

Exchange Report



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Introduction/expectations

Throughout my entire life I have enjoyed communicating with people from different countries and cultures. I am in a position where I have some international experience from my past, both from traveling but I have also lived in Spain for half a year, so I was already in contact with a lot of international friends. I thought going on exchange would give me the opportunity to get in touch with even more.

I wanted to go on exchange because I have got international ambitions. I am interested in international developments happening all over the world. Also, I am thinking that there is a great possibility that I will be living abroad in the future, since I have dreamt about this for my entire life. An exchange could give me a good insight into whether or not this is really something I want.

I applied to the exchange student program because I wanted to get outside of my comfort zone once again. I have a lot of friends who have been on exchange previously and not a single one said a bad thing about their experience.

By getting out of my comfort zone I previously learned how to make friends just by starting up a new life all by myself. I have tried moving to a different place a couple of times, which taught me valuable lessons about adjustment and attitude. I saw these experiences as valuable tools onwards going to the Deakin university. Furthermore, I thought that by going to a country that is remote, I can experience this in a much bigger way.

My dream destination for an exchange was Australia. A big con was that the people speak English here and that there is a Western culture. Hence, it would be a great opportunity to improve my English even more. Another thing I like about Australia is that the population is very diverse. I think this is a great way to get to know all kinds of people from different countries. Furthermore, I think it is interesting to learn more about other countries architectures and construction habits. Deakin University would be a great fit for me, where I can learn and grow both personally and academically.

Predeparture

Before my journey could begin, I had a list of things that was needed to be arranged, many of these came step by step.

Things such as visa, healthcare insurance, accommodation, flight tickets and so on.

Applying for the Australian visa was easy, but there were some things I needed before applying among these, was acceptance letter from Deakin university, a Bupa health insurance, when these were sorted I was ready to apply.

I was able to apply from home, all it took was some time and a laptop. After 2 hours of survey, the application was done and for my fellow students who applied got it straight away whereas mine took ten days to be approved.

Flight ticket bought and ready to leave.

Denmark to Australia

With my flight ticket in my hand standing in Copenhagen airport, my suitcase checked-in and a twenty-five-hour long flight ahead I was ready for Australia.

Arriving in Melbourne was easier than expected, as many other I have watched border control Australia and was afraid it would take me hours to get through the visa control and the luggage check. It took me 20 minutes from the plane until I was outside breathing air.

I had a friend from Melbourne that picked me up in the airport, taking me to Deakin waterfront residential. in Geelong, I valued having a place to stay sorted out before arriving.

Living on campus

I rented a room on the Geelong waterfront Campus, the campus is found in the middle of the central business district, with other words close to everything school next door, placed down to the beach truly a gem location.

The complex is brand new, the first residents moved in on February 2018 and where still finishing some rooms when I arrived in July, the complex features rooftop terrace, communal room and small individual study rooms.

The campus offers different options, single and mixed-gender accommodation, on campus it was mainly residents from Australia but also people from all over the world. It's a complex of shared apartments with between six to nine rooms in each.

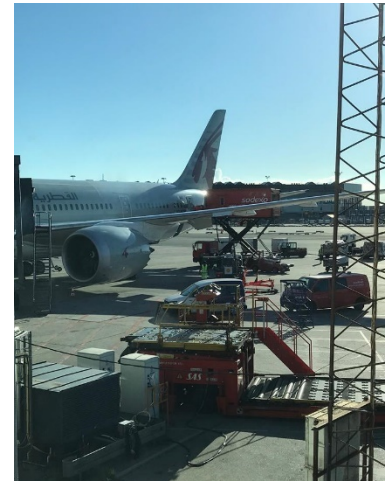
I had my own bedroom, I shared kitchen, living room and bathrooms with my flat mates. I lived with three Australians, one Chinese guy and one from Nigeria

At Deakin campus I was surrounded by young people of my own age. My everyday life presented challenges that I wouldn't imagined before I departed, but which seem to be straightforward. I discovered on the way how healthy it can be to be pushed out of the Danish culture, learned something new and had the opportunity to create lifelong friendships that can hold even though they are on the other side of the world.

