



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	25 / 07 / 2022
end date	30 / 11 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process took some time, because of the time difference with Australia. Besides that, there are a lot of things to take care of, such as getting a visa. However, if you make sure to do all of these things well ahead of the exchange, there is no reason to be stressed.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office is very helpful when you reach out to them, you can always make an appointment or call/email them.

academic preparation

There was no academic preparation necessary.

language preparation

I did not need extra language preparation.

finances

I worked before I went to Australia to save up some money, and I stopped my 'studenten ov'.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In Australia, I could pick any course I wanted, and I decided to follow a course about Australia's indigenous population, Australian Politics, International Relations of the Middle East and International Security in the 20th century. It was easy to reach out to the uni in case there were issues.

academic quality of education activities

In my opinion, the level of the courses at Macquarie Uni was lower than the level of courses in Utrecht. I liked this, because this gave me the opportunity to really get the most out of my time abroad.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I have not really needed this during my time abroad, but before I went to Australia I had some questions about the courses that I wanted to do. They were relatively quick in replying, the time difference considered.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was organized through MyEquals. It was easy to share this with the UU and my grades were transferred within a week. At first I did not completely understand how it worked, but the International



Office was again very helpful.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The week before classes started, Macquarie University organised 'O-week', an orientation week during which you get to know the university and you can meet your fellow students. I met a lot of my friends during this week, and it was a nice way to get to know the uni.

accommodation

During my exchange I stayed at Macquarie University Village. A lot of students lived there, and the village organized a lot of activities, which was a nice way to meet new friends. However, you pay a lot of money for a shitty room, and it is far away from the city. I do not regret staying here, but I don't think I would stay there again.

leisure & culture

Because a lot of students lived in the village, it was easy to meet up to do things together. The campus was very nice and modern, with a lot of nice study places. In the neighbourhood however, there were not that many things to do. There was a big shopping centre, called Macquarie Centre, but for the rest there were not that many things to do. Luckily, there is a direct bus to the city, which takes around an hour. In the city, there are a lot of things to do and see, a lot of museums, nice bars and restaurants and nice beaches.

suggestions/tips

I always enjoyed to take the ferry to Manly Beach, because the views are spectacular. Besides that, it is nice to take a trip to Palm Beach and go to the lighthouse. In the city, go to Newton, which is a nice neighbourhood with a lot of restaurants that are less pricy then in the city. Drinking alcohol is quite expensive in Australia, so I would recommend happy hours, usually from around 4 to 6, because then the drinks are usually half price.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend this destination. The one downside was that it was located out of the city centre, but i got used to taking the bus and because public transport was very cheap, I still went to the city a lot. The campus is very beautiful and it was nice to live in a 'greener' area.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be scared, you will meet a lot of nice people, and Australia is such a beautiful country, and Sydney such a nice city to live in.

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)

Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Faculty of science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Pharmacy

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	13 / 07 / 2022
end date	15 / 01 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Going on exchange wasn't really supported and given much attention to in my degree, so I had to find out everything about the application myself. I found the UU website very helpful, as they provided you the exact steps you had to take in the application process. It took me quite some time to choose the right universities and units, so make sure you start doing this early. I didn't get accepted into my first choice university, but luckily I got into Macquarie University as my second favourite. After I got accepted, they sent me an email with predeparture information, an acceptance of offer form you had to fill in and payment information. You had to provide them with some documents as well, but it was all clearly stated in the email. I received my confirmation of enrolment in approximately a month after that, but others received it a bit later or earlier, so don't worry too much about that.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I consulted Tessel Arendsen (Student Exchange Coordinator for universities in Australia and New Zealand) about some questions I had regarding the application and unit selection. She was very helpful and always reacted within a day.

academic preparation

Macquarie University required a GPA of 2.5, which is comparable to an average grade of 6.55 or above. My GPA was high enough, so no more academic preparation was needed. My two years of uni experience/skills were enough academic preparation.

language preparation

Macquarie University required a certain level of English proficiency. Since my English grade in my final year of high school was high enough (7 or higher), I didn't have to complete any more tests.

finances

I had already started my DUO student loan since January to make sure I had enough money. I got some financial aid from my parents and I saved up beforehand as well.

