



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Faculty of Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Social Geography and Urban Planning

destination city & country	Wollongong, Australia
name university abroad	University of Wollongong
start date	29 / 07 / 2019
end date	31 / 12 / 2019

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	This university falls under the AEN, so applying was a little confusing at first. I had to create a list of my top 3 AEN uni choices, and listed these on my motivation letter, and then applied to another second and third uni choice outside of the AEN on my Osiris application. I put UOW as my first choice in Osiris. To go on exchange you have to prepare a lot of steps, the UU website is pretty clear about what to do. Applying therefore took a while, but is doable.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Whenever I didn't understand what to do I just emailed (or sometimes called) my faculty's student services, and they were always able to explain it to me.
academic preparation	I wanted to go on exchange but also do my bachelor in 3 years, so I planned out my subjects accordingly. I made sure to do all my mandatory subjects in my first and second year so that I could do any subjects I wanted during my exchange. I still ended up taking geography subjects, but that it because I wanted to, not because I had to. The academic level of UOW is about the same as UU, and because I had already done two years of UU, UOW was not a problem for me. To go on exchange you also need to hand in a study plan, this helped me organise my thoughts on what I wanted to study while away.
language preparation	I have done some English subjects during my bachelor. Spending a semester at UOW, where everything was in English, was therefore not a problem. To prove my language proficiency I uploaded my IB diploma during the application, but I think Dutch students can either show their grade for high school English, or do a language test.
finances	I saved up and worked before going on exchange. My parents also chose to support me while I was away. This helped me pay for the accommodation and general life expenses. I wanted to get a job for the entire duration that I was there, but this proved too much with studies and the travel I did during the semester. Since I stayed till the beginning of January, but the final exams were in November, I spent the last two months working at a store on a Christmas Casual contract. It was the perfect duration because they needed extra employees over the Christmas time. The wages I earned here basically cover all the trips I made and gave me some 'fun money' to spend on friends or just take back with me.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
I did four subjects, which add up to 30 credits at UU. I found all of my subjects very interesting, and some of them I would not have been able to do at UU. The subjects I did were: INDS130 (S219) Indigenous Knowledge in Global Contexts, GEOG123 (S219) Indigenous Geographies: Questioning Country, GEOG222 (S219) Society and Environment: Resources, Challenges, Futures, and GEOG224 (S219) The Future of Food: Resilience, Communities and Policy. These subjects had a combination of lectures, tutorials, essays, presentations, quizzes and exams. There was a lot to do, but it also helped me stay on top of the material so I was not worried by the time the finals came around. Some subjects didn't even have a final exam, so that was nice. Your final grade ends up being a combination of the different parts, so it's okay if you were not good at all the aspects of the course. You do need to sign up for your own tutorial times in the first week, so keep track of this to get the times you want.
academic quality of education activities
The quality at UOW was similar to UU, the teachers and tutors were very helpful. The UOW library was a great place to study, and there are a lot of people there who are willing to help you too. All lectures were recorded, so you could watch them back if you missed a class, or if you wanted to prepare/reference a paper.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I was able to go to the student help desk with any issues I had, there is one for the entire uni, so it's pretty clear where to go. The correspondence with the student help desk before arriving was also clear and helpful. The uni, and Australia in general, also pay a lot of attention to the mental and student health, so there were always people to talk to if you needed it. I personally didn't, but it was comforting to know.
transfer of credits
I believe that UOW has sent my credits to the Student Services, but I still need to get them transferred to my faculty.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome was warm, but only consisted of a morning orientation with some presentations and a clubs open day after that where you could see all the clubs at uni. Orientation was on a Monday, and there was nothing else planned for that week, so you basically had another free week as classes started the Monday after that.
accommodation
I chose to find private accommodation because it was cheaper. I found rooms through flatmates.com, spent the first week in an Airbnb and then visited the rooms from there so I could see them in person before signing a lease. I ended up getting a room right on Crown Street (the main street) very close to the beach (5 minute walk). This was great, especially because I stayed till January and the uni accommodation leases all ended at the beginning of December. If you choose to do uni accommodation (which is very fun and you do meet a lot more people, very much the vibe of a giant student house), Marketview followed by Campus East have the best locations in the city. International house is also nice, although the rooms were small. The other accommodations were next to the uni, but you were therefore reliant on the free bus (which stopped at 6pm on the weekends!) or you just had to walk for over half an hour to get to the city, or pay for uber each time. Marketview is right next to Crown Street and so the best location, and the nicest rooms as far as I saw them.
leisure & culture
I spent my free time traveling, making day/weekend trips to things like surf camp, the Blue Mountains, Sydney, and Uluru in the outback. I spent my mid-semester break on a trip from Brisbane to Cairns to see all the sights there and do adventurous things. The vibe in Wollongong was very relaxed, people were friendly, and there are a lot of public barbeques by the beach or in the park where you can just hang out and cook with some friends.



