

My study abroad in RMIT University Melbourne 2023/2024

Lisa Ali Khan

International Business Studies

I am Lisa Ali Khan, studying international business, a fifth semester student at the Friedrich- Alexander University. In this report I am going to display some insights regarding my study abroad and the beautiful experience, I was able to encounter while staying abroad.



Picture: 12 Apostles



Picture: Federation Square

Preparation for the stay abroad

My biggest reason for taking this major, was to go to abroad. I did the whole process as a freemover. During the international week of FAU, I went on a zoom session of Gostralia-Gomerica and there Australia caught my attention. I did further research about Australia, and I was in love with the state Victoria. This state is also called “the education state”. Then I decided to go to Melbourne. Melbourne is the home of diversity in Australia. I started searching for a university, that will both align with my interest and desire. Before coming to Australia, I had to go through different processes. First, I got in touch with Rebecca, she is a head member of Gostralia team and she was kind enough to help me throughout the whole process starting from application, to visa, insurance and flight.

After finalizing the decision of wanting to do my abroad here in Melbourne, I started looking for courses that will go with my program. It was a bit difficult to find any elective that will align with my major. So I took the courses from electives abroad and got an approval by my study coordinator. After applying through Gostralia to RMIT, I received soon an Offer letter. For the language requirements, it was enough to submit my Fachhochschulreife English Zeugnis. After signing the offer letter and submitting all the relevant documents

to RMIT and paying off the semester fee, I soon started the planning of going to Melbourne by applying for Visa followed by booking my flight tickets.



Picture: Docklands, Melbourne



Picture: RMIT University City Campus

University

RMIT university is located in the heart of Melbourne city. It is located near the station. Which makes it very convenient for students, that are travelling from a distance to the Uni. RMIT's university buildings are truly impressive. They have a very modern design, with large windows, exposed concrete and open architecture. There are a variety of workstations, from classic desks to creative seating areas and lounge chairs. In addition, RMIT offers an extensive range of clubs covering all areas from sport to culture, creativity and politics. I found the people in Melbourne to be extremely friendly and open-minded. If something was unclear or I needed help, there were numerous support offers and

helpful fellow students.

For my study abroad I took Innovation management, marketing principle and personal wealth management in RMIT. I loved the study system there. I had four to three assignments in each courses including quizzes and presentation. Some of the assignments were in groups and some were individual tasks. While working in those assignments, I learnt valuable skills like communicating with native Australians, learning their accents for example “Haw ya maite” means nothing else than “How are you mate”, besides that working with others gave me the opportunity to deal with different types of people, different mindsets and and how to manage

conflicts and support others to get to the end goal. I also noticed Australian fellow students are very helpful and they think as a group rather than thinking of their own grades. It's more about achieving the same target by helping and pushing each other rather than everyone doing their own tasks. I also loved the thing of not having to memorize chapters. It was more about going through the materials and applying these on real world problems. That made the study more fun.

Study location

Public transport in Melbourne is excellent and easy to use. With the Myki Card, a universal local transport card, you can use all means of transport. Australia is a very safe country and I never felt threatened. However, certain aspects such as wildlife, forest fires and ocean currents should be considered. With common sense and heeding warnings, it shouldn't be a problem to survive the semester abroad unscathed.

Places to visit:

There are a variety of breathtaking sights around Melbourne. Most of these are located west of Melbourne along the Great Ocean Road and east on Philipp Island or in Wilsons Promontory National Park. The Melbourne city is full of amazing historical and cultural places: starting from Federation Square to Royal Botanical Garden and Shrine of Remembrance.



Picture: Sandringham Beach



Picture: Loch Ard George



Picture: Shrine of Remembrance



Picture: Great Ocean

Financial aspects

Cell phone contracts are significantly cheaper in Australia than in Germany. I paid €43 per month for a contract with 600 GB of data and a worldwide call flat rate. Unfortunately, however, this was the only aspect that was favorable in Australia. As a business student, I would describe a semester abroad in Australia as “costly” overall. In addition to the study and visa fees of around €6,500, there are high costs for food and accommodation. I had to spend about twice as much as in Germany. Travel costs to and within Australia also had a significant impact. In total, it cost me for the semester abroad 20.000 €. The tuition fees

and other costs were covered to a certain extent by Auslandsbafög and my parents and fortunately I was able to cover the remaining costs with my savings.

Conclusion:

Overall, I can say that it was one of the best experiences of my life. I can also imagine doing my masters in Australia. I loved the natural beauty of this country, the different cuisines of different countries, the multi diversity. I can highly recommend a semester in Australia, not because it is full of marvelous, beautiful scenic views and places but also because of the study system. One can learn to collaborate and work with different people with different mindsets, and learn how to work on a project using their own problem-solving skills and use critical thinking to achieve the end goal and solve the problem of the assignment independently. But before planning to come here, one should analyze their financial resources on how to finance

their stay in Australia. But the financial aspect should not be of a major concern, because there are many institutions and helping organizations that can aid someone to cover the costs to a certain extent, this requires proper planning and applying six to seven months in prior the semester start in Australia.