

# 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](mailto:jointstudy@boku.ac.at)

## BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: **Anonym**
- Study programme: **H 066 416**
2. Host university: **Lincoln University**  
 Host country: **New Zealand**
3. Your period  
 of stay: from **04 02 2020** to **10 04 2020**  
 Study year: **Semester 1 of 2020 (second half of semester online due to COVID19)**

## 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	3
Students / friends	4
Teachers at BOKU	2
Curricula	3
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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	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**

The host country offers a great opportunity to improve your english skills and language level. Furthermore, the country offers remarkable landscapes for traveling, hiking and exploring. Unfortunately, a car is required to travel to most places since there is little public transport available. Be aware that NZ is quite expensive regarding living costs (accomodation, food, etc.), so make sure you have the financial security to stay there for one semester. You need to apply for your visa in advance through the New Zealand Immigration website (at least one month in advance due to processing time). Take into account that there are alternative ways to flying to get there and you can choose to make your stay as environmental friendly as possible.

**8. Host university**

LU is a remarkable host university. Since it is quite small, teachers take a lot of time to care individually for students. They offer a lot of support during your stay if you make the effort to take it. Courses are very praxis oriented and you can learn a lot. The amount of work and studying level at LU can be very high.

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

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

Center for International Relations



**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): 1700 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 600 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	400	€ / Month
Food	100	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	100	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	0	€ / 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?**

**From an academic point of view:**

I was highly impressed by the university and how much I was able to learn there.

**From a social/cultural point of view:**

I lived on a farm close to the university and had the opportunity to experience a lot there. I would not recommend staying on campus only, but getting to know the country and local people.

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

Due to the corona crises I returned home earlier.

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?

- 1) There is little support with the online application and the exchange. This could be improved.
  - 2) The website for the application could be more userfriendly.
  - 3) Recommendation letters can only be issued by habilitated professors. Not all teachers in high positions at BOKU have this title but should be able to issue a letter of recommendation.
  - 4) Unfortunately, additional scholarships are not given to students who require help the most. On request I received the information that they will be given to students with the best records and extracurricular activities. This does not always match the students who receive it. Students with a good connection to the Center for International Relations seem to have an advantage to those with the best records. Scholarships should go to students who need financial support the most which is not the case at the moment. If they are given due to good performance, this should be done in a fair way.

## **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 took the following courses at LU:

- 1) Advanced Environmental Policy and Planning (very good course, you learn a lot about New Zealand's politics and debating as well as scientific writing)
- 2) Advanced Environmental Management Systems (very good course, very good teacher and a lot of practical applications, guest lectures and working with companies)
- 3) Planning and Assessing International Development Projects (good course, interesting for those wanting to work in NGO's)

It is helpful to talk to your student advisor about your courses and assess the best options for you. There is great support at LU.

For most courses, scientific writing skills are required and assignments have to be handed in throughout the semester. The library offers a good place for studying. There are some courses that offer excursions which is a nice way to explore the country and learn practical applications of the study content.

I stayed at a farm close to the university and helped with the farm work there. My life with the local family was a wonderful experience. I can highly recommend not staying on campus but with a local host family. It is usually much cheaper and you get in touch more with the local people. A bicycle or car is required if you live off campus.

On campus accommodations are relatively expensive and buying food can be very expensive as well.

## The last two questions

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

1) I learned a lot at LU in terms of scientific writing skills, research skills and skills for my future working life.

2) I gained great experiences by living and working on a farm in New Zealand.

**Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?**

Actively participating in the courses gives you the opportunity to learn a lot in this semester. Staying with a local family off campus is a great experience. Take the opportunity to experience another country and culture. You can integrate your environmental values into your stay by trying to travel environmental friendly (car sharing etc.), visiting local farms, buying local food from farmers, etc.

**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](mailto:joinstudy@boku.ac.at).