



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Beta science
Level:	bachelor
Name degree programme:	Biology

Destination city & country	Hobart, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Tasmania (UTAS)
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	07/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	08/08/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It takes some time before you get confirmations of your enrolment. If you are not placed for a course you would like to do, talk to the professor. They can often help you out. You have two weeks to changes courses so no worries if things don't seem to work out at first.

Counselling/support at home university:

I didn't need it.

Academic preparation:

Some courses were a bit hard to follow at first, which is logical since the complementary courses you already followed back home are a bit different and some English words may be new to you. The teachers however are always easy to talk to if you have troubles.

Language preparation:

I didn't had to do any language tests.

Finances:

Australia is more expensive than the Netherlands so be prepared!! Off campus accommodation can save a lot of money. Alcohol and cigarettes are very expensive.

Study/placement abroad period

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

One semester studying abroad is easy to fit in you bachelor degree.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The education is about the same quality as in the Netherlands, however there are a lot more bigger assignments!

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Not used

Transfer of credits:



The courses I followed were all 12.5 points just like back home so I expect the credit transfer to be without problems

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was more focussed on the first year students. UniFriends however organised two get-to-know tours which were lots of fun!

Accommodation:

I stayed in the university apartments, they were good but also expensive. Apply in time!

Leisure/culture:

The culture is modern and western. It is not that different from back home.

Suggestions/tips:

Search for accommodation yourself when you arrived in Hobart. And only buy your study books if you really need them.

Conclusions

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

Yes, the quality was good. The city is also very nice, not too big and safe. And Tasmania itself is a super awesome place to discover in your spare time.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:


UU Report form ~ TRAJECTUM 2009/2010

faculty/college	Faculty of Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	Physics and Astronomy
destination city & country	Hobart, Australia
name host institution and/or company/organization	University of Tasmania
purpose Trajectum grant	<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)	01 / 07 / 2009
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	22 / 12 / 2009

preparation
exchange/placement application process

I didn't have a lot of problems with the application process, but it did take a lot of time. Firstly the AEN network had to accept me, which took between one and two months. After that, the University of Tasmania had to accept me too, which was merely a formality, but still took about a month. If it takes longer than expected, don't hesitate to e-mail people for an update. Because after waiting for a long time to hear from the AEN and sending them an e-mail, I got a response within two days that I got accepted.

counselling/support at home university

It was useful to look around on the university website www.uu.nl/buitenland because there are a lot of things to arrange, from a room abroad to your visa. There are some good checklists online to see what you need to do. Furthermore there was a meeting with every student going to Australia where we got some extra information, mainly on visa procedures and health insurance, which was very useful.

academic preparation

The year before I left to Australia, I followed several extra courses. It wasn't necessary, but if you have the time, I can recommend it! This way, without having a delay for my Bachelor's programme, I only needed to take three courses abroad. Or you could take four and fail one so you don't have all the pressure around your exams as you have at home. Cause although you go there to study, you want free time to explore the country too. So if you get the chance, study a little more at home before you leave!

language preparation

For most Dutch students, English will not be a big problem. This was one of the reasons I decided to go to Australia. Maybe the biggest problem is confidence. Everyone understands English, but are unconfident speaking it, so give it a try before you leave. Go to an international bar and speak to some international students. Listening to English lectures was exhausting in the first few weeks, but you get used to it real soon.

finances

At first, studying abroad doesn't seem too expensive. Except for the plane ticket, you pay for housing, insurance, the same college fees, you even get 80 bucks a month from your OV-card (arrange this in time!). Yet there are a lot of extra expenses. A student visa is expensive, you can't bring all your stuff from home so in the first month you have to buy a lot of stuff for the house which you didn't expect. During the weekends you will want to explore and maybe travel afterwards. All in all, there are a lot of extra expenses and I would certainly make a list of as many



