



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Master of Educational Sciences

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	05-02-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31-08-2018 (approximately)

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process for an exchange semester was a bit of a challenge (but challenges are fun!). When I decided I wanted to do an exchange within my Master, I discovered that I was already too late for the initial application deadline. However, there were a few places left for which I could apply. Macquarie University was one of them and because I've always loved Sydney and Macquarie has a good Organisational Psychology department (I wanted to enrol in a couple of Psychology units since I did my bachelor in Organisational Psychology), I decided to apply for Macquarie. Before I could apply though, I had to receive permission from the Master coordinator. This was a bit of a challenge, because in my Master there was no room for a 6 months exchange. However, I was convinced that a 6 months exchange would really broaden my experience and knowledge and after a couple of emails and face-2-face meetings I got the permission! I applied for the exchange and I got admitted to the exchange program.

Counselling/support at home university:

The international officer was really helpful during my application process. She responded quickly to my e-mails and I had a good phone conversation with her during the initial stage of my application.

Academic preparation:

My Bachelor in Organisational Psychology was a good academic preparation for the courses I was



enrolled in during my exchange. Other than that, I've visited a workshop organised by Macquarie University which covered Academic writing in English which really helped me with writing my assignments.

Language preparation:

I haven't done a lot of language preparation, since a TOEFL or other language-test was not required for Macquarie University (if you have a 7 or higher for English on your High School transcript).

Finances:

I've worked a lot before going to Australia. Sydney is an expansive city, but if you save up some money it is definitely possible! I saved up around 6000 euros in advance and had a student loan from DUO next to this.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I did two courses from the Master of Organisational Psychology and one course from the Business Master. I had to do a bit of research on how to enrol myself into the correct courses, but in the end it was pretty easy. The content was really interesting, I've learned a lot from discussing the content with Australian students and our teacher. In one of the units I've also gained some practical experience with coaching, which was really helpful as well.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The courses I did from the Organisational Psychology Master were good and interesting. Compared to the Netherlands, the academic quality can differ a bit (I would say that my Master in the Netherlands is harder than the courses I did at Macquarie University) but still the academic quality is good!

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

For every inquiry or question you have, you can always e-mail or go to one of the student-connect buildings. They are really helpful and patient at Macquarie University.

Transfer of credits:

I haven't received my grades yet and therefore haven't transferred the credits to my Master yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Before the semester really commences, Macquarie University organises an orientation week for all new students. This is a week of fun activities where you can meet people and make new friends. I would definitely recommend going there! Next to the fun activities, you also receive a lot of information about studying at Macquarie, which is really helpful as well.

Accommodation:

Macquarie university has a lot to offer if it comes to campus accommodation. However, I decided not to stay on campus but to search for a private accommodation close to the beach in another suburb of Sydney. Living close to the beach and being able to swim every morning is an experience I will never forget 😊

It is really easy to search for accommodation when you are in Sydney already. You can use websites such as flatmates and gumtree and it is really easy to arrange a couple of inspections within a week. Most of the time, private accommodation is cheaper than staying on campus. But



because I did not stay on campus, I cannot really say anything about how it is to stay on campus.

Leisure/culture:

Sydney is such a beautiful city with so much things to do! From going to the beautiful beaches, national parks, cultural activities, restaurants and bars to finding hidden gems in the city and meetups with people from different countries, there is something to do for everyone. The Australian culture is pretty laid-back and people are really helpful and kind.

Suggestions/tips:

Macquarie University has a Global Leadership Program in which you can enrol as an exchange student. You can join lectures on different subjects that have something to do with leadership and cultural understanding and it is a really cool way to enhance your staying-abroad experience in Sydney and meet fellow exchange students.

If you are into nature and hiking, definitely do the coastal walks in Sydney (and the area around), they are beautiful! And if you are in Sydney in June/July, you might spot some dolphins and whales along the way!

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, it was one of the best experiences I had so far. Sydney is a cool place to live and studying here is different from studying in the Netherlands, which really adds to your knowledge and cultural understanding.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Go for it and enjoy!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Humanities (major in Social Sciences and Geosciences)
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Liberal Arts and Sciences

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	12 February 2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	27 July 2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process for me was not quite the success story. I was not admitted to any of my initial top 3. This however made me look further than the worlds I already knew and it made me choose Australia as a destination. This was somewhat scary at first (as it was quite a last-minute decision), but I couldn't have wished for a better journey. I had a blast and learned way more than I could have on those other destinations.

I actually quite enjoyed applying for the exchange as it got me really excited about the experience and I learned a lot during the process (about e.g. insurances, taxes and the countries themselves). I suggest that you take your time for this part of the adventure, because a good preparation will save you time between your approval and your departure (which in most cases is quite limited).

Counselling/support at home university:

I found the internal officers really helpful and they responded quite fast. The information was more useful for the UU application than for the preparations after the approval.

Academic preparation:

I did not take any specific academic preparations. I simply made sure I had done most "skill"



courses as those are often the prerequisites for units at Macquarie. Furthermore, it was useful for me to have done some English courses at UU as the transition to full English education wasn't as big for me.

Language preparation:

My skills in English were sufficient as my marks in high school surpassed the requirements for Macquarie. Like I mentioned above, it could be useful to do some courses in English before you depart. Furthermore, I can recommend looking into Australian English (it's practical and funny), especially if you are not used to the British spelling.

Finances:

Finances are tricky for this destination. My best advice: accept that it's going to cost you a bunch of money. Australia is not exactly a budget country: rent, groceries and flights are expensive.

