



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences (history and literature major)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Looking back on the application process, the first thing that stands out is that it took very long. Having to complete forms for UCR, UU and ANU, my application process began in the Fall semester of 2017. This meant I had to have an idea of what university I wanted to go to, the courses I wanted to do etc. an entire year prior to my exchange semester. It takes a bit of planning to prepare for this in advance! The process itself wasn't necessarily difficult, but it does require quite some time and effort.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As I had to communicate to both UCR and UU, the communication was sometimes a bit more difficult but everyone in the international office at UU was extremely helpful. They also responded to my emails quite quickly and managed to make the application process go smoothly.

academic preparation

I did not have to do much academic preparation for my semester abroad. The only planning I had to do was related to UCR's requirements; you to do a certain number of courses in the ACC and your major department. You simply have to plan your courses to meet these requirements.

language preparation

As the language of instruction at UCR is English, no language preparation was required for me.

finances

The UU application process requires you to make a budget, which was very helpful. It really gave me a good idea of how much this semester would cost and what expenses I should be prepared for. Australia, in general, is a bit more expensive than the Netherlands, which means I was going to spend a bit more on my monthly expenses e.g. groceries and rent. Also the visa for Australia is quite expensive, which is something I had to keep in mind. With the flight, visa and deposit for my accommodation at ANU the few months prior to my departure were especially expensive. I did save up some money before leaving, which definitely helped out.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

ANU allowed me to choose my own courses from all of their colleges. There's only a very small number of courses that is not open to exchange students. This allowed me to not only do courses in their College of Arts and Social Sciences, but also one in the College of Asia and the Pacific. I chose to do the following courses: History of Modern China, Revolution and Romanticism in British Literature 1789-1832, Democracy and Dissent: Europe Since 1945, Introduction to International Relations. All of these courses were extremely interesting,



were a definite addition to my current bachelor programme and taught me a lot of new things. The course on modern China definitely gave me much more insight into a part of history that is only briefly talked about in courses at UCR, and the Introduction to IR course was something that I was personally very interested in but did not fit into my programme at UCR.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the academics at ANU is great. I definitely thought the lectures were very thought provoking, the tutorials taught me plenty and were very successful at creating discussions and interesting debates. Every single one of my instructors was extremely knowledgeable in their field, were able to answer questions, and were very helpful in assisting me with questions about any assignments. In terms of academics, I definitely think ANU is at least comparable to UU and that some courses I took were definitely more difficult than some courses I took at UCR.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The ANU has a Global Programs team that communicated with us before, throughout and after the semester. They were extremely helpful and were able to nudge you into the right direction if you had any other questions or difficulties. I cannot say much more about counselling at ANU, as I haven't used these services.

transfer of credits

My credits have not yet been transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme at ANU is really great. There's two days especially for international students, organized by the Global Programs team. The first introduces you to the university with campus tours, gives you a small tour of the city centre of Canberra and helps you register for your courses, get your student card etc. This means that they help you take care of everything you should before you start the semester, which was super useful! The second day of introduction for international students was introduced me to a bunch of other exchange students from all around the world through a type of sports day. They even taught us some Aussie rules football which was very fun! You can also participate in the regular ANU orientation, which has a ton of activities such as library tours, writing seminars and more. Every college/accommodation also has its own orientation programme with a bunch of activities and events, such as parties and more to help you get adjusted and meet new people.

accommodation

ANU can offer guaranteed accommodation on campus when applying before a certain date, which to me was really great. I applied to live at Burton & Garran Hall and got offered a room there, too. This accommodation was great, had a very lively student body, very helpful staff and a bunch of fun events throughout the semester. I think B&G was a great mix of privacy and a lively student community, as you do have your own room in a separate block, but the central block holds the shared kitchen and other common rooms. I also thought that B&G was a very affordable college.

leisure & culture

Canberra is a smaller city, compared to for example Sydney or Melbourne, but still offers plenty to see. There's quite a few museums to visit, an art gallery, the National Library, Parliament House and there's a few great hikes you can do in the area. The city centre is also very fun, with a bunch of cool restaurants, some pubs and other activities such as the cinema or escape rooms. I think Canberra is a great place to explore. The ANU Global Programs also offers multiple trips during the semester that also allow you to see more of Australia. There's a weekend trip to the Blue Mountains (which I did, and was extremely fun!), a surf camp and also a week long trip to Uluru during the break.