expenses as you can think of and add another 1000 or 1500 euro's, just in case!
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I studied one Physics class and two Mathematics courses. Because these were third-year courses, I was expected to have followed certain second-year courses, which of course I hadn't. But mostly in Science subjects, the same information is thought in other courses back home, so you will be able to take the courses abroad. I decided to make sure I could and e-mail the professors of the courses I wanted to take. They were very helpful and I didn't encounter any problems.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality of education seemed lower than at home at first. The biggest difference was that the emphasis of the courses was on lectures and not exercises. At home, an average Physics course has two hours of lectures and four hours of exercises per week, in Tasmania, there were three hours of lectures and sometimes one hour of exercises. This seemed easy at first, just lie back and soak up the lectures, but getting close to the exams I did notice I missed the practice with the problems. So don't underestimate the quality, based on first impressions!
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Personally I did not need much support, but the teachers and staff were very interested in my progress. It was an eye-opener that people were so informal and sincere, so I'm sure if I had any trouble, they would have been glad to help me out. Don't hesitate on asking people, because it can be a difficult time abroad.
transfer of credits
I had some problems with getting my credits transferred, the University of Tasmania sent me the transcript, but getting them transferred in Utrecht took a long time. Make sure you have a letter of the Board of Examinations from your Department which states clearly what subjects you will take, on what level they are and if they are Major/Minor subjects. Also they don't use ECTS, so let them confirm that a full subject is 7.5 ECTS and get an official letter of this before you leave. This makes up for a lot of trouble afterwards!
student life
welcome/orientation programme
The orientation programme was extremely boring. A full week of sitting in a big hall listening to a lot of different people welcoming you to their country, but this is the time when you make friends. Remember that no-one out there knows anyone yet, so speak to people, throw a party (or a few ;-)) in the first week to get a good crowd around you. Of course there are other ways to meet people, like going to sports activities and university parties.
accommodation
You have two choices: an easy one, which is arranging a room and signing the contract before you leave. The other one is stay in a hostel at first and find a room from there. I would recommend the first one! I lost my luggage on the way there and at least you have a house and housemates. Also there was no bed there when I arrived (and that sucks after a travel of 48 hours), so it doesn't mean everything is ready when you set foot out of the plane, but at least you have some certainty of a house and some first friends.
leisure/culture
The country was just amazing. People are incredibly nice and laid back compared to Dutch people. And you'll be surprised the first time someone greets you with "How are you going?". You probably don't know how to respond to that until you've been there for a month, but that's just great! Also you seem to have much more free time. No family around you, no job. When it's night/weekend, you're free. And you might even have one or two days off during the week. If you do, get out! Rent a car, explore. If you decide to go to Tasmania, get a backpack on your back, stick up a thumb and see where you end up. You're only there for a short while, so enjoy!
suggestions/tips



If you have free time afterwards (and some money left), go travel. During your semester you might have had a long weekend, maybe even a free week to travel, but afterwards you might have one or two months off for summer holiday. Pick a nice-looking country in the area (I would definitely recommend New-Zealand) and book a flight. It's a unique opportunity, you can even decide to travel with some friends you've made during your stay. And well, you won't be too eager to go home anyways. Have a blast before you do!

conclusions

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

My stay in Tasmania was an incredible experience, the island was amazing, the people were great. It's a place people from all over the world come to: from Europe and the States, but also many Asians, Middle-Eastern people, just from everywhere which is very interesting.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

A final note on the education: you might forget about it while you're there and I wouldn't blame you, but for me it ended up being useful too, because doing my research back home afterwards, I noticed I took some classes abroad which I couldn't have done in Utrecht. This has given me a great advantage, so don't spend all your time outside the classroom!

Faculty: University College Utrecht
Specialisation: Psychology/Criminology/Int'l Law

Destination: Hobart, TAS, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation: University of Tasmania
Purpose Trajectum scholarship: study

Departure date: Feb 2008
Return date: July 2008

UTas, Hobart, Australia

Although Tasmania isn't considered to be the most exciting destination in Australia, I have to say that I'm very happy staying here. Hobart is the main city on Tasmania, but it feels like a small town. You'll realize that mostly while walking on campus or in town: people you know are everywhere.

Even after a few months, I'm occasionally still surprised by the laidback, Tassie-time attitude that most people have here, which is very different from Utrecht. Everything is possible, everyone is friendly and nothing is a problem. This is nice once you arrive, but preparing your study abroad can be a long, annoying process.

The University is based in three different cities on Tasmania, I chose to go to Hobart. Hobart is the capital of Tasmania and is the city in which most students live. I am very happy about this decision, the other cities (Launceston and Burnie) are not as exciting.

In general I am happy with the program: you'll have 13 weeks of class, in which you take four subjects. Then you have a week to prepare for exams, and then a 3 week exam period. Classes in the social sciences aren't that demanding, however, some of my friends in sciences are spending all their time in labs. I think it just depends on the courses you pick.

The one thing most exchange students complain about is the grading: although the break down of the grading is explained on your papers and exams, most people still feel like the grades awarded are pretty arbitrary.

Tasmania really is a beautiful island, and if you're here you should definitely travel around, especially if you like hiking or if you're an outdoorsy type in general. It is also really easy to get to the mainland (the rest of Australia), every week there are new cheap flights because of the rivalry between the flight companies.

With my accommodation I got really lucky. I chose to live in TUU housing, because I thought that the people in the college housing would mainly be first years. I was right about that. However, TUU housing is completely random. So that means that you choose to live with four or more complete strangers. My housemates are wonderful so I can't complain at all, but I've heard bad stories about the housing. The other thing is that TUU refuses to give you any information on your new housemates, so you cannot contact them in advance.

The intro week of the university isn't that impressive. Don't expect anything close to the UIT week. First of all, they advise you to come a week early for the international student intro week. For me that was absolutely pointless; there were two meetings in that entire week! The week after the international intro week is the general intro week, called O-week. That was much better; I especially recommend going to societies day.