I prepared by saving money for over a year, which was about a third of my total expenses. Then another third, I got from my parents and grandparents and the last third was from DUO (combination of student loan, additional study grant and the transport grant)

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Enrolling in courses (units) is quite easy: you can select 3 or 4 units of any kind from the handbook. Later on in the process you are able to select the times of your classes so you can make sure you don't have any overlap.

I did 3 level 300 units and 1 level 100 unit. In the end choosing a level 300 unit on a discipline different from my own worked out to be a bit too bold. The level 100 unit, however, turned out to be too easy. My advice would be not to be too eager with the level 300 units as for me it was quite the challenge to do 4 units at the same time. You would enjoy your studies better if you wouldn't do more than 2 300 units.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Education at Macquarie is a somewhat easier than it is at UU: teachers are generally less strict on academia (e.g. use of language, use of sources, referencing). Also,

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Counselling at Macquarie is really good. They have institutions for everything (e.g. MQ health, IT services, student services, sports and aquatics centre) and everyone is more than willing to help. Also, the moment your performance drops, teachers send you emails with their concerns and offers of help.

It does take student services (Macquarie International) some time to respond though (longer than at UU).

Transfer of credits:

The credits are yet to be transferred as the semester hasn't finished yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Orientation week ("O week") was fabulous. There is a lot going on both on campus and in the



University Village (where I lived): workshops, talks, parties, free stuff and lots and lots of information. More information and a programme on O week is provided on the Macquarie website.

Accommodation:

Macquarie offers a wide variety of student accommodation: from DIY houses to all inclusive colleges.

Personally, I stayed in the Macquarie University Village. The place resembles a lot like Center Parcs: students live with 5 in a house and everyone has their own bedroom and bathroom. Kitchen and living are shared. I liked living in the Village because it's a really green environment, there's always a lot going on (free food Wednesdays!!!!) and you basically have the uni gym and pools in your backyard. The Village does have some cons though: there are a lot of unfair (at least that's what I think) fees, the landlord is quite strict and the mall and train station are on the other side of campus (+- 1 km walk or a 1\$ bus ride). If you decide to live in the Village, please make sure you book the East side: these villas are cheaper and closer to campus.

A similar accommodation is the Herring Road apartments. These are a bit less luxurious though (no ensuite bathrooms) and there is no activity programme. You could compare living at Herring Road with living in a student house in Utrecht. A huge benefit of staying here is that the mall and train station are across the road.

The college accommodations RMC and DLC are in really good locations as well and they are really modern and comfortable. They are however also really expensive.

It is possible to live in Sydney CBD while studying at Macquarie. However, I would not recommend it as you miss a lot of the campus life, accommodation in the CBD is often expensive and it is approx. a 30-minute train ride from campus.

Leisure/culture:

Sydney is a really vibrant city. There is always something going on in town. Check out the great restaurants in Darling Harbour, visit the Sea Life aquarium, go Whale Watching, visit a gig at the Opera House (please Google: Student Rush tickets) or just walk around and enjoy the amazing amount of cultures that come together in this city. The CBD is approx. 30 minutes away from campus. Manly and Bondi beach about an hour.

Suggestions/tips:

- Have a look at the event calendar at the City of Sydney website. There are fun activities every weekend. I can recommend the Hunter Hill food and wine festival and Vivid Sydney (light festival).
- Please check out the drive-in cinema in Blacktown (if you know someone with a car). It's everything you expect it to be and more.
- Go for a cheap day trip on Sunday: you can travel all day for \$2,80 (about €1,80). Great day trips are the Blue Mountains (awesome lookouts and bushwalks) and The Entrance (pelican feeding every day at 3 pm)
- Don't hesitate to take a look at Groupon. There's some really good deals on that site. I bought a dinner cruise, a whale watching tour and dance course with huge discounts.
- Do the Harbour Bridge walk at night-time. It's magical.
- The Sydney Symphonic Orchestra sells student rush tickets for just 17\$ (about €10)



- Enjoy Sydney from the water and take a ferry. I can recommend a ride from Barangaroo over the Parramatta river to e.g. Parramatta, Rhodes or Olympic Park.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes! If you are in for a challenge and an adventure full of surprises than this is your destination. You can expect a laid-back culture with really supportive people, amazing wildlife and a stunning landscape.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

- If you pursue an international career (with, for instance, a degree in Governance, International Relations, Cultural Anthropology, Law), please do the Global Leadership Programme. You will not regret it. It teaches you all the skills you need in an international career (e.g. public speaking, leadership and intercultural communications) and you will receive a recommendation letter and certificate.
- When flying to or from Australia do stay for a couple of days at the location of your transfer airport (e.g. Dubai, Singapore or Hong Kong). You are there anyway and travelling to the red continent in one go is way too exhausting. Enjoy these extraordinary cultures and cities.
- Whilst you're here, visit New Zealand as well. Flights are relatively cheap and New Zealand is stunning (it's my favourite country now). Expect the most hospitable people you've ever met, the mysterious Maori culture and stumbling from one breath-taking landscape to the other (volcanoes, geysers, mountains, cliff coasts etc.). Do a road trip from Auckland to Wellington: it's driving in Middle Earth.
- Make sure you've got your driver's license before you depart to Australia. Public transport is not really a major way of getting around (or at least not when you're out of the major cities).
- If it is possible in your degree, choose a unit with a field trip in it. You will not regret it: it's like traveling with a highly experienced, passionate tour guide. You learn a lot in a way that is not common in the Netherlands and you get to know your classmates really well.
- **EAT A DRAGON EGG AT THE SAKE RESTAURANT IN THE ROCKS. IT IS THE BEST DESSERT YOU WILL EVER HAVE.** (yes I'm really passionate about this)



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	FSW
Level:	Bachelor
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/02/2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/07/2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Macquarie University was a left-over place, because I didn't get in my top 3. So there was not really an application process for me at Macquarie University.

