



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Social and behavioural sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Psychology Bachelor

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	20 / 02 / 2023
end date	16/ 06 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

At the start it was a bit overwhelming for me to see all the different universities you could go to. However, after I really decided for myself what I wanted for my exchange and in which country, it became a lot easier. Some university websites were a bit more challenging to navigate through than others.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It was good. When I had a question, I could always send an e-mail and the reply was always quick.

academic preparation

My preparations were no different than a semester in Utrecht.

language preparation

I had to do the IELTS. Besides passing this test, I didn't do anything in preparation. I trusted my English was good enough and I would also improve my English while being in Brisbane.

Finances

Before going I looked up the prices in Australia. I knew it was going to be a bit more expensive so I worked a lot before going on an exchange. I also still had some savings I could use.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I just followed some courses for my bachelor, it was not a specific program.

1. 'parenting and family' which was the course I was less enthusiastic about. All the lectures were online and the tutorials didn't really add something.
 2. 'positive psychology', I really liked the lectures and tutorials. It was an interesting perspective of psychology and I definitely recommend this course.
 3. 'evolutionary approaches to human behaviour', was a bit more challenging, which I loved because the other courses were maybe a bit too easy. It was also very different from what I was used to learn in my psychology bachelor. The lectures and tutorials were very interactive and interesting. I loved this course!
- All of the materials you needed were available on blackboard so I didn't have to buy any books.

academic quality of education activities

For me, the level of difficulty of the UQ courses wasn't as high as in the Netherlands. I think it was easier to pass a course, but harder to get a high grade. It also differed per course whether I thought the lectures and



tutorials were of a high academic level. I sometimes had some difficulty with writing the essays. I was used to writing in Dutch so writing an English essay took longer than usual. As an extra help for myself, I used Grammarly. The exams I had were all online and if you attended the lectures you didn't really have to learn for them. Of course, this could all just depend on which specific courses you follow.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was good! They had an orientation week and send a lot of emails about things you had to plan/organize. If you had any questions, you could also send an email or go to a helpdesk at the uni.

transfer of credits

Has not happened yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university has an orientation week, which is fun to go to. In the first week, I only had lectures and no tutorials. I really liked this because you had the chance to get used to the university and find your way.

accommodation

I lived in a student accommodation. It had a lot of facilities but was very expensive too. You don't know your roommates before coming to Australia. This means you had to be lucky whether you had a connection with your roommates. I didn't really have a connection with my roommates. It was very different from what I was used to in the Netherlands, and it didn't feel as homely. However, the location was good and because a lot of other students live in the accommodation, it was okay that I didn't have the best roommates.

leisure & culture

Because the weather was always good, we spend most of our time outside (beach/park). There are also numerous clubs that you could join. I joined the club for exchange students and the surfing club. These clubs hold gatherings and sometimes organize trips you could go to. Especially at the beginning of the semester, I went to these clubs a lot. It was a great way of meeting new friends. Later in the semester, I didn't go that often anymore and we organized our own trips etc.

suggestions/tips

It can be hard to find a room (not in a student accommodation), but it is way less expensive if you do. I would recommend finding your own place in Brisbane. However, it is a bit of a risk, and it can be quite stressful. I also suggest joining some clubs and attending them to make some new friends (especially in the beginning).

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! Of course, I have not been on an exchange to other locations, so it is hard for me to compare. But I have had an amazing time in Brisbane. It is a beautiful university and there is a lot to do in the city and around the city. It is hard not to fall in love with Australia.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Use enough sunscreen (the Australian sun is no joke) and be open to new experiences.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	law
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Bachelor of Law

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	13 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

This was easier than I thought it would be. You write your motivation and make your top 3 section and then it's mostly waiting. When I heard I got placed at UQ, I received a very detailed explanation on how to enrol in courses and how to make an account. Because of this detailed information it is clear and easy to apply!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had a lot of questions, before and last minute, and everything that I was unsure about I send it to Tessel. Almost every time I received answers in less than 24 hours, so this was perfect! Communication with the Australian Exchange department of Utrecht was super well organised and helped me a lot!!

academic preparation

For this university I did not need any academic preparation

language preparation

To be accepted at UQ you need to do a IELTS or TOEFL. I did the IELTS in Amsterdam, and it took me a long time (3 hours and 20 minutes for an interview), but I did not practice for my English. The only thing I would recommend is practice the way how IELTS exams work. Once you've paid for it, you can practice on their website with all the different topics and way of testing. Definitely recommend!

finances

The most expensive thing was housing in Australia. The year before my exchange I put money from Duo aside so when I arrived in Australia I had money in my saving to pay my accommodation. For all of my other costs I had saved money by working and got helped out by my parents. Doing groceries is not that expensive if you choose normal products or discounts, but you can make it as expensive as you want. The thing that is really expensive is going out to party or for dinner etc, restaurant and alcohol are really expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was enrolled in Criminology, Social Science, History of the Supernatural and World Religions & Spirituality.

academic quality of education activities



UQ is known as a very good university and that definitely showed of. Especially the well-being of students is something they look out to. The courses I followed were from good academic quality, but it depends on the course if you have tutorials or practicums etc. I only had tutorials and it is different from Utrecht. You did not really have to do any "homework" but instead you had a lot of reading that you would discuss during the tutorial.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I received quick responses to all the emails that I had send to UQ, while I was in the Netherlands as when I was in Australia already. The teachers are always willing to help and answer very fast !

transfer of credits

My credits are currently still being transferred

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

it almost felt like I was in a movie, because their welcome week day is so huge and filled with many activities. Definitely go to market day! It's a day where there are more than a 100 stalls of societies and clubs, which you can join. For the orientation they hosted 3 different information sessions you obligated had to join,, but there are more sessions you could join if you'd like. The University tells you about safety in Australia and on campus, and also help you guide the campus.

accommodation

I stayed at student one Elizabeth street. This is a big student residence. It is expensive to live in, but easy to get a room. Make sure you get this room on time (arrange it at home, I did so) as it was completely booked when I arrived in Brisbane. They host activities like pancake Monday and movie Wednesday, but I never attended them because I made my own friends and at one point I did not care about meeting new people in the building. Also, because this building is massive, it is not really social. I would rather stay in a normal house, as you have in Utrecht. This is possible to look for via the website flatmates. All my friends succeed to find a home through this website, but it can be stressful and you can have multiple inspections before finding a room. Student one it's location is in the inner city, which I liked to be close to shops. Nonetheless, it did not give me the real Australian experience, as it's a big flat and not an Australian house. Next time I rather would live in the suburb's West End, South Bank or Highgate Hill.

