

# STUDENT SURVEY

Please send this survey to Selis Schmidt at the **Zentrum für Internationale Beziehungen** (e-mail: [selis.schmidt@boku.ac.at](mailto:selis.schmidt@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 ZIB (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: **Owen Bradlez**
- Sex: ☐ female ☒ male
- Code of study: **H 066429**
- Student ID number **1478824**
- Host Institution: **NAST**
- Host country/city: **Nepal**
- Study Abroad Period: from **10.05.2016** until **11.07.2016**

## 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)

☒ Center for 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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	95%	2. Nepali	5%
3.		4.	

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

(Please give any recommendations, information resources, contacts and links)

### 5. Host country

Be prepared for; difficult travelling (buses etc), lack of hygiene, change in diet.

### 6. Host institution

Be prepared for; relatively slow processing of work/administration.

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Florian Peloschek - Centre for Development Research, Boku, Prof. Georg Gratzner, Prof. Klaus Katzensteiner, Prof. Mohan.

### 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"/> 4	Center for International Relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	Lecturers at BOKU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	Host institution
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Students from the host institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

### 10. Application forms, financial support, other needs

### 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.):

Be patient and keep an open mind and.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please include descriptions: Many project meetings and a week long field trip with the Professors at the beginning of my stay.

## ACCOMMODATION, 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:

### 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): 640,00 €

Monthly expenditure (incl. accommodation): 465,00 € ,spent on:

200,00 € Accommodation

200,00 € Maintenance

45,00 € Commuting expenses

10,00 € Costs of books, copy, etc.

Tuition

Other

## 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:**

First hand field experience with the Professors, plus collecting samples in the Himalaya and processing them in the lab in Kathmandu.

**In a socio-cultural sense:**

Living with a family in a remote village in the Himalaya and getting an insight into that way of life.

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

Nothing major, severe diarrhea and fleas.

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

☐Yes ☒No ☐I don't no

If so, why?

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

Maybe send a reminder to submit this particular form, otherwise excellent.

I hereby give permission for KUWI to show my completed study abroad survey to other students who are thinking about going on a study abroad trip:

Yes ☒ No ☐

# Research Report

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

From the 10/5/2016 until the 11/7/2016 I was in Nepal collecting data for my Master Thesis: "Is community forestry a sustainable strategy for carbon sequestration? A case study in frame of the 'BOKU carbon offset project in Nepal'". The 'carbon offsetting' project is from the BOKU and works together with the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Tribhuvan University and Amrit Department of Botany in Kathmandu.

My study will attempt to evaluate the carbon sequestration potential for one of the proposed areas where future BOKU sponsored carbon offset shall take place. The Master's Thesis project shall be a comparative study of two adjacent communities: one community (Lahduk) where within a Swiss funded project which started 35 years ago and which was supported for more than 20 years, afforestation, agroforestry and grazing management activities were successful, the other, neighbouring community (Bulungkhani) which did not participate in the described activities. While 35 years ago the forest integrity in the latter community was allegedly intact, the forest is now heavily degraded and overgrazed, leading to scarcity of fodder and wood supply. In a 'twinning' study together with a Nepalese student from Tribhuvan University the status of the two communities will be compared with respect to biomass and soil carbon stocks.

Specifically I spent 40 days in the Gaurishankar conservation area collecting data and samples then 20 days in Kathmandu working in the laboratory. The first week in Gaurishankar was with the Professors from Boku and Nepal assessing the area, building relationships with local leaders and refining my sampling design. We walked through and observed the area and how the people there used it and we began to differentiate between the differing land use types. We also invested a lot of time speaking with local village leaders and the chairmen of the village community forests as well as other important political characters from the area. This helped greatly towards me being accepted by the local people, they were aware that I would be working in their forests and they were generally helpful and interested in what I was doing. Once the Professors left I moved in with a family at the first village where I was taking samples in Bulungkhani. My daily routine of sample collection consisted of completing 2 plots per day, each plot taking an average of four hours with an average walk in time of two hours. To record the vegetation I used both fixed area plots and angle counts, and for soil I took samples from all horizons in a one cubic meter pit and aggregated samples from 3 satellite pits.

Luckily in the first house where I stayed I employed the help of the 20 year old son (Keshav), he helped with carrying the tools for digging, then the digging itself, and carrying back the soil samples at the end of the day. He was also my guide to the area, he has an intimate knowledge of the forest, can identify every plant (by the local name) and kept me safe from snakes and leeches. After five weeks of collecting samples and data I completed 37 plots.

Once I arrived in KTM I began work on the processing of the soil samples in the NAST laboratory with my assistant Nita and under the supervision of Dr Anjana Giri. This work consisted of sieving the soil samples, separating the roots, organic material and stones in order to calculate the bulk density of the soil and from that derive the approximate c content.

The next stage will be the statistical analysis of the results and to present the findings.

**Thank you for your help!**