Counselling/support at home university:

I had contact over the e-mail with a woman from Study Abroad and Exchange.

Academic preparation:

No preparation was necessary for me since it was a left-over spot.

Language preparation:

I didn't do any language preparation since that was not necessary.

Finances:

Savings

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

On the website of Macquarie University there was a list of all units they were offering. I choose 4 of them (I was expected to do 4 units).

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The quality of education was good. There were lectures and tutorials, just like at Utrecht University.



It was actually quite the same as in Utrecht.
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
I was a member of the Study abroad and Exchange Facebook group of Macquarie University. Next to that I didn't have that much support, but I didn't ask for it either.
Transfer of credits:
My 4 units were all 3 points, and it is told to me that that is the same as 7,5 ECTS.
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
There was an Orientation week (O-week) where I went to. For some activities you had to give up for. That was all communicated via the mail.
Accommodation:
There is a campus at Macquarie University, but I didn't live there, I lived in the city.
Leisure/culture:
The Australian culture is not very different from the Dutch. So it was not very hard to feel 'home'. Australian people are all really relaxed and easy-going so that was a good thing to make you feel comfortable.
Suggestions/tips:
Try to go to the O-week! There you'll meet new people.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes I definitely do! Sydney is such a wonderful city and I really enjoyed living there. Macquarie University is not really in the city centre of Sydney but it is easy to get there by train.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
Have fun on your exchange! You'll probably have the most amazing time!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Faculty of science
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Information science

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19-07-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	14-01-2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process went well. I filled in all the requested forms and I discussed the units I wanted to follow with my study advisor. I received the confirmation mail with permission to go quiet fast which was nice. Deciding where to go and finding the right units takes a lot of time so make sure you start in time.

Counselling/support at home university:

The support from the Utrecht University was very good. They always replied very fast and especially the pre-departure meeting was very useful. They were also very helpful in completing the required forms for the host university. Another way to get some support is by creating a whatsappgroup with all students going to the same university. This way you can help each other out while filling in the requested forms and for instance while applying for a visa.

Academic preparation:

I chose some units within my elective space. This way I was able to choose any unit I wanted. I decided to choose some units which I would find useful and interesting.

Language preparation:

Because I achieved a seven at the Pre-university education I did not needed to have any additional certificates.

Finances:



Sydney is a very expensive place to live at. Expect costs which are way higher than in the Netherlands. The rent is for example much higher and especially alcohol is very expensive. Take this into account while creating a financial plan. I borrowed almost all money from the DUO and I would advise everyone to start borrowing very early (if needed).

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

A good thing about the Macquarie university is that you can create your own schedule. I would advise you to plan most lectures at the beginning of the week as most activities and parties take place at the end of the week. Also, just try to get permission for subjects even though they require you to have certain prerequisites. Sometimes you can get permission with similar Dutch units.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality for the units I followed was good. I had to make relatively more assignments compared to my study in Utrecht. Some units had for instance an essay at the end instead of a test.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The Macquarie University has good support for exchange students they help you within the first weeks to get your student card and to arrange everything regarding the university.

Transfer of credits:

The transfer of credits was very easy. I received an email that I could collect a list with my grades. I handed it in at my faculty and that was it.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation program was very well organised. Both the university and the University village (where I used to live) organised activities all week long. The activities of the university were mostly during the day and the activities of the village were mostly during the morning and evening. This way there was always something to do. It was a lot of fun and I would recommend everyone to attend as much activities as you can. They are a great way to meet other (exchange) students. See the Facebook pages for examples of activities.

Accommodation:

I used to live at the Macquarie university village. It was a lot of fun as you live with 4 others in a house and with hundreds of other students at which I would like to call a kind of "Center Parcs". Because of the big number of students, it is very easy to meet others and to hang out with each other. They also organised a lot of activities (especially during the introduction week) and there were also activities organised by other students such as parties.

Leisure/culture:

Sydney is a great city. There is so much to do that it will keep you busy for at least half a year. During the day, you can for instance explore the main city or go to the beaches and in the night you can go to a lot of clubs and bars to party or to have a drink.

Suggestions/tips:

I would advise you to do as much as possible. Go to the beaches, national parcs, go on roadtrips! Even though it is expensive to live there it is also a once in a lifetime experience and you never



know if and when you might return.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I had the time of my life being abroad. Sydney is a great city and the university village is a great place to live. The only disadvantage is that the university is 30 minutes by train from the city centre but as everything in Australia is far away you will get used to the long travels.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Travel as much as possible!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Geosciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Earth sciences

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	20 July 2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Left Macquarie University 5 December 2016 arrived back in Holland 20 April 2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I decided very close to the submission deadline that after I finished my Bachelor degree I wanted to do an extra semester at a University abroad. Before your admission you have to decide which country you would like to go to and which university you would like to attend. Which is not an easy decision at all. Utrecht University has many different exchange programs with universities all over the world for which reason it is really important that you start looking into this from the moment you know you want to do a study abroad. For me the decision was made a lot easier because I decided that I wanted to go to an English speaking country, because I wanted to improve my English and do not speak any other languages (next to Dutch of course). In addition to this I also liked the idea that there would be no language barrier between me and the locals, which in my head makes it a lot easier to make friends and not be left out.