suggestions/tips

When going to the ANU, I would definitely recommend going on some of the trips that Global Programs offers. The Blue Mountains trip was extremely fun and I have heard a lot of good things about the two others as well. It's an opportunity to get to know other international students better, while also visiting other parts of Australia. Another tip is using the Greyhound buses to get around. I did a trip of approximately three and a half weeks traveling the east coast. Greyhound offers bus tickets Melbourne-Brisbane and Melbourne-Cairns (or the other way around) for a very affordable price. There's a bus stop in Canberra too!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the ANU and Canberra to others. The ANU is a great university, offers a bunch of different courses and is super helpful to all of their international students. You can choose from a very large number of courses and the accommodation guarantee is also a big plus! I very much enjoyed my time at the ANU, met a bunch of new friends, did some courses I wouldn't do back at UCR and learned to look at things from an entirely different perspective. I also think Canberra is very fun! Compared to other cities in Australia it's very small, it was still quite a big change for me. It offers everything a bigger city would, just feels a little bit less overwhelming!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice for anyone who wants to go on exchange is to definitely just do it. It will definitely cost a lot of time, money and effort but it's more than worth it! The experience is amazing, you'll meet tons of new people and get to experience an entirely different place and culture. Make sure to plan ahead, know how much you'll have to spend and make sure you're well prepared pre-departure to take away a lot of stress once you arrive.

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)

Yes, anyone can contact me via r.lent@ucr.nl or on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/rayke.vanlent>).



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Social sciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's (I am in my bachelor)
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology

destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
name university abroad	National University of Australia
start date	18 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 6 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	For me the application process was long and exhausting, but worth it. First I needed to apply in Utrecht and the ANU was my second choice. When I got in I needed to apply again for the ANU. I needed to provide every document in English! This is important to know beforehand because you need an official translator, you are not allowed to translate documents yourself. When I got an conformation from the ANU everything went really fast and the ANU is helpful and they respond fast (even in the holidays).
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I did not have counselling or support from Utrecht University. There were problems with my application, the help I got was too late so I communicated and solved the problems myself with the help of the ANU. If there are any problems with your application after you got accepted by Utrecht University I would recommend to search contact on your own with the ANU.
academic preparation	I did not prepare academic, I went on exchange in my second year (semester two) and I would recommend to go at the same time, or in your third year. So you already studied long enough to be experienced enough to study in a different environment.
language preparation	I followed only courses in English in my second year to get used to it. But I did not do anything extra besides that. If you can easily follow courses in English at the Utrecht University you should be fine.
finances	Australia is expensive but Canberra is less expensive than other places in Australia. I worked before so I could safe money. Stopped my OV-Chipkaart so I would receive 90 euros extra each month. I travelled around two months in total and lived in Canberra for four months and spend around 7000 euros. You can always spend more or less if you want to, my friends spend around 10.000 euros during their exchange. I would recommend not to work in Australia, it is hard to get a job as an exchange student (non-native English speaker), it consumes a lot of time and stress.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The ANU is a really good university but in the beginning some things were not really clear, after a while when you understand the system it is easy to work with. And if you don't understand it, there are always people who are willing to help. (think about grades, schedule, courses , handing in assignments etc.)



academic quality of education activities
The academic level is high, it is around the same level as in Utrecht, especially if you follow level two/three (2000-3000) courses. I would not recommend to only follow hard courses because there is a big workload and they expect a lot from you. I followed three level two/three courses and one level one. This was enough to be academically challenging but not too much so I still had enough free time.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling & support at the ANU is really good. They provide a lot of information about mental health and being abroad for a long time. There is free support if you need it and you can always contact the inbound office if something is wrong. They also check upon you once in a while. Also every dorm provides help and (professional) people who you can trust.
transfer of credits
I did not transfer my credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
Make sure you are there during or half time during the orientation week. This is the week before classes begin and there are a lot of fun, free activities to meet new people. They have an orientation week for the university, the exchange program and the dorms.
accommodation
I lived at B&G and I would highly recommend, most of the friends I made were from B&G. It is a close, warm and welcoming community (also to exchange/international students). They organise a lot of fun activities especially because the city is not that exciting. But the people there are amazing and I had a really good time. The second accommodation I would recommend it Fenner, friends of mine were there and they also really enjoyed it. I would not recommend uniLodge because it is harder to meet people and make friends, they are more individualized because a lot of people already lived in Canberra for a longer time so there social live is outside the house.
leisure & culture
I loved the culture in Canberra, it is a real university city. Because the city is a little bit boring people try to make the best out of it, that is why there are a lot of free activities and people really try there best to have a good time. I always felt really safe (even if I walked home alone in the evening/night). There are also a lot of (sports) clubs you can join that is a lot of fun.
suggestions/tips
Try to live on campus because that is where the social life is. Also plan trips with your friends to other cities because it is easy to take the bus to Sydney or Melbourne. There is a mid-term break of two week, I would recommend traveling then, it was really fun and the teachers are understanding if you are an exchange student and you are traveling (so sometime you are allowed to hand in assignments later if you ask).

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend it if you are looking for a nice environment with a rich social life, but still some academic challenge. I had a great mix of domestic and international friends what definitely made my exchange better. So if you want to meet more Australians go live at BnG or Fenner because they mix really well with the international and exchange students.