leisure & culture

Remember that Brisbane is not next to the beach. You can go to Gold Coast or East coast with public transport, which is cheaper than in NL, but it takes you 2 hours single way. Brisbane itself is a good place to do weekend trips to noosa or Byron bay! Definitely happy with the city I chose.

suggestions/tips

Definitely enjoy your time here, before you know it's already the end of the semester. Try to plan nice things every weekend, because after your study your visa will already expire within a month! Also become a member of Quest or UQ surf! Because of these societies I met all my close friends.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Absolutely! The university itself is beautiful. It looks like a campus for a movie decor. The uni has so much to offer for students as they host lots of events. Also Australia does not feel far away once you're there, as the country feels very western! So don't hesitate!



do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Utrecht Law College

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	13 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It's not too difficult but takes quite a lot of time. For me it was really convenient that I had a high average for English in high school, so I didn't have to take a test to prove my level. Our region coordinator usually responded fast. When it got to the point of finishing off the application at UQ, their front office was a bit slower to respond to questions, so I would recommend contacting them in advance if you need their help.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Our region coordinator was quick to respond and to help out if something regarding the application or the visa was unclear.

academic preparation

There was no need for me to prepare anything specific academically, I was going to follow some courses outside of my curriculum but they were not advanced courses, so they were designed for students to understand them without too much knowledge of the topic beforehand.

language preparation

There was no need to prepare anything according to the language as I had my average from high school to prove my level.

finances

I knew Australia was going to be expensive, so from the moment that I got accepted to UQ on I started saving money by working a lot and putting aside some of my student loan (DUO) in my savings account. I also had some savings from before, since I always wanted to go to Australia.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

UQ is organized really well, at the beginning there are some compulsory meetings (for internationals) that introduce you to the system. It takes a bit of time to figure out how the Course Profiles work, and the roster works a bit differently from UU (it's better actually as you can decide when you want to follow a seminar or tutorial yourself). They use a website similar to Blackboard so that's nice.

academic quality of education activities

I would have expected all the courses to be a lot easier than at UU, but this was not completely true. Most of my courses I feel were the same workload as those back home. One of them, however, was incredibly easy.



Also, you can easily pick courses that don't have a final exam so you're done with the semester earlier and can thus start your holidays earlier on (however I figured that out too late).

They offer a lot of programs and workshops, I for example followed the LeadHers program, which was about female leadership, I really enjoyed that. I was a bit disappointed on the fact that there was a very limited set of law courses that I could do and that they were all Australian law, which of course is a different legal system.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

They offer help with all kinds of things: academic matters, health issues, finances, mindfulness, etc. I did not really use these services except for some check ups at the Medical centre.

transfer of credits

The document of my credits came very quickly after I got my final grades; I am still in the process of transferring to UU. However, as the grading system at UQ is different – grades go from 1-7 – you just get a pass or fail.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Lots of activities in O-week, nice way to meet people. The compulsory meetings are also very useful.

accommodation

In the student reviews from before COVID I read that it was super easy to find an apartment. Unfortunately after the pandemic this changed. Apparently a lot of people from the south moved up north to Brisbane as the circumstances were better there, and of course all the internationals came back. It's not as hard as in Utrecht but don't underestimate the competition that you have. If you're lucky you could find something affordable between the CBD and campus (West End and South Bank are really nice). However, as I said you're less likely to succeed in this than before COVID.

I lived in the CBD for one month in a student accommodation (StudentOne), but personally did not like it too much as it feels a bit impersonal and like living in a hotel. Also my roommates were not that social. They do, however, organize some social events where you can easily meet people, I made some good friends there. For living, however, I preferred the suburbs, so I moved to Woolloongabba, which was really nice. The price I paid was a bit higher than what I preferred, but lower than in StudentOne. It was also quite stressful to find an apartment while uni was starting and I had to get out of my student apartment, so I did not have much of a choice.

leisure & culture

Culture is not too different and the cities are really safe. There's some dodgy people in the streets but they won't harm you. Brisbane is trying really hard to maintain safety by increasing security staff in for example going out areas.

I did have to get used to the fact that cities are way bigger and it usually takes around 30 mins to go from one place to another; you cannot be close to both the CBD and the campus. Unfortunately you have to depend on buses as there's too many hills and not enough cycling lanes to go by bike. I found a job and went to the gym so was happy to have some structure in my life in that sense. Going out is not a big thing as drinks are expensive and music is not the best.

suggestions/tips

Come early if you want to find an apartment as you don't want to have the stress of living on the streets when the semester starts.

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I feel like Brisbane is a really nice and convenient city to live. As a tourist there's not many famous attractions to see, but living there is good as the weather is nice all year round, it's not too big or expensive (like Sydney), it's very central, around the city there's a lot of nice places to go to on the weekends or free days (also by public transport), and the university is good.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Cliché, but: time passes by so fast, so enjoy it while it lasts. I was also really happy to have some stability by finding an apartment, finding a gym that was close to my house and a job on walking distance. I loved actually having the feeling of living in the city in that sense, instead of just being there as a tourist. So if you're going on exchange to do the same – be part of the local society – I would recommend finding all these things asap in order to get into your Australian routine and lifestyle.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	AUS: following elective courses: 1. Communication for Social Change, 2. Political Communication, 3. Social Entrepreneurship, 4. Entrepreneurial Mindset & Ideation NL: Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland (UQ)
start date	13 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>The application process at UU is pretty simple and straightforward, as long as you read carefully what needs to be done to apply. I advise to go to the seminars during the study abroad weeks at UU. I found these to be very helpful for the application process! Besides that, there's also a lot of information on the UU website if you search for studying abroad that'll help you.</p> <p>However, once UU assigned you to your destination – in this case UQ – you will have to do the application at UQ yourself. That process can feel a little overwhelming at first, since there seems to be so much that needs to be done and you practically need to do it on your own.</p> <p>I recommend to read all the steps very carefully (this always seems to be much easier said than done, haha). And if you can't figure it out, you can always contact the international office; or create a WhatsApp group with the others that will be going to the same University, so that you can figure it out together (that helped me a lot).</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>You really need to be pro-active yourself, there will only be counselling and support if you ask for it. The only support you'll get without asking for it are e-mails with general reminders etc.</p>
academic preparation	<p>There aren't really any academic requirements to go to UQ, apart from that you'll need 60ECTS before you go and the language requirement (minimal 8 VWO).</p>
language preparation	<p>UQ requires you to meet certain English Language Requirements (VWO grade 8 or higher, or taking a TOEFL- / IELTS test). I had to do a test and chose to do a TOEFL test – as it allowed me to take the test online in my own home.</p> <p>I didn't really study for the test and even though I found the test rather stressful, I had nothing to worry about in the end. I passed the test with pretty good scores. So, if you feel like you're fairly proficient in the English language, you'll be alright 😊</p>



finances

An exchange is expensive, there's no sugar-coating in that.

