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1. Introduction

I want to participate in an international exchange for various reasons. This is a unique opportunity for me to live in another country and immerse myself in another culture and language. I am particularly interested in traveling to Australia to develop as a person as I am sure it will help me become a more educated person. Furthermore, I think it is important to do something in one's life which can possibly create memories for the rest of one's life, and it is perhaps a uniquely Scandinavian thing to go out into the world and be inspired to think big, even if we are quite small. Every time we go beyond our own limits, we add knowledge, innovation, and joy to get the best of everything, as well as memories and friendships for life.

I've long dreamed of moving to another country; given my lifelong aspirations, it's very likely that I will move abroad in the future. An exchange would allow me to test the feasibility of my planned relocation, an important step toward making this decision.

My dream exchange destination is Australia. A big plus is that the people there speak English and have western culture. So, this will be a good opportunity to further improve my English. Another thing I like about Australia is that the population is very diverse. I think it's a great way to meet all kinds of people from different countries. I also find it interesting to learn more about the architecture and building habits of other countries. Deakin University is a great fit for me, where I can learn and grow both personally and academically.

2. Experiences at the host University

Deakin University is a highly professional, a great campus with good outdoor facilities and many sports facilities. Deakin has some of the best and most dedicated teachers. They are very down to earth and happy to answer questions and answers they help wherever you can. Courses are good and can be very relevant to your studies; all lectures are recorded and can be played directly from the University's website. The University has a wealth of clubs and associations. No matter what you like, there's a club for everyone, and it's easy to connect with people when you're an exchange student and suddenly find yourself in a new country on the other side of the world. Deakin's term is much shorter than my term at KEA. We only study in 11 weeks and that's it, so it makes the time here a bit rough and limited amount of time. My weekly schedule is school Monday and Wednesday, and then an online unit where I could fit it in wherever I wanted. So probably around 2,5 days with classes and the rest is homework and preparation. The level is similar (to KEA), which makes the semester in Australia very busy at some point.

3. Social and cultural experiences

It would take a long time to describe all the lovely people I met during my stay in Australia, but I develop great relationships with other exchange students and find that all Australians are very friendly. Geelong is not the most existing city but is still a good suburb city with shopping malls. Nevertheless, it has a very nice waterfront and a lot of life in summer. I had a lot of good morning runs down at the waterfront, and that is probably the best factor for Geelong and the residential, the water and the view. Melbourne is a very beautiful city with a vibrant nightlife and some very nice attractions during the day (it takes about an hour from Geelong to Melbourne). It would of course be proffered to live on a campus like Burwood (Deakin University campus), where it would be a lot closer to Melbourne city and could be a good experience to live in.

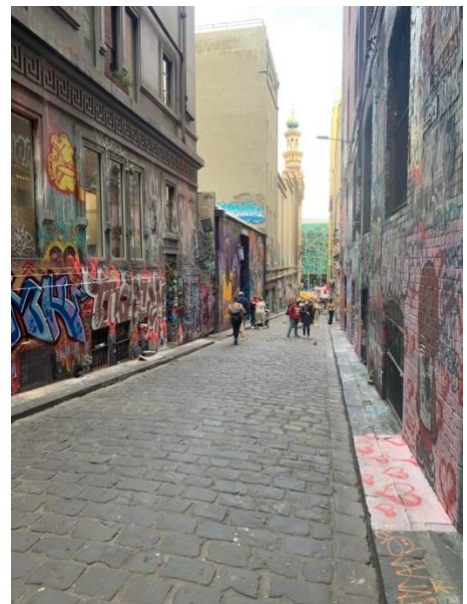
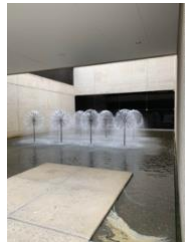
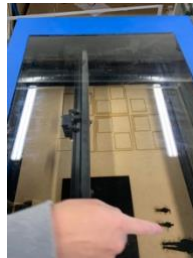
4. Practical experiences

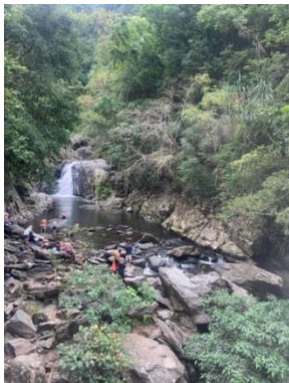
I flew from Copenhagen to Melbourne on the 4th of July and after 16 hours my booked driver from Deakin University took me to a core client at the Waterfront campus, and then it all started.

As I first did leave Copenhagen the 4th I've missed a couple of the introductions days, but I did reach out for the other Danish guys, whom also study abroad this trimester, and that helped a lot to get a good start in Geelong. The week after arrival, our classes started but also it was the ending of the summer break so the normal duties, like groceries, cleaning, and school duties. Groceries did we always buy in the closest mall, where there was a Coles, and that was decent grocery shop. The living cost are a bit higher here in Australia compared to Denmark, but everything was so that was just something you'll have to adapt to.

The Deakin Waterfront residential was a good place to live while being settle in Geelong. The Residential cost is about AUD 1200 and is a newer building with good rooms, and a good, shared area, where you were able to study in your room and have a comfortable time or with your roommates in the shared kitchen.

5. Collage





6. Conclusion

In conclusion Australia lived up to my expectations and it was my dream destination, and I'm glad I made it happen. I gained a lot of experience, knowledge and above all I learned a lot about myself. A lot of people say it's good to get out of your comfort zone. You can be happy anywhere if you are a positive and hardworking person. Australia is a very special place and that's why so many people don't get to see this part of the world and its nature. Try to enjoy and appreciate your time here. I would like to sincerely thank Andreas, KEA, and Deakin for this opportunity. Thanks, and Cheers!

