

2017-2018

ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Adelaide , Australia
name university abroad	Flinders University
start date	12 / 07 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 11 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

PREPARATION

exchange application process
The application process went swift and without any problems. Both Utrecht University and Flinders University were responsive via mail, and if I had any questions they were answered quickly.
unselling & support at Utrecht University
Since support at UU mostly focuses on a semester starting in september, and already started in July, most support meetings were not of much worth to me since i had already taken many of the things they explained there (such as a visa etc.)
ademic preparation
The academic level at Flinders University was not as high as in Utrecht. I was able to reach high grades without doing as much effort as I would have to do to attain the same grades in Utrecht.
nguage preparation
Although the Australian accent was sometimes a bit hard to understand, after a few weeks i'd gotten used to it. Academic English preparation was also sufficient.
finances
Depends on where you choose to live, and what other activities you choose to do. I lived on campus, which was quite expensive. Cheaper options are available though. Regular expenses such as groceries etc. are a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands, although I managed fairly easily with the amount i'd normally spend in the Netherlands

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Very interesting courses. I chose some topics that introduced me to the Indigenous Peoples of Australia, and we did some very interesting activities such as field trips. I'd advise not to choose topics that focus on European history, since European uni's just have more expertise on that. I didn't follow such a course myself, but from what i heard and saw from others they are rather basic (for Europeans). Obviously, the expertise on Australian

and British (colonial) history and Aboriginal Culture was amazing.
academic quality of education activities
As mentioned before, academic level lower than in Utrecht.
unselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at Flinders was outstanding. Any questions were answered quickly, and the support staff was always available and willing to help.
transfer of credits
Went without any problems. Flinders sent my transcript to UU quickly.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Probably the best way to get to meet other students. They put all the study abroad students together to get to know each other. In this way i met most people. The orientation week was not that much, probably because i started in the middle of the year. If you start in January/February, it's probably much larger.
accommodation
I lived on campus, which was a nice environment. Although it was quite expensive, it was close to Uni, and they organised multiple nice events to meet all the campus residents. There are also nice living options outside of campus near uni.. Adelaide's climate is also very nice. I only needed a summer jacket, but don't forget to bring a warm sweater. Since the Uni/Campus is in the hills, there is enough wildlife such as koalas and possums wandering around campus.
leisure & culture
A lot of things to do in and outside of Adelaide. The Uni also organises several trips that are definitely worth attending. Mind that campus/uni is 40/45 minutes away from the city centre by bus. Public transport is very cheap in adelaide though. I also really liked the Australian culture: very friendly and laid back people that are always willing to help. I've also travelled to Melbourne, Sydney, and have done a road trip along the rest of the east coast. Beautiful to do, and you can make it as cheap or expensive as you want. Domestic flights can be cheap, and Australia has an amazing hostel culture!
suggestions/tips
Definitely attend the study abroad meetings. It's the best way to meet students who are in the same situation. Very easy way to get to know people quickly. It's also convenient to open an Australian bank account (which is free) so you don't have to pay fees, which you'll probably have to do if you pay with a Dutch card. Transfer money between NL and AU easily via transferwise.

CONCLUSIONS
could you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this university. I've had a very good time, also because I didn't need to spend too much time studying I had a lot of time left to do fun activities. Still, I followed some very interesting courses that I could only have followed in Australia. These courses introduced me to Aboriginal people and their cultures. Being someone from Europe I realised how little we know of this and the incredible expertise Flinders University had with regards to Aboriginal Studies. Also built some very valuable friendships with people from all over the world, including Australia itself.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't save on sunscreen ;)

Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

See *Erasmus+ Studies timeline and instructions* for more details. Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students.

2016-2017

faculty/college	Humanities
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	Taal & Cultuur studies

preparation	
exchange/placement application process	The instructions were really clear and Flinders University (Francisco Dullona) was really helpful and friendly if you had any questions about the application process.
counselling/support at home university	Utrecht University was really quick with responding to my e-mails and helping me with things that were unclear.
academic preparation	My academic preparation was definitely sufficient.
language preparation	My language preparation was definitely sufficient. The lecturers talk in a really casual way, which makes lectures and tutorials easy to understand and follow.
finances	My financial plan turned out to be really accurate. I always hear how expensive Australia is, but the prices of groceries were actually not too bad and almost similar to those in the Netherlands.
study/placement abroad period	
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)	I was placed in the topics of my first choice and the enrolment process was clear. It did however take a long

time in between the different steps of enrolment, but that is not really a problem. When I already started the semester I dropped a course (I followed an extra one that I did not really like), this was also a really easy procedure.

academic quality of education/placement activities

I think the academic quality of Flinders University was good. However, I do think the level of education at Utrecht University is a bit higher; I was able to get high grades at Flinders University without doing much (especially compared to what I do at Utrecht University for the same grade, if I could even achieve that)

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The disability centre is really helpful. I also sprained my ankle during the exchange, and the University drove me to the medical centre and home (good support). For the rest I did not really use services, but I heard that the support if something was wrong or if you wanted to move or anything like that was really good.

transfer of credits

All good, I think it was all pretty similar to Utrecht University so the transfer of credits seems perfect.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

I was a little bit disappointed in the O-week (orientation week) of Flinders University, but that was probably because I started in the middle of the academic year there, and not at the beginning. But I still had enough opportunities to meet the other exchange students and connect with them. I still had an amazing first week!

accommodation

I really loved the Deirdre Jordan Village! The rooms were big as well as the houses, and the view from the village over the city and the ocean is amazing. It's also quiet, which is nice and relaxing. Sometimes a koala walks around, once there was even a kangaroo hopping around the village. I absolutely loved it. But be sure that you have some condition, it's all the way up the hill.

leisure/culture

Flinders University offered plenty of associations you could join (I did not do it because I was never bored). Also the Community Centre of the Village hosts awesome events. Enough to do!

suggestions/tips

When you are placed in the Deirdre Jordan Village (on campus accommodation), ask if the unit you're in has wifi. Not all of them have that, if you're in one that does not have one it would be a good idea to bring a router to be able to make your own wifi. You can also just request a unit that does have wifi.

conclusions

Australia – Flinders University

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend Flinders University to others. Next to that the whole university (the main hub as well as the campus) is the most beautiful university I have ever seen (awesome views, great nature), it was also really easy to feel home at the campus. Next to that, Adelaide is a great city that is in my opinion often undervalued by both Australians and tourists. There is lots to do and lots to see.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If your stay will be (partially) in the winter: bring warm clothes and a winter coat and scarf, even though you might think Australia is always warm, my first four months were really cold (july – oktober)! Next to that for the girls, don't bring high heels (you will barely wear them with all the hills) and make sure you have some good, comfortable shoes (you will walk quite a lot).