I noticed that some costs were significantly higher than in the Netherlands: rent (I paid 235 AUD per week, which is approximately 155 euros and that was relatively cheap accommodation), alcohol (you pay 12 dollars for one drink in a club... Predrinking with goon (boxed wine) is a good but disgusting way to save up, but it does the job), cheese (you pay more and get shitty cheese, so not really worth it) and fresh fruit and vegetables (some local veggies are cheaper if it's the right season). Going out for dinner is slightly cheaper than in the Netherlands though and some of the restaurants use the BYO concept, so you don't have to buy drinks in the restaurant itself. Public transport is cheaper as well, don't forget to apply for a student concession opal card, as



it will give you a 50% discount on every trip.

Make sure to apply for a travel costs reimbursement of approximately 120 euros per month on time by stopping your student OV once you leave (I applied 2 months in advance, which is their advice as well). Just google 'Ov-vergoeding buitenland' and DUO will provide you with more information about this.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I switched one of my units in the second week because I didn't like it as much as I thought I would. This was no problem at all and very easy, I could just change my unit online without having to send an email to anyone. You can organise your own timetable, there are plenty of timeslots you can choose for every unit.

I chose to do three level 100 units and one level 200 unit. I wanted to make sure I wasn't too busy so that I had enough time to go on trips and do other leisure activities.

academic quality of education activities

I was surprised by the amount of assignments I had to do for the units. There were a lot more than in my own degree. I put quite some effort in them, so that I already almost passed the units before I even started my finals. I didn't really study for my finals because of this and was very happy that I could spend more time in the sun ;) I only looked at some old tests that were uploaded in the library website and found out that the actual finals were very similar to the old tests.

The academic quality was good, although I think the units were easier than my units at Utrecht University. What I really liked was the feedback on essays. They make notes on specific parts of your essay, so that you really know how you can improve your writing next time.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Personally I didn't really use additional support or counselling, but I know that there are people that are very willing to help you at Student Connect.

transfer of credits

Macquarie University uploaded my transcript on a system called MyEquals. I had to give Utrecht University access to the transcript and they will process everything.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Macquarie University provides an airport shuttle service that you can book in advance, so I got a free ride to uni (very appreciated after a 24 hour flight).

I found the orientation week organised by uni not too exciting. They mainly organised activities that helped you explore the university itself, like tours and information sessions, but there weren't too many nice non-study related activities like parties. I did like the market with stands from all the societies and free stuff though. The university village I stayed at had a more exciting O week programme with a lot of activities and free food every day. I would definitely recommend going there, as it is a very easy way to meet new people!

accommodation

I stayed at the University Village and arranged this while I was still in the Netherlands. I did this while the rooms were on sale, so I got a discount. I got a room at the East side, which is the older and cheaper side of the Village. I got lucky with my room, as it had a renovated bathroom and no mould, but I've heard stories from others that



had a leaking ceiling and mould in their rooms. I paid 235 AUD for my room per week, which is relatively cheap for Sydney prices. I would advise you to not to choose your own dates for the room but go for the full 6 months, as it is cheaper in the end and you can terminate your contract while you are there. Just send them an email that you would like to leave earlier. I got 2 weeks of rent back, so it was worth it.

I wouldn't say the University Village is the nicest place to live, but, as almost only exchange students live there, it is the best place to meet new people. They organise a lot of activities and free dinners, so that is definitely a plus.

leisure & culture

I really liked the Australian culture. What I found funny was that the first thing everyone always says when they see you is "Hi how are you". In this way, it was very easy to start a conversation with anyone.

I tried out a lot of new sports and I would advise everyone to do this if you like sports. I tried water polo, frisbee, netball, and squash and met a lot of new people because of this. You don't necessarily have to join the society, as there are a lot of free practices you can just join to see if you like it.

I also started a job as a dogsitter as soon as I started studying. This was a very easy and fun way to earn some extra money. I even went on a trip with the owner after the semester, so you never know what a job can actually bring you ;)

suggestions/tips

Go and explore as much as you can!! You're only going to be there for one semester and time really flies by. I went on 3 weekend trips and it was absolutely worth it: Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay and Port Stephens. I rented a campervan for the mid semester break with 3 other girls and went on a road trip from Brisbane to Sydney, which was so much fun!! If you want to rent a campervan and have trouble to find one, contact Ratpack travel. Almost all campervans from all companies were sold out when we tried to book it, but they were able to find us one of the last ones available.