Of course, you can make it as cheap – or expensive – as you want, but it will still be expensive.

I had some money saved up and I was lucky enough to get financial support from my father during the exchange for rent.

I'll list some of the costs you will definitely make for/during the exchange:

- The earlier mentioned **IELTS test**: 270 USD
- **VISA**: 650 AUD
- **Plane ticket** (I had a 2-way ticket which was pretty cheap but the first flight was horrible – I flew over America with 2 transfers, which resulted in a journey of 36hours and butt-pain for two days after arriving ☹ and the way back I'll have 2 transfers again – so I would recommend paying a little bit extra for a little more comfort and just fly via Dubai or Singapore or something): around 1150 EU
- **Overseas Health Care**: around 350 AUD
- **Rent** – will vary depending on where and how (apartment, studio etc.) you live: around 250 – 500 AUD a week (**rent is paid weekly** and not monthly).
- **Groceries** – I found it more expensive than in the Netherlands – this is especially true if you want to have a high protein diet (for the gym-rats): I tried to spend around 100 AUD a week (and I pretty much ate the same dish for 4 – 5 days in a row)

Although I kept my Dutch nr. & sim, others got an Australian **Sim** for their phone, so that costs some money p/m as well (most places have WiFi here, I managed just fine with my Dutch nr.).

Remember that you will most likely still pay some of **fixed charges** in NL while you are on exchange (unless you cancel everything). But I continued to pay my health care, phone charges, some subscriptions I was too lazy or didn't want to cancel, etc. (If you really want to get straight what it'll cost to go abroad, I recommend looking at those costs as well).

Last but not least, you are abroad in an amazing country and it is not the same as it is back home in the Netherlands: you will make new friends and **go out**, you will **travel** around the country, take **trips** and do **activities**, this will all add up to the costs as well. So be mindful of that when making a financial plan! (But definitely don't cut too much on those costs as they are absolutely worth it).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose the following courses:

- Communication for Social Change (1 lecture p/w, 2h)
- Political Communication (1 lecture p/w 1.5h, 1 seminar p/w 1.5h)
- Social Entrepreneurship (1 seminar p/w 3h – usually took around 2 hours though)
- Entrepreneurial Mindset & Ideation (1 seminar p/w 2h, and online module p/w which usually took around 1h to complete)

academic quality of education activities

As you can read above, the structure of the courses is slightly different compared to UU, which took some getting used to.

But generally, the academic workload is more than manageable, it might depend on the courses you take, but I found my courses rather easy.



Especially the two entrepreneur courses felt more like HBO than WO to me – mostly teamwork assignments and practically no (or minimal) academic teaching and learning.

The course that I enjoyed the most – and that was the most academically challenging – was Communication for Social Change. The professor was very enthusiastic and it was a well academically orientated course, so if you're in the Social Sciences, I would really recommend to take a look at this course!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

You'll have a few introduction lectures in orientation week. I reckon you could get counselling and support if you were to ask for it if you'd need it, there's a student point at the center of the campus where they can help you with any issues that you might encounter.

transfer of credits

Before you leave, check out how your faculty (at UU) will transfer the grades. I learned – nearly at the end of the semester – that the faculty of Social Sciences will transfer your grades as a simple Pass or Fail. So, it doesn't matter whether you'll get a Grade 4 or Grade 7 (4 is minimal to pass in AU, 7 is the highest possible) it will be documented as a pass on your UU diploma. And as I said, check this before your courses actually start in AUS, so you'll know how much effort you want to put into the courses 😊

And check the UU website to see how they want you to transfer your credits – UQ will send you your transcript and login details to access that transcript.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

You'll get a few lectures (2 if I remember correctly) in orientation week and there's a market with all the different clubs/societies that you can join.

I personally didn't join any of those – as none of them were really my jam. But I know others did, and they enjoyed themselves a lot and made friends there as well. So, if you're a social butterfly then definitely check that out and join one of those clubs/societies!

accommodation

I personally arranged my accommodation some time before I left for Australia. I'm kind of a stress-case and I prefer important things – such as accommodation – to be arranged beforehand.

I stayed at Student One on Wharf Street (CBD) and it's probably the best decision (for me) I could've made. I made my friends there and it had a good location in the CBD.

Student One hosts (free) events, such as weekly yoga and kickbox sessions, movie-nights, barbies etc. It's a great place to meet people from all over the world and the people at the reception (which is occupied 24/7) are very helpful: any questions you'll have about the city or anything, they'll help you with.

leisure & culture

I found Australia to be big on drinking, I personally don't drink any alcohol at all, so I tried to make friends with those who weren't about the party/drinking life either.

But, if you like partying etc. I hear Fortitude Valley is the place to be.

Besides drinking, Aussie is big on coffee as well; there's literally a coffeeshop on every corner, so if you enjoy a cup of joe like me, you'll definitely won't be disappointed.

Moreover, there are a lot of markets every week that you can visit and plenty of restaurants etc.

Lastly, if you're not into alcohol but still want to go somewhere on the weekends, I recommend going to Cedars Restaurant! It has some nice Lebanese food and once you've finished eating you can try their Shisha 😊

suggestions/tips

First and foremost, do whatever you want to do; that's the key to achieving the best experience.



But, what I will also recommend is to try to get out of your comfort zone! An exchange like this is a time to explore, to broaden your horizon and to push your own limits. Go on a solo trip for a few days for example! Going on a trip with friends is obviously fun, but – for me at least – going on a trip with just yourself is a great way to learn to be by yourself and to learn to love your own company (as I know from my surroundings that people find that difficult sometimes). So just book a flight to a city, and go there on your own and make your own plan! I guarantee you will have a lot of fun!

