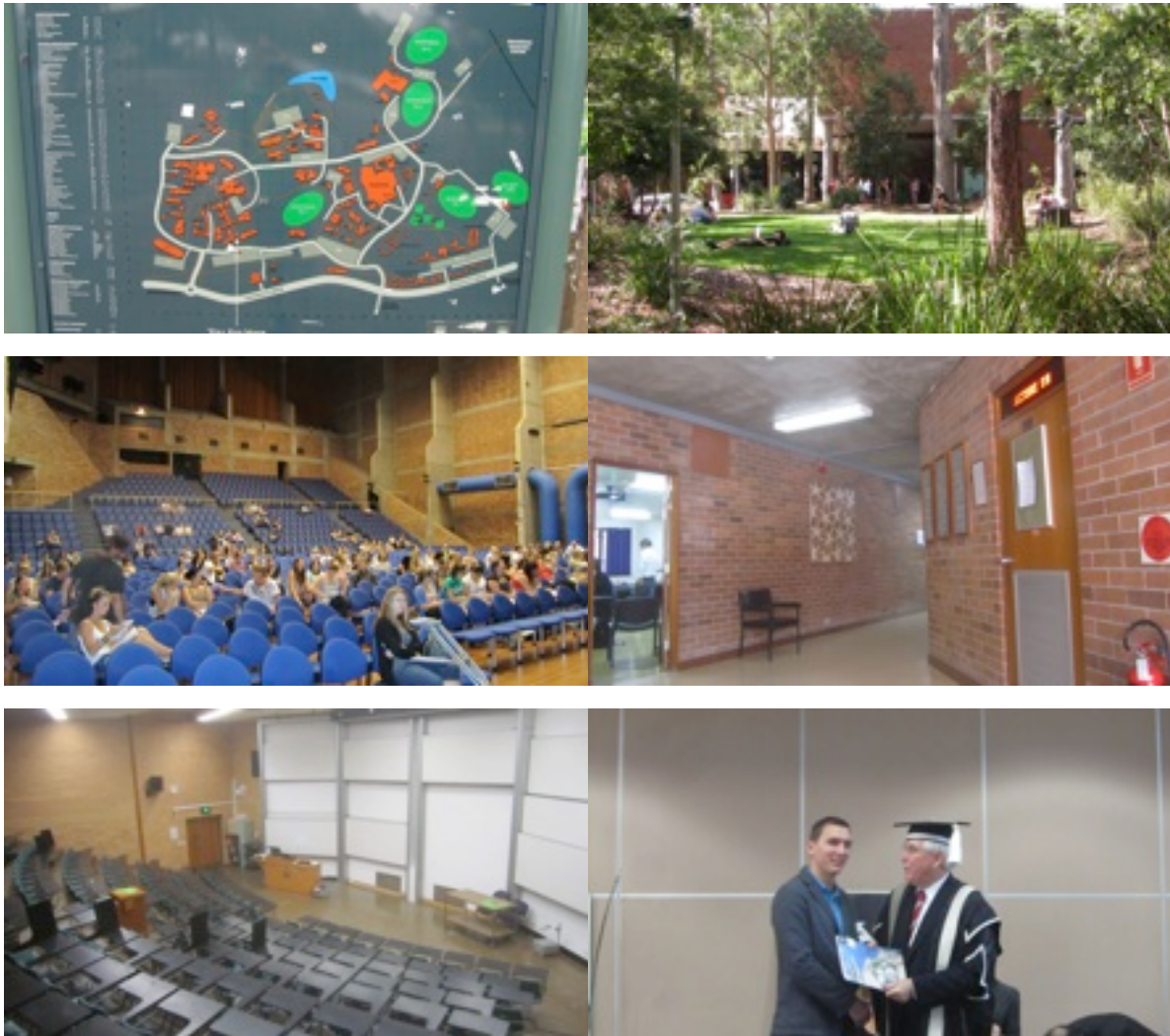


Name: Friesacher Markus  
Duration: February to June  
University: Newcastle, Australia  
Accommodation: Host Family



Awesome.... This semester abroad was the best experience I have ever made. If you have the chance do go abroad .... do it!!! You do not only meet new friends around the world, you also learn more about a different culture, behaviour and attitudes. That is very important for your personality and for your work life too. The BIB supports you in any upcoming matters, also the international office at the University of Newcastle helps with any kind of questions. Just do not hesitate to ask!

The courses are very different organised in Australia, because one course covers one lecture and at least one tutorial. There is not only one exam at the end of the semester, which creates your mark. You have some assessments during the whole semester, for example little multiple-choice-test, reports or essays. But I have to say, that looks worse than it is in real. The assessments are not that bad and if you put a bit of time into these you will get good marks pretty easy.

There are the same standards for international and exchange students as for the domestic students. But the university staff will help you in any upcoming matters and they also will support you in writing your reports and with your researching. Nevertheless, you do not really need the help from your tutors, because there are many group works and the people in Australia are really friendly, helpful and understandingly. At the beginning of the semester you get course outline, where you will find the standards of the course the expectations and also clear information about the assessments and the exam. There was also one exam question in the outline in one course.... crazy, isn't it?

The campus life and is very relaxed and friendly organised for international students. There are many maps around the campus, so you will never get lost and there is a campus security. It is not dangerous there, but if you do not know where you are, you just call them and they will pick you up. Once, I went through Melbourne-City with my luggage at midnight and I did not feel scared, because Australia is not dangerous, so you can go out without any doubt. Many Australians leave their house door unlocked when they went out or leave their open car unattended when they go shopping. The social life there is so friendly, trustfully and open minded, which is also reflected at the campus. Australia and also Newcastle is a place where you definitely could spend your whole life. If you go there, you will know what I mean. I am sure there are a lot of people, who feel the same as I. The social life in Australia is also one reason, why so many people all over the world immigrated to Down Under.

I decided to live with a host family. Definitely the right choice! If you live a bit away from the campus you will get more from the social life and the local culture. The bus services are pretty good developed, so there is not really a problem to go to the university and back. Although you do not live on the campus, you will find a lot of new friends. You also see

more of the city and the country if you live off-campus, because you do not „stuck“ on the campus. And if you would have any problems with your host family or you do not want to stay with a host family anymore, it is not a problem to get a new one or to change your accommodation towards campus.

The University of Newcastle is definitely open for new international students. They really like it if there is mixture of cultures and nationalities around the campus. At the beginning of the semester there is an international day. On this day you can join a boat cruise and you go to a farm, where you could see and touch Koalas and Kangaroos, with more than 250 new international students. You find new friends on this day for sure. I also found another Austrian... At the end of the semester there is a farewell ceremony for international students, who graduated or just spent one or more semesters at Newcastle. The university is helping you in any matters and is trying to integrate new students into the normal student life. They do it very well!!!

Do it ... go abroad! Try it, join it, love it! The unique experience is really wealthy. And one semester seems quite long, but if you are there one semester flies away. You have to enjoy each day abroad....

