

STUDY ABROAD

HALF A YEAR IN AUSTRALIA

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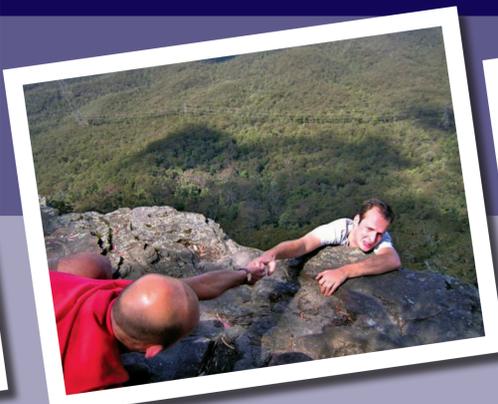


STUDY

At the end of my first year of the master program "Management of Technology" I got the opportunity to study for half a year at the "Queensland University of Technology" (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. This looked like a once in a lifetime opportunity so I decided to take it. QUT is a large university with about 40,000 students. Almost all kinds of studies are being taught which provides the opportunity to take courses which are not being offered in Delft. The exchange program consisted of half a year of studies during which I took courses to replace the mandatory courses of my program in Delft. Furthermore, I had some free space in my schedule which I used to take courses in the field of finance and logistics.

Some remarkable aspects of QUT are the laid back culture, the enthusiastic teaching style of the lecturers and the excellent facilities that are being offered. Australian students commonly wear flip flops and shorts when going to the lectures and do not bother much about deadlines and study pressure. Most of the teachers are really into their subject and do not mind to stay for an hour longer after the lectures to discuss the lecture with students. And about the facilities... we even got a personal desk with our own computer, telephone and 24 hour access.

'don't forget to go barbequing every once in a while.'



TIPS & TRICKS

- TRAVEL**
Participate in one of the sports competitions of the university. As an international student you easily end up having only international friends and not knowing much Australians. This is a good way to get to know your Australian fellow students.
- NORSK**
Join "Norsk", the Norwegian student organization which functions more or less as an international student club.
- FACEBOOK**
Create a "Facebook" account. Most events and parties are being advertised via this medium.
- HORSE RACES**
Visit the horse races. I unfortunately didn't, but this is some real Australian history.
- COURSES**
Don't bother too much about the courses QUT allows you to participate in on forehand. After arriving at the university and talking with the teachers it is often still possible to participate in the courses that you weren't allowed to initially.

FREE TIME

Spending your weekends and evenings in a nice way is easily accomplished in Brisbane. The city is located close enough to the coast to take day trips to the beach where there is the opportunity to go surfing and swimming. There are also several islands located near the coast where you could go for a weekend and perform all kinds of sports like scuba diving, sand boarding, and mountain biking. Furthermore, there are some beautiful rainforests located close to the city (for Australian standards) and if you don't manage to see the wildlife of Australia during those trips, Steve Irwin's Australian Zoo is also within reach. That's where we went when we realized that we hadn't seen a single koala or wombat in half a year. But staying in the city for the weekend is also much fun if you like to party. My favorite weekends consisted of house parties on Friday and Saturday night in the most incredible student houses with large gardens and sometimes even swimming pools. Then, after having two crazy nights I went to the sports fields of the university on Sunday to play in the mixed student's soccer competition. Other ways to spend your free time are to go climbing on the natural rock wall in the middle of the city, visit some of the popular nightclubs and don't forget to go barbequing every once in a while.

EXPERIENCES

The experience of living on the other side of the world for half a year is very exciting in itself already. For me, the daily life in itself in Brisbane was the thing I liked the most. Just cycling along the river past the city centre crowded with skyscrapers through the botanic gardens to the university was a nice way to start your day with. Add to that the open and very hospitable character of the Australians and the broad offering of activities by the university and your daily life is just good as it is.

- TRAVEL**
But logically I have taken some time to travel as well. The backpacker's life in Australia is very popular among many Europeans which has resulted in loads of hostels to stay in and some villages which have developed from a quiet village into a real backpackers' party place. I traveled from Adelaide via Melbourne and Sydney towards the north east coast of Australia which is an amazing trip. Especially the surf camp which I joined and the sailing trip in the area of the Whitsunday Islands (the most beautiful part of Australia according to some) are nice memories to look back at.

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