suggestions/tips

The free bus is great. There is an app called UOW shuttle that lets you see the lines and times, also in the weekends, so that is great to get a sense of where in the city you will be living. I opened an Australian bank account there, but you can actually already open one before you arrive, so you would just need to pick it up. That is an easier application and quicker. I got an Australian phone number through Optus prepaid while there, this was the best deal at the time. Wollongong has an Aldi's, which is way cheaper than Coles, and even has some Dutch foods sometimes 😊 Buy and Opal card to use public transport.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this uni and destination. The city is small enough to feel like you know where you are, and makes it easy to travel around. The free bus was especially useful, but the other public transport (bus and train) is not expensive either. It is way cheaper than Sydney to live here, and the free bus makes it even better. You can take a train ride to Sydney for a very small price so you can visit there whenever you like, but I liked living in this more relaxed city. The beaches (north and south) were great and close to most places. I liked that I lived close enough that I could just walk, or take the bus, to the beach and then hang out there or jog.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I recommend joining some sort of club or group to meet people and do things. Most Australian students left class right after it was done so I didn't meet a lot of people that way. I ended up joining Kierraville International Church, which was close to uni, and made a lot of friends there. We had dinner together every Friday and often did stuff on the weekends, as well as the church service on Sunday. Those people really became my family, so just try to find those kinds of people for yourself while you are there. It could also be through a sports team or the roommates you have, but having a group of people makes this experience a lot more fun!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	geosciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's
name study programme	Global Sustainability science

destination city & country	Wollongong, Australia
name university abroad	University of Wollongong
start date	22 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 11 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>Through the site of Utrecht University the application process is elaborately discussed. There are various partner universities which allows you to have several options during the process. I also attended lectures and open days where you could ask question about the application or studying abroad itself. I highly suggest going to these days because it gives you the opportunity to gain information! Always be in time for the required documents because some documents may delay in the process which gives you stress on the due date. My students advisor, international office and friends who were doing the application as well helped me a lot during the process. You can always email the university with questions and my friends had to hand in the same documents so we decided to help each other with getting the right documents. There is a check list on the website of UU with all the required documents, so make sure to follow these guide lines!</p> <p>At UOW the people of the international office helped me also through their application procedure (do not forget there is a time difference while e-mailing). Every university has their own process and you have to create several accounts and fill in different documents. This is also needed to get your VISA for example, so make sure to do this in time as well! It may seem hard at the start but once you start following the steps it is self-explanatory.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>During the application the international office helped me a lot! With questions regarding the university application in particular. Especially because UOW had a different type of application, you first have to be selected for the AEN program and once you are in the program you have to be selected for the university. This took a while before I was finally accepted by UOW which resulted in me going the office quite often to check whether there was an email. I was in close contact with the university and it was all sorted out at the end! In addition, when the bush fires were going on in Australia UU contacted me to see if I was doing okay, which made me realise they were aware of me being in Australia</p>
academic preparation	<p>I did not need academic preparation! Before coming to Australia you have to enrol yourself in classes on SOLS, but do not worry once you are following the classes you can still switch or withdraw. There are even enrolment Labs in the library which helps you to find classes and makes sure they do not overlap. In my case I had to follow at least 1 course of year 1,2 and 3 so that is what I did and did another first year course. When you are enrolling you have to check whether the course have requirements because some courses are follow-up courses which you cannot take.</p>
language preparation	



Since I am a student at Utrecht University I received a document which states that you are capable of speaking a sufficient level of English. So this resulted that I did not have to do a test. In addition, my bachelors is already in English as well so there was no problem regarding getting taught in English.

