

Study abroad in Australia at Deakin University



Simone Ellgaard

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Australia

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Before leaving Denmark:

Going to Australia to study abroad is not an easy thing; there were many practical things to get in order. I was very afraid to travel by myself and be that far away from Denmark and my family. There was a few times when I was very close to staying home and cancelling the trip, but I utilized my Internationale coordinator to talk to and ask as many questions as I needed in order to settle my nerves.

During the study abroad meeting with the international coordinator, I was very timid about going overseas and had no idea where I should go. Nevertheless, after the meeting, I officially decided to commit to going and immediately filled out an application with my first priority as Australia. I was so lucky to get my first priority, and then I knew I had to start saving money and start planning the trip. Before leaving Denmark, there was a lot of work to do with the application to the school: taking an English test, applying for a visa, and applying for scholarships to secure the financial part of my trip.

Arrival in Australia:

The first few hours in Australia were fine; there were people taking care of me from the moment I arrived in Melbourne airport and a chauffeur to drive me to the school. I did not had any energy to be nervous or scared. I chose to live on campus, and it ended up being the best decision for me.

School and Campus life in Australia:

Living on campus was an amazing experience. Being close to all of the people around you made for a very social environment. Australian people gave me a warm welcome and were very attentive. There were 58 people living in the dormitory I was assigned to, which I later came to know as “the block.” We had four kitchens to share and five people to share one bathroom. First, I thought it would be too much living so close to all those people, but it was amazing and nothing like I expected. A big surprise for me was that I



Copenhagen Airport



Deakin University Wurn Ponds

was the only one making my own food. The Aussie people and American international students did not have the same mentality as the Danish people when it came to food. They are more used to buying done food from the counter in the supermarket or buying fast food. First, I was alone in the kitchen, but they found it very interesting to follow me in the kitchen. They soon started to make their own food and asked me for help and inspiration. We often ended up having many people in the kitchen for “family” dinners. I can conclude that living on campus was definitely the best decision I made. I talked to some of the others international students that did not lived on campus, and they were a little sad to be missing out on the life there was on campus.

The schooling was very hard; the difficulty level was higher than it is at KEA, and the language definitely did not make it easier. However, I loved the way all the lectures were. We had lectures, classed, and seminars. It worked very well to have the lectures where the teachers would present all of the material to work with and then have the seminars after where you could ask all of the questions you had about the material. The teacher gave you cases to resolve with the material given during lecture to help with understanding and retaining. The class was like KEA because there was a teacher that would have you interact in class and do assignments together in groups. First, I found it very hard to figure out how everything worked. However, the fellow students I was taking the unit with were very willing to help.

Travelling in and around Australia:

The great thing about study abroad is seeing the country you are in and near, and I really did. During the Easter break, I travelled to New Zealand and drove from Queenstown to Auckland in 7 days. It was amazing and very beautiful. I travelled with Simon, another Danish. We started in Queenstown. We were there for 2 days. Queenstown had this little nice city with the most amazing burger place called Ferb burger. The place was so famous that there was a big line outside it every day all day. After the stay in Queenstown, we drove to Christchurch, which was where a big earthquake was in 2011 that destroyed most of the city. When we were there, the city was still very ruined and desolate; people left the city after the earthquake. From Christchurch, we drove to Picton and took the ferry to Wellington. This city was very modern and a nice place to visit and see some of the nightlife. After Wellington, we drove towards Taupo; on the way, we almost drove all



Lake Taupo

the way around Lake Taupo, which was one of the places in New Zealand I remember best because it was very beautiful.

Then we arrived in Taupo. It was a small, quiet city where we got to spend one night. The next day we drove to Matamata to see the Hobbiton movie set. That was the most amazing thing on the trip. I really looked forward to experiencing it. After seeing Hobbiton, we drove to the capital of New Zealand, Auckland. This is where we had to go home from.

The next trip was to Sydney on the 21st of April. I went there with some of the other international students including my closest American friend I made there, Maddi. It was an incredible city! Seeing the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge, and the unbelievable nightlife in the streets of Sydney was incredible.

My last and final trip was to Cairns to ultimately experience the Great Barrier Reef. There are no words to describe the reef. It is a place I definitely would like to experience again someday.

Besides the trips I took on planes, there were multiple road trips I went on with the people I lived with. We drove to the 12 apostles, to a wildlife park, to see the outback, and got to observe kangaroos and koalas. I will forever remember this amazing experience of a lifetime.

Before going home:

As time got closer to me leaving Australia, the days seemed to go by way too fast. I knew it was not the last time I would be there. Before leaving, I had one exam, and it was a closed book exam. That means no help at all, not even a dictionary. When the exam was over, I had to go home.

Arrival home in Denmark:

Travelling away from everything you know is never easy, and when you are standing in the airport and feel ready to go, that is when you are afraid and your family is scared on your behalf. The only thing I can say after my trip is GET GOING (DO IT). It is the most amazing thing you will do. The first couple of weeks are hard, but when the time comes to go home again, you really do not want to go home. It is harder to come home than leave home. You make a new life in a new country; that is something special, and it is very hard to leave your "new home."



Hobbiton Movie Set

Believe in your self 😊