

STUDY ABROAD REPORT

You should upload/send this report **within 2 months** after the end of your stay abroad to Mobility Online (Joint Study) /send via e-mail (CEEPUS). 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 (Joint Study)/send via e-mail (CEEPUS). 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 or ceepus@boku.ac.at

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: **Anonym**

- Study programme: **H 066 416**

2. Host university: **Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki Lincoln University**
 Host country: **Aotearoa New Zealand**
3. Your period
 of stay: from **07 July 2025** to **10 November 2025**
 Study year: **2025**

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	4
Students / friends	5
Teachers at BOKU	3
Curricula	2
Host university	5
BOKU International Relations	3
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 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"/>
Listening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>
Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>

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

Language of care was German: ☐ Yes ☒ No

1.) English	90 %	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

Incorporate shorter trips into your semester and definitely spend some more time in Aotearoa after the official exchange, there is so much to see and do! There is also a two week semester break in October, so that is a great opportunity to travel a bit further.
There are intercity buses, but in general public transport doesn't work very well and it is quite hard to reach nice hiking and climbing spots, so a car or van (self-contained!) makes things a lot easier and there are so many beautiful places to sleep at.

8. Host university

Choose your courses carefully - apart from the mandatory course, I recommend doing courses that are different than the ones at BOKU. Like Maori studies or other things more specific to Aotearoa that you cannot really study at BOKU. Some parts of my courses were just repetitions of things I already learned at BOKU, so I would have definitely chosen different courses at LU if I would do the exchange again.
LU is surrounded by farmland and the immediate area is not that interesting, but there are lots of nice climbing and hiking spots around - Banks Peninsula & the Porthills, Arthur's pass, etc. It takes about 40min-1h (depending on traffic and rush hour) to get to Ōtautahi Christchurch by car or public bus.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with international students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Hui Li at LU, she is the best and really quick at answering
BOKU: Eva Oburger, joint studies (but both oftentimes take long to reply)

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 BOKU International Relations	3
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

The registration and application process is a bit messy and many things aren't very clear - ask students that went to Aotearoa before you to help and give you more information! It's what helped me the most. People at BOKU oftentimes provide contradictory information and take a long time to respond, which makes the whole process a bit stressful since you have to hand in documents at a certain deadline.

The financial support provided is nice, but pretty much only covers the flights.

Start early with gathering all your documents!

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

It was nice to live on campus or close to campus, but LU accommodation (even though it is practical) is definitely more expensive than living in a private flat. Apart from younger undergrad students, mostly international students live at the LU flats, so if you want to meet more locals, it's nice to look for a private flat.

It was easier to connect to the international students at LU, but a great way to get to know more people at uni are the different clubs (hiking, running, pottery, etc.) - there is a club fair at the beginning of the semester where you can talk to their members and see what interests you.

LUSA (the LU student organization, like BOKU ÖH) organizes quite a few events throughout the semester as well.

Apart from that: Go to events in Ōtautahi Christchurch, go to the boulder gyms there or use dating apps (also just for friends) to meet more locals!

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate which ones:

Orientation at the beginning of the semester and a few check-ins during the semester

ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS**15. What was your primary residence during your stay?**

- ☐ Student dormitory
 ☐ Hotel / guest house
☐ Room in a private apartment
 ☐ own private apartment
☒ Flat share with other students

16. Who helped you look for accommodation?

- ☒ Host university
 ☐ Friends/family
☐ Housing market
 ☐ 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): 2450 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 1480 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation		580	€ / Month
Food		400	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study		300	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.		0	€ / Month
Study fees		/	€ / Month
Other:	Car & Activities	200	€ / 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?

From an academic point of view:

Events and talks at LU, exchange with other students (especially from Asia), master thesis + fieldwork

From a social/cultural point of view:

insights into Māori culture and perspective on nature & environment

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

/

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?

Better and more clear instructions about the application process, faster response rates and clear responsibilities, more information about courses at LU + more freedom in choosing courses there (the mandatory courses do not make much sense in my opinion)
-> maybe you could collect reviews of the courses that BOKU students have taken at LU to get a better overview of them for future exchange students?

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...

I had a really great time at Lincoln University! It was a lot of work at times, but make sure to take breaks and get around - even if it seems that uni work is overwhelming - you will manage somehow! And you can always ask for extensions on your assignments, in my experience the lecturers at LU were quite nice about this.

I took two classes: ERST636 Aspects of Sustainability and ERST633 Integrated Environmental Management. Instead of a third regular class, I did a research placement with my supervisor to work on my master thesis and do fieldwork at a trial at LU. Doing my master thesis here was definitely very interesting, but also a lot more work and sometimes it made it even harder to accomodate all the other things I wanted to do in Aotearoa. But also a cool experience!

The last two questions

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

New experiences and new friends, travelling by myself and understanding and learning about more different perspectives on nature, the environment and climate change/mitigation, especially Māori culture.

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

Finding a group to travel with can be really helpful, especially at the beginning of your stay! This is probably easiest with your flatmates/other international students, but it is really nice to get to know more locals as well, so try and do that from the beginning on too!

Also: There is so much to do in Aotearoa, you will never be able to do it all. Don't stress too much - it is more about the quality of the things you do, not the quantity. Just working off a list will probably not feel as good and slow travelling is really nice!

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 BOKU 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.