



Katherine Sheehan

CSU global

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Where the bloody hell WERE you?

"Where the bloody hell WERE you" is a series of CSU Global stories from students who took part in overseas study (and other fun travel things too!) as part of their CSU degree!

During the first semester of 2008 I participated on an exchange to Oregon State University. I am currently studying Adventure ecotourism and after my exchange decided to defer to stay overseas so I am now finishing my degree this year. I was always interested in an exchange and after consulting with my lecturers and surfing the net I decided that Oregon State was the University I was going to go for.

My exchange started with a three day home stay. This was an optional service which was provided by Oregon State that houses students for the first three days of their exchange. I was placed with a lady by the name of Catherine Mater who lived in a condo on the river near the university.

Catherine and I made an instant connection and I found myself staying with her for a week and visiting regularly. Catherine became my surrogate mother and I had a house to stay in whenever I needed it. I strongly recommend taking this opportunity if it's offered. Catherine introduced me to Corvallis and showed me the ropes of the town.

After my stay with Catherine I moved into my accommodation on campus. This was a big decision as I wasn't sure whether to find my own accommodation live in international dorms or find my own dorm. After much consideration I decided to find my own dorm and stay in a single room. Living in a single room meant that I always had my own space and could always rely on having a quiet area if I needed to study or just get away.



At the beginning this made it a little harder to meet people as students often had their doors closed and all met the season before I arrived. I soon found out that in your 1st year at uni it's compulsory to live on campus so the dorm were mostly full of freshmen or our equivalent 1st years. This made for an interesting experience but none the less was very fun. The university was massive and there was always something going on.

We used to often joke that you could live at OSU without ever buying food. There was always an event on that you could find free food at. Before I arrived to OSU (Oregon State University) I met some people on Facebook through an exchange student that studied at CSU. She linked me up with some of her friends and I was instantly invited to parties and was able to make some really great friends quite quickly.

When I wasn't studying or with my American friends I was travelling with a group of exchange students I met during the first week. I, four Germans, a girl from the Czech Republic and another Australian went on several weekend trips in Bruce a car the Germans bought.

After my exchange I decided to extend my stay and was hoping to find some work in my industry. After researching my options I extended my visa on academic training. This meant that I was able to stay an additional three months but had to get a job in my area of study. I looked around and asked for lots of local advice and found myself applying for as many camp positions as possible. After a 2 hour interview I found myself at Camp Killoqua just outside of Washington's capital, Seattle.

On a more serious note, throughout the entire process Oregon State and CSU offered me great support. Leading up to the exchange planning is essential and CSU step you through the process. Lecturers on the other side are dedicated and excited to have you in their classes, they understand your situation and are very committed to their studies. I even had lecturers offering to teach me over the net prior to my arrival as I wanted to study a subject with pre-requisites. This exchange enabled me to study a wider variety of subjects and experience lecturing from a number of levels and styles.

Its benefits to me are ongoing, I am able to provide a more substantial and impressive resume with overseas study and work standing out to employers. It has already proven successful in finding me desired work. I have made lifelong friends which I hope to visit again very soon and whom I will keep in touch with for a lifetime. I feel I have grown as a person from my experience and have memories which will stay with me forever.

I feel ready to take on challenges for my future and see opportunities rather than doubts. I strongly suggest this exchange experience to anyone interested or unsure. I would love to help you through this process so if there are any questions please feel free to ask them now or get in touch with me later.

To have a chat with Katherine, please forward your details - full name, email and mobile to:

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NB: CSU Global Promotional Assistant will run information sessions on your campus throughout Session 2. Check when they are on via the CSU Global website – www.csu.edu.au/csuglobal.



Facts in brief

Oregon State University is situated on a stunning 500-acre campus with a number of parklike areas for students to relax and unwind. It was established as a private academy in Corvallis in 1858. College-level courses were added in 1865 and the first degrees were awarded in 1870.

Oregon State University offers the largest selection of academic programs in the state. It offers programs through 12 colleges and schools, including highly regarded professional programs in the colleges of Engineering, Business, Science, Forestry, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine.

Undergraduate students have access to more than 200 academic programs, along with opportunities for study abroad, undergraduate research, and internships. Graduate students can prepare themselves for successful careers among the strong research and teaching opportunities offered.

OSU has enrolments of more than 19,000 students, of whom 6 percent come from 88 countries. Most of the U.S. students are from Oregon, but all of the 50 states are represented.



Location

The University is located in Corvallis a beautiful tree filled city of over 50 000 residents. Corvallis is nestled in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley, central to the many attractions of the state of Oregon. The first official claim to this land in The Willamette Valley was by Joseph C. Avery in 1845. In the winter of 1847-1848, He ambitiously chained off 12 acres of land around his cabin for town lots. Known as 'Little Fields', this was the inception of what would become the community of Corvallis. Avery is also credited with naming town Corvallis, a title that he made up by compounding the Latin words for 'heart of the valley'.

Culture

Corvallis is home to many cultural groups and associations. You can enjoy many plays, concerts, Opera, and lectures produced by organisations such as the Corvallis Community Theatre and Opera Theatre Corvallis or visit the area's fine art galleries, historic buildings and museums. The region also hosts a number of festivals celebrating music, art, and historical events.

The campus' cultural centre involves the OSU community in issues that relate to various residents of the university and encourages students to participate in the activities of university's clubs and organisations.

Students are sure to find people who share their interests, as there are about 300 clubs and organisations. They can make friends while participating in music, art, drama or contribute opinion and experience in various student involvement organisations.

Sport

Corvallis is located within 90 minutes of the Portland Metropolitan area, world class skiing, and the spectacular Oregon coast. The city has more than 50 parks and designated wildlife preserves. There are also public and private recreational facilities for tennis, racquetball, golf, swimming, fitness, softball, football, volleyball, karate, and horseback riding. From here one can also take advantage of more than 60 miles of cycling and running paths, as well as excellent backpacking, mountaineering, canoeing, camping, snow skiing, and bike touring.

Whether students are fans or athletes, they will enjoy the high-excitement of high profile NCAA Division I, Pac-10 Conference sports at OSU. Students can participate in more than 30 intramural sports and numerous club sports such as basketball, cross-country, golf, gymnastics, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming, track and field, volleyball, baseball, football, golf and wrestling.

Climate

Corvallis has a moderate climate. It is cool and rainy in winter and warm and sunny in summer. Its average annual rainfall is 40 inches.

Average low and high temperature ranges (in degree Celsius):

January 1 to 8

April 4 to 16

July 11 to 27

October 6 to 18



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