



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | Contact info at the IO.   |
| faculty/college      | University College Utrecht  |
| level                | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Liberal Arts and Sciences   |

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| destination city & country | New Zealand, Auckland      |
| name university abroad     | The University of Auckland |
| start date                 | 27/ 02/ 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)  |
| end date                   | 02/ 05 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

For the application process, I didn't find it very much work. I followed the instructions and requirements the University Utrecht had asked me to do which were writing a motivation letter and submitting my grade transcript.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support were helpful, as I remember asking for advice for the application process.

#### academic preparation

I didn't have to do any academic preparation for the exchange. I just made sure my grades were high enough to get selected. I asked the registrar for the transcript.

#### language preparation

All my courses and education at UCU are in English which was one way to prove my language capability. However, when I had to submit prove, I found it easier to send my CAE C1 certificate instead.

#### finances

I applied for a scholarship at the KFheijn fonds, which I unfortunately didn't receive.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

The university structure was very similar to that of the UU. The courses were part of a single study subject. Although, most Auckland uni students major into two fields e.g., Computer Science and Finance. Getting enrolled in the course demanded some research, but they have a similar level 1,2,3 system. I was able to switch courses rather easily. Also, I was able to take any course I wanted, even though I didn't always meet the Auckland uni course requirements. However, I couldn't get enrolled into some courses as they were only for first year students. The Auckland uni help desk was very helpful with guidance.

#### academic quality of education activities

I really liked my course content, and the lectures and tutorial's structure similar to the UU. The assignments were often do-able.



UoA is very strict with their rules and regulations. You can't miss your exam or hand in assignments past due. Although, I had found some professors very considerate. I got really ill, and my professor gave me an extension. Though, this wasn't always the case as I learned from friends.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The uni had support for exchange students. I never used any of the offered support. But we received a weekly email with events for exchange students etc.

transfer of credits

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**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was a bit mwhah compared to UU's uit-week. There was some stuff going on on campus. Most of it was sponsorship by brands and all sorts of companies. There was a club market though. I considered joining two sports clubs, gym and rowing. However, I didn't have a car so I couldn't go to rowing practices easily. And the gym I preferred going with my friends instead.

Auckland uni has heaps of academic clubs as well. Though, clubs are very different from Dutch association life. Once you're a member, you don't meet often and most of the time, it's just members joining events created by the boards once a month. For me personally, I found the case club (consulting) very fun to join a few events. During orientation-week, I found the parties into town the most fun. Some were organised by the uni or recommended, and there were a lot of first-year uni students and exchange students.

accommodation

I stayed in UoA housing in Parnell-Nicholls Lane. Though expensive, the accommodation was fine. No utensils though nor stuff like cutlery and plates. Uni housing is always very close to the UoA campus (walking distance) which was convenient. All the accommodation is also located in the CBD (central business district), making it very easy to walk to the city centre. Parnell station was around the corner if you needed to catch the train. The accommodation had events organised, so there was some opportunity to meet people from your building. The recreation centre is free for students who have UoA accommodation, with a very well-equipped gym.

leisure & culture

Auckland CBD has many clubs if you like to go clubbing. Provedore is a staple favourite amongst students. Bar101 was fun, and there is always something on on the viaduct at places like Coops bar and Dany Doolens. K-road is really fun to go out and has many clubs. Especially Family bar is always packed. Ponsonby is another great area to go out, I liked Longroom a lot. The viaduct also has many nice places to just get drinks. Ponsonby is also great for shopping and getting food. Due to the many Asian cultures living in Auckland, there are heaps of good restaurants for fairly affordable prices. Definitely recommend trying out the local Korean cuisine. There is a cinema in the CBD. The Auckland War memorial museum is great to visit if you like to learn more about WWI and 2 and the effects on Australasia, as well as the Pacific and Maori culture. There are some great walks you could do in the middle of the city centre. Mount Eden is one of the volcanoes and has a beautiful view over the city skyline. Mission Bay is a nice little beach area where you can swim and have ice cream, a drink of food. Newmarket has a big Westfield mall, accessible by train or bus. Newmarket is a big shopping area for NZ standards. Something I really liked doing was taking the ferry to Devonport. Again, a beautiful skyline scenery and Devonport is a nice little area where you can walk around. If you google the old fort at Devonport, you have again another beautiful lookout spot. You can also take the ferry to Waiheki island to do a winetour. Even if you don't like wine, it's fun to take the bus around the island. I rented a car a few times or drove with friends to some beaches more north of Auckland. Piha beach is considered one of the