finances

Exchange is expensive! I spent a lot of money in Australia to finance my trips and daily life. I used DUO, my savings and received some money from my family. This resulted that my expenses were covered. You can also work (the wages are high) but do not forget that you will be there for only +/- 4 months so some of the employers wont hire you and you want to see the most of the country! In addition, do not forget to create an Australian bank account to sort out your finances. There is a high fee when using your debit card in Australia so make sure to do this as soon as possible.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I choose 4 random subjects while completing my exchange. The courses were in my field of study and interest, but I was not assigned by my faculty to complete certain courses. The university had special classes for tutoring which helped you to discuss certain questions and give you extra exercises. There were always people available on the office for walk-in hours if you had a question. UOW is a very international university, so they are almost always able to answer your questions. The professors are kind and your fellow students can help you as well, do not forget to enrol in the tutorial groups of your preference in time! When you don't do this your schedule may be very irregular.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is somehow similar to Utrecht university. There are lectures and tutorials which are fun to go to (if you want), however do not miss more than 2 tutorials otherwise you could get in trouble and won't be able to finish the course. The announcements are posted on SOLS or MOODLE so keep track of these platforms. Also, the courses you follow take all semester and you will have finals of the courses in the same 2 weeks at the end. This is different than Utrecht University plans their semester with 2 periods.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

UOW has several walk-in hours during the day to ask the questions you want to ask. In addition, there is email contact available as well. The teachers respond quickly regarding questions about their given course. Overall no problems experienced concerning unclear information.

transfer of credits

Once you receive the grades on UOW, and it is sufficient, you have to send the report to the international office in Utrecht so they can transfer the credits. While filling in the form you shortly describe the type of education, at UOW for me 6 credits there were 7,5 ECTS here. So 4 courses were sufficient to follow! Once it is arrived in Utrecht you pick it up at the office and give it to your faculty so they can transfer it to OSIRIS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

UOW tries to make you feel at home the first step you take in Australia! There is a taxi service which picks you up at Sydney airport and brings you to any location where you are going to stay. They mail you with activities for international students and set you up with a buddy in the buddy program. There is an orientation day including a market where they will give you your student card, insurance card and other important documents. They introduce you to typical aussie food, culture and animals during a lecture for every exchange student of that semester. This will give you the perfect opportunity to create new international friends! During the semester there are various opportunities for social events and close to the end there is an goodbye dinner for



exchange students where they give you a certificate and a group photo made on the first day of uni (orientation day). I highly recommend to go to surfcamp since a lot of students will do this as well and this is a perfect opportunity to learn how to surf, improve your surf or explore seven mile beach. They are in close contact to make sure you are having a great time.

accommodation

When I arrived in Wollongong I decided to look for a share house so I stayed the first days in a hostel. When reading the student experiences and having contact with people from Wollongong I decided that a share house is cheaper and could be fun as well. However, on the orientation day I made friends who were staying in Kooloobong village (which is on the main campus) and they persuaded me to move in there. I am glad I made that decision because it was the best decision from my exchange. KB (kooloobong village) are new flats for student housing and has a lot of facilities such as indoor/outdoor cinema, game room, basketball court, meditation room, music room and you could go on. The reception is open on weekdays and answer the question you have regarding housing. The price is quite high, especially compared to Utrecht, but I decided that a fun semester is worth more than living off campus. In KB there are a lot of internationals so my group of friends was highly diverse, which I really liked. There are several communal spaces where you are able to do homework or chill. KB also had several activities planned a week which you could join, I highly recommend to go to some with your friends. There is discount and some are even for free! Be aware that the Australian students living on campus are mostly first years since they decide to only live on campus in their first year. After that they will have friends to live with in a share house, so mostly first years are on campus(18-20 year old). On the other side, many internationals decide to move in campuses so this wont be a problem. There is also another campus where a lot of internationals decide to spend their days, namely campus east. This is a accommodation near the beach and next to innovation campus. Campus east is also a great campus, the only downside is that you have to catch the bus to go to the main campus. When I was in Wollongong there were 4 free bus routes which drove you all around the city, you never had to use your opal card. However, I heard some rumours they were going to change that so I am not sure what happened with the routes.

leisure & culture

The culture in Australia is very relaxed, it was awesome! There are heaps of activities to do in the area and it is close to Sydney in case you want to catch a plane. At KB you can sign in at a student car share which is located at the parking lot to drive to places with your friends, which makes you very transportable. When you decide to travel around the east coast make sure to stop at various places because every city has its own vibe. North beach is the place to be with good weather and to catch a wave. In spring break you have time to explore even more and I would definitely do a road trip and camp at random places, see the blue mountains, jervis bay, the farm, kangaroo valley, kiama blowhole, national park and I could go on!

suggestions/tips

Invest in the people you meet and try to go to as many places as possible! Time is your worst enemy and it is over before you know it.

