

# 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 Natural Resources Management and Ecological Engineering**
2. Host university: **Lincoln University**  
 Host country: **New Zealand**
3. Your period  
 of stay: from **03 February 2020** to **02 July 2020**  
 Study year: **2nd**

## 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	4
Teachers at BOKU	3
Curricula	3
Host university	4
Centre for International Relations	4
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	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 to visit, especially if you are a fan of outdoor stuff such as hiking or climbing. The people are very friendly and helpful. Be aware that you will need a car since public transport is pretty much non existent in many parts of the country and that driving conditions are different then in Europe. I would very much recommend staying and travelling after the semester is done, depending on your courses the mid term break can be full of deadlines. Furthermore, keep in mind that NZ is not a cheap country and that travelling around can quickly add up.

**8. Host university**

Take advantage of the various clubs at university, you will find many like minded people that are into the same hobbies as you, also great way to meet kiwis since on campus you will most likely only meet other international students. I can highly recommend the rec centre, the gym and the courses (yoga etc.) are really good and all free for you as a student. If you stay on campus, make sure you end up in farm road since the housing there is much better then in the crescent for the same price.

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

@ BOKU  
 @ Lincoln University

**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	4
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**

I think the process is pretty straight forward and well structured. There is no problem at all opening up your accounts at Lincoln Univeristy and using their learn platform. Financial support was sufficient for living costs but not for travel costs.

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

Good english skills are a must have, the kiwi accent can be difficult to follow at times. People in NZ are in general very friendly and welcoming, you can always walk up to someone and ask for help if you are lost. In terms of culture there is not a big difference to europe, Maori culture is very interesting and I recommend reading up on it and visiting events at Lincoln, but it is not dominant in Canterbury.

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

Yes       No

**If yes, please indicate which ones:**  
Lots of different social events, club markets, quiz nights, various campus parties.

**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



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?

There are minor flaws in the jointstudy application, for example not being able to reupload a document, other then that the system is very straightforward and clear in my opinion.

## 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...

Lecture:

Environmental policy and planning ERST 630:

Mandatory lecture, I enjoyed the policy part but the planning part was very dry for me since it focuses heavily on NZ legislation documents like the Regional Management Act. Didn't get that much out of it, especially since my thematic field in the NARMEE program has nothing to do with these kind of topics.

Advanced Risk and Resilience ERST 609:

Very good lecture if you are into risk management and natural hazards. Also quite interesting to see how a country like NZ deals with these kind of things since they are also heavily impacted by earthquakes. The assignments that you have to do will encourage you to deliver a full research paper and helped me very much with my writing and research skills.

Research methods in ecology ECOL608:

Good lecture with lots of very interesting input in regards to science and social media, presenting, how to get research funds and how to present your research topics to the public. Also has a statistics part where you work in R and learn how to do simple models.

Sadly due to the corona situation I only had 6 weeks of lectures and all the excursions were cancelled.

If you have any troubles with the course work during your semester, I highly recommend asking your lecturer for help or extended deadlines. They are very encouraging and eager to help you deliver great work.

## The last two questions

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

My time here at LU was the highlight of my studies, you will gain a lot of expertise and knowledge and the workload is manageable, giving you a lot of time for travelling, socializing and stuff like going to the rec centre.

New Zealand in general was a dream destination for me, so the possibility to live here for some time was great. This exchange helped me grow as a person in many different ways be it professional, social by making lots of new friends or learning new skills and hobbies like surfing, rock climbing and tramping. Spending lots of time and making friends with people from different cultures (Asia, US, NZ, India) gave me many new insights about environmental topics and life in general.

I can whole heartily recommend this experience!

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

I highly recommend joining the Lincoln University Tramping and Climbing Club, they organize great trips and you get lots of discounts for the bouldering gym and for outdoor gear that you may need for tramps in NZ.

Also I recommend you to get a decent car (or campervan) or otherwise you will be stuck in Lincoln (there is not much to do around there) and you have to drive out of the Canterbury plains for the great NZ scenery.

If you are unsatisfied with your accommodation don't hesitate to talk to the accommodation office ladies, they are very kind and will surely find a solution that works for you.

Try to get out of the "BOKU bubble" as much as possible. My greatest experience was to make a lot of new friends from all over the world and especially in NZ. Also great if you plan to work abroad as you get lots of connections to people from your field.

I would also recommend organizing your stay so that you have some time to travel after the semester is done. If possible, save up some money, the travelling here gets quite expensive when you have to pay for gas, food, accommodation etc.. There are many great things to do like sky diving (highly recommend), hobbington movieset, helicopter flights that are not cheap but definitely worth the money.

## 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).