most beautiful beaches in the country and is a 45 min drive from the CBD. Omaha beach is another option surrounded by a small bird reserve. Both are great options if you like surfing, as well as Muriwai.

suggestions/tips

- I did a few road trips with my friends which was nice to split the costs. Roads can be a bit tricky, and if you go to rural areas, beware that the weather can cut off communities very rapidly if something happens to the highways. Rural NZ is very remote. I went on a roady to Norhtland and the Coromandel which I absolutely loved. My friends went to the South Island by car. Flying within NZ is very easy as many Kiwis do this for work or domestic travel. Distances are huge. It's quite easy to book a flight to places like Queenstown or Wellington. Keep in mind NZ is big and if you want to see the countryside and nature (which is stunning), I recommend taking a few weeks off before or after your exchange to take proper time to travel. I did this before my exchange which was nice to start freshly and without the pressure of needing to see the country while I was studying. Many people I know tried to rush travel into stressful weekend trips.
- You need a NZ ID or passport if you go clubbing or want to buy alcohol. They don't accept European ID cards. I recommend getting your driver's licence converted or get a Kiwi Acces card. Both arrive withing three weeks, but you must go an AA centre of Post office.
- Fresh fruits and Veggies are expensive as hell. I recommend getting frozen ones. Food in general is very expensive in NZ, which is a big downside.
- Auckland public transport sucks. I didn't have a car, but public transport will get you to most places around town. You need a AT hop card, and you can get a student concession. Be aware that walking distances are huge compared to Holland.
- I made most of my friends by going clubbing and in class. I met one of my closest friends during orientation week. There is not much association life like we have in the Netherlands. Most kiwis stick to their high school friends. Though, I wasn't a big fan of the UoA clubs, for some it might be a way to meet people.
- I did get a NZ bank account because I planned on working there. However, the NZ banking system is very outdated and takes ages to get things sorted. I used Revolut for my daily payments which saved me a lot of money. You can also use Wise. Highly recommend those if you go abroad.
- Use met service app for the weather.
- Both big supermarkets (Woolworths and New World) have a discount card for you to safe points. Once you have a certain amount, you can get a big discount on your groceries.
- If you like studying in the UU library like me or going to coffee shops, it is truly disappointing how little study spots there are in Auckland. Nobody does that actually. Most students study either in the uni library or the Kate Edgar building. If you're going to live in UoA accommodation, the buildings also have a few study places.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I definitely recommend this destination. I had an amazing time, and it was a great way for me to experience living abroad in a foreign country. The university is very well organised and prestigious within Australasia. Auckland was a great city to live in. The kiwis were incredibly friendly. Despite it being a Western country, my overseas experience was met with some culture shock – which is perfectly normal. Time truly flew by. And if you have always dreamt of going to NZ, this is the perfect opportunity to go.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| faculty/college      | Law & Governance   |
| level                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Study Abroad   |