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)

Yes, they can e-mail me: m.verploegen@hotmail.com

Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

exchange@uu.nl (information/questions)

verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

students.uu.nl/exchange



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Utrecht
level	bachelor's master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
name university abroad	Australian National University
start date	25/02/2019
end date	30/06/2019

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>The preparation procedure takes the most time. You don't only have preparation to do for UCU/UU but also for the host university. If you make sure to do everything over a period of time, so a few things per week, in advance, then it shouldn't be too much work. I, also, really recommend double checking things with another person, especially your motivation letter. I found it really useful to do the application together with other friends who were also going on exchange.</p> <p>The ANU provides an in-depth instruction booklet for exchange applications providing different steps for different things. Again, if you spread this out over time, then you shouldn't be stressed about your application. Additionally, I made A LOT of checklists which really helped me to finalize my preparation. I found this the most effective way to get everything done and to be prepared for my semester abroad.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>Utrecht University organized a pre-departure meeting for all students going on exchange to Australia. Unfortunately, there weren't any students that had been to Canberra but it was still good to find out more about life as an international student in Australia. Fortunately, I met someone at UCU who went to ANU and I was able to ask her a lot of questions.</p>
academic preparation	<p>For UCU, you have to get a GPA of a 3.0 in order to go on exchange. I think this is the hardest part and I struggled a bit to get a high enough GPA but by working hard and completing all your courses it should be doable. Additionally, if your GPA is a bit lower than a 3.0, you can always negotiate with the Exam Board with the help from your tutor.</p> <p>For picking courses at the host university, I really recommend to just take anything that interests you even if it doesn't relate to your course. I really recommend taking a course that relates to Australia, such as a course about Indigenous culture and history.</p>
language preparation	<p>No preparation needed.</p>
finances	<p>I saved up a lot and got the student loan from the Dutch government while I was abroad. Luckily, your Australian student visa allows you to work. I wasn't able to work as job opportunities are quite limited, especially for international students, but there definitely is something out there if you ask around and check carefully. I would recommend looking into jobs before you leave, and in Canberra talk to other international/exchange students to find out their experiences with trying to find a job.</p>



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Overall the courses were well organized. I only had one course which had a new lecturer so the course was quite disorganized at the start but that was fixed quite fast. The content of my courses was very rich and I have learned a lot on exchange.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education is very good. A few of my courses did excursions to help students to really understand the content of the courses. Many courses also had guest lectures which really helped students to understand concepts.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The Global Programs, the office that deals with exchange students, was very helpful before I arrived and during my stay at ANU. They are very responsive to emails, in the beginning especially they helped a lot with getting into courses and other inquiries.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits fulfils the amount that I need for my home university! At ANU they use units and 6 units is equal to 7.5 ECTS. Additionally, one of my courses counts as a 200 course which means that I am able to complete the track back at UCU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Global Programs together with Barefoot Downunder organized a few days of orientation in Sydney. I really recommend doing this trip as you get to meet other exchange students and I made a lot of friends. Before the orientation week, Global Programs organized some events in Canberra for exchange students as well. There was a week of general orientation organized by the ANU. There were a lot of events organized, mostly free, which keeps you constantly busy. It was an amazing introweek where I got a lot information about extracurricular activities, about my courses, about Canberra and other things to do on campus.

accommodation

I stayed in a residence on campus, Fenner Hall, and I absolutely loved it! The community is amazing and I met so many people here as well, other exchange students but also many Australians. The hall organizes many activities for residents to participate in. The hall is, also, located in the middle of campus. The accommodation on campus is more expensive but I think it allows you to really get the college experience and makes it very easy to meet new people.

leisure & culture

The residential halls offer many activities such as sports activities, a commencement ball, movie nights, barbeques etc. These activities give you the perfect opportunity to meet people and participate. ANUSA, the student association, and Global Programs, also, organize many fun activities that you can take part in. Additionally, there are two gyms on campus that you can subscribe to, they also offer martial arts, swimming, dance etc.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend living on campus and doing some extracurricular activities.

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Canberra is nothing compared to the rousing cities of Melbourne and Sydney but I actually really enjoyed this. It is very quiet in Canberra but if you have the right group of friends then it is a very fun place. You have the lake which you can bike around (I really recommend getting a bike) or having barbeques there. The university felt more laidback compared to UCU and I really enjoyed the courses. Being in Australia is amazing and being able to live in an Australian city for half a year is even cooler. During the semester, you really get the chance to visit places, with a two-week holiday and many long weekends. You can easily travel and people are so laidback that you can easily feel at home.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just make the most of your exchange because 6 months are going to fly by!
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)
They can get in touch with me via my email: v.n.visser@students.uu.nl

Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

exchange@uu.nl (information/questions)

verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

students.uu.nl/exchange



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Philosophy

Destination city & country	Australia, Canberra
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Australian National 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)	01-02-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	04-07-2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The process took a long time, and was at times a bit confusing. Since I went in the second semester, I had to apply more than a year before my exchange began.

