

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Help : How was your experience abroad? If you could go back I time, would you go to this university and why ?

It's pretty cliché but this experience really changed my life, more precisely my way of seeing the world, of interacting with people, I even learned more about myself as well as about my friends with whom I traveled. If I had to do it again, I don't think I would go back there because I was still quite bored because I was snowed in many times.

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

Help : Do I need a visa ? If yes, what is the process ?

No visa required as I was studying for less than 6 months.

2. The flight

Help : what flight did you take (the company name, airport etc.) and when did you take your flight ticket

We traveled with my 3 friends (Timothé Pech, Toni Moreau, Anthony Faure). Our journey started at the bus station of Montpellier (at the Sabines tramway station), from there we took the bus to the airport of Marseille. Once we arrived in Marseille, we took a plane to Brussels (Brussel Airlines). Then we flew from Brussels to Montreal (Air Canada) and we were supposed to fly from Montreal to Sydney except that the previous plane was late making us miss our last flight. As a result, the airline (Air Canada), at fault for this delay, paid for all of us to fly to Toronto where we spent a free night in a very good hotel, then the next day we took a direct flight from Toronto to Sydney. And finally, we took a cab from the Sydney airport to our home.

We had taken the tickets only one month in advance. But as it is often the case, it is much more interesting to buy your tickets as soon as possible

3. My luggage

Help : what to not forget in the luggage (what was useful and what you would like to have taken)

An adaptor to charge all your electronic devices; Enough clothes for all the different types of weather you will face (as from January to May the weather could varies a lot); Laptop; Some good books; If possible, try to take something related to your hobbies(s) because you will probably have time to do them e.g.: sports clothes, cleats, running shoes etc.

4. Bank account

Help : did you have to change bank? To respect some amount requirement on the bank account etc.

I did not need to change my bank account because my bank (the CIC) proposed an offer allowing me to have no fees abroad on payments by bank card nor on withdrawals in counter (5 withdrawals per month). I just had to inform them and nothing more. This offer can last 1 year in total and can be split up as you wish. I spent 5 months abroad (Canada, USA) which means that I still have 7 months left as these.

5. Insurance

Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?

I subscribed to APRIL International which was in relation with my French insurer (MAIF). This insurance offered me a COMFORT package which corresponded perfectly to what I was looking for, all for 225 euros for 4 and a half months.

The formula included:

Medical expenses - Type of membership: individual

-Coverage area: Zone 2 - Worldwide excluding USA

Type of cover: from the 1st euro

Repatriation assistance

Personal accident

Personal liability (private capacity), internships and tenant's liability

Baggage and personal effects insurance

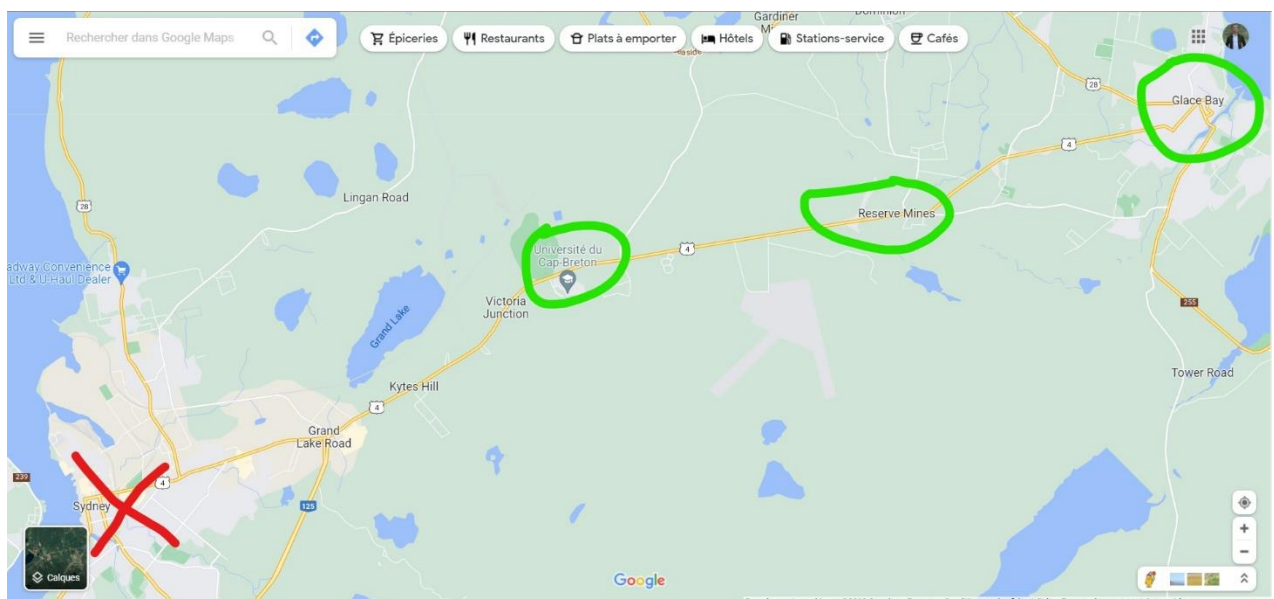
Legal assistance

Travel incident insurance and interruption of stay

B. Housing

1. Where to live

Help : Do a google maps capture and circle the area you recommend to live in (and the one you do not recommend)



2. Find a flat or a room

Help : How did you find your flat? Do you have any recommendation

We found our house in Glace Bay on Airbnb, the price was interesting because we were 4 to live there. The only "worry" was that the house was a 30-minute bus ride from CBU, but we quickly solved the "problem" by deciding to buy a car (which we managed to sell at the end of our stay).