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| destination city & country | , Auckland, New Zealand    |
| name university abroad     | The University of Auckland |
| start date                 | / / (dd/mm/yyyy) 24-2-23   |
| end date                   | / / (dd/mm/yyyy) 5-7-23    |

| <b>PREPARATION</b>                          |   |
|---|---|
| exchange application process                | The application process was not too bad. Everything is pretty clear, but make sure you look at all the details and contact the study abroad office when you are in doubt. Whenever I had serious doubts, it was nice to receive some help and sometimes I would have made mistakes without their help.  |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | The support was pretty good. The study abroad team at UU is very accessible. We didn't get much specific information about the University of Auckland, but that's normal as there are so many different destinations.   |
| academic preparation                        | I didn't really prepare academically.   |
| language preparation                        | Everyone speaks English in NZ ofcourse, so I didn't have to do much preparation. You also don't have to worry about the New Zealand accent, it's not that bad as I first thought!   |
| finances                                    | Save your money! I sort of underestimated this. New Zealand is much, much more expensive than the Netherlands. Groceries are at least 2x as expensive and accommodation costs around 700-850 euro a month as well. You will also meet many people and you will want to go on trips and they cost money too. For me personally, I think I spent around 8000-10.000 euro on the entire trip. That includes a vacation to Australia and the South Island, as well as plane tickets, accommodation, groceries etc. Just make sure you have plenty of money saved up because you will need it. It's totally worth it by the way! |

| <b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>                          |   |
|---|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I did one master course, worth double the points and two music courses. I'll start with the law course, because I am about to give you some gold advice. Exchange students from law departments are required to follow the course 'lawgenrl443', which is basically an introduction to common law. This course is only worth 10 credits (+/- 5 ECTS). If you can, try to follow the master version of this course (LAW701), which is the exact same class as LAWGENRL443. However, you get 60 credits (30 ECTS) for this course. You have the same lectures and study material, the only difference is that you will have to write an essay of 8000 words instead |



of 4000 words as your exam. This master course counts as 2 bachelor courses and it's not a lot of work. Try to see if you can get in.

I also did 2 courses at the conservatory of the University of Auckland (Mus180) and (Mus130). MUS180 was a songwriting course and one of the most fun things I have ever done. You do have to do an (online) audition to get in, but the level is not extremely high or anything so if you're relatively good you will probably get in. You have a lot of classes for this, but it so much fun and totally worth it. You also get really close with your classmates, I made lots of kiwi friends in this class. The other course, MUS130, is an absolute disgrace, it's a terrible course. Don't do it! The first 4 weeks were good (music production) but the other 8 weeks were about music coding and other weird stuff like that. It was more math than music. Ultimately I failed this course because I didn't expect all the coding.

academic quality of education activities

It's about the same as University of Utrecht. I wouldn't stress too much. I think it might even be slightly easier at UoA.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The study abroad help section is very good at the UoA. They are always ready to help and very kind.

transfer of credits

Waiting for the board of examiners right now :///

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme kind of sucked but you will meet plenty of people there that you can invite to hang out or whatever.

accommodation

I stayed at Carlaw Park which was amazing. Warning: it was also very very expensive. I think it was about 850 euro's a month. But in the end, the accommodation is really nice and you're with a lot of internationals which is a great way to make friends. In the end, you will mostly hang out with people from your accommodation so I would recommend choosing the best one regardless of money. Carlaw is definitely the best from what I've heard. I stayed at Carlaw Nicholls, which was great, but if you have the chance choose for Carlaw Stanley. It's slightly more modern.

leisure & culture

People from NZ are amazing. Make sure you visit some cool places. Try to go out as much as possible. Maybe plan a trip to Australia too if you can. You have to go to South Island too, it is definitely by far the best place for people who love nature. North island is absolutely amazing, but South Island is just on another level. Like really. Go. And not for 3 days, but for 2/3 weeks. Make sure you drive the whole island, there is so much to see.

suggestions/tips

-Don't underestimate how expensive everything is

-Don't buy a roundtrip ticket! Just buy a one way! This was my biggest mistake. I couldn't change my destination after buying the roundtrip. I met some cool people in NZ and I was invited on roadtrips right after the exchange in the US, but I couldn't go because I already booked for Amsterdam. Booking roundtrip really won't save you (much) money anyways, so just buy one way! You might want to change dates or whatever and that will only be possible later for (a lot of) extra money, and the destinations also can't be changed.



-Don't delay your trips. Just say you will go someplace and tell people they can come. I waited very long to do the Tongariro track and then I found out I couldn't do it anymore because of the weather.