I followed the course astronomy which is awesome due to the fact that Australia is on the southern atmosphere and you can see different stars. The course is very interactive, and it has a lot of fieldwork trips (highly enjoyable).

Follow a course on the history of Australia since the history is one of a kind.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university to others since it is a diverse university and city which allows you to create friends all over the world. Wollongong is not a massive city which gives you the feeling that you can



actually know the city within a couple of months. Especially compared with big cities such as Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. The free bus allows you to move around the city and uber is available as well if you do not want to walk. Nature is close, if you want to do a hike the mountain behind campus has a beautiful viewpoint (mt keira). The people are lovely, and every day is a new adventure, specifically since you are at the other side of the world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would suggest everyone to go on an exchange since it is a really good way to travel the world and actually live in another country for a semester. You will experience a different side of the country compared than just travelling it!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Libera Arts and Sciences

Destination city & country	Wollongong, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Wollongong
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	10-07-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	27-22-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

When you have decided that you want to go on exchange you can look at the website of Utrecht university to see which destinations you can go to. There are a lot of options so it will takes some time! Be aware that some options depend on what study you do so you cannot apply for all of them! Once you have picked your top three choices, you have to write a motivational letter explaining why you think those universities are best suiting for you. I actually had to pick 6 choices because a lot of universities in Australia are not directly in contact with Utrecht but work via an institution called AEN (Australia European Network). So if your first pick is an Australian university that is part of this network you have to pick three universities that are part of this network and explain why you would like to go there. This then counts as your first pick and you still need to come up with two more universities (In my case one in England and one in The United States). You have to send a motivational letter, resume and a list with your grades. My first choice of Australian universities was the University of Wollongong and I am so glad that I got accepted! This process took a while because you first need to be accepted by the AEN program to go there and then the University of Wollongong needs to accept you as well and this all works through the AEN program. Once you know which university you go will go to you have to start making plans on where to live and how to get there. You have to get a passport and apply for a visa. Application for a visa is actually really easy. You just have to go to the website of the Australian embassy and fill in personal details. Your visa



will be send to you online.

Counselling/support at home university:

The international office is really helpful in supporting and counselling you in the process. You can always email them or step by the office and they organize meetings in which you can meet other people who will go on exchange an people who have already been on exchange. I met three girls that had already been on exchange in Australia and two of them even stayed at the same university that I was going to! They know exactly what you have to do and what things not to forget. I also met a girl that was going to Wollongong as well and we ended up flying to Australia together!

Academic preparation:

I actually did not have to do a lot of academic preparation because the courses that I enrolled in did not require that much academic skills beforehand. You have to get enrolled into courses beforehand but you can still change them when you get there. It really depends on what courses you want to do while staying abroad and what knowledge they require you to already know.

Language preparation:

Because I was a student at Utrecht University I did not have to make any test to prove I was capable of studying in English. The university will provide a document for you which states that every student of Utrecht University is sufficient in speaking, writing and reading the English language.

Finances:

When you pick your three choices you also need to provide a financial plan. Going on Exchange is expensive! So make sure you know how you are going to pay for everything. I mostly used my savings account. Some people that I met actually applied for part-time jobs in Wollongong. You need an Australian bank account if you want to work but it is really easy to get one! Also remember that your visa prohibits you from working more than a certain amount of hours so keep that in mind!

Study/placement abroad period

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

I picked 4 courses but changed half of them while being in Wollongong, you will have time to do this, so don't worry if you don't get enrolled or you are not sure which course to take. Enrolment is really easy but If you have any trouble with it you can just contact the university and they will help you.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality of education was great. All the lectures are recorded, the lectures are professional but also really nice and helpful. You can always step by student services if you have any problems with enrolment or other things.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The University of Wollongong is really helpful and they want to make sure you have a good time. They have a special office for international students which you can contact. Also at the uni there is student services. If you have any problem you can always go there and they will help you! Even when you are homesick or not feeling well they will get you someone to talk to! UOW has lot of clubs you can get involved in like Sportclubs, religious clubs, international clubs, well-being clubs.