I'd also recommend to try and make friends with people from different cultures – so not just from the Westernized cultures. You'll learn a lot about other cultures and different perspectives and might even change your own perspectives – or at least broaden your horizon ☺ Plus, you might get some good new vacation addresses out of it.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes definitely.

Brisbane is a very nice city (that doesn't feel too crowded or big, which I enjoyed a lot) and the weather is pretty much always good (They don't call it the Sunshine State for nothing).

UQ is a beautiful campus and as the academic workload isn't too much therefore it allows you to enjoy your time over there more.

The people here are nice and you can easily travel to other parts of the country as well! (Cairns only a 2h flight away, Sydney a 1.5h flight, etc.).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Save up enough money to get as much out of the experience as you can as it might be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Create a WhatsApp group with the others of UU that are going to the same Uni as you: this really helped me a lot in the first week of arrival as you can hang out with them once in a while. That way you have some people to rely on which might help when settling in!

Also, you will most likely experience homesickness at one (or more) point(s), and that is absolutely normal and okay. In that case I would recommend to do whatever you feel is best to do: some people like to meet up with friends, and other – like me haha – like to just cry it all out in my room. Just be prepared for the fact that an exchange can be a little bit lonely sometimes.

Lastly, if you have the opportunity to go on an exchange then just do it! You'll grow as a human being, you'll make new friends from all around the world and you'll have the opportunity to see parts of the worlds that others can only dream of. As I said earlier, it's probably a once in a lifetime experience, so if you have the opportunity to do it, then just go for it.



faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's
name study programme	AUS: Exchange - diverse courses, NL: Media and Culture

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane, with a layover at Singapore
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	16 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
<p>The exchange application process in Utrecht was relatively easy and straightforward. The people working at the International Office were very clear in their expectations. The web page explaining the process step by step was helpful too. If you are not sure about the financial side of your exchange, I highly recommend going to the extra seminar on finances, because it really helps you put everything in perspective.</p> <p>Tip: UU does not have an agent so you can skip that step in UQ's application process.</p>	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
See box above.	
academic preparation	
<p>Before applying for an exchange you need to make sure the courses you are planning to take have been approved by your current program. This was very easy since you can just look your designated person up on the UU website and email them to make an appointment. I personally chose some courses that were discontinued at the time of my exchange but this was not a problem.</p>	
language preparation	
<p>UQ has very strict rules about your language preparation. I was lucky enough that they still accepted my high school diploma, for it 'expires' after five years. If you received an eight or higher in English at VWO within the last five years you can just upload your diploma. Many of my friends there had to take (expensive) additional tests.</p>	
finances	
<p>Australia is very expensive so you really need to consider if you can pay for it.</p> <p>If you are not sure about the financial side of your exchange, I highly recommend going to the extra seminar on finances, because it really helps you put everything in perspective. You will receive a template for your finances that is easy to use and the 'teacher' will help you with it.</p>	



(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
welcome & orientation programme	
The orientation program was not what I expected. You are not put in a group of students which means that you have to explore campus on your own and meet people yourself. Of course, that is not a big problem but be prepared to have to get up to people yourself instead of being introduced to people. The introduction program was a bit boring too since there were only a few tours and a market day. I do recommend going to the market as it is a great way to sign up for clubs and collect goodies ;). The clubs are a great way to meet new people in the first few weeks and almost all of my friends I met at these meetings. The meetings of most clubs are relaxed, cheap and cater to your interests, which is probably what you want.	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I wasn't a part of a specific study program, I took diverse courses which meant that I did not have a specific introduction. But, from what I've heard, those introduction seminars were the same as the ones all internationals have to do.	
academic quality of education activities	
I usually compare UQ's education to HBO education in The Netherlands, as it is far more practical and less academically orientated. Of course, you still have you write your papers and do your assignments but the projects are much more focussed on 'real world' projects. For example, in one of the first weeks I had to write a journalistic article, and create two media outputs.	
transfer of credits	
I've not yet received my final grades.	

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES	
support guidance of host university	
My host university was very clear in their communications. Most of my teachers contacted me individually to check in on me, and they were very understanding when I needed some time to transition back into normal life in The Netherlands. Once I was offered an extension on an assignment because the whole situation was overwhelming me.	
support guidance of home university	
To be honest, the communication from UU seemed a bit frantic to me. I understand that those were uncertain times but demanding all international students to return home was a bit premature in my opinion. Australia has, since the start of the pandemic, been better off than The Netherlands and many dutch students were of the opinion that they were better off in Australia (in many respects). My decision to return home was eventually based on the fact that all my friends had returned home and there was no way to meet new ones. However, the International office did accommodate very well in offering information regarding the exchange. The fact that you could get compensation for your extra expenses was very helpful as flights had become extremely expensive.	
online offer and quality of digital courses	



Before the Australian corona restrictions UQ shut down for a week to prepare for online courses. This preparation worked as there was a very smooth transition to digital lectures and seminars. The library and campus remained open which helped with staying in the workflow.

Back in the Netherlands, online courses were a bit more difficult to attend due to the time difference. It was hard to do group projects as the members were located all over the world. Nonetheless, we pulled through and in the end I feel like the educational quality did not suffer.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Be mindful of the time difference. I primarily had to attend lectures and seminars during the night, which really messed with my sleeping schedule. I've heard of people who were able to switch seminars to suit their time zone.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would. Australia is beautiful and Brisbane in particular. The city is both modern and old, and very spacious but at the same time cozy (gezellig). The UQ campus is beautiful! It is build in a classical style and there are many spaces to hang out in between classes. The clubs affiliated with the university are very active and give you an opportunity to meet new friends and go on trips.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I recommend not getting a place before going there and arriving a week before uni starts (or earlier of course). In one week you will for certain have found a room that is probably cheaper than the ones you will find online before your arrival. 'Official' student housing is very very expensive and there are great alternatives that are just as nice.