-Don't be afraid to drive on the left! Drive! Car rentals are pretty cheap and also the only way to really get out there and see the country. Driving in the city is a bit weird at first, but the roads are very good and not very occupied when you get outside of the city. And you will quickly get used to driving on the left.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes absolutely. However, only do it if you have the money. It's very expensive. NZ is definitely a 9.5/10 study abroad experience. You can also get an amazing experience in Europe however, which is way way way less expensive. You have to be willing to sacrifice a large amount of money for the extra edge that NZ has to offer. I think it was worth it, but only if you can afford it. You don't want to be broke when you get back.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Reach out to me on Insta if you have more questions: @keesclj. I probably have more advice to give, but I can't put everything into this doc haha.



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|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| faculty/college      | University College Utrecht   |
| level                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Liberal Arts and Science   |

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Auckland, New Zealand       |
| name university abroad     | University of Auckland      |
| start date                 | 22 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date                   | 18 / 11 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

My application process may have been different from that of other UU students since I'm a UCU student. I found the process to be simple but requiring time to prepare. I needed to submit a CV, a motivational letter, my UCU academic planning, a list of possible courses that I wish to take at UoA, financial planning in Auckland with all the possible expenses such as food, transport and the expected costs per month, etc.

Once I was nominated by UU, I had to complete the UoA application which was relatively shorter. It did not require a motivational letter. I heard back from UoA relatively soon and was asked to start the VISA process. The VISA process was overcomplicated unfortunately due to lack of communication between different NZ visa processing offices. I was asked to send in my passport twice to two different offices because one of the offices was not aware that I was already asked to send it to another office for identity confirmation. Additionally I was asked to upload tuition fee receipt although I indicated that I was a fee waiver exchange student.

I only received my VISA a month or less before classes started which made it expensive to book flight tickets.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The study abroad team at UU handling the NZ exchange was helpful. Unfortunately email replies were not very prompt which is understandable since they may be handling other matters. In many cases I had to call the support to get my urgent questions answered asap.

#### academic preparation

I did not take any preparation for my courses at UoA prior to the beginning of the semester and did not face much difficulty during the semester. I looked through the courses and their description in order to understand which courses would suit my degree planning and which courses I already had the prerequisites to. It may get confusing to see if you actually meet the prerequisites for some of the courses since syllabuses might slightly differ from that in home university but nevertheless UoA quickly enrolls you into whichever course you select without regarding too deeply into whether you have had equivalent prerequisites.

#### language preparation

No language preparation was required since most people in New Zealand speak English and the classes I enrolled for in UoA were in English.

#### finances



Creating a financial planning as part of the exchange application process helped get an idea of estimated costs of living in UoA.

It is important to note that as part of the NZ visa application process it is required that you show evidence of sufficient funds for your stay in NZ for the exchange period. For evidence of funds one can show their own bank statement or their parents'.

Costs of groceries, eating out, entertainment etc. in Auckland are relatively cheaper. They are generally ¼ the price here in Utrecht. University accommodation is relatively more expensive or the same priced with smaller rooms.

I would highly recommend keeping aside money for travelling as that's what will cost the most.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took two math courses (MATH260 & MATH253), one physics course (PHY202) and one sociology course (SOC213). The contents of each of the courses were very interesting. I found the sociology course and the MATH260 to be interesting in particular. The sociology course had very interesting readings. Topics that were covered in the course included concepts of primitivism, hybridity, national identity, etc.

I did not face any organisational issues- schedules were uploaded online months before classes start in their student services portal.

#### academic quality of education activities

Courses were well structured- science courses had 3 one hour lectures each week with an additional 1 one hour tutorial a week. Physics courses have an additional three hour lab each week. On the other hand the sociology course had 1 one hour tutorial and a two hour lecture a week. The tutorial for the science courses were helpful as tutors were available to help with questions. The physics lab assignments were not too difficult. However, instructions on the lab report's format was not made clear earlier on.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I needed assistance regarding a course swap. I did not have prior knowledge of a few important topics needed for one of the courses I was enrolled in and wanted to switch to a course I was better prepared for. I set up an appointment with the professional teaching fellow of the respective department and was given helpful assistance on the possible courses I can take in its place. Taking the advice, I then solved the issue.