It is also very important to see if the university that you would like to attend also offers courses that you would like to follow. Which is of course very logical but this also takes a long time to sort out. My first choice of university was actually Gainesville in Florida, but after a long process of deciding which university you would like to go to you are not done yet. Then the real work begins, because you need to make several documents for your application. Again this takes a lot of time so don't start with this too late, learn from my mistakes. When doing my application, I almost decided on the spot what my second and third choice would be. I choose two schools in Australia and in the end I was excepted at Macquarie university. This did mean that I did not know nearly as much about this university as the one in Florida but in my personal opinion it all worked out for the best in the end. However, it is of course very unfortunate that I wrote this application and did all this research about a University that I will most likely never go to.



Counselling/support at home university:

I used very little of the counselling offered by Utrecht University. I made an appointment with the coordinator of America one time to see which university would be a good fit for me and what was expected from me in my application. This helped a little, however I do think that all the initiative and most of the organisation should and has to come from your own side. There are a lot of students every year that go on an exchange and it is therefore very understandable that you do not get a lot of individual help unless you have a special problem you need help with. There was a meeting however before our exchange with all the students that were going to the same country as you. This was nice because then you instantly have a handful of people that are going through the same thing. We made an app group with all the people that were going to the same University, which turned out to be very useful in the end because there is lots of stuff that needs to be arranged (think VISA, flight ticket, housing) and it is very nice to help each other out a bit. It also helps that when moving to another country you have already a few familiar faces, however in the end most of us went our separate way. Still I would really recommend making a similar app group because it was a big help!

Academic preparation:

Because I was doing an extra semester I needed to ask the exam committee of my own faculty to get an extension on my Bachelor degree. They are very lenient with this, they support it when you show you want to do courses that are relevant for your studies and are different from the courses already followed at Utrecht University. However, they always take a long time to get back with an answer, so therefore I would definitely recommend not waiting with this too long. You also need to get an approval on your chosen courses, which is also very smart to do in advance. Otherwise you might have chosen subjects that were not approved by your own faculty.

Language preparation:

I did not have any language preparation, because the language spoken in Australia is English. However it did improve during my stay abroad, which is a big plus.

Finances:

If you're going to study in Sydney it is very good to realise early on that the living cost there are much higher than the living cost in Utrecht. Of course the tuition fee stays the same. However the housing price is between two and four times as much as the rent here in Utrecht (depends on how much you pay in Utrecht). The groceries are a little bit more expensive, especially some products like for instance alcohol, however if you go to the Liddle you can save a lot of money.

I got no extra financial support, so therefore all the extra costs came from my own pocket.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Don't forget to apply for your courses as soon as possible. At Macquarie some classes fill up, especially the most wanted class times. Also sometimes there is some confusion from there part if you do 2nd or 3rd year subject because you need certain prerequisites for those subjects which you of course have not done. However, you have in most cases done similar subjects here in Utrecht but that is sometimes hard for them to understand, so do not wait with applying for your subjects.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:



The Academic quality at Macquarie University is much lower than the quality at Utrecht University. This is of course based on the 4 subjects that I followed (one semester equals 4 subjects), but supported by the other students from Utrecht University.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I did not use any counselling or support at Macquarie University so I cannot judge this.

Transfer of credits:

The transfer of credits takes incredibly long; I think it took two months before my grades were transferred. However instead of downgrading some of my grades were even upgraded to my surprise. Since the level of the courses are so much easier.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

There is an orientation week at the beginning of each semester, however if you do the orientation week in July/August it will be mainly with international students since that is the beginning of the second semester in Australia. There are lots of activities you can go to (for some you have to sign up!!!), with free food at most of them. There is also a market with all the different societies, I would definitely recommend signing up for a few of them as well.

Accommodation:

I lived at 'The village' which is a 10 min walk to the university and a 15-20 min walk to the shopping mall. Here you live with around 1000 students, of which many international. The rent is very expensive however for Sydney standards it is one of the cheaper ones. You also have pretty big rooms and your own bathroom in your room which is also very nice. The village also organizes some events every week, most of them revolving around free dinner which is a big plus. The biggest downside is that the village and therefore also the university is at least an hour travel from the city centre. So the neighbourhood is very boring.

Leisure/culture:

The biggest plus of Sydney is the many beaches it has and since the weather is very nice in Sydney this is a great way to spend a nice sunny day. Also on Sundays you can travel for 2,50 AUD in the entire state of NSW so great opportunity to travel around for no money. However personally I did not really enjoy Sydney itself. The city is very big and wide spread. It does not have a great atmosphere just a very big international city. There are some nice areas like New Town, but for the most part I found Sydney a bit boring.

Suggestions/tips:

See above

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would say I had a good time at Macquarie not great but good. The courses are not that challenging but this does mean that you have more time to do fun stuff. Also the teachers are very nice and helpful, especially in the smaller classes. It is also a lot easier to make friends in the smaller classes than in the bigger courses. It is very easy to meet people in the village, so I definitely recommend staying there. Sydney centre is far away however and Sydney is in general a very big, impersonal and bit boring city. But Sydney has really nice weather and very nice beaches.



Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

From Sydney it is very easy to travel the rest of Australia and if you have a few months after or before your study it is also very easy to travel to New Zealand and South East Asia which makes studying in Australia a lot better.

Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

exchange@qdesk.uu.nl (information) / verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

www.uu.nl/students/exchange



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	USBO
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Research master in public organization and organizational science

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	09/02/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	07/08/2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process at Utrecht was rather easy, applying to Macquarie is also not really a problem as long as you read everything carefully and be patient. It takes Macquarie quite a long time to process the applications (I only got mine at the end of nov for the semester of feb).

Counselling/support at home university:

There was a pre-departure meeting at the University of Utrecht which I found very helpful.

Academic preparation:

I looked up the course outlines of the courses I was following before leaving and read some of the literature. This helped me in the first few weeks as I knew roughly what to expect and could focus on getting used to the university, culture, weather, etc.

Language preparation:

None

Finances:

I arranged a student loan since live in Sydney is more expensive than Utrecht. I also arranged for my student OV to be transferred in a monthly allowance. If you want to do this you need to do it in time as you need to follow a procedure which includes getting a signature from Utrecht as proof you are going abroad. Be aware that especially rent in Sydney is far more expensive than Utrecht, rent goes per week and expect to pay between the 180 and 400 dollars for a room per week. This depends on your location and on if you are sharing the room. Food etc. is also a bit more expensive. Be aware that you can get a student discount card for traveling in Sydney!

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I followed three units at Macquarie. The application was very messy and I had to send many emails



to the coordinator and professors. But eventually I got sorted. The units are very structured and you get a course outline at the beginning of the semester so you know what to expect. The thing that I found hard is that you really need to stay on top of the organization, I only got approved and got my schedule 3 days before the start of the semester! Many other international students had the same problem and it can be quite stressful. But in the end I think everyone got the units they wanted.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The lectures, in general, were good. However, Macquarie has a lot of international students and many of them speak little English. In my units, working in groups was a big part of the assignments (up to 60% in one unit). This can be challenging when your group members have little English (in my case I ended up doing 90% of the work which really increases the overall workload). So I would say the academic quality of the other students may be a bit lower than you are used to due to the language barrier.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I think the exchange office was a bit overworked and responded very late to questions etc. However, other people at the university were very helpful and supporting!

Transfer of credits:

I have not done this yet

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation week started a bit strange, it would start on Monday but ended up starting the next day (so there were no activities on Monday but a lot of people walking around). Other than this the welcome program is really good! Lots of clubs you can join, there is a buddy program with fun activities like a Sydney walk, beach/coast walk, and trip to the zoo. This is a great way to meet people and I really enjoyed it. There are welcome sessions during the week explaining how to use the university site with the course outlines (also where you turn in assignments, etc). There are also workshops in referencing, tours of campus, and tours of the library. Lots of people around to help you get on your way.

Accommodation:

I booked a room at airbnb and paid 200 dollars a week for a room and private bathroom. However, I did have to travel an hour to get to campus. I did not really mind since I wanted a quiet place to study and most of all, a clean environment. A lot of people stay on campus! This is a bit more expensive compared to private accommodation in the neighbourhood, but they do offer a lot of activities. The problems I heard of about campus accommodation is the noise: there are parties almost every night which makes it hard to study and sleep. However, if you want a lot of party time this is a good place to stay! Another thing that is worth mentioning is that the internet on campus is extremely slow! Macquarie is not in the city (about 40 min by train), so some people chose to live in the city. This is more expensive but gives you easy access to lots of fun activities. The main thing I think is just to arrange your accommodation on time since Sydney is a busy place and accommodation can be scarce.

Leisure/culture:



The culture is western and therefore there is not much of a culture shock. People are generally very friendly and helpful. Food etc. is pretty much the same as in The Netherlands, but with a lot of Asian food here as well. People are generally very fit/sporty here: lots of walking, running and swimming (not so much cycling).

Suggestions/tips:

Don't get a bike! The first thing I did when I got here is get a bike. However, Sydney is far from flat and cars are not used to bikes. Riding a bike can be difficult (no cycling paths, very warm weather, high hills) and can also be dangerous because of the cars.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes! I had a great time in Sydney and loved the city! It's a huge city and after 4 months I still have not seen everything. The lovely weather and friendly people make it a great place to live. There are many events, festivals, and concert during the year. Never a boring day! Its also a great base from which to explore the rest of Australia: the east coast is beautiful! Its also pretty easy to go to new Zealand and Indonesia!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

- They have an Aldi which is the cheapest place to shop
- The library of the University is really good and is open until 1AM for studying. If you are doing your master you can get access to the post grad study area which is perfect for studying!
- The gym at Macquarie university is great! Good gym, swimming pool, lessons, and other sports!
- Some shops and restaurants do not allow you to use a card so keep some cash in your pocket
- Join the exchange group: free pizza every 2 weeks at the pub night (great place to meet people) and good activities (like bowling and karaoke)