Counselling/support at home university:

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Academic preparation:

I think I was well-prepared. I was already in the fourth year of my bachelor program when I began my exchange. All of the courses I took (all in arts/social sciences) had a lot of writing assessments, so I guess developing good writing skills would be the most important thing to prepare.

Language preparation:

My English was already adequate for participating in classes and writing essays in English, but it has definitely improved a lot, especially conversational skills.

Finances:

Since I planned my exchange so far ahead I was able to save up a lot of money, and also got a contribution from my parents. Everything included (my travel etc.) I spent just under €10.000 during my exchange. This sounds like a lot, but I think most people doing one semester exchange in Australia spend even more. So I would definitely recommend making a realistic estimate before



you leave, and working out how you are going to finance it. Working in Australia is also an option, you will probably make about \$20-\$25 an hour, and you are allowed to work 20 hours a week if I remember correctly.

Study/placement abroad period

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

I was able to pick and change my courses during the last week before the courses began, and for UU it did not really matter what I picked, as long as the content not overlap too much with courses I had already done.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Overall the quality was quite good. I noticed quite a difference between different schools, for example the ASIA course (College of Asia and the Pacific) was a lot more professional and demanding than the anthropology course I took. ANU has some distinct specialties like international relations and the politics and history of Asia. If you are looking for courses of good academic quality, try to pick something within these areas. In general lecturers seem to have more autonomy in developing their course, and are more inclined to openly present their own academic position than at UU. I think those are good things, not everyone agrees.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The so called "international office" offers all kinds of support international students might need. I only e-mailed them a couple of times with rather practical questions, but you could contact them for more difficult or more personal questions as well. ANU also provides a lot of mental health and academic support that is available to both domestic and international students.

Transfer of credits:

Not finished yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Since the college I stayed at offered so many introductory activities, I barely visited any of the university-wide ones. The college-activities were good, it was a nice opportunity to get to know fellow residents and score some free food and other stuff while getting settled in Canberra. My college's international reps were also a great help in getting me settled.

Accommodation:

I lived in Burton and Garran hall (B&G). It is a great place, there is one giant kitchen that is shared with all residents (around 500 people). This facilitates a lot of contact with fellow residents, and a nice social atmosphere in general. There are a lot of activities and clubs active in B&G, for example there are sports tournaments where different colleges compete with each other. A lot of the social life is based around colleges, and living in a college gets you into contact with other people, so I would definitely recommend living in a college/hall. B&G and Fenner hall are very similar qua atmosphere/mentality, they are also the cheapest and have most exchange students, so I would recommend applying for either of those.

Leisure/culture:

Canberra is surrounded by nature, so if you like outdoors-stuff, Canberra is great. I joined the ANU mountaineering club, which organises hikes, climbing trips, kayaking trips, etc. and has an indoor



climbing wall on campus. I would definitely recommend joining such a club, as they offer incredibly cheap activities and are a great way of meeting different people.

Suggestions/tips:

Buy a bike, either on Gumtree (Australian version of marktplaats.nl) or on the "free/for sale" facebook group within ANU. Things like shops are just too far away to go by foot, and the public transport is unreliable and poorly organised. Like I already mentioned; join clubs and/or societies, get into a college/hall and get involved there.

Conclusions

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

I think ANU/ Canberra is not for everyone, but could be an excellent choice for some. It is relatively demanding academically, I would say slightly more so than UU, and the city itself is not particularly beautiful or exciting. On the other hand, it is quiet, cheaper than Sydney/Melbourne, and surrounded by nature. So if you seek an academically challenging environment and like the idea of living in a sort of dull city surrounded by nature, Canberra/ ANU would still be an excellent choice.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

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UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	University College Utrecht
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Bachelor of Science

Destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Australian National 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)	01.02.2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13.07.2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Submitting a motivation letter, financial plan, study plan, and grades to UU, and then having them submit it to the ANU. After that, all I needed was to fill out the extensive ANU online application form with mostly similar information.

Counselling/support at home university:

UU International Office helped answering questions, but it was mostly independent.

Academic preparation:

To prepare academically all I needed was to keep my grades up!

Language preparation:

Nothing.

Finances:

Australia is very expensive: I worked at home during the winter holidays and plan to work when I get back to earn some of it back.

