GOstralia!-GOzealand!
Erfahrungsbericht
zum Auslandssemester an der
Swinburne University of Technology

Auf den folgenden Seiten findest du den Erfahrungsbericht eines Studenten, der mit unserem kostenlosen Service sein Auslandssemester in Australien realisiert hat – lass dich inspirieren und für eine bestimmte Universität oder Stadt begeistern.

Wir sind auch dir gerne behilflich, deinen Traum von einem Studium Down Under in die Tat umzusetzen.

Unsere kostenfreien Leistungen:

- Alle Informationen aus einer Hand: Vor, während und nach dem Studienaufenthalt
- Auswahl passender Universitäten und Studienprogramme durch erfahrene Beraterinnen
- Finanzierungsberatung und Vergabe exklusiver Vergünstigungen und Stipendien
- Komplette Bewerbungsdurchführung und Einschreibung an der Wunschuniversität
- Übersetzung und Beglaubigung von akademischen Zeugnissen
- Hilfe & Informationen rund um Flug, Unterkunft, Leben und Reisen
- Exklusives GOstralia!-GOzealand! Karriere- und Alumninetzwerk, u.v.m.

Fordere jetzt kostenlos unser GOstralia!-GOzealand! Infopaket mit passenden Universitätsvorschlägen für dein Studienvorhaben und unserem GOstralia!-GOzealand! Studienführer an.

www.gostralia.de/infomaterial
My semester abroad in Australia
Swinburne University, Hawthorn Melbourne

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Business and Information Systems 2012
Bachelor of Science
4th semester
February – June 2014
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Preparation

Application to Swinburne University of Technology (May)

1. Motivational letter
2. Application form
3. CV
4. Copy of passport
5. DAAD certification

NOTICE:
DHBW cooperates with Go!Stralia, an agency that will help you with the whole application process. That will also require an extra application form.

Receive your Letter of Offer (October)

1. Check all your financial support options:
   - Auslandsbafög
   - Scholarships
2. Book your flight
3. Book accommodation:
   - Unilodge@Swinburne Place
   - Swinburne Residential College Hawthorn
     http://www.swin.edu.au/stuserv/residential/
   - Homestay
   - Hostels in Hawthorn

Receive your CoE (December)

1. Apply for the visa
   - usually takes about 3 days
2. Get additional health insurance
   OSHC doesn’t cover all your cost, so it is reasonable to get an additional health insurance to be safe, also on vacation after or before the semester.
   For example:
   http://www.adac.de/produkte/versicherungen/auslandskrankenschutzversicherung/auslandskrankenschutz/default.aspx
Swinburne University
As Swinburne University is a normal university the system will be totally different from DHBW at home. You will have to schedule your timetable, sign in for your courses and look for the lecture material yourself. But after the first week you get used to preparing and repeating lectures and tutorials very quickly.

Subjects

Financial Information for Decision Making
This lecture is all about accounting. You get a good overview over accounting, but as this unit has already been covered in the first year of DHBW it’s not really necessary to repeat it as there are a lot of similarities. Also, there is a very expensive book that has to be purchased in order to take online tests and get graded. All in all it was interesting, but it would make more sense to replace this course by another one.

Mobile Business and Connectivity
In this lecture we learned a lot about networks. To me, it was the perfect mix of technological information and business topics. You get to write an essay where you can discuss a current topic and also get a closer look at ubiquitous networks we use in everyday life. The lecture ‘Kommunikationssysteme’ at DHBW provides you with the basic knowledge you should have about connection technologies for that unit.

Database Systems
Database programming with MySQL and VisualBasic which is very interesting and fun because it’s one of the more practical lectures that actually make you create something.