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Law
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Sydney
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	February 15 th 2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	July 23 rd 2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process of both the Utrecht University and the University of Sydney (USYD) is really convenient to do. Split up in two phases, you are first required to apply at your home university by writing a motivation letter and handing in a study plan. After this, assuming you got accepted, it is up to your Dutch study counsel to forward your application to USYD. This is mostly just a formal necessity and not a second selection. The USYD has its own study counsel for European abroad students and once he or she is appointed to you, you will receive all the necessary information to complete the application and enrolment in the units. USYD receives hundreds of exchange students annually, so their exchange program and process is really well organized and very clear. Just for your impression, the things you have to take care of in order to enrol in the exchange program are: arranging an overseas health coverage, accepting your admission for USYD, applying for a student visa and enrolling in the units of your choice. This may sound like quite something, but it took me no more than one or two days in total to get everything done. And once again, USYD sends you loads of e-mails to provide you with all the needed information so don't worry about a thing. With regards to the overseas health coverage (OSHC), it is good to know that everyone is required to have one and as far as I am concerned no Dutch insurance company is exempted. The USYD offers the option to arrange this for you so you don't have to take care of it yourself. I would recommend not doing this, as it is hundreds of dollars more expensive. I insured myself at NIB and it all went pretty quick – do note that you have to make sure to insure yourself for the whole period of the semester and two months thereafter as this is what USYD requires you to do.

Counselling/support at home university:

Only words of praise for the support from my home university! The support and guidance I got was



very good. I had some trouble choosing my exchange destination (for everyone who has the same: just go for Sydney, really) and the way they thought along was really something I appreciated. So don't be scared to contact the International Office if you have your questions or your considerations, I am sure they are very willing to help you out.

Academic preparation:

I cannot think of any specific academic preparation I did before heading of to Sydney. I know Utrecht University offers some English courses in order to get a better understanding of legal English. While it was my intention to sign up for this, I did not do it after all due to lack of time. I can imagine this academic preparation makes you feel more confident about your studies at USYD. All I can say is that I would definitely consider enrolling for this course if you have time and that you won't be a helpless case if you did not do it.

Language preparation:

It is obligatory to successfully complete a TOEFL, IELTS or other English test in order to get accepted to USYD. I found this horrifying, really! So concerned I was about failing this test. Well, let me make something clear, this test is nothing to worry about. I can reassure you that everyone with a sufficient knowledge of English, meaning having completed six years of English courses at high school, is capable of passing this test successfully. Just practice a bit with some online example tests so you know what to expect.

Finances:

Let me first make clear that wherever you go to, you will spend more money on your exchange semester than you are used to back home. Sydney is in addition to this not a cheap city to live in. However, I really want to set some things right about the preconceptions of Sydney being extremely expensive and almost unaffordable. First of all, one of the main expenses that can really make a difference to your budget is your housing. I choose to set my standards a bit lower in order to save some cash and that was a big reason for me that Sydney turned way less expensive than I expected it to be. Just to give you an impression, I paid 400 EUR per month rent – you can read more about this in the section about accommodation. Second, I cannot say that doing groceries here is way more expensive than in the Netherlands. Just keep the currency in mind, whereas the exchange rate of the AUS dollar is really in favour of the EUR (always nice to realize that that 10 AUS dollar isn't actually a 10 EUR as well). When going out for dinner there way more nice and cheap places in comparison to the Netherlands, you just have to know where to go. Will come back to that point as well. Furthermore, you don't need a lot of money to entertain yourself here. The beaches are free, as well are the national parks and public transport is half-priced for students (on top of this, you can travel anywhere on Sundays for only 2.50 dollar). In sum, money is definitely something to consider before heading off to Sydney, but let it not be your main reason to waive your plans. Sydney is worth it!

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Once you go through your first application process at Utrecht University, you are already asked to hand in a study plan with your choice of units. This choice of units is not binding since it is only at the



application process at USYD that you make your choice definite. At USYD it is common practice that students change units until after the second week of the start of semester, which means that the first week is all about introductory information so that students can decide whether they want to stay enrolled in this unit or they want to change. I would strongly recommend making a thought-out decision about the units you want to enrol in. While you are allowed to switch and change all the units according to your preference, the downside of this is that it may bring you a lot of chaos and uncertainty the first two weeks of semester. The popular units often do have waiting lists and the enrolment works via the student abroad counsellor and can therefore be a bit slow. I saw a lot of my study mates being stressed out whether they were entitled to sign up for a course, while the only things you want to be concerned about those days is where to buy your books, how to log in to Blackboard and where to meet up your new mates. Therefore make sure you are enrolled in at least two units that have your preference and leave two units open for potential changing or switching. USYD offers a great variety of courses so just let your self be a bit creative. I eventually ended up following US Politics and Elections (a non-legal unit I added later on), Medical Law and Banking and Financial Instruments (two units I was already enrolled in). All three absolutely a recommendation.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

USYD's Law School is highly listed in the world rankings of law universities and I agree on the fact that the academic quality of education is quite high. I had to put more effort in my units than I am used to back home, however this was mostly due to the language and the unfamiliarity with the education system. My advice would be to enrol for three units instead of four, so you will have a good balance between life within campus and life outside of university. Your abroad experience is about more than only studies. Just for your understanding, you will still have to spend around four days a week at campus.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

As mentioned before, you will get loads of information and guidelines from USYD. The counselling was really great and offered good help on all sorts of issues. Besides, the Law School offers a special introductory program of two days during the introduction week and it is the only faculty to do so.

Transfer of credits:

Not applicable yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The USYD organizes this big orientation programme at the beginning of the first semester in February called O-Week. For students who start in July this week is reduced to O-day. However, a special programme for international and exchange students is organised for both the first and second semester students so you don't have to worry about missing out. O-Week is fun as it is a really nice introduction to campus life with all its societies and clubs. You can sign up for all sorts of societies, ranging from the beer appreciation club to the mountain climbing to the dancing to the surf society. I signed up for a couple and while I cannot say I really joined all of their activities, it is a nice way to meet people in the beginning and to see what possibilities USYD offers.