The well-being club organizes yoga morning or walks which are really nice!
Transfer of credits:
My grades still needs to be transferred so I actually don't know how that will work out.
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
If you live on campus you will have orientation week. This week is basically for everyone who lives there so you can get to know people from campus and explore the city. It is really fun and a good way to meet people.
Accommodation:
You can choose to find some place in Wollongong on your own or you can live on campus. I decided to apply for campus accommodation, which turned out really great. There are couple of campuses and I stayed at Campus East. It is the one closest to the beach (5 min walk) but the furthest from the Uni (10 minutes with the Free City Loop Bus). I feel like living on campus contributed to my amazing experience, but it is really expensive. Rent is pretty expensive in Australia and Wollongong, but living on campus is way more expensive than finding a place on your own. Most Australian only live on campus for their first year, to make friends and try to find their own place after the first year so most people will be around 18-20 years old.
Leisure/culture:
Personally I loved Wollongong as a city. It is not a really big city, but big enough to have nice clubs, beautiful beaches and a big mall. It is a 2 hour train ride away from Sydney (which is really close by if you are in Australia). Being that close to Sydney makes it easy to travel to other parts of Australia because of the airport.
Suggestions/tips:
If you have the chance I would recommend to follow a course on indigenous people. I found it really interesting and it gives you some insight in Australia's history.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Absolutely! I had the most amazing 5 months. The university is really pretty and professional and they take good care of their international students. Australia is a beautiful country with beautiful people and you will not regret going there!
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
Try to travel some more before or after your study period. Australia is so big and has so many beautiful places to see!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Utrecht University
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Biomedical Sciences

Destination city & country	Wollongong, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Wollongong (UOW)
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)	10/07/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	27/11/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

For the first application (deadline 1 Dec.) you need to write a Motivation letter, Financial plan, Resume and a Study Plan. Via my choices to study in Australia, I applied for the Australian-European Network (AEN) program. Once I was selected by the AEN program, I had to give my top three choices of Australian universities. My first choice was UOW, and that's also the one I got! Once you are selected by a university, you have to follow the application process of UOW.

Counselling/support at home university:

The people at International office were always very supportive and helpful. Sometimes it took a few days to respond; other days you get an answer straight away!

Academic preparation:

I prepared for my classes in Australia in a way that I made sure that I met the entry requirements for each. I made a study plan and got my academic transcript from Student Information Point (STIP) and got this approved by the exam committee of Utrecht University.

I bought the books I needed for my classes at the UniShop at the UOW campus and via de student's buy and sell Facebook page.

Language preparation:

There was not really a need to prepare myself for the English language; I just watched some Australian movies to prepare myself for the Australian accent.

You have to prove to UOW that you have a high level of English skills. Sending a letter from the international consultant in Utrecht to the University in Australia was enough to meet these requirements of UOW. The letter (Declaration English language proficiency UU) stated that I studied English to an advanced level in the highest level of secondary school, the pre-University VWO. I got this letter from the Internationalization consultant of Utrecht University.



Finances:

Australia is compared to the Netherlands an expensive country to live in. Things at the supermarket can be surprisingly two times as expensive. Rent for your accommodation is also much higher, with an average of 250\$ (+-€160) per week. When I knew I was going to Australia, I increased my student loans from DUO and used some savings. My parents also contributed some money to my trip. My estimation for 4.5 months study abroad was about €10.000.

Study/placement abroad period

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

At UOW there are two semesters each year, each semester you take subjects with a maximum amount of 24 credit points. For example 3 subjects of 8 credit points, or 4 subjects of 6 credit points. Compared to the Netherlands the first semester of a year starts in January, and not in September. This is because the summer in Australia commences in Nov/Dec and not in June such as in the Netherlands.

I followed three subjects of each 8 credit points: Motor control and Dysfunction, Infection and Immunity, and Psychophysiology. The work load was less compared to the Netherlands, but a lot more assignments had to be made in comparison to the Netherlands.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality of education at UOW is comparable to UU. The teachers in the tutorials are really helpful when you need something better explained or some extra help, they are really helping you out when needed. Each subject really stimulates you to keep studying during the 13 weeks of study, for example with weekly quizzes for 2% of your final grade.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

When you need help with for example clashing classes or changing courses, the Student Centre at the campus is always able to help you out. Everyone is very helpful.

