Part B

e3 Information

Please provide the following details related to your Education Abroad Program

City/Town:	Edmonton	Country:	Canada
e3 Program Period:	From: 08/03/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: 08/24/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Choose which components of the e3 program you participated in	☐ Language course only ☐ Language + Internship ☐ Language + Internship + Academic course ☐ Internship + Academic course ☐ Language + Academic course ☒ Academic course only		
What immigration documents (e.g. student visa, residence permits etc.) are required for your program?	I did not need any immigration documents.		
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	No issues.		
What tips would you give to future students regarding required immigration documents?	Can't give advice in this area.		

Languages

What was the language(s) spoken in the country of your program *Check all that apply*	☒ English ☒ German ☐ Portuguese ☐ French Other _____ ☐ Other:
Were you able to improve your language skills as a result of your participation on e3?	I did not take the language course but while I was in Germany I picked up basic vocabulary.

Internship Placement

(Please only complete this section if you were involved in the internship component of the program

What technical skills did you learn as a result of your e3 internship placement?	N/A

What soft skills or transferable skills (i.e., intercultural, communication, time management) did you learn as a result of your e3 internship placement?	N/A
Describe the working atmosphere at your internship placement (i.e. supervisory style, hours of work, type of work assigned).	N/A
Do you have any recommendations to improve or enhance the internship experience?	N/A

How was your overall academic experience (e.g. field trips, guest lectures, teaching style, class structure and sizes, assessment) in comparison to studying in Alberta?

The overall experience in this course was really great! I enjoyed all of the out of class trips we made to foreign ministries and other small field trips. This was great because in Alberta most of the learning is classroom based and you don't really get to see what you are learning about in the "real world". I really liked the relaxed class structure and our class size of 10 people as I don't often find these two things in my classes in Alberta. I found that the marks distribution for this course was very fair but the percent distribution for the term paper was quite large. I think that is because this was such a condensed course and there was not a lot of time to assess students on a lot of different things in three weeks.

What elements of studying abroad did you enjoy the most?

What I liked about studying abroad was being in a totally new country and city! It was cool to learn about an academic course that interests me in conjunction with learning about a new city and culture through living there. Studying abroad gave me the opportunity for personal growth because it took me out of my normal day to day routine at home. I loved meeting new people and seeing new things!

What elements of studying abroad with e3 would you like to see improved?

One of the challenges faced with the AREC 400 academic course was the location of the classroom. The campus we were on had construction during our lectures. In particular our classroom was right next to a road going through the campus where loud vehicles and equipment drove by many times for several hours. This made it really hard to hear our professor during lectures. So it would be nice to see the location of the classrooms ~~approved~~ improved if there are ever e3 courses on this campus again.

Local Program Coordinator Facilitation

Please evaluate the activities (e.g. welcome orientation, events, information sessions, academic support) made available to you throughout the program?

The welcome orientation dinner was an excellent way to meet the other students as well as the professors of the courses. I found the information sessions prior to leaving Canada really helpful and informative. I felt very prepared as I left for my trip.

Please describe any changes or recommendation to better accommodate student support locally

We had great student support locally. Henriette could always answer questions via social media which was really helpful.

Housing Information

What housing options were available to students on e3?	The options that were available were for us to find our own housing or for the University to arrange the housing for us.
What type of housing did you stay in?	☒ Student residences (provided by the program) ☐ Private housing (arranged by the student) ☐ A host family ☐ Other:
How satisfied were you with your housing choice?	☐ 1 = Not at all satisfied ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☒ 4 ☐ 5 = Very satisfied
What should future students be aware of when choosing residences? • *Application process for housing* • *Utilities and furniture* • *Meal plans, cooking facilities* • *Housing rules (e.g. curfew, how early can you move in, closure during major holidays etc.)* • *Assistance from host institution staff (e.g. airport pick-up, orientation)*	• The application process for the housing was very easy and the housing I received was in a great central location in the city of Berlin. • The utilities are provided like electricity and water. The building had a laundry room that cost around 2 euro for a load and you have to provide your own laundry detergent. The furniture in the rooms was very basic and not of the best quality • I found it a challenge to cook in my little apartment because of the confined space and very basic cookware provided. I think it also had to do with the fact that I was only there for a month and I did spend a lot of nights out so I did not want to buy too much food that I would then later have to throw away. I found it easiest to cook simple meals like pasta and pasta sauce or make sandwiches. I also ate a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables. • The housing rules in House of Nations were great. Moving in was very easy and returing my key at the end was quick and straightforward. There was almost always someone at the front concierge office right as you walk in the building that was available to answer any questions. • The host institution for this program was UAlberta so I found my own way to the apartment by taking a taxi from the airport ,
What should future students be aware of when choosing off-campus housing? • *Lease agreements, deposits, tenant rights* • *Utilities and furniture* • *Location and neighbourhoods* • *Safety and security* • *Type of resources available to look for housing (eg: Craigslist)*	N/A

Student Life

What would you recommend to future students who are hoping to get involved with local students (e.g. extra-curricular activities such as student groups, intramurals, residence events and activities, volunteering opportunities, etc.)