Other recommendations:

- Free outdoor cinema at the Rocks (with free popcorn)
- Student rush tickets opera house (15 AUD, really worth it!!)
- Lane Cove National park (very close to Macquarie University, lovely hikes)
- Royal National park
- Watch a rugby match
- North Stradbroke Island (if you want to see a lot of wild native animals everywhere and are travelling around Brisbane)
- Silent disco Scary Canary (every Tuesday and it's free)
- Halloween boat party (just type this in on Facebook, I think they do this every year)
- Coastal walks (especially Manly-Spit and Bondi-Coogee)
- Snorkelling at Gordon's Bay
- Pubcrawl (again, search this up on Facebook)
- Drive to the Old Helensburgh station tunnel to see glowworms (absolutely stunning and free)
- Australian Reptile park (you can pet the kangaroos there and see other native animals)

CONCLUSIONS

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



Yes, 100%!! My time at Macquarie was one of the best experiences I've ever had in my entire life. I met so many lovely people and made memories that I'll forever cherish. You'll learn so much about yourself, as you're literally thrown in the deep on the other side of the world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

- Open an Australian bank account once you arrive, as it will save you a lot of money on rent (the Village charges you 2% with every rent transaction if you pay with your own foreign credit card, so that really adds up in the end)
- If you want to save money on converting euro to AUD (this happens every time you make a transaction with your Dutch credit/debit card, for example in supermarkets), make sure to get a Wise card. Both their exchange rate and transfer fees are way lower than Dutch banks (for example, with a Wise card it would cost you 5 euros to transfer 1000 euros to AUD, whereas this would cost you 21 euros with an ING card). I get that this is a little bit confusing to read at first, so don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about this!
- Make sure to get your international drivers licence while you're still in the Netherlands (in an ANWB store), as you won't be able to arrange that in Australia.

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)

Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	25 / 07 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 11 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>The preparation began in December 2021, by submitting an application for studying abroad UU. I had put down 3 universities and Macquarie university was my second choice. First of all, do apply! Even if you're not 100% sure how all the details are going to work out. It is not necessary to know everything before applying but just be in time to make the 1 December deadline set by the UU.</p> <p>My choice for Australia, Sydney and Macquarie was made because of several reasons: Improvement and easy of speaking English during the exchange, level of education in Australia, prior experiences by friends that were all positive, better weather than the Netherlands (that was not entirely the case 😊).</p> <p>The approval and application process from the moment I got back from the International Exchange was all smooth and the deadlines were all to reasonable. The moment you're included in the exchange procedure, everything is quite self-explanatory.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Good, every question was answered quickly and thorough.
academic preparation	The process of finding the right courses can be a tricky one and navigating a foreign University site at times felt like a labyrinth for me. I managed to choose courses that I enjoyed but do not worry when things are not 100 percent sorted right away. Fellow students even enrolled and changed course upon arrival so don't panic if there are any uncertainties. I'd say when in doubt stick to familiar faculties or introductory courses. Often there are courses specified for international students. Furthermore, a significant portion of Macquarie University students are internationals so courses you're eligible for will be fine to do.
language preparation	None, Dutch High School English and academic English is more than enough to follow along with the coursework.
finances	Constituted of a combination between savings beforehand, students loan and working there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	



I followed 2 Finance and 1 Bio ethics course. I had no organizational issues during the semester.
academic quality of education activities
Good. Comparable to UU.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The infrastructure for international students is extensive and taken care of well. You can notice they are familiar with foreign students.
transfer of credits
Smooth so far! (10 credits there = 7.5 etc)

