

STUDENT SURVEY

Please send this survey to Veronika Eberl at the **BOKU International Relations** (e-mail: kuwi@boku.ac.at) **within two months** of the end of the study abroad period. The letter of acknowledgement from the host institution should also be turned in to BOKU-IR (Peter Jordan Straße 82A, 1190 Wien). If all forms are not handed in (including this one), it is possible that the entire sum of the scholarship must be re-paid by the recipient to KUWI (see the agreement).

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: anonymous

Field of study: Biotechnology

Host Institution: University of Queensland

Host country/city: Australia, Brisbane

Study Abroad Period: from 15.01.2024 until 06.09.2024

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

2. Information about the research offerings at the host institution:

How helpful were the following informational resources?

(1 = not helpful to 5 = very helpful)

BOKU- International Relations

Lecturers at BOKU

Degree course schemes

Students / friends

Host institution

Host institution's web homepages

Other:

3. How would you rank your knowledge of the language spoken at your host institution?

(1 = little to 5 = excellent)

	Vor dem Aufenthalt im Ausland					Nach dem Aufenthalt im Ausland				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Reading comprehension	<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 comprehension	<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 ability	<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 Ability	<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"/>

4. Languages most often used at the host institution, in percent:

Used language German: Ja Nein

1. English	100	2.
3.		4.

Which recommendations/tips would you give to future students about the host country and host institution?

Australia and Brisbane in particular is amazing to study – it is very vibrant, open minded and literally a melting pot of different nations and cultures. The academic institutes here are exceptional and offer so many opportunities, especially if students are motivated and want to stay in academia. It is good to know that there is a different approach towards work and work-life balance plays a huge role. Also, aussies are very laid back and fun to be around – although they are very bad at giving direct feedback which can be a bit difficult when giving presentations etc.

I would definitely recommend getting a bike in brissie, as the city is not too big and very easy to bike around. Definitely bring lots of short and swim clothes and sunscreen as it gets really really hot, but especially for the colder months some jumpers and warmer clothes are good to bring, as it can get really cold inside aussie houses.

5. Host country

Australia

6. Host institution

University of Queensland

7. To which degree did you feel socially integrated??

(1 = not at all to 5 = very good)

	1	2	3	4	5
Local culture/ society overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
With students from the host institution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
With other foreign students at the host institution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

8. With help from which contact person (at BOKU/ at the host institution) did you organize your stay?

I got help from BOKU IR which helped a lot sorting out the KUWI scholarship. HR officer and my supervisor at UQ took care of all the paperwork that I needed to get the Visa, which was really helpful.

9. To which degree would you rate the support you were thereby given (before and after your stay)?

(1 = low to 5 = high)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BOKU- International Relations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lecturers at BOKU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host institution
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students from the host institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

10. Application forms, financial support, other needs

Letter of invitation and the visa are crucial, but also health insurance needs to be organized by the student.

11. Please give tips and helpful suggestions in reference to your host country/ host institution regarding society (cultural differences, importance of command of language, etc.):

There are so many clubs and societies from the students union at UQ, there is even a german student club that offers networking with german speaking countries. I would definitely recommend participating in events from UQ Union, as it helps to get to know people outside your classes/lab.

12. During your stay abroad, were special events organized specifically for exchange students?

Yes

If yes, please include descriptions: Orientation week is 2 times a year at the beginning of semester, that helps new students orientate on campus and at UQ. My institute also hosts a proper induction at the beginning of every research quarter and SIMBA, the students union at IMB organises lots of events especially for networking of students.

ACCOMODATION, SERVICES AND EXPENCES

13. Where did you actually live during your stay abroad?

- Student dormitory
 Hotel / boarding house / guest house
 Room in a private apartment
 Private apartment
 Shared apartment with other students

14. Who helped you find living accommodation?

- Host institution Friends/family
 Broker Other: I had to organise it myself

15. What quality of support did the host institution give in the search for accommodation?

(1 = bad to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

16. How would you rank the accommodation?

(1 = bad to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

17. To which extent were student resources available to you? (libraries, computer labs, laboratories, facilities, etc.)?

(1 = not at all bis 5 = very good)

- 1 2 3 4 5

18. How was the computer and internet access?

(1 = bad bis 5 = very good)

- 1 2 3 4 5

19. Monthly expenditure during the course of the stay abroad (in Euros):

Travel expenses (for one way there and back): 1500

Monthly expenditure (incl. accommodation): 1050, spent on:

- 600 Accommodation
- 250 Maintenance
- 50 Commuting expenses
- Costs of books, copy, etc.
- Tuition
- 150 Other: Freetime activities

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

20. Evaluate your stay in an academic sense:

(1 = bad to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

21. Evaluate your stay in a personal sense:

(1 = bad to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

22. Which aspects of your study abroad stay did you most enjoy?

In an academic sense:

IMB is one of the best research institutes in the world. Not only can you learn from world experts, but the equipment and the possibilities are extraordinary. There are weekly seminars you can attend as a student to learn what other researchers do at the institute. It is even possible to attend conferences as a visiting student.

In a socio-cultural sense:

It is just a very nice experience to get to know so many people with different cultural backgrounds. It reduces internalised stereotypes and you make friends from all over the world.

23. Did you have any problems during this study abroad stay?

If there is an election during your stay in Australia, you won't be able to vote because the ballot takes way too much time to get to Australia and back.

24. Did the fact that you studied abroad cause you to have to study at BOKU longer?

- Yes No I don't no

25. In your opinion, how can the KUWI scholarship program improve upon itself?

Considering the current prices of rent in Australia and the flights, the amount has to increase significantly to be able to cover more than just a portion. Still, it is a very nice financial 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 outgoing students can be informed about your experience at the host institution.

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 kuwi@boku.ac.at.

Yes No

Research Report

(Brief report of stay abroad from scientific point of view, ca. 1 page)

During my Master thesis I explored the venom of an Australian spider, to understand how its venom works, what molecules it contains with the idea of discovering interesting molecules that can be turned into bioinsecticides or therapeutics. I got to work in the interface of venomics and pharmacology and got to see, how venoms are studied and turned into medicines potentially curing diseases like ALS or epilepsy. My project was a good mix of Mass-spectrometry, transcriptomics and bioinformatics as part of venomics and high throughput bioassays using human neuroblastoma cells to understand the mechanism of how the venom works. We also used chemical synthesis to synthesise toxins and further characterise their activity in humans and later on also in insects in insecticidal assays using drosophila melanogaster as model organism and American cockroaches as a second reference organism.

I got to participate in Journal clubs, present my work (progress) in lab meetings which helped improve my presentation skills in English a lot. During my stay, I got the opportunity to participate in 3 conferences, where I was offered to present my work as a poster. This not only provided insight into the academic world, but also helped a lot in networking with other scientists within Australia. It obviously also helps a lot to get in contact with well established scientists, as they have collaborators all over the world and can assist with advice for either a PhD or in general career possibilities. Collaboration here is very important so there are many opportunities to work in a interdisciplinary project and learn different perspectives one can have on a research project.

Thank you for your help!