Study/placement abroad period

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

I took four courses here to match UCU credits. Apparently it turns out students here only take 3, so four was an incredibly high workload, so I would recommend doing 3 for a less stressful time if



possible.
Academic quality of education/placement activities:
Extremely high quality of education, the work is very difficult and they expect a lot from you!
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
The ANU international office, they can answer whatever questions you may have ranging from academic stuff to travel suggestions.
Transfer of credits:
Each course is the same amount of credits as a UCU course.
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
Orientation week, and a day dedicated only to exchange students to meet other students with the same queries as you! This was all excellent.
Accommodation:
ANU guarantees accommodation for exchange students, I was given a private studio with ensuite kitchen and bathroom. Beware: this is very expensive!
Leisure/culture:
Not much different to UU/UCU, everyone is kind and welcoming. It is a little difficult to meet locals with all of the exchange events, so I would try to get some friends that are from Australia and not only hang out with foreign students to make your experience more authentic.
Suggestions/tips:
Save up lots of money if you want to be able to afford living and also try to travel a little while you're there.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes. The quality of education is very high, the city is lovely (perfect size, unimaginably beautiful weather) and the people are incredible.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
Nope!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Law, Economics and Governance
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Degree programme:	Economics and Business Economics

Destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Australian National 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)	17/07/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	18/11/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was relatively easy. We had to submit very standard documents, most of which, such as my curriculum vitae and study plan, I had already been actively updating. Preparing the motivation letter and financial plan required some research on my first choice of university. Proof of language proficiency was unnecessary as my entire degree is in English. Unfortunately, I did not get my first choice, which was University of Toronto and so, I went to Australian National University.

Counselling/support at home university:

Marja from the International Office was prompt to answer many of my emails. An email of concern



was also sent when an assault happened on campus. I did have issues with getting the university to write a letter to request for a lighter course load, although I was told that failure to complete any of the courses will not affect my transcript here.

Academic preparation:

I did not do any extra academic preparation before leaving. However, my average grade is slightly above 8 and I did some extra courses before I left. This really came into handy when I could not cope with some of the courses at Australian National University. In terms of academic preparation, I do recommend checking with your course coordinators at home to find out if you truly have the prerequisites to take some of the courses.

Language preparation:

Nothing had to be done as I was going to an English-speaking country and institution.

Finances:

Most of my financial support came from my parents. I also received the Holland Scholarship. A situation happened back home so I cut short my time in Australia, which meant that I actually spent much less money travelling than I thought I would.

Study/placement abroad period

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

The study programme is slightly rigid as it was necessary to take four courses no matter what. However, their courses are a lot more practical than theoretical, which is the main focus at Utrecht University. We used software in three of my economics classes. My other class was law.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic demands were much higher than back home. I had to pick up Python, EViews and there was an intense use of Excel as well. I really could not cope with the level 3 courses but level 1 and 2 was fine. This may, however, have been due to the fact that I did not really have the prerequisites to take those courses. I did find that students in ANU were a lot more specialised so that is perhaps why I found the courses difficult to follow. Econometrics students were majors in Econometrics, not just in Economics, so their mathematical foundation was especially strong. The like applied to other Economics fields such as Finance and Business itself.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Professors really made known of the counselling services available in school after an on-campus assault. I also spoke to some of my professors when I could not cope to find out if I should continue the courses and they were very patient.

Transfer of credits:

Out of the four courses I took, I only completed two, each of them worth 6 credits each. They should transfer to 7.5 ECTS each as they required the same number of hours. I might face problems, as I have a minor, with courses I could not take because I was obviously on exchange and am graduating this year. I believe the Board of Examiners can rearrange my courses to make an exception for this as I have enough credits at the same level as the courses I missed.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I did not partake in much of the activities as I arrived late. However, the university did make

administrative matters extremely easy, such as the making of a student ID and library matters.

Accommodation:

I stayed in Fenner Hall, which was about a 10-minute bike ride from campus. It was not cheap, but it was convenient as maintenance and frequent cleaning of the shared spaces was well taken care of. The accommodation was a little bit old but it had everything you required, from a music room to a computer lab with printers. Fenner Hall was also very near the only café enclave in Canberra, Lonsdale street and I enjoy working at cafes, so this was nice. Unfortunately, staying in hall means that the contract is fixed so you would have to pay even if you leave after your examinations.

Leisure/culture:

The international students and Australian students did not really mix at Fenner Hall. We had weekly tea sessions as a floor for pastoral care and some seniors told their juniors not to make exchange friends because they will leave. However, this does not mean that exchange students were not welcomed even though it meant that we were unlikely to become extremely close to our Australian peers. There were lots of activities that we could still join, ranging from exercise boot camps to Game of Thrones viewing parties.

Suggestions/tips:

Canberra is very sparse and there is not much you can do without a car, so make lots of friends and enjoy on-campus life. Check your prerequisites. Get a monthly phone plan that you can end whenever you leave.

