone service is pretty cheap, use digicel
Other travel	\$ 2000	Brief Description	I went to Venezuela and then through all of central america
What unexpected costs did you encounter?	not much, taxis are kinda expensive, considering how cheap public transit is		

## Funding your International Experience

Please indicate how you financed your program. This will help future students plan their own budgets. <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from UAlberta <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from Host Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Student loans <input type="checkbox"/> Family contributions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal savings <input type="checkbox"/> Employment while in host country <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
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## Final Thoughts

What were some highlights of your experience abroad?

hiking trips, through the jungle to waterfalls you could go swimming in. I went on lots of awsome hikes, and they were amazing also checked out some pretty cool limestone caves, and some beautiful beaches in the north, there is also some awesome local food. Carnival was awesome as well, definatly play Jouvert, even if you don't do mas, Jouvert was awesome.

Would you recommend your internship program to other students? Why or why not?

absolutely, I had a great time in Trinidad, just open up to it and you will have a blast

Please provide any final information/tips for students interested in studying abroad that you would like to share.

don't stress out in the first few weeks, when I got there everything seemed so unorganized, and I didn't know where my classes were and I ended up having to find new ones that had allready started, and I got stressed for a while, but I wish I would have just relaxed, don't try to force things, it won't do any good.