

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 227 NARMEE**

2. Host university: **Lincoln University**

Host country: **New Zealand**

3. Your period

of stay: from **12 Feb 2020** to **10 June 2020**

Study year: **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	3
Teachers at BOKU	1
Curricula	3
Host university	4
Centre for International Relations	3
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 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 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"/>

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

Due to the freedom camping law, it might make sense to buy a self-contained car as you can stay on more (free) campgrounds, but even a non-selfcontained vehicle will get you around the country. You get quickly used to driving on the left side, so don't worry. Visa is issued for 6 months, so use the time before or after your study and explore New Zealand. There are such beautiful parts outside of the agricultural area around Lincoln. Helpful apps are metsevce (for weather), Campermates (for campgrounds and useful information) and Gaspy (to find the cheapest fuel station).

8. Host university

Take your time in the orientation week and visit different lectures you are interested in. After the first week you can decide which three you really want to do. The ones you choose for the application are not the ones you need to take.

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

Most information is online. Few questions were answered by [redacted] and at Lincolne [redacted] was always ready to help.

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	3
from teachers at BOKU	1
from the host university	4
from students at the host university	1
from others: -	

12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

The registration process seems to have some redundant parts. For example choosing courses ahead where course dates and times are not online beforehand and might overlap. When registering at LU 1 or 2 weeks before the semester starts, the website only let's you choose courses which are not overlapping. Also, for the full study experience it is better courses do not overlap. Therefore, choosing courses for the application process seems not necessary. Also, Lincoln University seems quite relaxed regarding the master thesis, so I have the impression the stressful necessity comes from BOKU side. At LU, thesis students usually develop and write a master thesis over the course of a year with close support of their supervisor, the meeting of co-supervisor and Boku student is therefore rather informal when the thesis hasn't been started yet to chat a bit about it.

The study grant from Boku covers the flight and the insurance and study fee. Anything else needs to be covered from your savings.

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

Sometimes I had trouble understanding NZ english but the language is sweet as and fun to learn the local slang. Kiwis don't care much about their appearance, gumboots, flip flops and shorts can be worn all year round and anywhere. You can see many barefoot people in the supermarket because you have to take your gumboots off before entering.

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

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:

Throwing gumboots and international student meetings, otherwise not much because of the Corona pandemic and lockdown.

ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS

15. What was your primary residence during your stay?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student dormitory | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel / guest house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Room in a private apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> own private apartment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat share with other students | |

16. Who helped you look for accommodation?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host university | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing market | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: me |

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): 1328 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 823 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	215	€ / Month
Food	200	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	90	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	2	€ / Month
Study fees	100	€ / Month
Other: Visa, Car +Insurance	216	€ / 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:
Very high quality education. Lecturers very engaged with students and student's learning.
Small university, therefore, very close relationship to lecturers.

From a social/cultural point of view:
Kiwis are very friendly people, so anytime you are in trouble they will try to help you the best they can.

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

Covid-19 pandemic caused some interruptions.

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?

The necessity to have a master thesis topic for the application might delay studies/ the semester abroad of some students when they are having difficulties finding one. The need to have a topic for the semester abroad might also result in students taking the first topic they find and then change it after the exchange semester. I also got the impression that LU is quite relaxed regarding the thesis topic. The meeting with the co-supervisor is really informal as a lot of BOKU student haven't started working on their thesis before coming to Lincoln and doing parallel to the exchange semester might be quite stressful next to visiting lectures and writing assignments.

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 visited the lecture Environmental Policy and Planning as this is a mandatory lecture when coming to Lincoln in semester 1. Personally, I am not that interested in policy and planning therefore the lecture was not really interesting for me nor helpful for my academic or professional career. However, it was nice to learn about policy and planning in New Zealand, in particular about their (insufficient) Paris goals and the measures to reach them (or the lack of those).

Then I also attended Advanced Environmental Management Systems, which I highly recommend. We learned about how to transform businesses into sustainable businesses with a vision, about different environmental management systems, we compared four of them in a assignment and wrote a report for a real company after interviewing them. We also were supposed to have tour through a sustainable brewery in Christchurch, however that had to happen online due to Covid-19.

Lastly, I took Social Science Research Methods (quantitative) which is a really good course to learn how to do proper social research. We had to develop a study, get the study approved with the human ethics committee, do the study and test our hypotheses in a statistical programme, finally present and write up the results. Due to Covid-19 we couldn't collect the data ourselves but got fake data from the professor. Really good course, in fact the best statistic course I have ever taken. Due to the fact that we could choose our topic environmental topics are possible as long as they research human environmental interaction.

The last two questions

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

Really learned how to develop a study, which is very valuable for the master thesis. Sadly, student and social life was quite interrupted due to the pandemic but after uni finished I really enjoyed travelling this beautiful country. Even in winter.

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

Take clothes for all different kinds of weather. Weather can change very quickly in NZ, sometimes dropping 10 degrees from one day to the other. Layers help!! Winter isn't as cold as it is in Austria but a warm jacket can't hurt.
If you take your hiking boots make sure they are clean. They check them pretty thoroughly at the airport.

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.