Accommodation:

Sydney is a very international city with a lot of foreigners constantly moving in and out. Finding accommodation is therefore (surprisingly) easy, as long as you make sure to bring enough money. And that of course is one of the key factors in your search for accommodation. It is important to know that as an exchange student you have two options regarding the housing, you could either (1) live in a student complex arranged by the Uni or a company, either (2) you could search for an apartment on your own. I will explain what both the options contain exactly.

1) Both the University and a private company called Urbanest offer housing for students. These huge complexes are located around campus and you have to apply in advance to live there. The advantages of choosing for this option is that you arrange this on beforehand, so when arriving in Sydney you do not need to look out for accommodation. Like I mentioned before, accommodation is easily to be found nevertheless I know it can feel stressful to leave the Netherlands without knowing where you will end up. The real advantage though is that you will come to live with all international and exchange students and it is therefore a sociable and vivid place. The downside of these complexes is the price, as it is very very expensive with a minimum of 320 AUS dollar (approx. 215 EUR) per week. I would recommend thinking this through while you are still in the Netherlands and just balance the pros and cons to consider if you think this is worth it. Make sure to apply in advance as it is quite likely that a lot of the cheaper rooms or good buildings are taken the moment you arrive in Sydney. Furthermore I would definitely recommend choosing for Urbanest (preferably the one on Cleveland St) over the University housing in the Queen Mary Building. The latter is a huge complex that felt more like a hotel than a home to me. You don't share an apartment but all rooms border on a corridor that you have to cross to go to the bathroom. Urbanest offers real apartments as we know it.

2) The second option entails that you book a hostel for the first couple of days and start looking for accommodation by yourself once you arrived in Sydney. This is what I did and it worked out very well for me. I booked a hostel for the first five days and made sure it was within walking distance of campus, as I would be searching for accommodation somewhere in the neighbourhoods surrounding uni. Of course I started looking for rooms already in the weeks prior to my departure to Australia, but really this is of no use. You have to be in Sydney and be able to visit the rooms otherwise no landlord will contact you. This brings me to the first step you have to take after arrival: get an AUS phone number as soon as possible, as you will need this to contact the landlords and make appointments to visit the rooms (they won't reply if you e-mail them). In every supermarket and shop you can get this so this will be done in no time. From that moment on you can go look on sites like Gumtree and plan your house viewings. Make sure to spread the word once you meet other exchange students during O-Week – I found my room eventually via one of the students. It took me five house viewings within four days to find the apartment I would be living in for the next couple of months. A couple of things are important while searching for your accommodation. First, go search in the right neighbourhood. I would say that everything longer than half an hour travelling to campus is to be dismissed (either walking or



by bus), as it is really convenient to be close to uni and it is not hard to find such a location. Newtown, Glebe, Chippendale, Ultimo, Pyrmont and Surry Hills are the areas to go to. Second, I would recommend looking for all sorts of rooms: single rooms, double rooms and other shared places. For example, I turned out to be sharing my room with four (!) girls. Every time I realize this I start to laugh because I would never imagine myself to share my place with such an insane amount of people. But really, I liked it very much! It just depends on the house itself and the people you live with if this is acceptable for you. Just be open-minded to sharing a room and don't scratch this from your list of options immediately. When sharing a room every one of your roommates will know how to respect each other's privacy, you will probably have a large communal area and besides, you will be outside almost all of your time and won't spend lots of your time in your room. One of the main reasons I went for this room was the price as well. I paid 150 AUS dollar a week, which comes down to approximately 400 EUR per month. Now I hope I didn't scare you off with my stories about shared places, because you will be perfectly able to find a place on your own as well. Prices for private rooms will range from 250 to 350 AUS dollars per week.

Leisure/culture:

Sydney's culture is one of the main reasons to go there! The overall Australian vibe is laidback, friendly and fetterless. But what to expect of people that have been living in a city where the sun always shines and where the beaches are everywhere? For the real Australian vibe, make sure to visit Bondi, Coogee and Manly as often as possible and definitely make a trip down to Byron Bay. Once that moment comes when you are waiting for your bus to come and the bus stop is packed with people in beach wear carrying surf boards, you know you made the good decision to travel all over the world down to Sydney.

Suggestions/tips:

Sydney is a place where people go out – why wouldn't you when the sun always shines – so that's what you have to do too. Go out for brekkie, discover the best coffee places and have you serve some drinks at all the great cafes Syd has to offer. Where to find them? Just follow The Urban List on the internet and you will be covered for the whole semester. Also, people here are very active and sportive and I would really recommend just going with this flow. You can sign up for several (free) running groups or boot camps at the parks and discover the city while running it. Several runs are organised during the year and I myself will never forget the thrill of running past the Opera House and through the Royal Botanical gardens. If you are not that much of a runner, go and hike those many (coastal) walks around the city. Furthermore, like I already mentioned, this city is surrounded by nature it is all just a one or two hour train ride away from Central. So get out in the weekends and enjoy this! I made sure I could do a small weekend get-a-way or daytrip every fortnight and I still have a lot of good places I didn't go to now I am at the end of the semester.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Syd offered me a time that outdid all my expectations and I have really been thinking of a way to