Conclusions

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

Overall, I did not enjoy this destination as I felt rather confined in my college due to the poor public transportation system and sheer size. Flights out from Canberra to other parts of Australia was also more expensive due to the small population size and the demographic of people living there. The working adults tended to be government or university workers. As for the university, it was a very good university with high academic standards and facilities, and perhaps, I was just unlucky, but I did find it to be extremely challenging to study there. Even though I am a full-time student and my main focus should be on academia, I was hoping to have more time to explore Australia and its culture, but I found myself studying more than I did in Utrecht.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Pick up Australian slang!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	BA Liberal Arts and Sciences

Destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Australian National University (ANU)
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)	05/07/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/12/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

After the orientation sessions of both my faculty and the international office, I decided rather quickly where I wanted to go and what my second choice would be. My first choice was Toronto, Canada and my second ANU, Australia. I was hugely disappointed when I didn't get into U of T, but in the end I would have never want to have missed my amazing experience in Australia. I don't think it really matters where you go, an exchange is an unforgettable experience either way.

Counselling/support at home university:

The information on how to apply at UU and how to apply at the host uni is all very straightforward and it's very well explained on the website. If you have any other questions, the international office is always very helpful, check your region coordinator.

Academic preparation:

I did not really prepare anything academic, because I did not know what I could prepare. I wanted to buy my studybooks in advance, but I'm glad I didn't do that in the end. You can get good deals in the University bookshop itself and you do not always use the books that are ascribed in the course description (these can be rather old).

Language preparation:

I did not need to do an IELTS or TOEFL test, because I let a few of my professors sign a Certificate of English Language Proficiency document. This document was sent to me with the application documents by the Global Programs Office of the ANU.

Finances:

I was not eligible for most of the grants, and I honestly also didn't look much further. I received studiefinanciering and OV-vergoeding of the Dutch government, and put in a lot of savings. My parents also contributed to my stay in Australia. (Tip: look at Marco Polo grants, I heard quite some



exchanges talk about it during my stay). My total expenses for 5,5 months were close to 10.000€ This includes everything, also about 1,5 months of travelling around the east coast of Australia.

Study/placement abroad period

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

The orientation week at ANU was very helpful to get around the campus. The residence I was in (Burton & Garran Hall) also helped me with small things, like getting my timetable. It's all not a very big deal and you'll get around campus very easily (download the app Lost on Campus, always useful). I had to change one of my courses, because one got cancelled last minute, but this was also very easy to do (just go to the student service of the faculty and they will give you a permission code so you can enrol in another course)

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I had to get used to having four courses at the same time (in Utrecht I normally have 2 or 3) and the workload is higher than UU. The assignments and exams are pretty similar to UU levels. I liked it that all my classmates were very motivated and everyone engaged in discussions. I chose very interesting courses, which didn't make it hard to focus on. Do the same and also don't forget to have fun next to studying.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I thought all my professors were very professional, but also very friendly and helpful. They all have consultation hours where you can go to when you need any help. Student services are also well arranged.

Transfer of credits:

I'm currently doing this, so I'm not quite sure about this yet. ANU sends your official transcript to the International Office by mail. To be sure that someone would get my credits I had let an extra copy send to myself by mail and I downloaded an electronic version (although this costs money), just to be sure. It's your own responsibility if the transcript gets lost. On the website of UU it's very well explained what to do after you come back, to transfer your credits and grades.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I came in the second semester, so there was a smaller Orientation week than usual. Orientation week was useful, although it was very informative. You get to know everything about the library, referencing, writing essays and campus etc. so very practical stuff. The week after O'week it was Bush week, which was the more social/party orientation week.

Accommodation:

I stayed on campus in the Burton & Garran Hall (best hall!). This is one of the cheaper on-campus livings and is non-catered. I can definitely recommend living on campus, because the Halls organize a lot of fun events where you get to know a lot of people very quickly. You also live right next to the university campus, so lectures and workshops are a 10 minute walk max.

Leisure/culture:

Canberra is the capital of Australia, so you'll see a lot of businessmen and politicians. It's a smaller city, but the area is beautiful and perfect for nice hikes. There are lots of museums, nice bars (go to Mooseheads and Treehouse), a big mall, enough stores, cinemas, theaters etc. Only thing I didn't



like is that there was no supermarket close to the residences (30min walk). You can easily get around by bike though, make sure you get one!

Suggestions/tips:

Canberra is not far from some awesome highlights of Australia. I went to Sydney and the Blue Mountains and to Melbourne and the Great Ocean Road for a weekend! Also check out Jervis Bay, beautiful beach. Explore the region!

Conclusions

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

Yes, I learned a lot of staying overseas in general, so I'd recommend an exchange in general to everyone. ANU is an amazing university, one of the best in the world, and it has been great to be part of that. Canberra might sound a bit boring beforehand, but I had the best time and I'm really glad that I got to know the region.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

No.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Geesteswetenschappen
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Liberal Arts & Sciences

Destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Australian National 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)	04/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	22/06/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

As I went away in the second half of our academic year, I had to do my application a year in advance. I did not struggle with this and got placed at my first choice. Some things take some time, but it was less of a hassle than I expected.