Transfer of credits:

While I'm writing this I still don't have the results back from my final exams, so I haven't started the process of transferring my obtained credit point to UU yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Before I arrived in Australia, I already got a lot of information about the university. The website also gives a lot of information, including the orientation program in the first week. Two orientation programs were organised: by the University itself (O-week) and by International House (this is where I lived). The orientation week started off with a general talk about timetables, how to find your way on campus, beach/surf safety, and the Australian wild life. After this talk, tours around campus were organised by students who were already studying at the university. International house organised some fun events to get to know each other better, such as: trip to the Sydney Zoo, movie night, typical Australian birthday party, night out, and a trip to the local Hindu temple.

Accommodation:

I lived in International House (IHouse) of UOW with about 150 people in a shared room. IHouse is fully-catered and its community represents over 30 nations, including Australia. From the house it



is just a 15 min walk to the beach and a 20 min walk to the university, there are also free busses available towards the university. The student leaders in IHouse bring everyone together by organising a lot of activities such as a trip to the Sydney Zoo, performance night, yoga sessions, and the gala at the end of the session. This makes it very easy to make friends from all over the world.

Leisure/culture:

There are a lot of things to do in Australia, you also have a break of one week in between the studies so plenty of time to discover more of Australia! I for example travelled with some friends from IHouse from Cairns (Queensland) all the way down to Brisbane. This is where we snorkelled in the Great Barrier Reef, visited some snow-white beaches and took some surf lessons. Visiting Melbourne, the hipster culture city of Victoria on the south coast of Australia, is also highly recommended! Kangaroo island next to Adelaide in South Australia is also very beautiful.

Suggestions/tips:

Some tips to do in the Illawarra region (here are IHouse and UOW both located): climb Mt. Keira (just on walking distance from uni!), visit the glow worm tunnels, visit the Blue Mountains, go whale watching, go to the beach by sunrise/sunset, go skydiving over the North Wollongong beach, have a fun night out at the Grand/ Illawarra hotel or at PEPE's on the beach, and register for the SurfCamp! You'll love it!

Conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend to study abroad at the University of Wollongong. With the beautiful scenery, good education, nightlife, kind people, Ihouse, and beautiful beach it's definitely recommended!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

I would definitely challenge yourself to go on abroad, you'll learn much more about yourself and the world than you'll expect.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	UMC Utrecht
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor
Name degree programme:	Biomedical Sciences

Destination city & country	Wollongong, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Wollongong
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	10/02/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	12/08/2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was quite complicated, because there are bits of information in different places. Because Utrecht University made me start long before the departure date I finished everything in time. Also, the website of UOW is very clear and their international officer responded quickly to my questions.

Counselling/support at home university:

The website of UU concerning exchange is a bit confusing and unclear. However, the international officer was of great help and always replied quickly to my emails.

Academic preparation:

Not necessary

Language preparation:

Not necessary

Finances:

Australia is a very expensive country. I was prepared for that and also I found some ways to save money, such as going to the market instead of to a shop and taking trains instead of flying. My rent was surprisingly cheap though. The rent for houses that are not owned by the university is comparable to Utrecht. The rent for university accommodation is much higher.

Study/placement abroad period

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

I chose two subjects that are related to my major and two subjects about Australian history and culture.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The level is quite a bit lower than in Utrecht. The first few lectures of a second year subject I did



would have been high school level in The Netherlands. Fortunately it got more challenging later on.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

This was very good. I got a quick response to emails. At introduction events international officers introduce themselves, so you know who they are and how to contact them.

Transfer of credits:

I don't have my grades yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

We got a lot of information not only about university, but also about life in Australia. We learned about safety at the beach, Australian wildlife, slang and customs.

Accommodation:

I chose to rent a room in the town instead of living on campus, mainly because it is a lot cheaper. I found my room on Facebook and three days later I could move in. Most houses have big yards and a common living area, so it's not difficult to find a nice place to live!

Leisure/culture:

Wollongong is a surprisingly fun place! There are lots of bars and restaurants, there is the beach of course and there are a few mountains that are good for hiking. Also it has a very good train connection to Sydney and some smaller places in the area. There is a free swimming pool and some outdoor gym equipment near the beach.

Suggestions/tips:

The university offers a lot of opportunities to meet people and make friends. There are welcome events, orientation trips, free lunch at campus etc. Go to a lot of these events in the beginning, because that will make it very easy for you to make friends. Also, use your free time to travel. There are night buses and trains to a lot of places which are ideal for weekend trips.

Conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend UOW to other students. Wollongong is a lovely place in itself and it is very close to Sydney, which makes it easy to travel to any place in Australia. The atmosphere at UOW is very good, people are very open and easy going.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

The best advice I got before going to Wollongong: go to Wollongong a while before the semester starts, stay in a hostel and look for a room on Facebook and Gumtree. This will save you a lot of money and you will live closer to town than when you live on campus.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	University of Utrecht
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Informatiekunde (Information Sciences)

Destination city & country	Wollongong, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Wollongong
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)	12/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	23-06-2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Once I got selected to go to AEN, I gave my top three choices and then they place you. Wollongong was my second choice, but I'm SO happy that I got to go there. I was a bit hesitant at first because it didn't have a lot of student experiences and I had never heard of the city before, but please don't let this stop you: it's a wonderful student city right at the beach.

Counselling/support at home university:

Fine. The International Office always tried to answer my questions as soon as possible, although it took a few days mostly.

Academic preparation:

I used the online catalogue of UOW to look for subjects I wanted to enrol in, and then you send your list to the international office. In Wollongong you first need approval from the faculty before you can enrol in a certain subject, so the international office will make sure you get those approvals early. But if you don't, you can still get this during the orientation. I kept switching subjects until the second week of the semester, but that's fine!

Language preparation:

None, my English has always been more than sufficient. UOW wants you to take a IELTS or TOEFL test but sending them my high school grades for English (which were high) was also fine.

Finances:

Once I knew that I wanted to study abroad, I increased my student loans and saved the money about six to seven months prior to my departure. I also kept it on maximum during my stay and also turned my OV chip kaart off to get compensation. My parents couldn't support me financially so I also worked a lot during the summer and during the first semester when I was still in Holland. I estimated that I would need about €11.000 for my five months abroad (including flights, living,



eating, going out, buying clothes and taking a 10 day trip along the coast of Australia during Easter break).

Study/placement abroad period

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

UOW works with two semesters and in each you take 4 subjects at the same time which is a bit different from the UU. The pace is a lot slower and teachers are also a lot more relaxed about this.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I did completely different subjects from my normal degree in Holland, so I can't really judge their education level. I felt like they have a lot of vacations and recesses compared to my home university.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Amazing, really! Student Central is extremely well organised and approachable because you can walk in with questions anytime. Hailey, who was in charge of the international students, knew almost everyone by name. She was truly amazing and so helpful!

Transfer of credits:

I just got back from Wollongong, so I don't even have all my grades back yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I went there in summer/autumn (Dutch winter) so we had a three day orientation and a lot of nice activities we could participate in. They have an amazing campus and you really get to know it like this.

Accommodation:

Because I had to pay everything myself, I found that campus accommodation way too expensive. When you apply for campus accommodation you are asked to give in your first, second, and third choice and you have to pay a \$60 fee without a guarantee you get any of your first choices. So I booked the hostel, Keiraview Backpackers, and lived there for 6 days until I found a place. It wasn't hard at all, but I arrived about a week before everyone else did so I didn't have a lot of competition. I used Gumtree and Flatmates to look for a furnished room and the Facebook group UOW Buy and Sell also offers a lot of rooms. Australians are extremely friendly so don't be surprised if the renter offers to pick you up with his car!

Leisure/culture:

UOW organises a lot of activities, parties and other events so you never have to get bored. Every Wednesday we went to the theatre on campus where they play a movie which is only 5 dollars. Next to the group of international friends I had, I became really good friends with my Australian housemates. This was something I had hoped for before I came because it improved my English a lot and they introduced me to their culture, family and took me to Anzac Day (which is a very important memorial day in Australia). Something that I wouldn't have experienced if I didn't know any Australians.

Suggestions/tips:

Travel as much as you can during the breaks!

Conclusions



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

Absolutely. Don't get scared because it seems less popular. This is a very popular exchange destination for other universities! The city isn't too big and full of students, right at the beach and a train ride away from Sydney. It has a beautiful campus and everything is so well organised... I absolutely loved it there!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Don't be afraid to look for other accommodation outside of campus! It's really easy and you pay a lot less (I lived about a 10 minute walk from uni, paying \$170 per week instead of 250). And most of all: enjoy it! It's over before you know it!