If I had a recommendation to make it would be that if you are traveling alone, it would be better to take a shared apartment directly on campus, it is certainly more expensive but at least you will not be isolated and you will have all the activities near you.

3. Cost

Help : How much should I plan for a room?

We paid 1600 euros per month including all charges for 4 people, or 400 euros each per month. It was worth it because we had a big house with a floor and a basement, well equipped (washing machine, dryer, oven, induction cooker, big fridge etc.).

However, I don't know the prices of the rooms on campus anymore.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

Help : How was the process, what did you have to do?

Because of the COVID-19 we had 0 official welcome from CBU, we were a bit left to our own devices but fortunately, thanks to helpful CBU students, we quickly understood the system of this university.

The first thing we had to do was to create our CBU student card, which was relatively easy and very fast. Then, the second and last thing we had to do was to send our international insurance certificates to the university to prove that we were well insured.

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

Help : List the different courses, and for each course, describe the format, the content, the exam, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?

Introduction to Business (MGMT-1601-12): A 3-hour lesson per week. Classes of 40 in a small amphitheater. Similar concept to flipped classroom: I had to read the course and answer questions on a site called Top Hat before going to class. Then once in class, we were talking about the same thing and going a little deeper.

Human Resources Management (MGMT-2605-11): Two one and a half hour sessions per week. Classic course with questions to prepare before each class. Final exam in the form of a professionalizing project in partnership with a local company where we had to analyze what employers were looking for in certain positions (nurse)

Organizational Behaviour 1 (MGMT-2604-13): Two one and a half hour sessions. Flipped class lesson, we had to read the lesson and answer questions before going to class on a website called Top Hat. Once in progress we review the same thing and deepen slightly. Final exam in the form of a professionalizing project where we did a monograph of a local company that read and analyzed our recommendations.

Leadership in Organizations (MGMT-3606-0): A 3-hour lesson per week. Classic course where we had to prepare questions as a group before each class. Interesting course teaching us the different theories and analyzes on leadership with sometimes sessions where we learned what kind of leader we were. I recommend this course.

Calculus for Business (MGSC-1109-11): Two sessions of 1 hour and a half per week. Very practical course whether for professional life or everyday life. Homework on MCQ form to be returned each week, final exam of 3 hours. I recommend this course.

2. Advice on “contrat d’étude”

Help : would you recommend for a student when picking its courses

When you build your study contract, first make sure that the courses really interest you because you are not going to have a lot of them, so as many as you like. In addition, I advise you to choose your courses to ensure that you have a timetable allowing you a lot of freedom, for my part I was on weekends from Thursday noon which allowed me to visit the surroundings and to take full advantage of my experience abroad.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

Help : Is it safe? Is there areas or times I should avoid

All the towns around are really secure, at no time did we feel insecure

B. Phone and Internet

Help : How to be able to call and have internet

I advise you to take your phone plan in France because there the prices of the plans are absurd (we are talking about \$50 per month for 2 GB). For my part, I took the 5G package from Free which brought me 25GB per month + unlimited calls and SMS to all countries.

C. Events

Help : How to know about the events?

Follow the CBU account on social networks, they share all the life of the campus there.

D. Sports

Help : What sport can I do ? and how?

If you are sporty, you will be delighted. You will find on campus a weight room accessible free of charge with the student card. But above all you must go to the "REC" which is a large, covered room on campus, open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., in which you can play basketball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, futsal, etc. There will even be small intra-mural leagues that you can easily join either by creating your team or by joining one, I advise you when you arrive to quickly contact the manager who is Yann Arthur (A French compatriot.)

If you are a fan of Hockey, I advise you to go and see games in Sydney. Throughout the semester you will be able to attend free matches of the college team which are a real show. Finally, in terms of winter activity, the university can lend you free equipment such as snowshoes or even ice skates.

E. Eating

Help: Any recommendation? Or good tips (e.g., an international house buffet)

You will easily find stores to do your shopping there, they are almost all at the same price except Walmart (in Sydney) which is interesting in terms of price but also choice (you can really find everything and anything there). Since there is small Indian community, you must try Indian food. Otherwise, the clichés are confirmed, you will find fast food everywhere, even on campus where a Tim Hortons is located.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

Help : How did you get access to the bus, car or bike

It is quite easy to go to the university by bus because many lines take you there. If you are going in a group and you plan to live together at 3 or 4, buying a car with the aim of reselling it at the end is a viable and very useful project for visiting the region.

G. Travels

Help : What do you recommend and what do you not recommend

The most beautiful thing to see, by far, is the Cabot Trail which has been named the most road in the world. You will find many hikes on the road (to be done from April or even May if you are not super equipped). If possible, it is interesting to visit the only big city around: Halifax, which is 4 hours by car from Sydney. Also take a walk along the beach, don't hesitate to take a car ride, it's very easy to find nice places to visit. Meet locals, they are the ones who will be the best to guide you

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Help : What would I liked to know if I could have gone back in time

I hope you like the snow and the hikes.

