

University of Tasmania

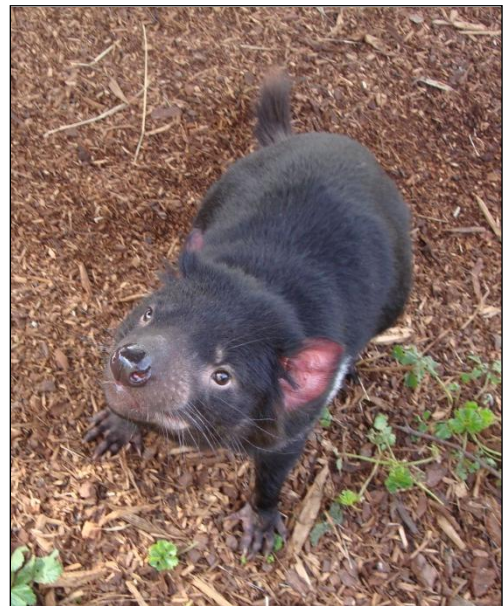


Semester 2

6. July 2009 – 10. November 2009

www.utas.edu.au

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Preparation

In November 2008 I wrote a motivation letter and curriculum vitae in order to do the exchange in the following winter semester 2009. In the letter I had to explain why I wanted to go to Tasmania and study at UTAS.

Once you get your acceptance from BIB, you contact a coordinator from your foreign university. I had to send them my General Confirmation of Academic Accomplishment, Exchange application form and a letter of recommendation. Mag. Köberl kindly wrote this letter of recommendation for me. After a few weeks I finally got my acceptance from UTAS and more documentation, which I had to fill out. I applied for the student visa with the CoE (Overseas Student Confirmation-of-Enrolment), which you can do online or through your travel agency. After the acceptance I had to choose eight courses and from this pre-selection, I had to select a minimum of three courses during the first week of university.

You'll also need a place to stay and you should apply for university accommodation from home. There is a lot of preparation but it is worth the effort.

Accommodation

UTAS offers several kinds of accommodation: University Apartments, Christ College, John Fisher College, Jane Franklin Hall and the TUU houses. The first three are located behind the university up the hill (10 minutes away from the campus).

If you want to live in one of these university accommodation buildings, you have to apply as soon as you get your acceptance, otherwise you won't get a place or at least not your first choice. If you apply for university accommodation, you can list three preferences.

I got the acceptance from UTAS quite late, so I didn't get any of my preferences, but they offered me a place at Christ College. Christ College consists of several buildings, which are all connected and every building has its own name, for example my building's name is 'Dudley'. The rooms are quite small, but you have everything you need – bed, wardrobe, desk and most of all a heater, which is really important for the winters in Tasmania, it gets really cold and the houses aren't insulated. At Christ College you have one big kitchen, where you can prepare your own food, but you have no fridge and you have to buy your own kitchen equipment. The alternative to self-catering is the cafeteria 'Pepperz', which is located next to the college. They offer quite cheap meals seven days a week.

In your room you have internet access, which is usually 1.5 GB, which costs \$20 a month.

The TUU houses are privately owned houses rented by the Uni. They are normally cheaper than the other uni-accommodation offers, but they are also known to be smelly and in a rather sad state. Your last option is to rent a room privately and many students have found cheap, clean and generally good private accommodation.

Overall I am satisfied with my accommodation, but I would really recommend the uni-apartments. Usually you live there with five people, you share the kitchen and the lounge room. Another advantage is that you only have to share the bathroom with two other people instead of the whole floor like in the colleges.

**Costs for one semester:
18 Weeks**

Return Flight	€ 1.400	
Overseas Student Health Cover	€ 110	
Security Deposit	€ 310	(this \$500 you'll get back at the end of the semester)
Acceptance Fee UTAS	€ 50	
Visa	€ 255	
Rent	€ 1.930	(\$175 weekly)
Additional Fee, because you stay there only for 1 semester	€ 150	
Internet 1.5 GB	€ 100	
Books	€ 250	
Cost of living	€ 2500	
Trips	€ 800	
	€ 7545	

University

In the first week there is an orientation week. It is good to get involved in, not only because of the huge amount of information, but also to meet all the other exchange students. In this week there are a few lectures, which prepare you for life at UTAS, they give you a lot of helpful information, take you on a campus tour, and offer free BBQs.

After this week the lectures and tutorials start, and in the next two weeks you have the opportunity to change your classes. You can go to the first lectures and see what they are like and then you decide which ones you'll take.

Usually each subject consists of one lecture and one tutorial. Tutorials are compulsory classes, where attendance is usually recorded unlike the lectures. In the Tutorials there are normally fewer students and they offer a great opportunity to talk with your teacher and ask about assignments etc.

BMA181 Introduction to International Business

The lecture was held by Dr Fan Liang and the tutorial by Mr Paul Miller. The content is really interesting and it gives you a good overview about International Business. I had to write an individual assignment (5%), group assignment (20%), in-lecture test (15%) and a final exam (60%) which lasts 3 hours.

(Usually you have to achieve at least 50% to pass any course).

BMA212 Business in and with Europe

The lecture and tutorial was held by Mr Tommy Wong. I really recommend this course. I had to write a group assignment, in which we had to export a business from Australia to a European country. It was really interesting to see how it works and what you have to be aware of. Besides the group assignment (20%), there is an in-lecture test (10%), group meetings (10%), a group presentation (10%), and the final exam (50%), which also lasts 3 hours.

BMA213 Entrepreneurship and Creativity

This course is quite different from all the others. It is a 3 hour workshop every second week in which we had to work out several business ideas and present them in the workshop. The last exercise, which we had to do, was to raise money for a charity in a creative way. It was an interesting workshop, where you can learn a lot in a fun way. The lecturer Collin is really nice and funny and always tries to boost your creativity.

I am more than satisfied with my choice of classes. The first two fit well together. In the first one you learn about international business in general and the second one is more specific and

more detailed. The third one was rather different, which made a good mixture for an interesting exchange semester.

Tasmania

Tasmania is the biggest island in Australia. Tasmania has an estimated population of 500,000 and 200,000 live in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania.

It is cold in the winter, but there is no snow or opportunities to go skiing or ice-skating.

Although it is Australia don't underestimate the weather and make sure you bring warm clothes. Tasmania consists of a number of mountains so it is perfect for hiking trips. Along the east coast of Tasmania you'll find beautiful beaches and a interesting coastline. If you go to Bay of fires, you'll see white sandy beaches like you've never seen before. There are lots of activities and places of interests in Tasmania!

Hobart is a pleasant, small city with some pubs along the Salamanca road. On this street the famous Salamanca Market takes place every Saturday morning. I went there nearly every Saturday, it is full of people and you can feel the energy.

Summary

This exchange semester was the best thing I've ever done. It was really interesting to study at a foreign university and experience how it works somewhere else. I saw a great deal of Australia and got to know so many people from different countries and cultures. It is a fabulous opportunity to improve your English skills, learn about life, and most importantly yourself. I had a great time here in Tasmania and I would not hesitate to do it again.