

# 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](mailto:jointstudy@boku.ac.at) or [ceepus@boku.ac.at](mailto:ceepus@boku.ac.at)

## BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: **Anonym**
- Study programme: **H 066 416**
2. Host university: **Boku**  
Host country: **Austria**
3. Your period  
of stay: from **14. 02. 2023** to **23. 08. 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	5
Teachers at BOKU	3
Curricula	3
Host university	3
BOKU 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 incredible country and staying there was definitely the best choice I could have made. I wish that I had known beforehand about the transport situation and that travelling by car would have been a much better option for certain trips. I could not afford to buy a car, so I had to mostly rely on buses to travel. I would recommend that prospective students get together to buy a car, so that they can make the most of their time. Other than that New Zealand is easy to navigate and the people are very nice and helpful. I wish I could have stayed a bit longer to explore more, but I will certainly be back and try the camper van life.

**8. Host university**

I enjoyed my most of my classes at Lincoln university and found the professors to be very knowledgeable, helpful, understanding and most of all kind and genuinely interested in the students and their needs. There was only one class that I found unorganised and that I wish I had not taken but the professors that were in charge retired after I left, so under new leadership it may be different. Unfortunately, I was unable to apply for accommodation early, which was why I lived at the Crescent instead of Farmroads. This greatly impacted my experience at Lincoln university, since we (at the Crescent) did not have any internet for over a month and were quite isolated from events and the farmroad flats, where the other Boku students lived. We did, however, raise these points at Lincoln University and I do think that it will be better next year.

The very first week felt a little bit unorganised, but as already mentioned, everyone endeavoured to be helpful and I definitely did not feel left to my own devices.

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

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

Mr. Sattlberger at Boku and several people at the host 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 BOKU International Relations	4
from teachers at BOKU	4
from the host university	4
from students at the host university	4
from others:	

**12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements**

The registration process was a bit difficult, since the authentication sometimes did not work and it was a bit confusing who needed to be where at what time, but again everyone was very helpful so it was easily remedied. Although we did not have to pay the full student fees, the stay was quite expensive and I had to work remotely while studying in order to be able to afford everything.

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

People from New Zealand tend to not speak any other language (other than English or te reo), but they are very kind and accommodating albeit sometimes a bit difficult to understand if they have a very strong accent. People are perhaps a bit more outgoing than in Austria or Germany and will greet you on the streets, but I would not say that there are large cultural differences. People from rural areas may be a bit more conservative in their beliefs

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

Yes     No

**If yes, please indicate which ones:**

There was a ball, pizza night and other events organised by the accommodations team but most took place closer to Farmroads and several clubs also organised events.

**ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS**

**15. What was your primary residence during your stay?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student dormitory                         | <input 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?**

- Host university
- Friends/family
- Housing market
- Other: I looked myself

**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): **1200 €**

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) **700 €**

Breakdown:

Accommodation	450	€ / Month
Food	200	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	5	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	1	€ / Month
Study fees	0	€ / Month
Other:	Extra activities	44 € / 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:**

I found the classes to be very engaging and challenging and the amount of readings allowed for an in depth understanding of a great variety of subjects to be developed. The professors were very knowledgeable and have provided me with additional readings, further information and a lot of support and were very empathetic overall.

**From a social/cultural point of view:**

I felt quite isolated at the Crescent apartments and due to the fact that I had to work a little, I was very much constrained in spending time with my fellow Boku students. Additionally, since there were a lot of undergrads and younger students at my accommodation, the connections that I made were quite different, especially since they already mostly knew each other from before.

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

I did not have wifi for a month.

**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 could be more financial support, as the expenses might discourage some students from participating or prevent them from being able to go at all.

## 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 found my stay to be especially good academically speaking. The format of the classes and the fact that we did not have any exams (at least in the classes that I selected) was very enjoyable. There are quite a lot of readings that need to be completed and some classes are a lot more work intensive than others. There was one class that I cannot recommend, as it was organised quite badly and no accountability was taken for that, but all the others were quite good.

The Crescent Flats felt very isolated, so I recommend that you apply early enough to be put into Farmroads. Other than that, life at Lincoln University was quite pleasant, especially since the gym was included (register for classes early! Pilates was quite often completely booked quite quickly) and the people were very kind. The uni also provides a space for students other than the library, namely Grounded, which has a very nice vibe and good and comparatively cheap coffee.

If something is bothering you or you are struggling there is definitely the space and opportunity to speak up and people will take you seriously and help you to the best of their capacity. The student network is quite established there and provides you with a safety net to fall back on.

If you plan on going one of the great treks, book ahead and depending on when you travel look for less visited places (i.e. Doubtful Sound versus Milford Sound) as sometimes there can be quite a lot of people.

Most of all enjoy yourself!

## **The last two questions**

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

I definitely know now what I would like to do professionally and have hopefully forged professional connections that will help me in the future. I also appreciated the exchange and the people that I met on the way who shared their opinions and stories. It was very enriching to gain an insight into their perspective.

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

Budget carefully and save up money to pay the accommodation upfront, it is a lot cheaper that way. Make sure you have a good credit card, that will give you a good exchange rate and not charge you extra if you have to get cash from an atm. People are quite relaxed there, no need to bring any fancy clothes, but if you go hiking or plan on spending some time in the mountains, bring good gear. There have been several people from other countries that have underestimated the conditions and been injured or have even died.

## **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](mailto:joinstudy@boku.ac.at).