Deakin University

High professionalism, good teachers, a great campus with good outdoor areas and lots of sports facilities and clubs you can join and thereby meet a lot of Australians.

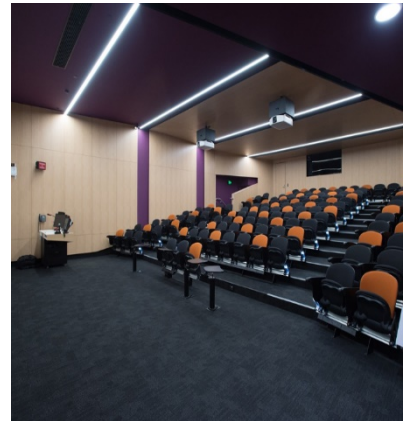
Deakin has some of the best and most dedicated lecturers I have met. They are very down to earth and are more than happy to answer questions and



help where they can. The curriculum is incredibly good and very relevant to the study, and all lectures are recorded and can be streamed directly from the university's website.

The University have an abundance of clubs and associations. No matter what you like, there is a club for everyone, and it makes it easy to get in touch with people when, as an exchange student, you suddenly stand alone in a new country on the other side of the globe.

The semester is a lot shorter at Deakin than I am used to from KEA. The level was almost the same, which has meant that the semester in Australia was been very busy.



Sport

Whether you are a serious elite athlete or an optimistic sports enthusiast, Deakin universities offers a dream scenario of challenges and experiences. When it comes to athletics and sports, Danish and Australian universities distinguish themselves significantly. On campus in Australia, it is extremely important to give room for physical activity in everyday life, and the universities therefore focus on letting academic education go hand in hand with sports. I played a decent amount of football for the university's team Deakin Ducks.

In Australia their main sport I AFL (Australian football League), the school hosted an event with the local club, where exchange students could come and learn the basics and meet some of the players. Furthermore, the school provided 2 tickets to a top match between Geelong cats and a Melbourne team.



Culture

One of the benefits of studying in Australia is that you really get under the skin of the culture. In addition to their fascinating traditions, the Australian people are characterized by being extremely helpful, accommodating and polite. The Americans have a very open mindedness and they show great interest in people with a different background than their own. You can also experience all the exciting festivals, traditions and holidays that characterize the Australian calendar year of your study abroad.

East Coast – Bali – Melbourne – Denmark

After my finals, it was time for some traveling, I didn't have any plans and had no expectations so I booked a flight ticket to Sydney and decides to work my way op the east coast. Here are the most noticeable stops I made on my way up.

Sydney

Coffs Harbor - A city home to surfing beaches, fishing and banana plantations.

Byron Beach - A beach where we could learn to surf, see humpback whales and dolphins.

Surfers Paradise - Home to some of the world's best surfing beaches and nightlife.

Brisbane - The capital of Queensland.

Noosa - A trendy beach and surfing city.

Fraser Island - A slice of paradise, Fraser island is the biggest sand Island in the world.

Whitsunday Islands - Sail for three days around the islands.

Great Barrier Reef – The world's biggest reef, here I did my Scooba diving certificate.

Cairns

From Cairns I booked a flight to Bali to apply for a new Australian visa in order to visit Melbourne one last time. Once in Bali I ended spending twenty days before I got my visa.

Back to Melbourne to celebrate Christmas and New Years Eve. And then back home to Denmark after 7 months.

My experience

For me, it was very important to have close friends during my stay abroad, and I believe that I have gained an even better understanding of different cultures and, not least, a better understanding of how we have it in Denmark.

Academically, I have gained a lot from my stay, although that was not the primary motivation for a semester abroad. I found some inspiring subjects that I could not get at home, and the academic level was really good.

Looking back, I can see how much it has meant and how much I got out of it

Collage

