



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2018/2019

BewerbungsID 649

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/910 Studienrichtung Masterstudium Computational Science

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: Macquarie University - (Australien)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: SS 2019

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 25.02.2019 Aufenthaltsende: 28.06.2019

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 2.700,00
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stipendium des Gastlandes:• Bundesländerstipendium: nein• Studienbeihilfe: nein• Sonstiges Stipendium:
Summe weiterer Stipendien	€
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien	€ 2.700,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 2.800,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 800,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 2.800,00
Studienkosten:	€ 0,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 200,00
Visakosten:	€ 380,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 6.980,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:



PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

- **Mindestumfang:** Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4
- **Inhalt:** Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

Macquarie University

Courses

Macquarie University and specifically the courses I took there even exceeded my expectation. Although prerequisite waivers had to be submitted for each course I wanted to take, course selection was still surprisingly uncomplicated. I was advised to contact the lecturers personally after submitting the waiver and again discuss my background to facilitate the process which worked out perfectly. Generally said, as long as the prerequisites are met the actual degree I was enrolled in back home did not matter. This way I was able to take 2 out of 3 courses from the IT department targeted predominantly at IT students.

Also, the quality of the courses itself was exceptional. The mainly project based assessment allowed me to finally connect the dots between what I had learned before and apply it to real life problems and was just what I needed.

Professor and staff generally were very friendly, open and understanding. It was never a problem to ask for help if there were uncertainties regarding the material, assignments or even timetable clashes.

Exams

I did not have too many exams as most of my grade depended on projects. The only difference I could tell was that a lot of time is invested in online learning. Homework and even midterms are done via their online learning platform. For these assignments all resources can be used to answer the questions. The finals were then held in a exam period by the end of the semester



under very controlled conditions and without exception on standardized papers (even programming exercises). I'd judge the difficulty roughly as high as in Vienna, although I felt a lot better prepared for the finals after going through all the online learning throughout the semester.

Facilities

The facilities were great. There were Cafes, a very nice outdoor (but sheltered from the rain or wind) cafeteria and a spacious library. There were enough spaces for students to sit and study or work on group projects, some of them very quiet to focus others more social. If that was not enough just 5 minutes from university the large Macquarie centre had endless opportunities for food, shopping and entertainment.

Social life

During the O(rientation)-week there were many initiatives to connect new students through the so-called Buddy program and societies for all kinds of interests from dancing, to politics, to science fiction. Exchange students also were invited to a weekly Pizza evening and some trips to local sights. I did join one of the societies and the exchange student parties initially but then mostly met people from my courses or the ones I met in my city so I cannot give too much information about that.

Problems

Overall there is not much more I could have asked for and definitely didn't have any serious problems. The only thing that was a little inconvenient was that the campus was a little bit far from the city centre. In theory this is not a problem if you plan on staying in one of the on-site dorms but as I decided to stay in the city centre the commute to the campus was quite long (~1h and a bit expensive ~5\$ per day with the concession card).

Sydney

Sydney itself is a very social and laid-back city. I never felt unsafe anywhere or at any time. If the numerous opportunities to meet new people at Uni are not enough there are also endless free events of all kinds in Sydney that anyone can join. The city's suburbs are quite spread out so commutes from outer neighbourhoods can turn out quite long. Furthermore, public transport is a little expensive so make sure you'll get the Opal concession card as soon as possible.

Accommodation

I decided to stay in the city center rather than on-site as I was sharing my apartment with another person I knew from Vienna. Friends warned me beforehand that the rent in the city is quite high, but it still surprised me how much one has to pay for a reasonably clean and central room/flat. We booked a hostel for the first 2 weeks and started searching only once we got there which, in theory, worked without any problems but I somehow wonder whether prices would have been better if we planned ahead. The websites Gumtree, Flatmates and several Facebook groups were very helpful during our search.

We eventually settled for a rather expensive but quite central and well equipped ~20sqm ensuite room in a shared flat in the city center (Darling Harbour) paying 300\$ per person and week. The flat was shared with 2 more couples which soon became great friends of ours and



with whom we're still in contact with even after moving out.

Conclusion

Overall, I had an amazing time and profited from this exchange semester quite a lot academically as well as personally. Sydney itself was a great city to live in and Macquarie University really gave me all the flexibility to take courses I'm interested in across departments and at the same time leave me enough free time to explore the country. It sounds like a cliché but applying for this semester in Sydney was one of the best decisions I made in my life so I can really recommend anyone still having doubts on whether to go to Australia and more specifically to Macquarie University to just do it.