

Final Report

Joint Study - SS 2011



Brisbane, Australia

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Preparation

Since the first day of my nomination I was very excited about my exchange semester at Griffith University. I thought about a lot of things, not just the preparation for university, also the way of living, experiences I will get and the people I will meet.

Writing a letter of motivation with your chosen courses and curriculum vitae is the beginning of your way to a great exchange semester. After receiving the confirmation of the BIB, a coordinator from Griffith University will contact you with all required documents (this includes translating your protocol of transcript and certificate of maturity or a TOEFL Test if you did not had according grades. For further details see: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/international/exchange/apply/english-requirements>).

You just need to provide all the listed information correct and you will receive a letter of offer from you coordinator. This letter of offer, together with the payment of your Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is necessary to receive your Certificate of Enrolment (CoE). This is nearly the last step of the formal process. Once you have received your CoE, you can apply online for you student visa on <http://www.immi.gov.au/e Visa/students.htm>. Applying online for a student visa is very easy and usually granted within a few hours. As soon as your student visa is granted, you can book your flight.

You will also receive further instructions from your coordinator regarding the enrolment process. Try to enrol as early as possible to get a place in the courses with your preferred time to ensure a good timetable. You are allowed to enrol in 5 courses, however the average of domestic students is 4 courses and the average of most exchange students is 3 courses (which is also the minimum required for you scholarship). Until one month after the start of your semester you are allowed to drop courses without getting a record. I would recommend enrolling in more courses, so that you have the possibility to drop one or two courses in the first weeks if necessary. Don't forget to check your course profile in detail, as it tells you right from the beginning when you have to do what throughout the whole semester (you can find it online, at the same page as the timetables).

Accommodation

After completing all formal processes, you should start to organize a place for living. I decided not to stay on campus, but to live in a student home near University so that I could walk to uni every day. Whether you decide to live on/near campus or in the city, every accommodation has its pros and cons, it really depends on your personal attitude what to choose. A lot of students are going into a Hostel at the beginning and are looking for a flat in the first week. If you want to do so, I can recommend the following hostel chain in Australia: www.yha.com.au. I preferred to book something in advance, but moved after a few weeks because I had trouble with my flatmates. In a lot of student accommodations you can move in or out every week.

University

At the beginning you have to attend an orientation day, which is very helpful to get to know a lot of international people.

At this point I want to recommend to avoid German people (there might be a lot at the orientation day) right from the beginning if you want to improve your English. As people with the same mother tongue are making the same mistakes it wouldn't be good for your English skills. Although you are on the other end of the world, it can happen that you are surrounded by approximately 40% German people. I think it is one of the biggest mistakes you can make, spending a lot of time with German people in Australia.

The courses started one week after orientation (Week 1). At the beginning I wanted to attend 5 classes, but everyone recommends you not to attend more than 3 or 4 courses as the system is a little bit different than in Klagenfurt and you have to prepare a lot of things for every course every week.



For me it feels like one course at Griffith is like 2 courses is at the University of Klagenfurt, because you first need to attend a lecture without compulsory attendance and secondly you have to attend in most cases a tutorial with compulsory attendance and weekly homework. For many courses in Klagenfurt we have to do the same, but we get separate marks for lecture and tutorial.

I have chosen the following 3 courses:

- Management Concepts
- Operations Management
- Business Statistics
- Voluntary English course (no credit points, but helped to improve my English)

You should buy a textbook for every course, however, you have to decide by yourself if you really need to buy all the books or not. As they are very expensive I bought 1 of 3 books and had no trouble with my courses at all.

I had a good mixture of study and leisure time, so I could also travel a little bit throughout the semester.

You can also represent the Alpen Adria University at the Griffith University Exchange Fair, which I can highly recommend as you will get to know new international students again.

Should there be any troubles you can go to your coordinator every time, so there is no need to worry about any formal procedures at Griffith University.

Living in Australia



Australia is an amazing country with beautiful beaches, landscapes, nature and wildlife. Knowing a lot of international students, it is very easy to make a lot of nice short trips with other students.



As Brisbane is located in the east, it is quite easy to travel along the east coast. However, do not underestimate the costs for these trips! 5 days up north to the Great Barrier Reef can easily cost you about 800 to 900 Dollars. As living in Australia was very expensive for me, I had to choose my trips carefully.



Expenses

The monthly expenses highly depend on your style of living, but another important factor is also the exchange rate of the Australian Dollar. During the time I have been in Australia the exchange rate was unfortunately nearly on its deepest point. I hope the next student has more luck and a better exchange rate.

My **average monthly** expenses in €

Living	475 €
Food	120 €
Books and stationary	40 €
Public Transport	40 €
Health Insurance	100 €
Leisure time	90 €
Internet & mobile phone	33 €
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Total (approximately)	898 €

Summary

With the help of the coordinator at Griffith University, you shouldn't experience any troubles with the preparation, as she helps you in every matter in a short time.

All in all it was a great experience for me. Brisbane was the perfect choice as people are really relaxed, very friendly and helpful and you also get to know so many international students. I really liked the time at Griffith University and of course to travel in this amazing country! You experience a completely different way of life!

I can just highly recommend every student to apply for an exchange semester, as it is a great opportunity to get to know another country and its cultures as well as a experience you will never forget.

Last, I want to thank Mr. Wimmer, who made this possible for me!