Counselling/support at home university:

I felt very well supported at UU. I got fast responses to all my questions and do not feel like I could have been prepared better. You have to keep in mind that a lot of things are just easier to arrange once on location.

Academic preparation:

I did not do any academic preparation. I had completed 150 ECTS before going.

Language preparation:

In Utrecht, most of my courses were already in English so I was not too worried about this. In addition, I had done Cambridge Certificate courses in high school as a proof of language skills.

Finances:

I had been saving money for over a year prior to departure and had about 5000. Australia is very expensive and I recommend this very much, as I did not need to work in Canberra and had more time for fun. I was genuinely shocked the first time I was doing groceries and had to deviate from what I normally buy at Albert Heijn to keep it affordable. I also had the misfortune to be placed in a very expensive accommodation by the University, the possibility of this happening is certainly something to take into consideration. I ended up spending more money than I expected upfront, so I would say better safe than sorry when it comes to saving! However, from what I heard it is not that hard to find a casual job around Canberra and some exchange students were working. With your visa, there is a maximum of hours you can work a week and you get paid a lot compared to



the Netherlands. In the welcome talk by ANU they urge you to leave enough time to study and sometimes even discourage you to find a job, but I found that I had a lot of free time. I ended up having enough money to travel during the semester, but not afterwards.

Study/placement abroad period

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

As I'm studying Liberal Arts, I had a lot of freedom regarding my study programme. At ANU, you have a lot less problems with timeslots since the lectures are recorded and you can pick your own tutorials, which gives more freedom to pick whatever you want.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I found that the quality of education is very high at ANU. They expect a lot from you, but are more than willing to help you with it. Lectures are all recorded and the level in tutorials is quite high. You receive a grade for tutorial participation, which mostly results in prepared students and lively class discussions. Something I had to get used to was the fact that not everything discussed in the tutorial is actually relevant for your exams or assignments: sometimes the aim of the teacher is just to let you think about the content of the course. At ANU there are more assignments and less exams than at UU, with every assignment usually weighing less.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

All my lecturers and tutors were very helpful. As a student at the UU, I was not used to asking help at all when it comes to assignments. Here, this is very normal and sometimes even expected from you. Tutors have a lot of counselling hours to help you and will, if you ask in time, read drafts and essay plans to comment. For me, this sometimes felt like cheating in the beginning, but then I realised that the fact that you can ask for help is also taken into account with grading. Tutors expect you to use all the tools you have to be in the right direction when it comes to essays and other assignments. In addition to this there is the Academic Skills and Learning Centre, which helped me a lot with basic structures of essays.

Transfer of credits:

I have not gone through this process yet as I haven't received all my grades yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

In semester 1, there is O-week and in semester 2, there is Bush week. O-week consists of both university-wide activities and accommodation-specific activities. The O-week activities of UniLodge, where I lived, were not that exciting but the university-wide things definitely were. I also heard from friends that other halls had better welcome programmes. I made a lot of friendships during O-week that lasted the whole semester.

Accommodation:

I applied for Burton and Garran Hall but got placed in a 5-share apartment in Kinloch Lodge, part of UniLodge. I would not recommend this accommodation for exchange students. I got lucky with 4 nice Australian girls as roommates, but UniLodge is mostly a place where older students go after they've been in a hall or college or more serious students go to. This makes it a more quiet place than other halls that is not very involved in social things. My roommates were all older and seriously working towards their graduation, while I had a lot of free time and wanted to do fun



things. In O-week, I made friends staying at B&G and I really wished I had lived there. There are a lot more social activities and parties for exchange and normal students there, but it depends on what you're in for. Also, Kinloch was quite expensive but on the other hand I did get a nice apartment for this money with a balcony. There are some other places more social too, like Fenner Hall, John's College, Bruce Hall and Ursula Hall. ANU student life is definitely centered around the colleges which is why I would not recommend living off campus.

Leisure/culture:

Canberra is not that big so you have to look a bit harder for fun things to do. As it got colder, this became a kind of sport for me and my friends. We discovered a lot of nice places to eat in the suburbs and went into the nature around Canberra. However, it is definitely not a big city like Sydney or Melbourne, but then again Sydney is not that far away.

Suggestions/tips:

Bring warm clothes! Canberra gets really cold in winter. And also, don't hesitate to ask for help in Australia, Australians are very helpful and kind in general.

Conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend ANU because of its high academic quality and fun social life.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	BA Linguistics and phonetics

Destination city & country	Canberra, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Australian National 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)	01/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/08/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I attended the presentations about going on exchange and went to the region meetings of Australia and New Zealand. I chose for Canberra mainly because of the good reputation of the ANU and I also wanted to experience the campus life. The experiences of previous Utrecht students that went to the ANU were very positive so that convinced me I made the right choice. The application was not difficult. I sent in my resume, financial plan, and a motivation letter. Choosing courses was a bit more challenging. The course website of the ANU is very clear but there is a lot of choice which makes it hard. Make sure you look at the correct semester, their first semester is our second and vice versa. When I heard I was accepted and got my confirmation of enrolment, I applied for housing. The housing website is very clear and no problems appeared for me. When the website asks you for a short introduction of yourself, make sure to fill that in. In my year, my hall got more requests than they had rooms, so they partly selected based on that information. The visa application was done online and I got it within a couple of hours.

