International Student Perspectives

Designed and formatted in a partnership between:
The Office of International Relations
The Center for the Advancement and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL)
Niagara University 2014
**FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF NU**

**WEATHER**

**Italy**: This week was so hot. It was sunny.

**Italy (Undergraduate)**: This first week the weather was really good, hot and warm.

**Germany**: Perfect the entire time.

**Germany (Undergraduate)**: The weather so far has been very similar to home. Hot! However I have never seen snow so I am looking forward to it.

**Australia**: Love it! I like windy weather.

**Russia**: Beautiful but humid.

**Russia (Undergraduate)**: Love it! I like windy weather.

**Canada**: Beautiful but humid.

**Canada (Graduate)**: The weather so far has been very similar to home. Hot! However I have never seen snow so I am looking forward to it.
FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF NU

TRANSPORTATION

A really good transportation
-Italy

The purple bus is perfect, you can reach all the shopping centre near Niagara University.
-Italy (Undergraduate)

I was picked up by University staff at the airport which was really nice & very helpful.
-Germany (Undergraduate)

I like that there is a bus that takes students without cars to stores.
-Russia (Undergraduate)

I was lucky enough to buy a car, so it has been very convenient.
-Australia (Undergraduate)

Car, lots of parking, easy to find
-Canada (Graduate)
FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF NU

THE NIAGARA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

I love this campus and all the activities.
-Italy (Undergraduate)

It’s small, so it doesn’t take too much time to get from one building to another.
-Russia (Undergraduate)

It’s a beautiful campus. I love it. It’s a different life from Italy because in Italy there aren’t campus. I’m happy to do this experience.
-Italy

Amazing! I really like the old architecture. At home, we don’t have as many resources such as, ice rinks, multiple gyms and courts.
-Australia (Undergraduate)

Nice green and everything well connected & organized
-Germany (Undergraduate)

Beautiful and beautifully kept, nice and small, easy to get to class, but not pub like in Canada (lol)
-Canada (Graduate)
All the people are really kind with us and they are always there if I need help.
   -Italy (Undergraduate)

I find the people here very kind and cute.
   -Italy

Very, very friendly. It was really helpful at the beginning, because I didn’t know anyone.
   -Russia (Undergraduate)

Very, very friendly and helpful! I haven’t met one person I haven’t liked.
   -Australia (Undergraduate)

Very friendly, helpful, personable; they really bend over backwards to help you.
   -Canada (Graduate)

Everyone was very helpful the entire time.
   -Germany (Undergraduate)
I don't like so much American good. I prefer Italian food.
-Italy

Sometimes during the first days a warm meal instead of sandwiches would have been great!
-Germany (Undergraduate)

I prefer Italian food but it's also an opportunity to try some things new like bacon or pancakes.
-Italy (Undergraduate)

I like diversity. I don't eat pizza, fries pies every day. But there are some healthy options such as salads, meet and gluten free. I'm gluten free.
-Russia (Undergraduate)

It is great to see a mixture of food day to day. Very tasty
-Australia (Undergraduate)

Clet Hall is excellent nutrition and good tasting; lots of variety. I love the salads, hot meals, vegetarian and soups. Sherri and Nicole are great- good at their jobs, friendly and welcoming- great ambassadors for NU.

Problem- No dinner served between 2 and 4pm when our breaks are. In summer semester it was a problem, but fall semester appears they have many types of food despite not having dinner ready yet.
-Canada (Graduate)
Seems reasonable & fair in all courses although many different grades for entire final grade. - in Germany final exams are often worth 100%

- Germany (Undergraduate)

I didn't get a grade so I can't tell anything.

- Italy (Undergraduate)

I haven't received any grades yet, but I like the idea that our grades are measured in percents.

- Russia (Undergraduate)

Haven't been graded as of yet.

- Australia (Undergraduate)

Very clear grading scale and rubrics.

- Canada (Graduate)
FIRST IMPRESSIONS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Beautiful
-Italy

Classrooms are big and clean. Everyone was kind with me.
-Italy (Undergraduate)

Very casual and always open for discussions and interaction with students
-Germany (Undergraduate)

I prefer small classrooms with less than 50 people. Most of my classes are like that.
-Russia (Undergraduate)

So far very friendly and very interactive
-Australia (Undergraduate)

Some are very fun, most are easy going, lots of windows, space and freedom; none of the clocks work though. Please fix them (Academic building); I dislike the online courses. I learn more from professors through modeling. Modeling is a method critical to educating teachers.
-Canada (Graduate)
FIRST IMPRESSIONS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

PROFESSORS

Available and very kind
-Italy

It's only the first week, but I do really like my professors.
-Italy (Undergraduate)

All very friendly, open and helpful
-Germany (Undergraduate)

They are very welcomed. I already asked for some extra help and wasn't rejected.
-Russia (Undergraduate)

Very helpful, especially towards international students who are adjusting to the way things are done here. Eg APA, at home we use Harvard referencing so I have to learn a new style.
-Australia (Undergraduate)

Most are excellent, above and beyond my expectations. They are experts in their field, personable, and fun. They are also exceptional educators of students. Only one is disorganized, fails to show up to class and never has course books ordered and in the bookstore in time. Syllabus for each course is very well organized. Teaching methods are interesting and excellent-except for 1 professor. All projects are interesting and useful. I know I will be job ready and professional. The professors have many personal connections and reach out to the community. The professors go above and beyond to ensure that we are job ready. Even the worst professor's project has us job ready. Overall, very impressed!
-Canada (Graduate)
FIRST IMPRESSIONS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

MANAGING TIME

I didn’t get an assignment yet but I think we have enough time to manage all of the assignments.
-Italy (Undergraduate)

Very different than at home
-Germany (Undergraduate)

It’s a little bit hard. Personally for me it takes more time to do homework than for native americans. But it all comes to time management.
-Russia (Undergraduate)

There are a lot more assessments per subject in American so I’ll have to adjust a be more aware of time management.
-Australia (Undergraduate)

It was tough in the summer term but is more manageable this fall term. All assignments are practical and will assist us with our portfolio and make us job ready.
-Canada (Graduate)
After one week here I can say that I like so much living here.
   -Italy

I need to get a routine before I can answer this question properly.
   -Germany (Undergraduate)

I have enough time for my personal life it’s balanced with my school life.
   -Italy (Undergraduate)

I study in the mornings and after classes and after dinner spend time with friends. I’m able to manage both of them right now.
   -Russia (Undergraduate)

I plan on getting a job in Canada as I have my work permit. It is very helpful living on campus as the library resources are just around the corner for assessment.
   -Australia (Undergraduate)

Summer term it was all work and no sleep or down time. This term is much more balanced. Thank you for taking the time to construct this survey.
   -Canada (Graduate)