

CDU Student Exchange

SIERRA BATH: So exchange is where you spend a semester or a year studying at a Partner Institution of CDU's. So CDU has Partner Institutions all over the world Europe, Asia and America and you can choose one of those universities to study at. I love to travel and I wanted to continue travelling while I was at uni but I didn't want to put off my Course, so did exchange so I could travel and study at the same time.

I went to University of South Florida in Tampa, one of CDU's Partner Institutions in the USA. I went in 2011 and that was my second year of studying at CDU, I went second semester CDU, which was the fall semester in America, and I went for one semester. You can choose to go for one or two semesters and I wish I had done two, and stayed there longer.

I found out about it originally at Orientation Week at CDU, and then I didn't think much about it until the end of that year when someone from the International Office came around to our classrooms asking if people would want to go on exchange and that's when I sort of thought, Yeah, I can see myself doing that.

The process for applying for exchange was quite easy. You get support from the International Office and they take you through each step. So you fill out a few forms and then they pass it on to the other University and they accept you, once your accepted that's when you can fill out forms for housing and living on campus and that sort of thing.

I got a scholarship of \$5000 from CDU a Federal Government Scholarship and that paid for my airfares and part of my accommodation.

The University was massive it had about 90,000 students, which was a good change from CDU, it was something different to experience. I don't know whether I would have liked to stay there the whole time, I liked coming back to CDU with the small class sizes, but it was an awesome experience.

The classes were amazing, they were different from Australian classes but the content was really good, I found it really useful. Instead of having 5-10 people

in tutorials I had 20-30 and in lectures, I think my biggest lecture was 100 people rather than 20 people at CDU.

I lived on campus while I was on exchange, I lived with 3 other girls in an apartment style complex on campus, we shared a kitchen and bathroom but had our own bedrooms.

The mascot for University of South Florida is Rocky the bull and he is everywhere around campus, you can buy lots of different things with him on it, but one cool thing, at the cafeteria when you make your own waffle it imprints Rocky's head, or the mascot emblem into the waffle, which was pretty cool.

I made a lot of new friends, while I was on exchange. The exchange students sort of hung around together, but in my classes I also met America students that were very friendly and very welcoming.

I definitely got involved with the American culture while on exchange. I got invited to go to my friend's house in the holidays and that was really cool. I did some country things, country America things. Thanksgiving, one of my friend's housemates had us over to her apartment and made us a big dinner and Halloween, it was amazing we did lots of different things.

Football in America is very big and that's something we all got involved over there. The University I went to the stadium where the games were held had a 120,00 seat stadium. So it was amazing, it was like going to Grand Final of a big football match but it was every week.

Because I was an exchange students while I was over there, the university had different programs that I could get involved in and they took us white water rafting in Tennessee. We also decided to do a road trip by ourselves one time, we went down to Alabama which was fun and we also went to Mexico for a weekend because it was so close, it that was amazing too.

My favourite part about exchange was probably just, living and studying in a different place away from home, everyone was super friendly and so nice and it was just a lot of fun and it sort of reignited the passion I had for my degree. I learnt all the Australian things and then going to America it sort of reinforced that is what I want to do and I could do this all over the world.

END VIDEO