

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 066 416**
2. Host university: **Lincoln University**
 Host country: **New Zealand**
3. Your period
 of stay: from **07 02 2020** to **21 03 2020**
 Study year: **Semester 1 in New Zealand, 2020**

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	1
Curricula	2
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 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"/>
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 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.) 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

New Zealand is an amazing country! I would definitely recommend to get a car, because the public transport is not good there and the host university is situated in the countryside. The people are very friendly and supportive and outgoing.
If you love nature and having the sea nearby, then New Zealand, especially Lincoln, is the place to go. By car you are at the beach in 20 minutes and in the mountains for a hike in about an hour.

8. Host university

The host university was great! They took really good care of us and were always there for you if you needed support. Sometimes they maybe overdid it a little bit with their support and mandatory talks but they were really nice. Fun fact: there was free food provided from the university nearly every week on campus!

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

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

The exchange coordinator [redacted] was really helpful with the organisation and also [redacted] helped me with my ICP. Our prior programme coordinator [redacted] answered my remaining questions mostly about courses.

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	5
from teachers at BOKU	1
from the host university	5
from students at the host university	4
from others: students at the home university	5

12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

The registration process was pretty straight forward. Financial support was given through the free study place at LU and a scholarship of 1,750 €. One person also got the Erasmus+ International Mobility Scholarship of about 3000 €.

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

Cultural differences were not a problem. It was easy to socialize with other students at the host university because of various events at the university. A good language ability is definitely important due to the fact that everything is in English.

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

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:
Yes there were a lot of events which all contained free food and free drinks. Definitely worth going! Most of the time it were invitations for coffee and cake or lunch.
There were also events during the semester for all students. Semester opening partys and a Bogan Bingo night for example. It was more fun than I had expected but it was also a lot different to campus partys we know at BOKU. Mostly because the students in LU are not allowed to drink alcohol before they turn 18. Some students are experiencing alcohol for their first time on these partys and are going wild - so be prepared!

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): 1250 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 1050 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	600	€ / Month
Food	250	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	150	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	0	€ / Month
Study fees	0	€ / Month
Other: car	50	€ / 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:

The courses were very interactive with a lot of group works and working together on projects, mostly during the classes (depending on the course).

From a social/cultural point of view:

It was easy to get to know other students on campus due to many events, roommates in the shared flat and group works.

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

No, except that a pandemic broke out and I had to leave New Zealand much earlier than I expected or wanted to.

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?

It was tough to find two habilitated professors at BOKU to write recommendation letters. I would have preferred it if this was also possible for NOT habilitated professors. I would have appreciated extra help for students in need of financial support. Additionally, there is only the Erasmus + Mobility Scholarship which is going to just one student with the best grades, who is not always in need of the extra money. I think it would be fair to also help out students who need more support financially.

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 attended three lectures in my stay:

WATR 601: Advanced Water Resources - This was my favorite course, although it was demanding (but manageable!). The one-day excursion was my highlight! It was necessary to write an excursion protocol and a paper about water transport systems in a city of choice. I had to lead a class discussion and had to participate in an online discussion forum 5 times in the semester. There was a written exam in the end.

ERST 630: Environmental Policy and Planning - This was the mandatory course we had to take. It was not in my particular interest but still the course was interesting for me! We had A LOT of interactive group works during class and a lot of papers to read for every class. There were 3 papers to write, the first about evidence policy making, the second was a briefing to an incoming minister of climate change and the third one was a review of the effective action by a regional council regarding climate change.

ECOL 608: Research Methods in Ecology - I only took this course because I needed one with research methods. But it turned out really interesting! I liked most that the written tasks were quite different and new to me. For example I had to write a blog post (mine was about climate change, which was really fun!) and an application for a research fund. This had to be presented afterwards (it was planned in class but the university was closed due to Covid-19 so it changed to an online presentation which we uploaded). 40% of the class was statistics. I did not know that before and I do not enjoy working with R but surprisingly it was really easy and on a low level for beginners, so I could improve my basics, which was good. We got a papersheet with questions and tasks in the end to work on at home and then upload our results - the tasks were similar to what we had done in class, so no problem at all.

The last two questions

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

I definitely improved my writing and reading skills in this semester. My semester was shorter than expected because I left New Zealand after 1 1/2 months due to the Covid-19 outbreak, so I did not gain as much from this outgoing experience as others unfortunately.

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

It was fun living on campus and going to some events. But if I could do it all over again I would just book an AirBnB for every month I needed it nearby. It is still possible to visit the events this way but the apartments would have been much nicer and also much cheaper. Of course this is only an option if you have a car or have public transportation nearby. The campus apartments were very different and you did not know which one you would get until you got there. No changes are possible then. My apartment was okay but old and cooking was no fun in that kitchen. But it was okay and fun living there with other roommates!

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.