

STUDY ABROAD REPORT

You should upload this report **within 2 months** after the end of your stay abroad to Mobility Online. You should also upload the confirmation of your stay abroad from your host university as well as the equivalence list signed by the dean after your mobility to Mobility Online. If you should not fulfil these requirements it is possible that your whole study grant will be revoked (see letter of acceptance). Queries: jointstudy@boku.ac.at

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: **Anonym**
- Study programme: **H NARMEE**
2. Host university: **Lincoln University**
 Host country: **New Zealand**
3. Your period
 of stay: from **12 02 2019** to **01 07 2019**
 Study year: **2019**

FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

4. Information about the host university. How helpful were the following sources of information?

(Please enter a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful):

Homepage of the host university	5
Students / friends	5
Teachers at BOKU	2
Curricula	4
Host university	4
Centre for International Relations	2
Other:	

5. How would you evaluate your ability in the language of the host university?

(1 = weak to 5 = excellent)

	Before your stay abroad					After your stay abroad				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Languages of care/support at the host university and their use in percentage:

Language of care was German: Yes No

1.) Englisch	100 %	3.)	%
2.)	%	4.)	%

What recommendations would you give to future students about the host country and university? (Questions 7 -14) Please give tips, sources of information, contacts, and links

7. Host country

New Zealand's culture is very different compared to the one in Austria. For example, people rarely have cash with them; they pay everything with the credit card. Herefore I can recommend that students already know before they arrive, how to open up a bank account and how to transfer money in the cheapest and best way from their European account to one in New Zealand. Also, I can recommend that students try to meet with former NARMEE exchange students so that they can learn about the cultural differences more. For me, in the beginning, the cultural differences were a bit frustrating, especially in combination with the intense studies

8. Host university

University is a great place to meet international people. I would guess that more than 80% of the master students are from abroad. So if you want to make friends with people from all over the world, lincoln is the right place.

Also, the host University offers an enormous amount of sports classes and activities all around the south island. For example, the Recreational Centre has a free gym, and you can attend classes like yoga. The Lincoln tramping club of the University regularly offers trips to the mountains, where you can choose from a variety of beautiful tracks.

Very recommendable

9. To what extent did you feel socially integrated?

(1 = not at all to 5 = very well)	1	2	3	4	5
in the local culture/community in general	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with international students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Which contact person (at BOKU/the host university) helped you organise your stay abroad?

██████████ from BOKU, NARMEE student colleagues.
 At the Lincoln, most of the time I was in contact with ██████████

11. How would evaluate the general advice and help given in administrative matters?

(Please give a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful)

at the Center for International Relations	2
from teachers at BOKU	3
from the host university	4
from students at the host university	4
from others:	

12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

From my point of view, the financial support could be higher. People who are going to Prag have better financial security; therefore, the exchange to Lincoln is still a question of social class. If you have enough money to pay for your life in New Zealand, then you can attend the programme. At the moment I arrived in New Zealand, I had already spent all the financial support (flight, insurance...). The requirements and application process is fair and manageable. If you want to take part in the exchange programme, then it is recommendable to start planning for it from the beginning of your master studies on.

13. Can you give advice and suggestions regarding the social aspect of your host country/university (cultural differences, importance of language ability etc.)?

The English accent in New Zealand is a bit different, especially in the countryside like Lincoln, which makes it difficult in the beginning to understand and have conversation flow with the locals "Kiwis". If you want to be socially integrated, you will have to attend all kind of activities at the University. Also, often you will probably be in the older aged part of the group, since at the Lincoln University mainly bachelors are present or people are just still really young when they start their masters.

14. Were there events organised especially for exchange students during your stay?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:

There were some so-called "happy hours" in which exchange students could sit together and have a free drink. Also, the Latin club of the University did organize salsa learning classes, in which all students could meet and have a good time together.

ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS

15. What was your primary residence during your stay?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student dormitory | <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel / guest house |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Room in a private apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> own private apartment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flat share with other students | |

16. Who helped you look for accommodation?

- Host university
- Housing market
- Friends/family
- Other:

17. How helpful was the host university in looking for a room?

(1 = not helpful to 5 = very helpful)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

18. How would you evaluate the quality of the accommodation? (1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

19. How would you evaluate the availability and/or accessibility of assistance given during your studies (regarding for example the library, computer rooms, labs, equipment etc.)?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

20. How would you evaluate the accessibility and/or quality of computers and email services at the host university?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

21. Expenses during your stay abroad (in Euros):

Travel costs (for a single return journey): 1200 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 480 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	310	€ / Month
Food	120	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	0	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	100	€ / Month
Study fees	0	€ / Month
Other:		€ / Month

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

22. How would you evaluate your stay abroad from an academic point of view?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

23. How would you evaluate your stay abroad from a personal point of view?

(1 = unsatisfactory to 5 = highly satisfactory):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

24. Which aspects of your stay abroad did you like the most?

<p>From an academic point of view: to study in an native english speaking country</p>
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From a social/cultural point of view:

See the beauty of New Zealand and meet many international people

25. Did you have any problems during your stay abroad?

I didn't liked my "Kiwi" flatmates, but I didnt changed the flat because of economical reasons.

26. Will your academic progress at BOKU be hindered as a result of your stay abroad?

Yes No I don't know

If yes, please explain why:

27. How could the Joint Study and student exchange programme be improved in your opinion?

Just the fact that the financial support itself is not enough. For example, the previous exchange group had an additional ERASMUS support of 1000 Euro. (not sure about the exact amount). Right now the money is definitely not enough.

General Report

Short feedback on your stay: attended lectures, seminars, excursions, etc.

Other things you found interesting, you think future students should know, problems, general tips and recommendations...

My course combination at Lincoln University consisted of the following lectures: 686 Managing Programmes of Change, 630 Environmental Policy and Planning and 632 Economics in Environmental Policies. All three lectures are over 600 and therefore the highest level of courses available at the University. The lectures have been very intense and a in total seven big assignment and five small assignments had to be accomplished by the student. Especially the course combination of Environmental Policy and Planning and Managing programmes of change was a bit critical because of a course overlay. The student had to decide which course to attend and therefore lost one hour of one of these courses every week. In such intense studies, it can have a significant impact on the grading and educational outcome, if a student can attend a class for the full time. The overlay happened because the course selection is not typical for the Lincoln University, but as a part of the NARMEE curriculum, it was accepted. Therefore I recommend checking with the Lincoln coordinator, in my case [REDACTED], if the courses you wish to attend may have overlays.

Accommodation tip: If you wish not to stay on campus, there is a great facebook group called "Lincoln Flatting Traders". I found my accommodation in this group, and it was a good deal.

Sport: The recreational centre of the University campus offers a lot of exciting sports courses as well as a free gym. Here you can find a great balance in contrast to sitting on the library for the intense studies.

Grocery: If you want to spend less on your food, you should get a car and drive to Hornby where you can buy food cheaper at Pak'n'save. In Lincoln is the supermarket brand "New World" which is quite expensive.

Transportation: I recommend to buy a car, so you can be flexible and also visit all the beautiful places around Lincoln. The area of Lincoln itself is quite uninteresting.

The last two questions

What did you gain the most out of your stay abroad?

I gained a lot of excellent English skills and being more confident in scientific writing in English as well. Then for me personally, it was a huge benefit to be out of normal student life in Vienna, get to know a different university and to think a lot about my personal future development.

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

If you are not sure if you will enjoy being alone in a different environment, you might feel a bit lonely in Lincoln. If the NARMEE exchange group is big enough, this shouldn't be the case anyway. I made the experience that it is quite challenging to make friends with the "Kiwis"; it might only be my personal experience. So, don't stress yourself too much when it is about friendship with Kiwis, and also you will have the option to meet plenty of international students.

Many thanks for your support!

Publication of this report

I agree that this report, including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, length of stay), will be published on the website of the Center for International Relations for the purpose of exchanging information on the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can be informed about your experience at the host institution.

Yes No

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time in the future without giving reasons. Any revocation can be declared at any time by e-mail to joinstudy@boku.ac.at.