

STUDY ABROAD REPORT

You should upload/send this report **within 2 months** after the end of your stay abroad to Mobility Online (Joint Study) /send via e-mail (CEEPUS). 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 (Joint Study)/send via e-mail (CEEPUS). 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 or ceepus@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 **13 02 2023** to **23 06 2023**
Study year: **2023**

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	4
Host university	3
BOKU 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

There is not a lot of public transportation available and the buses are not really reliable (had to experience this myself/ourselves...). It is recommended to buy a car, best case scenario if others from BOKU want to share one with you. Used cars can be purchased for a relatively cheap price and it is even possible to sleep in them on camping grounds, if you want to travel around after the semester has finished (for example in the trunk, it doesn't have to be a van). Definitely bring your hiking boots, there are many awesome (multi-day) hikes in New Zealand.

8. Host university

Lincoln is just a small village, roughly half an hour from Christchurch by car, or a little bit more than an hour by bus (and as already mentioned above, the buses are not always reliable). I would recommend the accommodation on campus, as I had a great experience (I stayed at Farmroad Flats). It only takes you 10 minutes to reach every building on campus from there. A grocery store can be reached in roughly 15-20 minutes on foot from Farmroad Flats. I liked to stay on campus, as there are many nice places to study.

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

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

Kyrill Sattlberger (BOKU), Ulrike Piringner (BOKU), Carol Fan (LU)

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 BOKU International Relations	5
from teachers at BOKU	1
from the host university	4
from students at the host university	3
from others: Previous Exchange Students	4

12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

The mobility-online registration process is pretty straightforward and mainly self-explanatory. It is important to apply for the NZ Student Visa early enough, it took more than a month to approve mine. The BOKU financial support is definitely helpful, but it only covers the costs for the return flight (at least in my case). Therefore, I think sufficient own savings are a requirement to spend the semester in NZ.

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

Well, the New Zealand accent was difficult for me to understand from time to time, but I got used to it after a while. New Zealanders are very polite and forthcoming, so don't be surprised if a NZ student just walks into your apartment and starts talking to you.

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

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:
 International Introduction Day
 Lincoln University Exchange Fair (Information Day for interested LU students who want to go abroad)
 Exchange Happy Hour at the end of the semester

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): 1700 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 870 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	540	€ / Month
Food	280	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	0	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	0	€ / Month
Study fees	0	€ / Month
Other:	Car Insurance, fuel	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:

There were different class sizes: in my case it ranged from 2 students to around 30. The teaching methods were quite different from BOKU: in almost all classes there was some kind of continuous assessment, where we had to read articles each week and comment on them. It took some time to get into it, but in the end most (not all to be honest) of those papers were really interesting. The big assignments were a lot of work, but the tasks were interesting and the grading was fair I think.

From a social/cultural point of view:

Actually I didn't meet so many people from NZ and did not get such a big insight into their culture, which is a bit a shame... But I have met many people from various countries all over the world. Learning about their lives and spending time with them was really interesting. Many international students lived at the Farmroad Flats, which is great!

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

Gladly everything went smoothly for me! :)

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 simply no NARMEE students starting the study programme in NZ. However, this is not BOKU's fault, but from LU and its coordinators itself. Apparently the Visa Application process for Austria is currently severely complicated for LU students, which is why nobody starts the study programme. Hopefully the situation for NZ students will improve soon.

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...

As BOKU students at Lincoln, we have to attend three courses, which are worth 20 LU Credits (10 ECTS) each. Depending on the courses you choose, the workload can be quite big: I did not have a single exam, but many papers to read, assignments to write and several presentations to hold. The courses I chose were ERST 620 (Advanced Environmental Management Systems), ERST 630 (Environmental Policy and Planning), and SOSC 627 (Soil Resources). The ERST 630 course is mandatory for students going in semester 1.

I chose ERST 620, because I was curious about how "Management Systems for the Environment" could work. The course description did not explain that this was only from a company's point of view. Therefore I was really surprised and a bit disappointed - at first. However, it turned out that the course was really interesting, the two professors explained the topics very clearly and the course was overall very interactive (including a big group project of 4-5 students at the end of the semester, which counted for 30% of the final grade). In the end, I can really recommend this course!

ERST 630 was rather challenging, because each week at least one paper had to be read and commented online, which can be very time consuming. The focus was almost entirely on NZ policy and planning, which is why I do not really understand that this course is mandatory for us. However, we could gain a lot of insights in historical and current environmental policy in NZ, whereas the planning part was rather creative.

Nevertheless, creating such an environmental plan can take up a lot of time!

SOSC 627 was an interesting choice: we were only two students, with the other one being in Africa at that time. Therefore, we did not have any lectures, but two big assignments (split down into three tasks with different due dates each) and one presentation at the end of the semester. The tasks were well guided by the professor (outline discussion, questions whenever something was not clear,...), but it was still a lot of self-teaching. In the end, however, this was probably my most favorite course this semester, as dealing with two subjects very thoroughly has given me a lot of insights into the topic!

From a non-academic perspective: To stay at Farmroad Flats was a great choice for me, I had three roommates with whom I became really good friends over the semester. I can further recommend Farmroad Flats, because everything on Campus can be reached very easily, the supermarket in town is only 15 minutes away on foot, and there are several events organised by the students. As mentioned, buying a car is really recommended, not only to be less reliant on public transportation, but especially to travel the country during weekends, breaks and especially after the semester has ended. NZ is a paradise for hikers, therefore good shoes, big backpack and a tent (if possible) is perfect to go on multi-day hikes (e.g. Abel Tasman).

The last two questions

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

- New friends in different places
- New insights in various topics related to my study
- Experiencing an education system, which is quite different from BOKU.
- An amazing travel experience after the semester had ended

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

The workload can be really rough at the beginning, I did not expect that. But if you are focused and form a study group, this can be done well! If you are a few people, buy a used car together (e.g. Turners) and sell it again after your stay. Having a car gives you much more flexibility, and if you sell it, the expenses for it over the semester are relatively small.

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 BOKU 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.