Counselling/support at home university:

The international office always helped me out when I had questions. I contacted one of the girls that went to the ANU a couple of years ago and she gave me a lot of helpful tips.

Academic preparation:

It took me a while to decide on which courses I wanted to take. I read all the course descriptions and chose four. Three outside my degree, in psychology and sociology, and one linguistic course.

Language preparation:

I did not have to do the TOEFL test. One of my professors filled in my proof of English proficiency form which was sufficient.

Finances:



I saved up money before departure. Besides that, my parents helped me pay for my flights and accommodation. Be prepared, Australia is a lot more expensive than the Netherlands. Things like groceries, travelling and going out cost you much more money than you expect. I opened a commonwealth bank account online before leaving. There is an office of this bank on campus where you can active your account and they will send your card within a couple of days. I transferred big amounts of money from my Dutch account to my Australian account and used my commonwealth card for everything.

Study/placement abroad period

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

I took four courses: introduction to psychology, self and society, developmental psychology and conversational analysis. The workload is about the same compared to my Utrecht courses. I did not work beside studying because I saved up enough money and wanted to do a lot of travelling. Some of my friends had jobs at stores and coffee places, which they enjoyed. Getting a job is quite easy and makes a good amount of money.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I took two first year and two second year courses. The first year courses were easier than my courses in Utrecht but the second year courses were comparable. I found the quality of the lectures very high. All my lecturers and tutors were very committed and interesting people. I really enjoyed my courses. All lectures at the ANU are recorded and can be watched online. Be prepared to write a lot more than you're used to, all my courses had at least two big writing assignments. I really improved my English writing skills by all the essays and research reports I wrote.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Before departure, whenever I had problems or questions I emailed the exchange office. They were very helpful and always helped me solve my problems. On the ANU itself there are many offices, teams and people that can help you with everything. For example there is an academic support office where you can schedule an appointment to get help with writing your essay or making a presentation. They also do workshops during the whole semester. In my hall there was an academic team that could proofread your essays and answer questions about timetabling and course materials. Basically every Australian person is willing to help you out when you have problems.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

There are three different orientation programs during orientation week. The general ANU program contains workshops, campus tours and library tours. Then there is ANUSA, the undergraduate student association, they organise good parties at night and have activities and free food during the day. And thirdly there is your hall orientation program, which mainly include a lot of activities to meet new people. Orientation week can be a little bit overwhelming because of the large amount of activities, new people and all the information, but it is surely one of the best weeks of the semester. It's the week where I met all my friends I spent the rest of my semester with.

Accommodation:

I stayed at Burton and Garran hall which I can definitely recommend. This hall has 500 residents of



which 250 are international students. Everyone has their own room in one of the four blocks. Then there is central block which consists of an enormous kitchen, a lounge room with pool tables, a big function room, a library, study rooms, music rooms and the central office. In the kitchen you get assigned a cupboard and a fridge basket. It is very big and there is always someone around to eat with. Because of the international character of this hall, I made friends from all over the world. Every floor has a senior resident where we drank tea and ate timtams every week. Many activities are organised during the year like interhall sport competitions, parties, live music nights and so on. The hall is on campus which means it is on walking distance to lecture halls and the library. I loved staying in B&G, they really make sure you feel at home from the second you arrive. Some of my friends stayed in Fenner hall which is off-campus, but also very good.

Leisure/culture:

Me and my friends travelled a lot. We made weekend trips to the coast and cities. In the mid-semester break we went to Melbourne, we did a surfcamp and also hired a minivan to drive the great ocean road. After the semester I went to Adelaide, the east coast and Cairns. I can definitely recommend travelling, Australia is a beautiful country. Canberra itself is not a very eventful city but I loved staying there. It is small, organised and is located right in the middle between Sydney and Melbourne, which makes weekend trips easier. In Canberra, we went out on Tuesday nights to Transit and Thursday nights to Treehouse. There is always someone in B&G to hang out with or do something in the city.

Suggestions/tips:

I bought a cheap second-hand bike at the Canberra environment centre which made doing groceries a lot easier. Me and my friends would ride our bikes to the lake or city centre to hang out or have dinner.

Conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend the ANU for your exchange. I personally had the time of my life there. Australia has a very open and warm culture which made me feel at home right away. Everyone is always willing to help you and making friends is very easy. The campus life is amazing, everywhere you want to go is very close, there are good parties, a lot of activities and nice places to hang out with your friends. I've met so many people from all around the world which really broadened my vision and made me want to travel even more.