#### transfer of credits

The process of transfer of credits was rather simple. UoA only gives digital transcripts via My eQuals and not paper transcripts. I was asked by UU to share the digital transcript with them which they would then process and notify me of afterwards. It was then my own responsibility to notify my examination board that my transcript is available on Osiris and give additional information if required. The examination board at UCU handled the transfer of credits and notified me of it after a week.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was well organized. It included a free lunch, campus tour, committee fair, haka dance, another campus tour where students were divided into groups based on their respective majors and much more.





My university accommodation also had a number of events going on in the first week including a walk around town, guide to thrift shopping, hike up Mt.Eden etc. which helped me get to know the city more and make new friends as well.

#### accommodation

If you decide to stay in university accommodation, I highly recommend applying earlier. Students usually apply early for the popular residences reducing the chances that students applying later will get a place in those accommodations.

I lived at huia residence which is one of the cheaper university accommodation options. If you are picky about the place you live in and room sizes I would not recommend huia residence. The rooms are really small and coss quite a bit. The residence is also not in an apartment style but rather gives hotel vibes having 30 small bedrooms on one floor, a communal kitchen and two communal bathrooms. One of the good aspects of huia residence is its location- it is in close proximity to university buildings and Auckland CBD.

At the end of the day, even if Huia is not one of the best options, the people you meet there during the day may make a big difference in how you feel about it.

#### leisure & culture

There's quite a lot to do in and around Auckland and the places nearby ranging from water sports to sightseeing to keep you busy during the weekends. There are a couple of extinct volcanoes and volcanic craters that you can hike up such as Mt.Eden and Mt Victoria in Devonport. They are very easy to hike and also offer beautiful views of Auckland city.

UoA students (including exchange students) can visit some of the city museums for free such as the art gallery at CBD and the Auckland war memorial museum at Auckland domain. Auckland domain is great to take a nice stroll through, go for a morning run or have a picnic.

If you're a foodie, Auckland's both local and international community offer a great variety of cuisines in affordable price ranges. Auckland is home to wesome asian restaurants and cafes. I would highly recommend trying the ramen places such as Shoya, korean restaurant Nol bu ne and shaved ice cafe Mellow. You can also check out the Auckland night market held at the CBD one/ two times a week.

If you are into sightseeing, there are nice places which are a few hours drive away from Auckland such as Coromandel with its hot water beach, Hobbiton, glowworm caves, piha beach, waiheke island, rotorua etc.

UoA has a large number of committees for everyone to pick from- board game clubs, science clubs, hiking club, Christian clubs, cultural clubs and etc. A great way to see more of NZ is to sign up for their hiking club and the the study abroad students' association. With a small fee to join, you can join for trips with students from the university and also pay lower rates than if you went with tour companies.

#### suggestions/tips

- I would highly recommend that students travel with their friends, rent a car and split the costs than going with a tour agency. It saves a lot of money and gives more flexibility than if you go with a tour agency.
- Here a few websites and apps that may be helpful:
- [bookme.co.nz](http://bookme.co.nz) This website is great for discounts on activities throughout the country. Discounts are sometimes given only for odd times so please be aware that there may be a catch. Discounts range from \$5 to \$50 or more and when accumulated, you realize it saves quite a significant amount of money.
- [grabone.co.nz](http://grabone.co.nz) for discounts on food and meals. You can find deals for lunch, dinner, three course meals and etc.