Information Systems Project Management
This lecture required a lot of work and provides a huge lot of information that needs to be studied. Very interesting for the business part of the course. Project Management is taught in a very understandable and logical way. The flood of information can be overwhelming but in the end you will have a good summary of what you need to know.
## Assignments, Tests and Exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Tests</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Information for Decision Making</strong></td>
<td>3 Online Tests</td>
<td>1 Business analysis Group assignment</td>
<td>Practice exams provided, good preparation 50%</td>
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<td>Based on the textbook</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile Business and Connectivity</strong></td>
<td>2 Online Tests</td>
<td>1 Individual Assignment (Essay + Network analysis)</td>
<td>Topics are narrowed down 50%</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Group assignment Business network establishment</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Database Systems</strong></td>
<td>2 Tests in class</td>
<td>1 Individual Assignment Basic database enquiries</td>
<td>No coding in final exam, only theoretical questions 40%</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Group Assignment Database creation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Information Systems Project Management</strong></td>
<td>No tests, but bi-weekly, individual journal about the group work has to be handed in.</td>
<td>Project Plan that needs to be done in a group and every week a part of it has be handed in. 30%</td>
<td>Work in the tutorial, mark based on participation. 10%</td>
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<td>50%</td>
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Campus
The campus is totally different to the DHBW sites in Stuttgart. Several buildings are spread out over a wide area and a centre with a fountain and a little lawn. There are little shops and cafés on campus where you can purchase everything you need for Uni. Also, there is a gym to train and library that can be accessed 24 hours a day to study, borrow books or use campus wifi.
Accommodation

UniLodge

I lived in Unilodge which is the student accommodation right on campus. The apartment is pretty big and there are four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Most kitchen utensils are provided, a vacuum cleaner can be rented at the reception and you even have a big flat screen TV.

Living directly on campus is very convenient. You are close to all the lecture halls, the library, the supermarket and the station. But keep in mind that it is very expensive. Cost for laundry and internet is not included in the weekly fees.

Another option would be to live in a hostel for the first days or weeks and find an apartment to move into or friends to share a house with. Other options are the Swinburne residences.
Sightseeing tips
- Melbourne City
- St. Kilda & Brighton beach

- Great Ocean Road

- Wilson’s Promontory
- Surfing

NOTICE:
→ The cheapest available airlines in Australia are Jetstar and TigerAirways!
→ Try the SSAA trips with Swinburne for international students. They’re a lot of fun and save you a lot of money.

- Sydney
Other useful things to know

O-Week
The first week of uni is called Orientation Week. Everyone has time to settle down, subscribe for his courses, and set his timetable. You will have enough time to get to know the new environment and the people you will study with. So don’t stress, you will have a light start! And if you need help you can always consult the Study Abroad Office or any student advisor.

People
In general most Australians are very laid back, open and helpful. Don’t be afraid to go up to someone and ask for help when you’re lost. Even when you ask the third time ‘Excuse me?’ because you did not understand a word of what the person said, they will still repeat it for you. Especially when you live on campus there seem to be more international people than Australians. So everyone is in the same situation of a new country in another country. Moving into my apart I found a friend in my roomie on the first day. Getting to know people? No worries!

Weather
Don’t underestimate the weather in Melbourne and especially not the winter in Melbourne! The weather changes every half an hour from pouring rain to sunshine. In May it starts to get colder and the end of your semester in June will be at about 12°C. You will need a rain coat and a warm jacket (fleece, jacket you could wear in autumn in Germany). But also don’t forget to buy and use sunscreen!

Phone
If you have internet at your apartment it might be best to just buy a prepaid sim card at Vodafone or Optus. Both provide good options for unlimited calls or texts, even overseas. If you don’t have internet a phone contract provides you with more data, but it will also be more expensive. Just don’t forget to cancel the contract before you leave the country. It will be very difficult and again expensive to cancel it from another part of the world.

Money
As a student you can open a bank account for free. All banks offer the same options for students. But a bank account is only needed if you have contracts that need to be paid on a monthly/weekly basis. Otherwise just take out cash with your German card at the ATM. NOTICE:

→ Use the credit card to pay in the shop and your German bank account card to get cash!

Food
Food in general is a lot more expensive in Australia. Especially sweets, dairy products and fruit and vegetables. To avoid paying a lot of money for vegetables and fruit, go to the Victoria Markets in downtown where you can get it a lot cheaper.
Transport
Once you arrive in Melbourne, you will have to buy a MykiCard. The card gives you access to the public transport system. As an exchange student you will have to pay the full fare, but just ask for options for student concession to make sure. You will have to use the card to touch on and off on every ride on the bus, train or tram.

Books
Some courses will require books to complete the unit. Books are very expensive, so check beforehand which books are required and check at the local bookshop in Hawthorn or on the internet for secondhand options. Otherwise you can always share a book or use a copy from the library.
Gerne verwirklichen wir auch deinen Traum von einem Studium in Australien, Neuseeland oder Asien!

Fordere jetzt kostenloses Infomaterial an und lass dich von unseren Studienberaterinnen über die nächsten Schritte informieren.

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