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I'd say okay. In terms of social life the introduction week in July was not vibrant with life on the Macquarie Campus (Maybe semester 1 is different). But I definitely recommend going to a couple of the possible activities for internationals. You can ask anything about setting up the necessary students accounts and how to navigate them. Furthermore, the international student networking events are the best option for meeting fellow Macquarie Students. Don't skip out on them because after week 1 it will be harder to meet people from Macquarie doing other coursework. Do make an effort to visit general student introductions in the city. The university is less important than the fact that you're all exchange students during that semester in Sydney.
accommodation
I Arranged accommodation on my own beforehand. Don't be afraid if the travel time from Macquarie is significant, if your housing has added value in your opinion, you will manage the travelling to campus. I really enjoyed staying at the beach and would recommend that to others if they have the chance.
leisure & culture
There is enough to do and see in Sydney to keep you busy for a couple of months. Especially in the summer!
suggestions/tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Don't stick to the University Campus life and students.- Don't be surprised if not everything works out as imagined in the beginning. Everyone hits a wall in one way or another being away from your normal life.- Try to start working as fast as possible! It gives you all the extra financial room you need and most of all, it has some really extra value in terms of experiences and meeting new people / seeing different places in the city. I wish a starting working from day 1!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
University compared to other Sydney Universities I'd say okay, but the university is less important than the destination and the act of going on an exchange. I would recommend going on an exchange 10/10.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I'm happy to answer specific questions in person.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Economics
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Economics and Business Economics

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	18 / 07 / 2022
end date	31 / 12 / 2022

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process of applying for the exchange was easy and straightforward. Gathering the necessary documents did not take long.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I received good counselling from the study advisors and help in formulating and making my study plan work. When I submitted the courses from my exchange University, I received advice on what to select.

academic preparation

I feel that studying at Utrecht University has prepared me well for the semester abroad. While studying at Macquarie I felt that I never was at a disadvantage compared to my peers.

language preparation

Personally, I feel that language preparation was not a big factor in my exchange. I have been on exchanges before and already have adequate education from my past experiences and study. However, studying in English at UU is certainly beneficial for studying abroad in an English-speaking country.

finances

Finances were not really a relevant topic for me as I paid for everything myself through savings and support from my parents. What was nice, however, was that since Macquarie was a Partner University I did not have to pay tuition which would have been very expensive otherwise.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content of my studies was fairly broad as I chose to do a lot of electives. I really enjoyed the courses I had chosen and felt like they helped me figure out my future career path. One organisational issue I encountered was the process of enrolling on courses through a waiver. Because of external circumstances, I had a missing level 1 course that led to me not being able to get a level 3 course waiver approved. After being in touch with course coordinators and several offices I was able to get my waiver approved 4 weeks into the exchange, which led to me having to catch up on 4 weeks of material.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the courses was very high.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The support I received from the teachers and international office was very good. Especially being in touch with the teachers and course coordinators helped with resolving issues quickly. Macquarie University offered several services to students such as free psychological counselling or help with essay writing.

transfer of credits

Getting credits transferred is an easy and straightforward process, which can be handled with a few emails.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Orientation week was very nice as you met a lot of the students and got to see the whole campus. You also received a lot of goodie bags for attending the introductory lectures. Orientation Week was also one of the best ways to make a lot of friends quickly, as everyone is new and wants to go out and make friends.

accommodation

I stayed at Macquarie University Village and sadly cannot recommend it as housing. It is very run down and overpriced for what they offer. Furthermore, a lot of people in the village developed health issues as there was mould in a lot of the houses. The staff was not really interested in helping residents with issues they faced and appliances that should be included such as vacuums were sub-par, especially bad since the houses all had carpet floors. The rooms were delivered very dirty, so I had to spend a few days cleaning everything even though they charge a cleaning fee when you move out. I personally had a very grave issue, as we had a possum (a large type of rodent) living in our walls for more than two months. It broke a hole into our wall and dropped excrement into our common areas which the village did not resolve or put any effort into fixing. This also negatively affected my health. I personally and a lot of my friends cannot recommend the village. There was however another housing offered on campus that was nice. One thing that is a bit challenging as well is that Macquarie is quite far from the city centre, it takes about an hour by Public transport to get to George Street.