- niesz Niesz app offers discounts for students from meals and bubble tea size upgrade to trip discounts. Students with an ASB get additional discounts as well.
- Weather in the South Island can be very different from that in North Island- it may be summer and hot in Auckland, but rainy and below 15 degrees in Queenstown So even if you're travelling to the South Island from sunny Auckland in Summer make sure to check the weather forecast.
- Set aside a lot of money for travelling, it can get expensive, especially if you want to try different activities such as sky diving, water sports etc and travel to many different cities.
- Always carry a sturdy umbrella with you in Auckland during Winter when the weather gets even more unpredictable than the dutch weather. It may rain anytime. Also take a good waterproof and windproof jacket because the wind speeds can get pretty high, turning umbrellas inside out sometimes.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would personally highly recommend UoA. All the classes I have had were great, the academic structure is also great.

New Zealand is a beautiful country with its breathtaking and diverse landscapes. There's so much to do and see in New Zealand, maybe a bit too much to do in one semester. Auckland is a beautiful city with great food, beaches and friendly and warm people. The city made me feel at home and my exchange semester there has been my favourite and the most memorable semester of my university life so far.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make the most out of your time in New Zealand! It is a gorgeous country with so much to offer. It will cost quite a bit to look around but it is worth every penny.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Auckland, New Zealand       |
| name university abroad     | University of Auckland      |
| start date                 | 05 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date                   | 12 / 11 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| <b>PREPARATION</b>                          |   |
|---|---|
| exchange application process                |   |
|   | I think it doesn't matter where you're going, an exchange just requires a lot of paperwork. For New Zealand you do require a student visa and the university requires a lot of information as well, especially when applying for accommodation, and it takes quite a lot of time. If you plan it well and spread it out over the months, it is absolutely fine and it definitely shouldn't hold you back from going on an exchange. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |   |
|   | Utrecht University was available for support and were able to help where needed.  |
| academic preparation                        |   |
|   | I needed to find courses I want to take, for which there is a good course catalogue available on the website of UoA. Furthermore, you need to let these approve by the board of your study.   |
| language preparation                        |   |
|   | For UoA a grade of a 7 on your high school diploma is sufficient as a proof of English language skill, or otherwise another proof such as a TOEFL or IELTS.   |
| finances                                    |   |
|   | To enter New Zealand on a student visa, you need sufficient financial supplies and you need to provide proof of this. Either your own savings or those of your parents are sufficient. Furthermore, the rent is quite expensive and you should set some money aside for the many trips you will undertake while being abroad as well. During  |



my four months of studying I've spent around €19000, including all food, accommodation, trips, everything. Most of the money was spent on accommodation and trips.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Everything was arranged very well and the university informed you via email about your schedule and online services. I only had one issue with a change from one to another course; you can do it upon arrival, but you have to do it in the first couple of days, otherwise it won't be possible anymore.

### academic quality of education activities

There were less tutorials than in Utrecht, which in my opinion really is a shame, as personally that is the moment where I really can apply what I've learned in lecture and can comprehend everything better. The lectures were only one hour in length, so you could end up having only one hour on a day, which is very different from the UU as well. Furthermore I think the quality is good, I mostly took quite low level (general education) courses, so that makes it hard to compare. However, I think the level is quite similar. I did have to write a lot of intermediate reports or make assignments, a lot more than I'm used to at the UU where there's still a lot of focus on the final exam.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was support available, though I didn't need it and therefore haven't used it myself.

### transfer of credits

My credits were transferred as soon as I sent the UU my international transcript which I received about a month after finishing my semester. An A+ was transferred to a 9.0 and an A to an 8.3.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

There was a big welcome meeting with a Maori haka performance; very cool! After that the international student association organised a game, in which you could participate. It was a good way to get to know new people. This all happened the Wednesday before the semester officially started and I would really recommend being present! Furthermore the same association and my housing association both organised a lot of activities in the first two weeks; you can literally go somewhere every night if you want to and very often grab free food as well! It was a really good way to meet people.

