

Deakin exchange report

Geelong, Australia



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Trimester 3, november-march 2015/2016

List of content

Indhold

[Deakin exchange report](#)

[List of content](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Professional experiences](#)

[- Different units and description](#)

[- Teaching methods](#)

[- What did I learn?](#)

[- What was useful and what was not?](#)

[Social and cultural experiences](#)

[Trimester 3](#)

[Travelling](#)

[Conclusion](#)

Introduction

My name is Oliver Oude Hesselink and I have spent the last 5 months studying abroad in Australia. I am currently studying towards a bachelor of 'bygningsteknik', but as there are no education in Australia, which reminds of this, I have been studying Architecture. The university in Australia are named DEAKIN and have been very helpful in regards to any questions and problems during my study abroad. I can highly recommend anyone who is thinking about going on an exchange to choose DEAKIN University, to ensure a good and safe experience.

I wanted to go study abroad to improve my resume, improve my English skills and to get some international knowledge and culture. I can happily say that I have achieved all these.

Professional experiences

- Different units and description

At Deakin University, I studied three units:

- SRC221 Computer aided modelling
- SRQ462 Building cost planning
- SRV499 Built Environment Integrated research

- Teaching methods

As I attempted in trimester 3 (which is the public summer holidays in Australia) this meant that many teachers were overseas travelling, while being the unit chair. Computer aided modelling was very affected by this, because the teacher were overseas for all of January. In this unit, we got some online guidance and help. This unit focuses on two software's, Microstation and Revit.

In the first software we had some general teaching due to perspectives, backgrounds etc. on photos and CAD models to be able to prepare an realistic model for tender documentation. Whenever we worked in Microstation we were asked to make a CAD model of a room or a public space in the city or on campus. Also there were a lot of other assignments where we had to show how we created different things on the model - for example a table.

In the revit software we were handed a set of drawings of a house in Australia and we had to recreate the house, make final renders, print presentation and working drawings etc. This assignment were very good to me because of the knowledge I gained on Australian building standards.

The campus computers has all softwares needed, so if you are keen to work in the school library you do not need to bring your home computer.

In the other two units, there have been one weekly day of teaching in classrooms, as we know it from Denmark. Furthermore, I have been given 2-3 assignments in each unit (3-5000 words). Which has been reviewed and the feedback is a great indicator on I was on track or not.

I would say that SRV499 Built Environment Integrated research, is a very useful course regarding to my education as a bygningskonstruktør, as they teaches you methods on how to make proper research on new materials, compare them with existing etc. And the teacher in this unit are very passionate about this unit, and are very helpful as well.

For example we had to choose a material and make a report based on data on this product. The assignment were to be 5000 words and was basicly an extended egenskabsanalyse where you also have to do academic research and analyze on it. The outcome of this assignment had to be used in our next assignment, where the munipulity of Geelong has sent a request for tender to 'our company' on a community center containing different criterias. Now me and my group of architect and engeneer students had to create a project from scratch, containing all informations needed for

participating in a tender bid. In the end all groups had to do a presentation for the 3 teachers which will decide which group will win the tender. This project were very realistic and is based on the different stages and sale of a project.

- What did I learn?

Throughout my stay at DEAKIN University, I found that I learned a lot. Much of what I learned is possible to implement in the assignments I am to do in 7th semester back at KEA. I have learned to create and show a 3D model based on a methods, which creates a realistic image. I have learned how to prepare a cost plan on Australian methods, which includes BPI prediction etc. (makes the result more realistic), and furthermore I have learned new methods on how to research an unfamiliar product that might are to be used in the building project.

- Campus

I studied at Geelong Waterfront campus which is located near the bay with a beautiful seaview from the majority of the classrooms. The classrooms are equipped with table and chairs and a projector which the teachers tend to use a lot. This is quite easy as it is similar to the danish way of teaching. The teachers does not expect you to say mr. or mrs. Lastname, as other places. This is really a good thing coming from a laid back country myself.

On the campus there are a waterfront kitchen which makes different warm food every day for only 6 dollars, which is cheaper than you can make anything like that yourself for.

Another credit to the campus is that all staff are very friendly and asks you how your study is going etc. And if you need help with anything they are more than happy to help so that you can get your best DEAKIN experience.

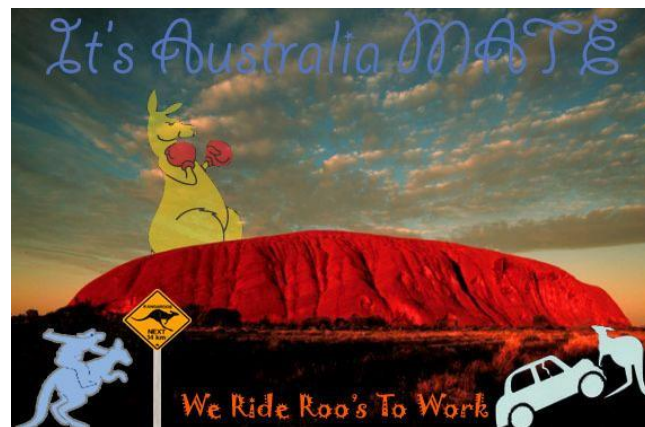
Social and cultural experiences

Trimester 3

As I shortly mentioned before, I was in trimester 3 at Deakin University, which unfortunately meant a very calm and quiet university throughout the entire course. Therefore, I would recommend anyone, who is thinking about going to Geelong to choose trimester 1 or 2. Especially if your goal is to create a multicultural friend group. In trimester 3, the majority of the students were from Asia. This meant that I have been trying a lot of Asian foods, understands their culture better etc. However, at the end of the day, I think it is very important to be open-minded and not insulted by other cultures way of doing things.

Travelling

In regards to the calm University, I chose to see the Australian culture by doing some travelling around the country, which I can recommend! Living on hostels, ferries etc. around the country has been a great experience (and the positive thing about choosing trimester 3). I have been scuba diving in the great barrier reef where I lived with many different nationalities. I have been travelling down the great ocean road and ben to Sydney. My last stop before Denmark is Byron Bay and Fraser Islands, which I heard is the most beautiful place around Australia. There are many things to do, and only your savings makes the limit!



Conclusion

Traveling to Australia and doing my study overseas has been the greatest thing about my education so far! Arriving in a country all by myself, finding an apartment, making international friends and being more aware of cultures has been amazing and something I think anyone should do. All of my expectations has been met fully, and I look forward to continue my education back in Denmark.