leisure & culture

There were a few activities on Campus, especially in the beginning which were nice. However, most of the fun things will happen in the city centre. Sydney has a few nice beaches which take anywhere from 40 minutes to 2 hours to reach by public transport, depending on where you want to go. Bondi is often a very touristy place and there are a lot nicer beaches such as Manly or Coogee. What I found to be the best part of Sydney was its Cocktail Bars as I am a bartender myself. There are a lot of hidden bars with nice themes, such as the bar I worked at which had a 1920s Prohibition Era theme. Nightlife is decent, and the clubs get full, however, the music and crowd were not exactly my things as it was very commercial. Furthermore, most clubs and venues close around 3 am. Taking public transport for a bit longer allows you to leave the city and go on nice hikes. The sports culture at the Uni is also very developed and a good way to make friends.

suggestions/tips

The biggest suggestion/ tip I can give is to live somewhat away from campus. Ideally, you would live in the middle between the city centre and campus or directly in the city. This seems counterintuitive for making friends however you will have time for a lot more experiences that way. Most of your friends you will meet through orientation week, your classes, and the sports team/ clubs that you join anyways. You will also meet a lot of people naturally just by going out as Australians and Backpackers are very friendly and outgoing. The trick is to schedule your courses in a way where you only have two days where you have all the in-person classes that you must go to campus for. This gives you minimal time to travel to campus while at the same time giving you lots of freedom. By having three free days you give yourself time for studying but you can also use these days to explore the city and have nice days at the beaches or even go on small vacations to other cities for a few days. I made the mistake of scheduling only a few classes over all days of the week apart from Friday, which made it difficult to see Sydney during the week as the trip to the city was an hour.



The other advice I can give is to really consider joining a sports team. You will make the most and closest friends that way as you will see them for practice but also social gatherings afterwards. A lot of the people from the teams also have groups they hang out with outside of sports-related events. Clubs are also nice however the meetings are less frequent as team practices. Even if you're not good at the sport you do or want to try out something new it is fun, and people are very easy-going and open.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend Macquarie University for people wanting to study abroad as it has a lot to offer both academically with the number of courses they offer, but also culturally. Living in Sydney is something that not a lot of people get to do in their life and the exchange gives you the opportunity to do a lot of travelling in Australia, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia afterwards. Studying in Sydney can also set you up for a possible career there and the income in Australia is very high.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

One thing to note when studying in Sydney is that it can get very expensive very quickly. Depending on your habits of cooking, eating and going out just the cost of living can get very high. Rent is also very high. My spending probably was a bit higher than average, as I enjoy going out and cooking with nice ingredients, but my monthly expenses were usually around 2000 AUD per month. The average cost is around 1500 from what I have read and heard from friends. I very highly recommend getting a job while studying in Sydney as it pays very well and makes the exchange more fun by giving you money to spend. Hospitality pays a minimum of 27 dollars per hour and you make more on weekends. Jobs in retail can also earn you a lot of money.

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)

Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Earth Sciences

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	25/ 07/ 2022
end date	28 / 11 / 2022

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process started in December 2021. I had to choose my top 3 choices for the first application round, but I didn't get in. For the second round, Macquarie University was my top choice. As soon as you are accepted you have to send various documents and this takes some time, so it is important to keep track of deadlines. The process is not difficult, because you get informed on everything you have to do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I didn't really use the support from the university, but you can always ask them a question if you get stuck somewhere in the application process.
academic preparation	I didn't really do much preparation, I just tried to maintain my grade average that was required by Macquarie University.
language preparation	I didn't do any language preparation, my English was proficient enough. I would recommend having a look at Australian English/slang, as some words are different and it's fun to know some beforehand.
finances	Sydney is an expensive city, especially when it comes to housing and food. I would recommend going to Aldi for groceries as it is cheaper than the others. In my case, my parents helped me financially and I took a DUO loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did some introductory courses for the free space in my bachelor's. Enrolling for courses is a little bit different from Utrecht, as you can use your own timeslot for tutorials for most courses. Also, if all the time slots in your course are full they add new ones, so you don't have to stress about this.
academic quality of education activities	I found the courses a little bit easier than the ones in Utrecht, but still of good enough quality.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I didn't really need support, but the teachers were always there to answer your questions.
transfer of credits	



This is still in progress

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There were some activities you could sign up for, like campus tours and a free breakfast. There was also a welcome meeting for exchange students.