Tip: before leaving, check out the neighborhoods so you know where to look for a place. I recommend South Bank and West End as they are located in between the city and campus. Plus, everything is relatively close by, housing is relatively cheap and those are very typical Australian hippy neighborhoods.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Medicine
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Biomedical Sciences

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	15 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 11 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for my exchange was pretty straight forward. After I attended the orientation presentation given at one of my courses, I decided that going abroad sounded like a very exciting experience, that also would give more worth to my bachelor's degree. Very early on I knew that my preference pick was the University of Queensland, because Australia sounded the most exciting for me to go to and this university offers very interesting courses on the topic of Biomedical Sciences. I composed my study plan with the courses I wanted to do and a motivation letter, submitted these to the university and waited for the message to whether I was allowed to go. Eventually I got the thumbs up, which meant that I could apply to the host university itself and after this was all done and handled, I was set to go to Australia for the first semester of 2019-2020.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I made minimal use of the available counselling and support at the university. I went to an informational session with someone from the international office for this particular part of the world (Australia & New Zealand) at which some global information about us going abroad was given, for example about culture shock, or housing. This session was also a Q&A session with two students who already went on exchange and had "just" returned, so we could ask them about topics we worried about as well.

academic preparation

Academically, there was not much preparation to be done for me, I had to get my study plan approved by the examination committee of my faculty, which was done by only sending in the plan and having a conversation with one of the representatives about it.

language preparation

No language preparations were needed either, because I am quite comfortable in English, as a result of it being taught from a young age and all my study material only being available in English.

finances

For a financial plan I relied heavily on my parents. They saved a substantial sum for me to use during my studies, which I decided to use for the purpose of going abroad. Also, I saved up for my travels myself at the job I have next to my studies at the UU. I looked up what the average cost of living was in Brisbane and calculated whether what I had set aside would cover it, which it did.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



During the semester I was in Brisbane, I attended four courses, which were being taught simultaneously. We had to register for these courses during our application, but we also had to register for specific tutoring groups (=werkgroepen). Every course had a different time at which the admission opened for these different timeslots, so I did miss some of my preferential timeslots, because you had to be very aware of when to log in and register. Also, there was one course I attended, which contains field trips. We had to register for them as well, and it could occur that a fieldtrip was fully booked, while there were more students who wanted to attend. Also, the costs of the field trips ended up being higher than I initially expected.

academic quality of education activities

The education at the University of Queensland was outstanding, in my opinion. A commonly heard phrase when talking about studying abroad is that often the courses abroad are much easier than those here in the Netherlands. This was absolutely not the case in Brisbane. I really feel like the courses I attended helped me further my studies.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not require any counselling or support when I was abroad, so I cannot really give a good representation, but of what I have heard at different occasions is that the student affairs department at the University of Queensland is very involved, if you need their services.

transfer of credits

Of one of the courses I attended, I already knew that I would not receive any credits for it, because there would be too much overlap with the courses I attend here in Utrecht. I still attended that course, because it teaches the exact subject matter I want to get into in my further studies. The rest of my credits, I forgot to transfer at first, but after noticing and taking action, there were no problems in getting these transferred to the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation at UQ is one week of informational seminars, activities, student markets, free food and tours around campus. You can plan it yourself, so that it is tailored to what you want/need to know about student life at UQ.

accommodation

I came to Australia with a booking at a hostel for 4 nights, in the weekend before the orientation week started. I did this because it is nearly impossible to secure accommodation, that is not affiliated with the university. Those facilities gave a guaranteed accommodation, but also cost almost double to what I ended up paying for my room. I lived in the suburb West End, which is right in between the business centre of Brisbane and the campus. I found this house (in which I had three other housemates) through another Dutch girl that was about to start a semester at UQ, who stayed at the same hostel as me. She secured a viewing through gumtree, which is sort of a mix of "Marktplaats", "Funda" and "bol.com". As she went to this viewing, I tagged along and we secured ourselves a room in that house that evening. In Brisbane the need for housing is a lot less dire than in Utrecht, so I did not worry whether I would find a room, eventually I would find a place. It just came a bit easier than expected.

leisure & culture

I joined the University of Queensland sailing club "UQ sail" which has drinks every Wednesday and activities almost every weekend, ranging from low-key sailing lessons on a small catamaran, to a long weekend trip to an island where we camped on the beach and sailed the whole day. This is where I met the lot of my Australian friends, we got quite close with the executives of the club.



Next to UQ sail, I also joined "Quest", which is the international student association of Brisbane (so not only UQ students). Through here I met my international friends, because just as UQ sail, Quest has pub nights on Wednesdays and organises a big trip to Byron bay at the beginning of the semester.

We also had access to a car while staying in Brisbane, so me and my roommates spent days driving through the backcountry, to neighbouring villages or driving up to trailheads to go on hikes. This I would really recommend because the Australian flora and fauna is so different to that of Europe, so we were amazed the whole time.

suggestions/tips

My absolute recommendation is to gather some friends and drive (if no access to a car, you can always take a greyhound bus) up to Noosa for a weekend. This is a little beach town on the border of a beautiful national park, so there is nice scenery, but you can also have a great beach day all in the same weekend.

If making friends abroad seems a little daunting, my biggest tip is to just go to social events during the orientation week. Do sign up for quest and go to their pub nights, Do talk to the people next to you in informational sessions. Almost everyone came to Australia on their own and are just as eager to find friends or at least someone to talk to as you.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would very much recommend the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Because the university experience, like the classes, the quality of the campus, and the facilities and services were great. Combined with Brisbane being just a nice place to live, not too hectic (which is nice, considering the experience of going on exchange can be hectic itself), but nice all the same with enough possibilities to enjoy yourself, makes this a great destination to go study abroad.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Biology

destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	22 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 11 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I think the application process in Utrecht was really smooth and easy. Of course, there is a lot you have to get arranged, but all the information is there and if you need any help the student centre or your regions coordinator are there to help. Once you are accepted for your exchange at Utrecht you also need to complete your application at the exchange university. This part was a little more complex, but I got lots of help from my region coordinator. Every University has a different process and a different site so it is hard to give any tips on this, but just make sure to be on time with approval for your documents, because that might take a while.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

All really easy, there will be some gatherings in advance of your semester to get prepare and I went to student services a couple times with questions, which they could either answer immediately or would sent them through to the person who knew more about it and I would receive an answer within some days.

academic preparation

I sat down with my tutor to reorganize my study plan a bit and see how everything fit and also discussed this with my study's coordinator.

