



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Beta science
Level:	bachelor
Name degree programme:	Biology

Destination city & country	Hobart, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Tasmania (UTAS)
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	07/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	08/08/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It takes some time before you get confirmations of your enrolment. If you are not placed for a course you would like to do, talk to the professor. They can often help you out. You have two weeks to changes courses so no worries if things don't seem to work out at first.

Counselling/support at home university:

I didn't need it.

Academic preparation:

Some courses were a bit hard to follow at first, which is logical since the complementary courses you already followed back home are a bit different and some English words may be new to you. The teachers however are always easy to talk to if you have troubles.

Language preparation:

I didn't had to do any language tests.

Finances:

Australia is more expensive than the Netherlands so be prepared!! Off campus accommodation can save a lot of money. Alcohol and cigarettes are very expensive.

Study/placement abroad period

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

One semester studying abroad is easy to fit in you bachelor degree.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The education is about the same quality as in the Netherlands, however there are a lot more bigger assignments!

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Not used

Transfer of credits:



The courses I followed were all 12.5 points just like back home so I expect the credit transfer to be without problems

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was more focussed on the first year students. UniFriends however organised two get-to-know tours which were lots of fun!

Accommodation:

I stayed in the university apartments, they were good but also expensive. Apply in time!

Leisure/culture:

The culture is modern and western. It is not that different from back home.

Suggestions/tips:

Search for accommodation yourself when you arrived in Hobart. And only buy your study books if you really need them.

Conclusions

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

Yes, the quality was good. The city is also very nice, not too big and safe. And Tasmania itself is a super awesome place to discover in your spare time.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:


UU Report form ~ TRAJECTUM 2009/2010

faculty/college	Faculty of Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	Physics and Astronomy
destination city & country	Hobart, Australia
name host institution and/or company/organization	University of Tasmania
purpose Trajectum grant	<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 / 07 / 2009
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	22 / 12 / 2009

preparation
exchange/placement application process

I didn't have a lot of problems with the application process, but it did take a lot of time. Firstly the AEN network had to accept me, which took between one and two months. After that, the University of Tasmania had to accept me too, which was merely a formality, but still took about a month. If it takes longer than expected, don't hesitate to e-mail people for an update. Because after waiting for a long time to hear from the AEN and sending them an e-mail, I got a response within two days that I got accepted.

counselling/support at home university

It was useful to look around on the university website www.uu.nl/buitenland because there are a lot of things to arrange, from a room abroad to your visa. There are some good checklists online to see what you need to do. Furthermore there was a meeting with every student going to Australia where we got some extra information, mainly on visa procedures and health insurance, which was very useful.

academic preparation

The year before I left to Australia, I followed several extra courses. It wasn't necessary, but if you have the time, I can recommend it! This way, without having a delay for my Bachelor's programme, I only needed to take three courses abroad. Or you could take four and fail one so you don't have all the pressure around your exams as you have at home. Cause although you go there to study, you want free time to explore the country too. So if you get the chance, study a little more at home before you leave!

language preparation

For most Dutch students, English will not be a big problem. This was one of the reasons I decided to go to Australia. Maybe the biggest problem is confidence. Everyone understands English, but are unconfident speaking it, so give it a try before you leave. Go to an international bar and speak to some international students. Listening to English lectures was exhausting in the first few weeks, but you get used to it real soon.

finances

At first, studying abroad doesn't seem too expensive. Except for the plane ticket, you pay for housing, insurance, the same college fees, you even get 80 bucks a month from your OV-card (arrange this in time!). Yet there are a lot of extra expenses. A student visa is expensive, you can't bring all your stuff from home so in the first month you have to buy a lot of stuff for the house which you didn't expect. During the weekends you will want to explore and maybe travel afterwards. All in all, there are a lot of extra expenses and I would certainly make a list of as many



expenses as you can think of and add another 1000 or 1500 euro's, just in case!
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I studied one Physics class and two Mathematics courses. Because these were third-year courses, I was expected to have followed certain second-year courses, which of course I hadn't. But mostly in Science subjects, the same information is thought in other courses back home, so you will be able to take the courses abroad. I decided to make sure I could and e-mail the professors of the courses I wanted to take. They were very helpful and I didn't encounter any problems.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality of education seemed lower than at home at first. The biggest difference was that the emphasis of the courses was on lectures and not exercises. At home, an average Physics course has two hours of lectures and four hours of exercises per week, in Tasmania, there were three hours of lectures and sometimes one hour of exercises. This seemed easy at first, just lie back and soak up the lectures, but getting close to the exams I did notice I missed the practice with the problems. So don't underestimate the quality, based on first impressions!
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Personally I did not need much support, but the teachers and staff were very interested in my progress. It was an eye-opener that people were so informal and sincere, so I'm sure if I had any trouble, they would have been glad to help me out. Don't hesitate on asking people, because it can be a difficult time abroad.
transfer of credits
I had some problems with getting my credits transferred, the University of Tasmania sent me the transcript, but getting them transferred in Utrecht took a long time. Make sure you have a letter of the Board of Examinations from your Department which states clearly what subjects you will take, on what level they are and if they are Major/Minor subjects. Also they don't use ECTS, so let them confirm that a full subject is 7.5 ECTS and get an official letter of this before you leave. This makes up for a lot of trouble afterwards!
student life
welcome/orientation programme
The orientation programme was extremely boring. A full week of sitting in a big hall listening to a lot of different people welcoming you to their country, but this is the time when you make friends. Remember that no-one out there knows anyone yet, so speak to people, throw a party (or a few ;-)) in the first week to get a good crowd around you. Of course there are other ways to meet people, like going to sports activities and university parties.
accommodation
You have two choices: an easy one, which is arranging a room and signing the contract before you leave. The other one is stay in a hostel at first and find a room from there. I would recommend the first one! I lost my luggage on the way there and at least you have a house and housemates. Also there was no bed there when I arrived (and that sucks after a travel of 48 hours), so it doesn't mean everything is ready when you set foot out of the plane, but at least you have some certainty of a house and some first friends.
leisure/culture
The country was just amazing. People are incredibly nice and laid back compared to Dutch people. And you'll be surprised the first time someone greets you with "How are you going?". You probably don't know how to respond to that until you've been there for a month, but that's just great! Also you seem to have much more free time. No family around you, no job. When it's night/weekend, you're free. And you might even have one or two days off during the week. If you do, get out! Rent a car, explore. If you decide to go to Tasmania, get a backpack on your back, stick up a thumb and see where you end up. You're only there for a short while, so enjoy!
suggestions/tips



If you have free time afterwards (and some money left), go travel. During your semester you might have had a long weekend, maybe even a free week to travel, but afterwards you might have one or two months off for summer holiday. Pick a nice-looking country in the area (I would definitely recommend New-Zealand) and book a flight. It's a unique opportunity, you can even decide to travel with some friends you've made during your stay. And well, you won't be too eager to go home anyways. Have a blast before you do!

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

My stay in Tasmania was an incredible experience, the island was amazing, the people were great. It's a place people from all over the world come to: from Europe and the States, but also many Asians, Middle-Eastern people, just from everywhere which is very interesting.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

A final note on the education: you might forget about it while you're there and I wouldn't blame you, but for me it ended up being useful too, because doing my research back home afterwards, I noticed I took some classes abroad which I couldn't have done in Utrecht. This has given me a great advantage, so don't spend all your time outside the classroom!