### accommodation

As I said, accommodation is quite expensive, but it is good. I lived in Carlaw Student Village (again: apply early!) and it was a ten minute (quite steep) walk to uni. As I said, they organised a lot of activities, particularly in the first weeks: movie nights, a talent show, dog cuddle, you name it. They also provided money for people willing to organise activities. I myself lived with three locals (kiwi's), which I really liked! One of the few possibilities to actually meet some locals. I think it's really good they mix international and local students in the housing, so you won't get into an international bubble too much.

### leisure & culture

There's heaps of clubs at UoA; diving club, hiking club, Glee club, canoe club, you name it. Everything is there, from all kinds of sports to board games. There is also a very big Asian community in Auckland and on the uni, so there are a lot of Asian clubs as well. There is an orientation week in which you can join as many clubs as you like. There is also a gym on the campus, which is free if you live at an accommodation of uni! Personally, I don't really like Auckland itself. The nightlife isn't great at all and there are not many cafes and bars around, so there's really not much of an atmosphere, which I really found a shame. I therefore spent every weekend on a



trip to see the rest of New Zealand. Auckland is a good base to do that from and the climate is not as cold as for example in the South Island, especially during winter.

suggestions/tips

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the UoA. It is a good university and I found living in the accommodation really comfortable and a lot of fun. Auckland itself I would, however, not recommend. Especially if you're into the nightlife, it is not great. New Zealand is a great country and I would recommend it to everyone, I really enjoyed my time there. When I went on an exchange there was unfortunately no other destination in New Zealand available, but if there is I would have gone there. Wellington and Christchurch are for example much nicer cities. It's a good country to spend time if you're not that much into the big cities of Australia, but do want to go to that side of the world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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

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

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Auckland, New Zealand       |
| name university abroad     | University of Auckland      |
| start date                 | 16 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date                   | 02 / 11 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

### PREPARATION

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| exchange application process   |
| It was quite easy to apply, the most difficult part was choosing which university I wanted to go to! So many choices, we are very lucky that the UU has so many international connections.   |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University  |
| I did a walk in at the exchange department when I was still deciding and they were very helpful!   |
| academic preparation   |
| Unfortunately, there were no online documents available or books that I required for the courses, therefore, it was not possible to prepare on the academic part of my exchange.   |
| language preparation   |
| As I grew up in the US, the language preparation was not relevant.   |
| finances   |
| I worked a lot in my last semester I spent at home, this was quite tough as I was still studying fulltime, however, it was worth it once I made it to my exchange as I was able to explore a lot more than I otherwise could have! |

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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| study programme (content and organisational issues)  |
| Geothermal engineering   |
| academic quality of education activities   |
| Very high demand! Not what I was used to at all. But this was also due to the courses I took, apparently it was a special program which normally exchange students are not really recommended to do.   |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad   |
| As I was struggling to catch up with a lot of pre-required knowledge I visited the student counsellor in Auckland and she was very helpful and encouraged me to drop one of the courses. It felt bad in the beginning, but it was definitely a wise decision looking back! |
| transfer of credits  |
| Still in the process of doing so, but my academic transcript was available shortly after the semester, which was quite nice.   |

### STUDENT LIFE



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| welcome & orientation programme  |
| A lot of activities! The first week is planned with opportunities to meet new people and discover the city.  |
| accommodation  |
| I chose for private housing, so I found a place to stay myself. But when looking at my friends who stayed at campus it all seemed arranged quite well!   |
| leisure & culture  |
| Auckland is a big city with a lot to offer!  |
| suggestions/tips   |
| I would definitely recommend joining a few clubs for sports or recreation as it is so easy to meet new people. Also, try doing something new as going on an exchange is such a great possibility to do something you normally wouldn't do at home. |

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| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>   |
| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain   |
| Yes!!! New Zealand is such a beautiful and friendly country. I couldn't have wished for a more welcoming place to stay, with so much possibilities for going on weekend trips and seeing breath-taking nature. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments?   |
| I would recommend choosing courses that you have a lot of interest in and cannot take at home and understand/prepare yourself on that the education is very different than in Utrecht.                         |
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|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Faculty/college:       | Science  |
| Level:                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| Name degree programme: | Biology  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Destination city & country                        | Auckland, New Zealand  |
| Name host institution and/or company/organisation | University of Auckland   |
| 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)                       | 18/02/2017   |
| Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)                          | 26/07/2017   |

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

I had to write a motivation letter and submit a top three ranking. I actually didn't think I'd make it through the selection process, however I went for where I really wanted to go and that worked out. I think for me, the motivation letter helped me because I really put effort in it and argued why I wanted to go there and why it was the best destination for me, both personal and academically.