language preparation

I went to Australia, so the only language I needed to know was English. I had my Cambridge certificate that needed to be approved, which took a while and sent me into some distress, because if they wouldn't approve I would have to take another English proficiency test. That, of course, would cost me some unforeseen money, I would have to prepare, take the test, sent the results in and wait for approval again. It luckily didn't happen to me but, again I would like to warn you to be on time and have your documents ready.

finances

I saved up before going to Australia, because I wasn't sure yet if I wanted or could work during my semester. It all worked out fine for me, except for that my bank wouldn't let me have a credit card if I didn't have a steady income(? Which is no student so look into this). We did find our way around it by applying for a card on my name on my parents account for the first week. Of course, I had to pay this back, but it is so much cheaper to have a credit card and avoid all the fees. When I got there I immediately applied for a Australian account with Commonbank, which I found really easy (there is a branch on campus). I just transferred money from my Dutch account to my Australian account with transferwise, this has really low fees (lowest with ideal!) and is easy to use.

I found that during the semester and living in Brisbane, I could manage my money very well. Accommodation and just living costs are more expensive then here but it is doable. The biggest impact on my wallet was after the semester when I went traveling with friends. You might need airplane tickets, accommodation, transport,

food, money for activities. Well, it is just a lot so think about saving up a lot or ask your parents to borrow some from them which you can pay back later.

p.s. I didn't work while I was there, so I will just have to work now that I am back to thicken my account a bit again because it is mostly gone.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I assembled my own programme and later changed it again. I had a problem with a course that was given as both a master and a bachelor course and I chose the wrong code when I signed up. This was a bit of a problem but teachers will help and there is a lot of info on when the deadlines for the courses are and what to do when you have a problem.

academic quality of education activities

I have to be honest and say that I found studying in Brisbane pretty hard. The material and lectures were all fine and the level of education is not higher than in Utrecht I would think, but there are so few contact hours and the contact hours that I had were all lectures. That means there were no supporting seminars or anything really which I found hard to work with. I think that is just because I like a lot of guidance and contact hours like seminars or practicals really push me to work with the material and they were just not there. So you need to be able to motivate yourself really well. Also take into account that you will have all four subjects at the same time.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Really easy, they will tell you all about it in the compulsory orientation lecture. You can make an appointment online and choose who you want to talk to if you have multiple appointments or just let them pick someone. They can help you with mental health, any exam adjustments if you need them and much more. If you have any trouble with finding your way don't hesitate to just walk in and ask.

transfer of credits

Have to do that after this so actually no idea

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the orientation week there is a programme with certain activities or lectures you need to follow as an international student about safety in Australia (which covers everything from deadly snakes to driving on the left) and how the university and all their systems work. There are also tons of other things to go to like speed friending and eating a traditional aussie barbeque, which I will leave as a surprise to you. I would check out the quest stand and the uqu members stand since both gave me a lot of joy from being a member with them.

accommodation

During the first days in Brisbane I stayed at a hostel. I didn't want to live in a student flat (which usually are what you find online if you want to organize something before you arrive), because it is often a contract of six months, more expensive and not as personal. So, I chose to find my house via the site Flatmates. On here you can post a sort of ad for yourself as a potential housemate and others can post ads with rooms they have free in their houses. It is really useful, since you can react on room ads and other people can react to your housemate ad. If you plan on finding your room like this I would highly suggest arriving at least a week before orientation starts so there are still some rooms available and you have some time to move in. Another tip is to start looking at some rooms on the website in advance, so you can maybe setup some inspections. Communication via Flatmates itself is laid-back and informal which makes it really nice in my opinion.



I had had a couple inspections before I found a house I liked, but when I did I moved in the same day and had a really really good time in my house and with my housemates for the rest of the semester. My house was located in the South Brisbane/South Bank area just a short walk from both the Streets beach and the heart of West End, overall a really nice area to stay in. From here I usually took a bus to the uni and back or I would swap that to take the ferry and have a nice boat ride if I had the time.

leisure & culture

I found it very easy to find my way of living in Australia. One thing that makes it so easy is that there is barely a language or culture barrier. Of course, it is very different living so far away from home, speaking English all the time and surviving in a place that doesn't feel yours yet, but people are easy to talk to and always happy to help. If you get the chance to watch a footie (or AFL) game with some Aussies please do not let this chance go, here I learned a lot of stuff about their culture and slang.

In my free time I usually hung out with friends and this was often at the streets beach/city lagoon/south bank pool (its all the same thing) to get a little tan or cool off in the water. Most of my Wednesday evenings were spent with pre-drinks, games and eventually the Quest party's.

In the beginning of the semester we had a couple weekend trips to Noosa, Byron Bay, Gold Coast and Stradbroke Island. All of these destinations are super easy to get to with public transport and even easier by car. Totally recommend doing a couple trips with your friends and have some fun before the stress of finals gets to you.

suggestions/tips

I loved being a member of the Quest society, they organize a lot of activities in the beginning of the year so that all the internationals can get to know each other. I would say: go on the Byron Bay trip, I made friends for the semester there and I already went to visit some in Scandinavia that I met there, so probably friends for life (I hope). I do have to say that the evenings are centred around going out and drinking, but if you don't feel like joining then just do your thing and you will get to experience Byron Bay in a fit and non-hungover state which the others might be jealous of. Otherwise the beach is a perfect spot to sit out your hangover and enjoy the waves and sun.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes I do, Brisbane is a very liveable city and is surrounded by beautiful nature which can be reached with just a day or weekend trip. The weather is of course very appealing and nice although in my cause the lack of rain and the presence of warmth turned into the horrible fires that have been going on since September (already six months now). The culture is not too far from ours so there was not a big culture shock for me. The university in my opinion gives you a lot of freedom so be aware of that, I found out during my semester that I need way more guidance and I am looking forward to starting my school in Utrecht again. So, you have to be able to motivate yourself and study even though the weather is so nice and there are so many fun things to do. It is just a different way of learning that didn't work well for me, but the university is great. They care a lot about their students and organise a lot of things to get a high involvement with everyone which I found very welcoming.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

This might be a very general comment for anyone who thinks about going abroad for a semester or longer: You might feel a bit alone, even if you've made new friends and talk to everyone at home, sometimes it is just all a bit overwhelming and that is okay. Just talk to your new friends or anyone at home or maybe tell student services how you feel, because they can help you with anything really. It's all normal and I thought I didn't need it, but I did. And it is worth it to tell someone, and I mean you learn from the whole experience, it is an adventure on a whole new level. Get out there, get to know yourself.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	24 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