The student night to go out here is Wednesday night. There aren't that many pubs/clubs to go to, but the ones which are open are filled with familiar faces. The thing that I will remember from those nights are the around-the-clock-jugs, which starts at five in the afternoon. The idea is that you get a jug (I think it's 1.8 L of beer) priced equally to the hour. So if you order at five o'clock, your jug will be five dollars (= 3 euro). Many students take advantage of this offer, which means that a night out will start at five or six o'clock.

In the end I guess it all comes down to what you make of it. I've met wonderful people who I love spending time with, so of course my study abroad experience is amazing. I would definitely recommend everyone to visit Tasmania, but if you are going to study in Australia and you like metropolitan cities, I'd advise you to study elsewhere. I do like the feeling of a small town and the fact that you're so easily part of a community; after a couple of weeks, you keep recognizing people everywhere. Just decide for yourself what you want to get out of your time abroad; if you want to see wonderful scenery, sign up for Tasmania immediately.

Faculty: Geosciences
Specialisation: Sustainable Development

Destination: Hobart - Tasmania, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation: CSIRO, ACE CRC, UTAS
Purpose Trajectum scholarship: Study

Departure date: 29-11-2007
Return date: 30-5-2008

Planning phase:

Undertaking an internship outside the Netherlands takes careful planning and a lot of will from the student to get things properly organized. Even when you think you have got all things sorted, there is always other things that work out differently. Not only does the student need to be a good planner, but more importantly he/she needs to be flexible enough to change his/her plans at any time.

Planning a master thesis internship starts with your own interests. Nothing is more important than working on something that you really like doing! Once you've decided on your field of interest you start looking for contacts within the University of Utrecht. Maybe you remember a professor from your bachelor or master phase, who was teaching some very interesting stuff related to the topic you would like to work on. If you do not know who to contact, you can always look on the web and search for professors within the Netherlands that teach the topics you are interested in. If you really haven't got a clue, there is always your appointed master thesis coordinator who should be able to point you in the right direction. Once you've organized a meeting with your contact person it is important to go there open minded. The topic that you've got in mind might be very interesting to you, but it might be hard to find in internship in your exact topic. Your contact will always ask you what your interests are, so try to explain the topic you would like to work on, but keep it general. Your contact might know of a project that is very related to what you had in mind and that might give you some very interesting options. Remember that the internship is not only about the topic you are working on but also about the places you are travelling, the people you are going to meet and the work experience that you are gaining. After one or two meetings with your contact, you probably have some new contacts (maybe at different universities abroad or within the Netherlands). Now it is time to see what these people are working on. The best thing to do is to go on the internet and find out what kind of research they are doing and what kind of projects they are involved in. Once you know what they do it is time to send them an e-mail to introduce yourself. Tell them what you do, what you are interested in and for what period your internship is planned. If you are sending an e-mail to an university abroad, make sure you're English writing is fluent, an e-mail with spelling mistakes might put people off. Your contact will let you know if you can come over for an internship. Maybe you will discuss the topics to work on in more detail over the e-mail or phone, but be prepared for this not to happen until you arrive at your destination and you meet your contact in person! Now that you are sure about your destination, it is time to organize your finances. Most of the time you can keep your "studiefinanciering" and you can get compensation for not using your "OV-studentenkaart". Expenditure abroad should be very similar to back home so the only thing you really need to worry

about are the costs of travel. You might be able to find some funding for your expenses (see UU website about funds). Before you leave, it is also important to organize accommodation for you to stay while you are abroad. Maybe your contact has some suggestions, or try to contact the university at your destination to see if they have an accommodation service.

Arriving at your destination:

When you arrive at your destination, first thing you need to do is organize a meeting with your contact. First face to face contact is very important, so present yourself well. Again, be open minded about the topics, because your contact might have some very interesting opportunities for you. Now it is also time to discuss some practical matters. Maybe you need to be enrolled at the local university, you might need a working space, discuss this with your contact. Being abroad for a while can be very lonely, but my experience is that you meet new people very easily. Remember, you are a foreign student and people tend to be very helpful when they know this. Usually, your contact will have some other students working with him. Maybe phd, honour or bachelor students. They might work on the some topics as you, so it is good to talk to these people.

Living abroad:

Once you are settled in and you are clear about your topic it is a good idea to start working/writing as soon as possible. Try to make a good start, and leave a good impression with your contact. If you are not working directly with your contact, make sure you keep him/her informed about your progress, same for your contacts back home. Also remember that it is not only about the studying. Use your free time to explore the place you live and travel around. If you play any sports, just go and get in contact with the local student sport club.

Conclusion:

The most important things to remember about organizing an internship abroad is to start as soon as possible with planning and looking for contacts. Keep an open mind about the topics you could work on, but make sure you have a general idea on what you like to work on. Once you've organized an internship, make a good start, be motivated and make the most of your time abroad. Living abroad doesn't have to be all that different from living back home and the sooner you realise this, the more at home you'll feel!