#### Counselling/support at home university:

I've emailed a LOT with the international office in order to get everything sorted, there is a lot of official information you have to fill in and you really have to start in time. Especially on the visa application (you won't get an email, check the account regularly!) and applying for university accommodation.

#### Academic preparation:

I didn't really prepare for studying here apart from picking my courses (get a big selection, around 8 courses you'd like to do, because time table clashes will prevent you from doing your first choices.)

#### Language preparation:

Also didn't really prepare for this, I don't think you can/have to unless you are really struggling to speak English. Also, New Zealanders have an accent! It will take you at least 2 weeks to accommodate to their slang, and vowels are switched! I spend an hour to figure out what movie they were talking about, I kept hearing Srik, it turned out to be Shrek.





Finances:

It's expensive. Try to make a plan beforehand, count on double rent and double food prices. For traveling I've spent 1500NZD for 2 weeks, which was hitchhiking so you have to add a bus card or car rental (equally expensive) if you want to be more flexible.

**Study/placement abroad period**

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

You do 4 courses in half a year, some people do 5, I wouldn't recommend it because you also want to see the country. I went in their first semester (period 3 and 4), and they have a 2-week study break and end in the beginning of July. The study break is actually sort of meant for studying, I didn't do that because I travelled, but know you have to be full on in the first week after the holidays.

For courses, I recommend looking up the general education (gen-ed) they give. It's like minor courses of which they have to follow a couple. I did beginners Spanish 104 (I suck at languages, but this one was epic!) and kapa haka (maori 190) which were both very nice, diverse courses. I also did 2 biology courses (104 and 320, ecology and entomology), the first was harder than I expected from a first year introductory course, the third year course was wonderful.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality is comparable to the UU, I think it depends on the teacher and subject just like back home.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I didn't use the university counselling, but I was happy with an RA that was always willing to listen.

Transfer of credits:

No clue, my last final is in 3 days.

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The introduction week is not very big, but there's a lot of events going on in the weeks afterwards, especially if you look out for them and if you join the events hosted by the student villages where you live.

Accommodation:

I lived in Parnell Student Village, presumably the cosiest one (I don't know I haven't visited the others), I liked it, it's like a little holiday park where you live with 4 to 6 people. In PSV, there are 90 people living, and there are quite some activities going on. I lived in DD, the 8 person flat, that was quite big but it was okay. You'll get a 10-14m<sup>2</sup> room, with the basics in it, but you still have to purchase linen and towels and such.

If you are a big hippy (tolerate) and you want to live off uni accommodation, check out Kawai



Purapura, you can live there for a low rent with hippy people and buy a car to get to uni.

Leisure/culture:

The people are very friendly, but they are also quite closed so be prepared to be a bit lonely in the beginning. I turned out to become friends with most of my roommates and started (too late) to study in the living together, which was too much talking and too little studying, and absolutely bliss.

Suggestions/tips:

If you like dancing even for a little bit, try salsa dancing. There's a lot of latin dancing going on in Auckland, I went on the Fridays to Muddy Farmer, they have a lesson first and a social dancing after.

### **Conclusions**

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

Yes, I liked the uni, the courses were more interactive and fun than the courses in Utrecht, I liked the village, I was quite lonely in the beginning but after a while I found my rhythm.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Be sure you want to go abroad. Are you someone that likes to travel, wants new challenges, is okay with change and insecurity? I'm a big control freak and introverted person that's really glad with her own friends circle.. I had really big troubles finding my place in Auckland.