

Emily John: University of California, Santa Barbara (Semester 2, 2010)

UQ Program: Bachelors of Commerce/Law

I am in my third year of Bachelor of Commerce/Law degree and studied economics subjects at UCSB. I found the style of teaching very different from day one. The 10 week quarter system is an extremely quick and intense version of a normal UQ semester. Although the actual work was easier compared to UQ, the assessment was more constant with assignments and mini exams nearly every week.

While students at UCSB take their study seriously, they definitely know how to party! UCSB was exactly what I was hoping it to be- Isla Vista is an extremely chilled, fun college town that is right on the ocean. The houses all have big decks overlooking the ocean where beer pong and drinking games are always being played in the hot Californian sun!

My 5 top tips for students attending UCSB are:

1. Look on Craigslist for housemates who live on Del Playa Drive- it is right on the ocean and the street where all the parties are!! (see picture below)
2. Buy a second hand bike as soon as you get there- no one drives cars and you can pretty much get anywhere you want to go on a bike
3. Go to as many college sporting events as possible, they are heaps of fun
4. Make good use of CLAS which is a free tutoring service set up by current students
5. Enrol in a social sport at the UCen- there are heaps of sports on offer and all lots of fun

Overall going on exchange to UCSB was one of the best decisions of my life. It was not only academically rewarding but so much fun, and I would recommend it to anyone wanting to live out a true American college experience!



My housemates and I sitting in our backyard