accommodation

I stayed in the Macquarie University Village. It is a bit similar to Centre Parcs, consisting of small houses with 5 persons each. Although it is one of the cheaper options, it is still pretty expensive, I paid about 830 euros per month, but you are walking distance from campus and have your own bathroom. There was free dinner every Thursday and there are some other organized activities. There are also a lot of house parties, but the rules on them are pretty strict. East side is cheaper, but the houses are darker and smaller. Because the Village is close to campus, it takes quite some time to get to the city centre, about 50 minutes.

leisure & culture

Sydney is very big, so there are always new places to explore. There are many beaches to chill in your free time, and if you have the time definitely do a trip to the blue mountains or one of the other parks around. Australia is a pretty chill country, but be aware that because of this not everything is organized as well as in the Netherlands, for example public transport. Something that's also noticeable is that nightlife starts and ends earlier than you might be used to, restaurants and cafes also close relatively early. I personally found Sydney to be very pretty and fun, but not really "gezellig".

suggestions/tips

- Do the walk from Bondi to Coogee, it is easy and beautiful
- Take the ferry to Manly for a nice ride.
- Try to limit buying drinks in clubs, as they are really expensive there.
- Save time to travel after your semester, I loved New Zealand and Japan
- If you have a long transfer during your flight, try to visit the city you are in, or plan to stay a few days instead of flying in once.
- Try all of the cuisines that are available, there is so much to try!
- Don't choose too many hard courses, you also want to enjoy your time on exchange.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Sydney if you have the finances, it is an international city with so many travel options if you want to explore the rest of Australia and the world after. Staying in the Village gives you a sense of home in such a big city so you don't get overwhelmed too much.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to travel as much as you can while you are there, yes your studies are important but please don't spend all your time just studying, you never know when you are able to come back to this side of the world.

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Contact info available at the IO.



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

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	10 / 2 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 3 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The preparation begun in December 2018, by submitting an application to my home university. I had put down 3 universities and Macquarie university was my first choice. I had made this choice based on the courses that the university provides. These were marine biology courses that got me really excited. I got word of my approval somewhere in February 2019. In the beginning of September 2019, I started the application to Macquarie university. I had to submit some documents, such as a transcript of my grades and prove of my English proficiency. This did not take much time. I got accepted two weeks after my submission. To finish my submission, I had to buy health insurance for the time I would spend there. After this was done, I was finally enrolled in Macquarie university.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The university helped with sending documents containing vital information. These included forms I had to fill in and deadlines for submissions. Overall, it was quite clear what I had to do.

academic preparation

I did not have to do any academic preparation, other than doing my courses at my home university.

language preparation

Since my secondary school English grade was sufficient for enrolment, I did not do any language preparation.

finances

I had saved up a lot of money in the years before my departure. Because of this, finances were not a concern to me.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

Before the first week of the year, an introduction week was organized by the university, called O-week. This included all courses and no separate introduction program for specific courses was available. You could sign up for events, such as parties or introduction talks. Every course did have a specific introduction talk, but this was not very useful for exchange students. The parties, compared to the Netherlands, were a bit dull. The general talks were quite informative.

Overall, my expectations were not met during this week. I expected an introduction week similar to the introduction week in Utrecht, but this was not the case. What I would have liked was a sort of freshmen group that would be formed at the beginning of the week, similar to the groups in the introduction week of Utrecht.



This way you would get to know some other people and have people to go to activities with. I was lucky that my roommates were all exchange students and I spend most of my week with them. However, it would have been nice to have had a small group with other freshmen. This would have been great for me, but especially for people who did not know anyone.

However, the information that was provided was sufficient to get started. There were a lot of students from other years that could provide information about things such as lectures.

