



2018-2019

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> majo_001@live.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	La Trobe
start date	18/07/2018    (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22/11/2018    (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
This process was stressful to me, even though I had great support from La Trobe and Utrecht University. there were strict deadlines and with the time zone difference it was confusing at first. There was a lot of paperwork to fill out.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
International Office and teachers at the UU were very helpful. Multiple times I asked for advice and I always received answers quickly.
academic preparation
I had to have a teacher sign a few documents and write a recommendation for me to be accepted into La Trobe They had trust in my academic capabilities which helped. I didn't have to send in any previous work.
language preparation
My VWO degree was enough for the language requirements.
finances

An Erasmus scholarship was not possible for Australia so I didn't have that. I did however have my student loan, and I worked a lot before I left. My parents sponsored me as well. Looking back at the whole experience, I am happy that I had saved up so much money because it was a rather expensive trip.



<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took four courses from humanities; sociology, english, media and a course about Australia's culture and history. I had to choose them when I was still in the Netherlands, it was one of the things that I had to tell La Trobe when applying, but I enrolled officially on the first day in Australia. This process was quick and easy.
academic quality of education activities	La Trobe has fine professors who are willing to help you at all times. I'd say that academic quality is the same as in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	La Trobe's help desk helped me a lot, I had some struggles on my first few days but they helped me figure everything out. There are always people ready to help you, even in the middle of the night. The university made sure that there was a mental health coach for national and international students, and there were coordinators for international students who took their time to get to know everyone.
transfer of credits	International office took care of this for me, I only had to send my course descriptions to the examination committee.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	The first week was the week that everyone arrived and moved into their rooms on campus, you had to enroll in your courses and you could get to know the university grounds, the campus, and the students. La Trobe organised university tours, get together with other international students and tours around Melbourne. I thought this was a great way to meet new people.
accommodation	I chose to stay on campus, there were three campuses to choose from. I chose the cheapest one where I had my own room, and had to share two bathrooms and a kitchen with 12 people on my floor. Most western international students were on this campus, and there were also a fair few Aussies. I'd definitely recommend staying on campus as I made so many close friends through living there, and it's 5 minutes away from the uni buildings.
leisure & culture	Melbourne is a beautiful city with lots to do and see. There are a ton of good restaurants, cafes, parks, museums, music places etc. I also went travelling on the weekends and holidays to different parts of Australia and New Zealand, these were great trips!
suggestions/tips	Choose to live on campus and participate in all their events, there's sports, food, movies, city events etc. Which is a perfect way to meet new people and bond over things. And definitely travel around a bit!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	

I would certainly recommend La Trobe University in Melbourne! I had the best time there and now I have so many friends from different parts of the world to travel to!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Take enough warm jumpers for winter, because it can get pretty cold in Melbourne. If you want more information I'm happy to help, just email me!

**2017-2018**

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faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Exchange
destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	La Trobe University
start date	7 / 7 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	7 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	It was a lot of work, especially the application at La Trobe University. This was hard because things are called different there than it is here and I was often confused about what to fill in. Eventually everything turned out fine though.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I felt like the staff at international office was really helpful to me. The only advice I want to give is that they should pay more attention to the students that go to the Southern hemisphere. They start a lot sooner than other students and because of that I had to ask a lot more questions. The pre-departure meeting also only gave me information I already knew because I already did the things they were explaining, like the application at the host university.
academic preparation	None
language preparation	None
finances	Just savings and my parents

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I was quite happy with their organisation. The subjects were quite good as well, a little bit more practical than in Utrecht. I did have the feeling that the teachers were sometimes a little bit less knowledgeable than in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	Some of the subjects I followed were more practical than what they teach in Utrecht so it is hard to compare. The level in the more theoretical subjects is a little bit lower I feel like.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I didn't contact them a lot, but I feel like they were helpful when I did need them
transfer of credits	That has not happened yet, I did see that the level of the subjects was taken down 1 grade when it got transferred to Utrecht.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	It was ok, could have been better. It was mostly just information, not a lot of fun activities.
accommodation	I lived at Chisholm College on the campus. It was not super luxurious but it was fine. It had loads of fun activities and I met great people. Laundry was also free and the common room had a tv room, a cinema room and other fun things. I had a great time.
leisure & culture	The campus was around 45 minutes away from Melbourne so it took a while to get to the city but the city had a lot to offer. The students at the campus were also really welcoming to internationals and tried to show you all the typical Aussie stuff: trying vegemite, going to an AFL game, drink Goon and so on.
suggestions/tips	Go live on campus, it is a little bit more expensive but it is worth it.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes I would. It gives you the opportunity to follow more practical subjects, it lets you experience the more university lifestyle what you see in movies, the university is big but also cosy and the people are friendly and helpful.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

**2016-2017**

Level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
The exchange preparation was quite long but overall quite manageable. The main issue for me is that the system they have in place to look for the classes you would want to follow is hard to figure out. Especially when you have had no previous experience with it. Other than that the steps you have to go through seem logical and necessary.
counselling/support at home university
The information process here is streamlined and very helpful. The meetings they held and emails they sent out were definitely needed in preparation.
academic preparation
As far as academic preparation went, which wasn't really necessary in my case, I think it went fine.
language preparation
As I am fluent in English and I went to a native English speaking country this also was not necessary.
finances
The finances proved to be no issue for me but that was mostly as I have had a financial support in place that could provide everything. It is however a very costly experience and I could see how other students could find it hard to find substantial funds to study abroad in Australia
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
If you attended the orientation week it was all quite straightforward. There were a lot of volunteers to help you out there and you were guided through the process well.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality of the education there does seem to be on a lower level than here at the UU. It could be the particular classes that I followed but in general the classes seemed easier and less work than back home.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
There was not a very big window for personal consulting but they did respond fairly quickly on emails.
transfer of credits
I am currently still in the process of transferring credits.

student life
welcome/orientation programme
This was put together nicely although as someone who chose not to live on campus it did prove more difficult to meet fellow students, international or domestic, so I would suggest maybe catering to those international students some more. It was already hard connecting with students and university life and a little push on their programme could've helped.
accommodation
Did not stay in their accommodation.
leisure/culture
As said, hard to connect with students culture/leisure activities as someone who did not live on uni grounds.
suggestions/tips
See above ^.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would greatly recommend Melbourne, it is a great city to be spending your time abroad and compared to all the other cities I've been to in Australia (which are quite a lot) it is by far the most amazing city to be living in. As far as LaTrobe goes there is nothing wrong with this university, yet because of my own personal lack of bonding with both other students and university life there I am not sure if I would actively recommend it. But this is very much due to my own personal experience there.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I would recommend to keep stressing the financial and organisational side there is to studying abroad. It involves a lot of time and effort, mainly in the preparation and arrival stages.