



Student Exchange

Bachelor's and Master's programmes Medicine,
Biomedical Sciences and Clinical Health Sciences



Biomedical Sciences - Report Experience Abroad

Share your experiences with us and other Utrecht University students!

- Please write a short report within two weeks after your arrival back in The Netherlands based on the questions below.
- Send this report to: international.office@umcutrecht.nl.
- The reports will be placed on the Blackboard courses 'BMW Study Abroad' as inspiration and information for students who would like to go abroad.

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Student number*:

(* = You can decide to stay anonymous by not filling in these fields)

Exchange University: Monash University

City: Melbourne

Country: Australia

1. Preparations

a. What? When? Where?

I wanted to go to Australia for a long time, so the BMW exchange program was the perfect opportunity for me. I decided to look into the exchange after the presentation they gave us, I found multiple universities in Australia but I wanted to do medicine-related subjects and not every university had those options. I came across Monash University and got excited about their offer in courses and the city of Melbourne.

b. Which language did you use? If this is not Dutch or English, how and where did you learn the language?

In Australia, they speak English, so extra preparation was not necessary.

c. Finances/grants: What budget do you approximately need when going on exchange? What grants did you use?

You do need to save up a decent amount of money, I already had some savings and as soon as I knew I was going to Melbourne I saved up some more. I only got the BMW grant, because I was too late to apply for other grants and most of the grants were not available for me anyway. When I was overseas, I still got money from DUO and my parents helped me as well.

d. How did you arrange accommodation? Would you recommend it to other students?

I lived on campus and you can arrange that quite easily via the university, you have to apply and take some steps, but if you get a room offer is more or less luck. I liked living on campus because I feel like it is a whole new experience and you can meet a lot of nice people (internationals and Aussies). I think it is a different exchange experience from living in the city, but I stand by my choice. If you're living on campus it does not mean you can never be in the city, it is up to you how you want to live, but you can easily combine campus and city living, at least that is my experience.

e. Visa (if applicable):

You need a student visa if you want to do your exchange in Australia. Just make sure you arrange this on time because the waiting times are variable and you really need the visa to enter the country. The university will send you emails about how and for what visa to apply for as well.

f. Insurance:



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You need special overseas health insurance if you want to study in Australia, the university will send emails about this too. In addition, I had temporary insurance for my exchange period as well. I arrange this with an AON student abroad insurance or something like that, this way I was insured for hospitalisation and getting robbed for example.

2. Education abroad

a. Which courses did you take abroad?

I took 4 different courses, half in line with biomedical courses. I did forensic science, immunity in health and disease, nutrition in chronic disease and forensic genetics.

b. Guidance during the internship (if applicable)?

c. Quality of education?

The quality of education is good. There was no special attention for exchange students in classes, if you would want that you could ask and find it on your own, but I liked that they treated us the same as everyone else.

d. Type of examination/assignments?

I had a lot of essays to write, more than back home, during the semester. But, we only had exams at the end of the full semester, and these exams were also spread over a period of 4 weeks, so you only had to do one exam per week approximately.

e. Would you recommend this place to other students?

Yes, Melbourne is a great city and the university is very nice as well.

3. Cultural experience

a. What was the added value of going on exchange?

I think that I learned the most from being in another country all by yourself, you really learn to take care of yourself. And making friends from all over the world was amazing as well. I saw a lot of beautiful places during my exchange period too, you're actually travelling and studying at the same time, it is really nice.

b. What cultural knowledge did you gain?

I learned a lot about aboriginal and islander culture, and the acknowledgment of the people and their land as they do now in the whole of Australia. Also, the whole AFL and horse racing culture is a big thing in Melbourne/Australia which I experienced as well.

c. Describe 2 critical incidents; focused on cultural differences

I learned a lot about different cultures, as I was living on campus where many exchange and international students lived next to the Aussies. I tried lots of new foods while I was abroad, mostly Asian and some Bulgarian as well. We celebrated different holidays as Diwali and the AFL finals in Melbourne for example.

Conclusion of stay abroad:

I would definitely recommend going on an exchange in the first place. I really enjoyed my time abroad, I probably would have loved it in any other place as well. But, Monash University is a really great university for international students, they have tons of activities and there is a lot of diversity to be found in people but also in education in my opinion. Furthermore, I loved seeing parts of Australia and Melbourne is a nice city as well, with a lot of cool nightlife and good food, coffee and restaurants. If you're in doubt to go on an exchange, just go, you will not regret it.



Thank you for your cooperation!

Team International Office



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