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took 4 courses in the beginning of the semester, but one got cancelled due to the coronavirus. The other three I finished in the Netherlands. I did these courses combined with two Dutch courses, so I could not pay my full attention to these courses. However, I thought that these courses were rather easy, even though two of them were level 3 courses. Assignments were not as difficult as in the Netherlands and exams were quite doable. I noticed that the courses contained a bit less information and discussed some topics that I already has heard of in my first year. However, most of the time I did enjoy them, since the content was rather interesting. I did not encounter much issues with the courses. The only thing I had to adjust to in the beginning was their version of blackboard, called ilearn. This took me some time to adjust to. I could have used some help with figuring out how it worked, that would have been nice.

academic quality of education activities

I think the quality was quite okay, although it was easier than in the Netherlands. I did not always have much time to do the assignments, due to my Dutch courses, but I still managed to get sufficient grades for papers and other assignments

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits is still due. My last grades will be submitted after the deadline of this report

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The support was good. Everything went online and I could still finish my courses back home. Most of my teachers helped me with changing the time of some exams. Only one did not want to change the time for me, which was quite inconvenient. But overall, it was quite good

support guidance of home university

This was also good, since I was helped in finding courses there.

online offer and quality of digital courses

The quality of the lectures online was quite good, probably because they record every lecture anyway

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

I do not have any

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would, however I do not have the full picture of the university. However, I would not recommend this university to people who just want to have a good time by partying and travelling, since the student life is quite different from here. Many students live at home and there are not many bars that are near the campus. But, from an academic perspective, it is a good university. I enjoyed the courses I took and the course that was



cancelled would probably have been even better. For people who want to study marine biology, I recommend this university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Due to my short stay it is quite hard to have a good view of this university and since it has been over two months, my memory is not that clear anymore. However, the university had a good vibe and the people are very nice over there.



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

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to and from your destination?	With plane
name university abroad	Macquarie University
start date	15 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
At the beginning of 2019, I was interested in doing an exchange programme, so I started looking into it. I found out that most spots for the exchange of the beginning of 2020 had already started filing up, however, when I looked at the remaining spots, I saw that there were still some spots available for Sydney. So as soon as I saw this, I initiated my process. This whole process was quite easy; however, it took a lot of time since different people had to confirm things.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I've had little to no need for counselling or support from the UU. With the questions I had, I just emailed to the international office and with the help of them it was pretty easy for me to eventually get things done.
academic preparation
When it comes to academic preparations, I didn't really do anything. With all the things I've learned during my time in high school and the time I've had at university so far, I was able to do everything I needed to, so no additional academic preparations were needed.
language preparation
I did nothing when it comes to language preparations, since I already had sufficient English skills to be able to make myself understandable in English.
finances
I have worked quite a lot in the summer, which helped me a lot to get the money to be able to go to Australia. Next to this, I also kept on getting the student loan and I also received some financial support from my parents.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme
Macquarie University organized quite a few activities or the orientation programme, which all of them could be attended voluntarily. Next to this, the place I was staying (Macquarie University Village) also organized a lot of activities, so there was a lot to attend and do!
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I would say that Macquarie University has a pretty decent study programme when it comes to their Business School. I haven't really stumbled into any massive issues this semester with my courses, only that grading takes a very long time.



academic quality of education activities

Looking at the academic quality, I would say that it's pretty good. I've had good lecturers which were great at teaching and also very helpful.

transfer of credits

I can't really answer this question, since this is also still a question for me how my credit points will be transferred. Hopefully it will be fine, so let's pray ;).

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

Macquarie University did offer quite some support for their students during coronavirus; however, I didn't need any of the support.

support guidance of home university

As said above, no support was needed for me.

online offer and quality of digital courses

I would say that the quality of the digital courses was pretty good. Lecturers kept on giving helpful lectures and students were able to attend Zoom consultations when there were additional questions. Next to this, there were also online forums where questions could be posted and these would then be answered by either other students or by the lecturer.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

-

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend attending Macquarie University. It's a very nice University with a great campus and an excellent Business School. Next to this, because it's not located in the city centre, they were able to create the real campus experience. The fact that it's not located in the city centre could be a hit or break for some people, however, it was only an hour with public transport to get there, so still pretty doable!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

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

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

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

Counselling/support at home university:

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

Academic preparation:

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



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

Language preparation:

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

Finances:

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

Study/placement abroad period

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

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

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

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

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

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

Transfer of credits:

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

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

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

Accommodation:

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

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



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

Leisure/culture:

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

Suggestions/tips:

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

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

Conclusions

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

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

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Go for it and enjoy!