When I started the process I didn't know where I wanted to go. I did know I wanted to go to a country with beautiful nature and I also preferred an English speaking country, so Australia was the perfect match! I hadn't heard about Brisbane before, but I am really glad I chose this city! The University of Queensland is known to be a good university and it has a lot of choice in courses. After I figured out I wanted to go here I spend most of my time writing my motivation letter. It is important to start the application process on time, especially if you have questions about the universities or the application process. I started quite late and it would have saved me a lot of stress if I had done it earlier.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at Utrecht was good! I was pretty late with some questions and they were really fast to answer me, which was really nice. Also the meeting we had with everyone going to the same university was really helpful, you get a lot of information and you can ask any questions you have.

academic preparation

The courses at UQ are at the same level or easier than the courses at UU, so I didn't have to do any preparation for that. Only thing you have to think about when going on exchange is how it will fit into your bachelor program. I wanted to go on exchange, but I also wanted to do a minor at UU, so I chose to do an extra bachelor year. If you want to do it in three years you need start planning your exchange early.

language preparation

I had to do the IELTS or TOEFL test. I chose the TOEFL test since I could do this one sooner. English was never difficult for me but when I was done I didn't have a good feeling about it, especially since everyone says it is really easy and I felt like I could have done better. But when I got the results back I got a really high score. So don't worry about the test!

finances

Australia is expensive, but I think the difference between the Netherlands and Australia is not that big! The cinema for example is super cheap (go to the one in South Bank) and also public transport is very cheap compared to the Netherlands! The rent however is very expensive and they state the rent per week, not per month so pay attention to that. Also alcohol is not cheap, but if you go to a liquor store you can usually find some cheap wine or beer! The cheapest drink you can get is goon, which is a bag of wine (4 or 5 liters) for 10 dollars (not really good though). Be sure to save up enough money if you want to do a lot of activities and go on weekend trips!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
In the beginning I chose 4 courses. For me, these were all extra courses, so when I was following them I chose to drop one of them because I didn't like it and this gave me more time to do fun activities. You can sign up for courses when you arrive at UQ (you don't have to do it upfront). You have all the courses at the same time.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the courses is about the same level as those of UU, I thought some were even easier. They have a lot of lessons and activities about academic issues (such as writing, reading, APA style) in orientation week. The UQ website also provides a lot of information about these things.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They have a lot of support services for students, however I didn't use any of them.
transfer of credits
I haven't transferred my credits yet. You will receive an email with all the information about this from UU at the end of the semester.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
UQ has a lot of activities the first two weeks. Some are especially for exchange students, I went to a lot of these activities and this way I met a lot of nice people! Also the international student lounge is nice to hang out when you feel alone or want to meet new people.
accommodation
I had a room in a house in South Bank. I would definitely recommend living here! It is called South Bank Villas and it had a lot of exchange students living there. One of the best decisions I made, I met so many nice and fun people because of it! However, if you have a low budget for rent it might be a bit too expensive. I found it through a site called "Flatmates". This site has a lot of accommodation options! Housing is very different from Utrecht, in Brisbane they really want to sell the room to you instead of you selling yourself to them. I didn't book anything before I came to Brisbane because I was told it is pretty easy to find something. I think this is true, but I would recommend going to Brisbane a few days before the orientation week starts so you have enough time to find something. I really loved living in South Bank, it has a bus station and train station and it is also very close to the city beach, the river and lots of restaurants. Another area I would recommend living in is West End. I would not recommend living on campus, unless you have class every day. It is so much nicer to live in the city!
leisure & culture
Brisbane is such a nice city to live in! It has a relaxed vibe, which I really like. It has nice parks, botanic gardens, a city beach, the river, very nice restaurants and fun clubs/bars! The weather is also super nice all year around. I was there in the winter and it was still around 22 degrees with sunshine during the day. Go to the many markets or eat street in the weekend! You can also go on many daytrips to national parks or the sunshine and gold coast. UQ also had a lot of sport and student societies! Go to the market on campus and find a society that fits you. This is also a nice way to meet Australian people.
suggestions/tips
Definitely join QUEST! It is such a great organisation for international students. They organize a lot of activities like weekend trips (go on the Byron Bay trip!), parties and they have pub night every week in a different bar. This way you can see and meet people every week and you get to know most of the pubs/clubs in Brisbane!



It's also super fun to go on weekend trips with friends! What we always did is go with a big group and rent a big house with all of us. Definitely go to Noosa, it was my favorite spot!

You also have a lot of free time after the semester since the one in Australia starts earlier than the semester in Utrecht. Before I went on exchange I wanted to be back before Christmas, but I would recommend staying longer! You have so much time for travelling after the semester ends. I also didn't plan anything beforehand, which was a good decision because I ended up travelling with so many new people I had met during exchange!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes I would definitely recommend this university and especially Brisbane! I'm really happy I went here, it was the best!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be afraid to contact anyone you don't really know, everyone is alone and looking for friends! In the beginning you might feel a bit lonely, but for me this changed really fast in the first few days because it is so easy to make friends!

If you have any questions or want any more tips don't hesitate to contact me!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Bèta-science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Biology
destination city & country	Brisbane, Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	16 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 11 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was pretty straight-forward. When you go to the UU-webpage you can search for "studying abroad", after that a screen pops up with all the steps you need to make in order to make an application. Everything is described clearly, so for me it was easy to complete my application. The only thing you need to make sure is that you start on time! For some forms you need a signature of your study-advisor, so make sure to make an appointment with him/her on time in which you can discuss your study plan. You will only get a signature if he/she is in agreement with your study plan.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Within UU there are several persons you can approach in case you need any help with your exchange application. First, you can contact your study-advisor. Next to this, there is a study-abroad office. They can give you an answer to (almost) all of your questions.

academic preparation

I think it differs for each study what kind of academic requirements there are in order to be eligible to make an application. All these requirements are also easy accessible through the UU-webpage. I did not do any academic preparations other than meeting the requirements.