I would tell a future student to find an activity that they are passionate about in Edmonton and participate in that activity abroad. It is helpful to do some research of places to go and people you could contact. For example while I was in Berlin I went Swing Dancing a lot which is something I love to do at home. By doing this I met and became friends with some great locals. Before I went I talked to friends from Edmonton who had traveled and they gave me suggestions of places to go. I also googled and then followed some dance groups on facebook so I was aware of their events etc.

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?

Depending where you go/travel, health could be more or less serious. I would say the biggest issue I faced was food poisoning. But this is something that can happen very easily at home too so it is not specific to studying abroad. To mitigate this I would say eat at restaurants and street food stands that seem safe and ask friends to see if there are food places that they would recommend eating at. Other safety issues might occur while on transit, especially on weekends if you are out late at night or early morning. Thankfully I never had any issues. I would just make sure you have a phone on you at all times. Make sure you know when train and bus times end. Make sure to go into train cars that have a lot of people. And if you are uneasy taking the metro then most transit stations in Berlin have a line of taxis waiting outside. A taxi can sometimes be expensive but it is worth it if you are not sure where you are going and you want to get home safe. I took a taxi a few times mainly because the transit wasn't running when I needed to get back to my apartment.

Cultural Adaptation

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

In Berlin it seemed that people did not have a lot of patience. People were just a lot more direct and abrupt in their interactions. Another difference I found in Germany was the consumption of alcohol. You see it everywhere including the streets and that is very normal for people. Drinking beer and alcohol there is very much a social activity. Alcohol is more strictly regulated in Canada and I think that is why we have a very different outlook on it.

It feels like there is less personal space because the city is so densely populated and everyone lives in apartment building several stories tall. They cover the city.

I found it challenging that shopping malls and stores were closed on Sundays. If you needed to run out to go grab something it was hard to find a place that was open so it kind of made me plan ahead a bit more.

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

Germany has one of the largest economies in the world and I saw this reflected almost everywhere.I really liked how the city was almost always awake. No matter what time of day it was you could find things to do or places to go eat. I also really really appreciated their public transit system. It made getting around so easy.

What are your recommendations for effective communication with the people in your host country?

For effective communication I think it is important to know very basic vocabulary like please and thank you. It can go a long way.

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	$ 1580	Brief Description	This was a round trip flight into and out of Berlin (price does not include flight cancellation insurance)
Visa fees	$ 0	Brief Description	I was in Europe for less than 90 days
Books/term	$ 0	Brief Description	We had no required textbooks for this course
Accommodation/month	$ 1200	Brief Description	This was the fee I paid to the U of A and I believe I am being refunded some of this money
Meals/month	$ 600	Brief Description	This is a rough estimate of what I paid for a couple of grocery trips in the month as well as eating out 4-5 times per week like buying lunch or something. Also coffees and pastries as snacks.
Health insurance/month	$ 90	Brief Description	This was for one month of CoverMe Travel insurance through Manulife
Local transportation/month	$ 200	Brief Description	This included an AB zone transit pass for one month and taking a taxi a couple of times

Personal spending/month	$500	Brief Description	This money was spent on gifts for family and friends as well as personal items while I was there such as clothes and some things for my apartment
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	$ 25	Brief Description	This was the cost of the SIM cards I bought for the month and they were a 500MB one and a 5GBone
Other travel	$ 215	Brief Description	I took two weekend trips. This cost includes the round trip transportation to each location, one being a train and one a bus. This cost also includes the accommodations in both places for one night.
What unexpected costs did you encounter?	Some unexpected costs were related to the weather and just having to buy some clothes and equipment for that.		

Funding your International Experience

Please indicate how you financed your program. This will help future students plan their own budgets. *Check all that apply.*	☒ Scholarships from UAlberta ☐ Scholarships from Host Institution ☐ Student loans ☒ Family contributions	☒ Personal savings ☐ Employment while in host country ☐ Other:

Final Thoughts

What were the highlights e3?

The highlights of e3 were visiting the embassy and getting a tour of the Reichstag. Also all of the sightseeing and socializing that I did with friends.

Would you recommend e3 to other students? Why or why not?

I would absolutely recommend e3 to other students. I think it is a great program to ease a person into studying abroad for the first time because you don't need to register with a foreign university. The e3 program is an awesome way to see a new country because you get to live there and not be just a tourist for a few days. The application process to get into the program was straightforward and the international office was great at answering questions and equipping you for your time abroad.

Please provide any final information/tips for students interested in e3 that you would like to share.

I would say to go for it! I would tell them it is worth it to even just do one part of the program.

Thank You for Completing the Report

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience. Your opinion is important to us and will help enhance the programs and services for students working abroad.

To submit this report, please email the form to goabroad@ualberta.ca.

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