Jessica Pattison: Washington University (Semester 1, 2010)

**UQ Program: Bachelor of Business Management/Commerce**

Having wanted to go on exchange since grade 10, I had built up very high expectations for the experience, expectations which were met and surpassed over my entire time at Wash U.

The class structure was a little different to that at UQ, but that didn’t stop me from enjoying my classes. While I was happy to be able to continue my business studies and tick off some of my core subjects, my favourite class was one of my electives The Courts and Civil Liberties, where we discussed cases currently before the Supreme Court.

Outside of the classroom, the Wash U campus was always a hive of activity with the university sponsoring events a number of times a week. By far the highlight of the Wash U calendar was Spring W.I.L.D, a concert put on for the students on the last day of class. With past acts including the Black Eyed Peas and Passion Pit, this year did not disappoint with one of my favourite bands Cold War Kids headlining the event.

Prior to starting classes, Wash U provided a great orientation program for all the incoming exchange students. It was in this program that I made some of my best friends, who came to Wash U from various parts of Europe and who I plan to visit during Summer next year. St. Louis provided a great base for my friends and I to travel during the semester, visiting Nashville, New York and Chicago over the weekends and a fantastic Spring Break in Cancun for ten days.

Going on exchange has also provided me with the fantastic opportunity to undertake an internship in New York over the Northern Summer at a Media and Marketing company based in the city. Wash U was more than happy to help me in finding this opportunity and sponsor my visa for the duration of internship, which has so far been incredibly fun as well as great experience to add to my resume.

My time at Wash U and the exchange process overall was definitely one of the greatest learning experiences in my life and certainly one of the most fun. I encourage anyone even considering an exchange to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity UQ offers.

**Top 5 Tips:**

- Live on campus
- Visit ‘The Library’ a bar near the Saint Louis University Campus
- Visit Nashville
- If studying during the Spring semester go to Cancun for spring Break
- Go to the Mardi Gras celebrations in STL, they are the 2nd biggest in the Country
Me (left) and another exchange student at Mardi Gras in STL

Some of my friends at Wash U who were also on exchange

Trying to fit in, in Nashville
At Spring W.I.L.D, the end of semester on-campus concert