describe this fantastic city in order to convince you to go there. Perhaps an explanation of the reasons why I went there is best to start off with. I wanted my study abroad experience to bring me several things: I wanted to study at a good university, to live in a new and vibrant city and make that city my own, I wanted to know how it feels like to go somewhere on your own. But, most importantly and above all, I wanted something adventurous. I wanted my study abroad experience to be something really different than my study life here back home. Well, Sydney proved itself to be adventurous – and more than that. This city is one of a kind and extraordinary for sure. Consider this, in which city of this size can you expect to be surrounded by numerous beaches, the sea and countless bays, several national parks and expansive mountains? Camping trips during the weekends, mountain hikes an hour away from the city, going to Uni on a beautiful campus and discovering breath-taking beaches by ferry just after lecture. This is some life! Sydney is a place where you can feel at home and at the same time never lose the feeling that you are on this very long and very pleasant holiday. I cannot think of a more perfect combination. The fact that you are on the other side of the world may sound scary on beforehand, but once you get there it gives you this feeling of excitement, freedom and urge to discover the things surrounding you. Don't be afraid you will get lost in a city where you are one of millions, because you will have your own neighbourhood where you will know your way around, where your local supermarket seller says you goodbye and where you will bump in to your friends in the supermarket because they all live close to you. Besides, you will spend a lot of time on campus that is a small village by itself – where you can study, shop your books, go to the gym, have lunch or a coffee and drink your beers in the sun. O Sydney, what a city! Really, go there.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

I would really like to see more people going to Sydney, so if I could help people with making their decision about Sydney I would love to give them additional advice and answer their questions.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Bétawetenschappen
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Bachelor Biology

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Macquarie University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	08-02-15
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01-08-15

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Originally applied for an exchange to Honk Kong or Singapore, but wasn't accepted. They released a form stating the remainder of open spots for exchange programs and Sydney was one of them. I responded immediately as it was a first come first serve policy and got the spot.

Counselling/support at home university:

Most information was provided in presentations or by mail, and we we're given a list of contacts who already did an exchange to my destination.

Academic preparation:

No preparation were needed beside looking into what I could do here and how it would fit with my home university study program.

Language preparation:

As Australia is an English speaking country, and the English grade I achieved for my VWO diploma was good enough, there was no need for any language preparation.

Finances:

Mostly savings I had earned by working trough my high school years. Besides my savings I applied for a full study loan at DUO the moment I got notice of my placement for Macquarie University so I would be sure to have a large budget and backup. Estimated an expense by the information that was given about living costs in Australia, but that turned out to be quite inaccurate.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

No organisational issues at all since you plan everything according to your own schedule, although I



had to re-choose my units since they appeared to have way too much overlap with units I already did back home. I ended up doing different units than I initially thought I would. Content of the units was as expected as explained in the unit guides. Emphasis is more on essay writing skills than on tests. Some of my courses had final essays instead of exams, which was a new experience for me.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Placement for units went smooth, and you are able to choose your own hours besides the lectures. After applying for a unit you enrol for tutorials and practicals online. However if you do this too late option will be limited due too classes being full. Quality of education is at the same level as Utrecht University. Not every professor was as good as the other, but I think that's the case at every university in the world.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Amazing support, always open to help and ready to answer any questions. At arrival very informative presentations. If you want too you can be guided trough the whole enrolment process for units and their specific tutorials/practicals.

Transfer of credits:

N.v.t.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Very welcoming people, and a whole week of fun activities that you can join. Only one or two obligatory informative presentations. A very nice week that makes you able to see Sydney's highlights and get to know new people.

Accommodation:

Very expensive... I lived in the Macquarie university village. It is an amazing place at walking distances from the gym, swimming pools the university and the train. You live with international people from all over the world, and there are parties every night. So an amazing living situation, but they charge you for everything. The rent is very high and you have limited Wi-Fi data depending on how much you pay every month. You share a house with 4 others, have your own bathroom and share a living room and kitchen.

Leisure/culture:

Sydney is an amazing multicultural city. You could go into town everyday you're here and would still not be able to see all amazing pubs and restaurants. Sydney organises a lot of cultural activities almost every month and most of them are free. A thriving city with a lot to do. People are very western and it feels just like any other major city. People mind their own business but you can ask anyone for directions. Asian influences are found everywhere since a lot of Asians live here and study in Sydney. One major bad side would again be the costs. It is a super expensive city. Food and drinks are way more expensive compared to Utrecht, even just regular groceries. However, if you have the money, it's worth every penny living around Sydney for 6 months or even longer.

Suggestions/tips:

If you want to get a job do it as soon as you arrive. They aren't eager to hire someone who leaves after 4 months or so. Jobs pay a very high amount of money. Since living costs in Australia are very high, the jobs pay a lot. Minimum wage is around 20 dollars an hour. Get a sim only deal for



you phone, you can cancel this whenever you head back home. Bring a credit card with a high limit. I chose to get a Australian bank account which is very nice to have if for paying stuff online and in stores you can just tap a system to pay. You will always pay for currency exchange rates and a processing charge, so whenever you get money, get it in high amounts.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Would highly recommend this University. Sydney is amazing and the university gives a cool 'big/grand' experience you don't have back home. They offer amazing sport facilities and clubs to join which was a big pro for me. Macquarie has a very cool bar, which hosts a lot of parties. Next to that you can get whatever food you desire in the food court that has food from all over the world. Education quality is good.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Don't hesitate to choose for Sydney, it is an amazing experience and worth every penny, even if you have to work a lot of hours to save up some money. Furthermore see suggestions/tips above.

Contact details Student Services / International Office

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