language preparation

The University of Queensland requires you to meet the English language requirements. This can either be done by scoring a grade of 8 or higher in your final year of English VWO, or by taking the TOEFL- or IELTS-test, you can choose yourself. I choose to take the TOEFL-test (to be honest, simply because it was cheaper than the IELTS-test). I only studied a little bit one day before the test and easily passed it, so you shouldn't worry about these tests too much!

finances

I saved a lot of money for my exchange semester. I did this by working next to my studies, but also by increasing the amount of loan I get from DUO. Next to this, you might be able to get a scholarship. You should also not forget to stop your student-OV, and exchange it for a "study-abroad-compensation". In the application process you are asked to make a "financial-plan". This gave me insight on how much money I needed, which I think was really helpful.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



The University of Queensland offers lots of different Biology courses. I choose for the following courses: Australia's terrestrial environment, Australia's marine environment, Climate change biology and Developmental Neurobiology. Especially the two first mentioned courses I enjoyed a lot. These courses offered several field trips. These field trips were not only very informative, but also lots of fun! You get to see beautiful parts of Australia, as for example Fraser Island and Heron Island, and learn about both the formation of the landscapes and which animals are living there. I would highly recommend these courses, they are also available for students who don't study biology!

academic quality of education activities

The quality of all activities was high. All the teachers I had were experts within their field, and were really enthusiastic about the topics they talked about. Not only the lectures were interesting, most of my courses also offered tutorials, and some of them even field trips. All these activities together ensured you already had lost of knowledge before your exam.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The University of Queensland offers lots of support. Not only are there several information sessions in your first week, next to this there is also a student support office. You can go here to get answers to all of your questions. They also offer help with homesickness or any other medical/study problems.

transfer of credits

Every course at UQ is worth 7.5 ECTS. Transfer of your grades depends on your Board of Examination. I am still waiting on a response whether or not my grades will be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcoming programme at UQ was really nice! Our first week was called the "Orientation Week". During this weeks there were lots of information sessions and activities. It was the perfect opportunity to get to know the campus and already meet lots of other students. Next to this, we were introduced to "Quest". This is the international student community of UQ. They host lots of parties and other activities, during these activities I made lots of new friends.

accommodation

There are lots of student houses in Brisbane. Part of these can be found through *flatmates.com*. There are also some student flats as for example Atira, Urbanest or Scape. I lived in a student house called "The Villas". I found it through *flatmates.com*. It is relatively easy to find a house in Brisbane, almost everyone I know found a house within one/two weeks.

leisure & culture

The Australian culture doesn't differ much from the Dutch culture. Some small things that are different are actually only positive things. The people are very open and really friendly, they are always up for a chat. Next to this, not as many people are in a hurry. Basically it's just more chilled and relax. In my spare time I often went to Quest activities. I also signed up for some sports. You get to know all the different sport communities during market-day. I would highly recommend going there and signing for whatever communities you are interested in!

suggestions/tips

I would recommend to join Quest. Go to as many events as you like, but don't admit to the FOMO (fear of missing out) culture too much. Do whatever you feel like doing, and enjoy your time as much as possible!

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend going to the University of Queensland! It not only offers you high quality courses, but you're also just going to have the best time of your life! The Australian culture is really easy-going, it is easy to get used to living here. You will make lots of new international friends and easily improve your English.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
If you're doubting, just do it! Of course there are some downsides as for example missing your family, but it will definitely be worth it!
Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	UCU
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Brisbane , Australia
name university abroad	University of Queensland
start date	23 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 11 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

While I made the decision to go on exchange quite late, I did not have too much time to apply. What took me the most time was the application letter and the financial plan, but even those documents were relatively easy to create.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I got many nice emails from the exchange officer and I felt cared for and like I had someone to turn to for help.

academic preparation

There was not much preparation academically.

language preparation

As UCU's language of instruction is already English, I did not have any extra preparation sessions.

finances

I had heard from people that living costs were quite similar to the Netherlands and that also was the case.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

To fulfil my requirements here at UCU I had to take 4 Psychology courses at UQ. However, the study programmes on offer are very broad, ranging from engineering to medicine.

academic quality of education activities

I enjoyed most of my lectures, as they were mainly given by people that were experts and working researchers in their fields, which made the content engaging and interesting. Some of the seminars I found quite boring, both because of understimulating content as well as little student participation.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I never had any issues but I felt like I had someone I could consult in case.

transfer of credits

In the end of my exchange I requested a document with my grades and this I send to the examination board.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
There was quite an extensive orientation programme for all the exchange students. Many activities, such as campus tours, talks, and getting to know each other sessions were scheduled, as well as a whole week full of free try-out classes at the gym and the swimming pool. They really made sure the students would feel welcomed.
accommodation
I decided to find my own accommodation in town, which is quite easy in Australia, compared to the struggle one has in Holland. There were a few facebook groups I was part of, where people would post about the free rooms they were offering, and after visiting a few shared houses, I decided to stay in one. After having lived there for a month, and having gotten to know Brisbane a little bit better, I decided to move again to another house closer to West End, which is a lively neighbourhood in which quite a lot is happening. There was also the option of either living on campus or in one of the many student buildings that were spread out through town, but as I'm already living on campus here in Utrecht, I wanted the other experience.
leisure & culture
Brisbane is an upcoming city, where more and more is happening. Whereas people might tell you that if you want to have any cultural experience you have to go to Sydney or Melbourne, this is not true (anymore). West End is a neighbourhood with many cafes and bars, which host live music almost every day of the week, and close to it is Southbank, an area next to the Brisbane river, where there are the major museums, a cinema and lots of restaurants and cafes. Australian people are obsessed with sports and outdoor activities, and so there are big parks, playing fields, running- and biking tracks everywhere.
suggestions/tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Saturday market in West End: lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, local produce, jewellery, clothes etc. as well as live music, coffee and people having acroyoga sessions. Just a really nice hangout.- Taking a cruise with the ferry along the river and experience Brisbane from the water. There is a ferry that goes for free, and the other ones are also quite cheap.- The botanical gardens, a huge place with many different trees and flowers, where people just sit and relax- Kangaroo Cliff Point: a huge wall of rock right next to the water where you can go climbing

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I totally would. UQ is a great academic institution with a beautiful campus and many interesting people from all around the world. Brisbane as a city is nice as well, especially because of its location, being so close to the coast, and the amazing climate.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
If you're still hesitating about going on exchange, just go on and do it, it will be a great and valuable experience.
Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)