

# 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: **Lincoln University**  
 Host country: **New Zealand**
3. Your period  
 of stay: from **20 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	3
Teachers at BOKU	3
Curricula	4
Host university	5
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 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**

Bring your hiking shoes and make sure you stay a little longer than the semester, there is so much to see and you don't have that much time during the semester. Also public transport is quite bad, so I would recommend buying a car there and selling it after you leave (look into Turner Cars in Christchurch, there is also a website).

**8. Host university**

Use the offers from Lincoln University. There is so much that you can do there and they really try to connect the international students and also the local students, but only a few are in the post-graduate study programmes. I would recommend using the accomodation of the university, it is nice to once live on campus and have the perks (e.g. Farmroad Flats). Also the gym is free and offers a lot of different courses. Get into contact with your professors as well, they are super helpful and really invested.

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

Ulrike Piringer (BOKU)  
 Eva Oburger (BOKU)  
 Kyrill Sattlberger (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	4
from teachers at BOKU	3
from the host university	4
from students at the host university	3
from others:	

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

You can find all the information either on the BOKU websites or on Mobility online. As I was part of the first application after covid we had to hand in the documents quite early and wait then for a long time, but I think for now this should be way easier. In the end, everything worked out and there were no problems. As the flights got more expensive after Covid, the financial support is enough for the travel costs, but not the living expenses.

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

The people in New Zealand are very friendly and open, so don't be afraid to ask for help. Their accent can be difficult at first, but you get used to it very quickly. And just ask if you don't understand something, they sometimes use very specific words. In one of our obligatory courses we learned a lot about Maori culture as well.

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

Yes     No

**If yes, please indicate which ones:**  
Intro days, a lot of different events especially for post-graduates - happy hour or brunch (were most of the exchange students also gathered), quiz nights, club market, one event was also to represent your own host university for the local students

**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):                                  2000 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation)                          840 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	500	€ / Month
Food	250	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	0	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	0	€ / Month
Study fees	90	€ / Month
Other:		€ / 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:**

Interactive small classes, students were pretty motivated, lecturers were very dedicated and easy accesible, it was great to experience different learning methods

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

Meeting so many different and nice people, it was great to build really close friendships because you spend so much time with eachother when you live on campus. Taking great trips and making memories together.

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

The courses are quite intense and have very different workloads, so you might have to put a lot of time into your assignments.

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?

Would be helpful to better connect the students that already did an exchange to NZ with the ones that think about applying.

## 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...

Attended lectures:

Environmental policy and planning ERST630:

Mandatory lecture, I liked the policy part, as we learned a lot about New Zealand's politics as well, the planning part was a little dry. If you have never had any planning course before, it was quite hard to connect and identify the relevance of the topics. I think that the ECOL608 Research methods in ecology would be better suited to be mandatory for our study programme, as it provides a lot knowledge that most of us can use for our Master Thesis and how it is to work in a scientific field. (even though it is mostly taught by ecologists, the focus is mainly on the research methods and they use just examples from ecology that can be applied to most fields).

Research methods in ecology ECOL608:

The lecture consists of a statistics part where you get a really deep introduction to R. It is actually helpful if you worked with R before, but it works also if you didn't. The second part focuses on how it is to work as a scientists - how to get research funds, how to talk to the media/public about your research, etc.

Plant and crop physiology PLSC611A:

Be aware this is an online course. It was great if you want to get a deeper knowledge on how crops develop in the field and what they need. There was a complementary bachelor's course the lecturers told us about, so I also attended this one. The topics overlapped but it was nice to be taught in person as well rather than just reading on your own. But the lecturers also did an online meeting after every module and there they explained the topics and you could ask whatever questions you had. A lot of assignments were included, which was very helpful for studying.

If you have any problems with the work load or the assignments during the semester, I highly recommend that you ask your lecturers for help or extended deadlines. The assignments can be phrased quite complicated, so ask if you are not sure what they want from you.

## The last two questions

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

New friends and new insights to life as we were all from different places. It was a great environment for studying and to get to know fellow students and discuss upcoming topics. Experiencing the country together with friends, going on many adventures and improving my professional knowledge and language skills.

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

I would highly recommend to spend time with your fellow students. There are a lot of study spaces on campus where you can hang and get to meet people. Join the clubs, there is a club market where several clubs are offered.

Also I recommend to get a car, otherwise it is hard to really get to know the country. There is a company called Turners Cars in Christchurch, where you can buy cars and they check everything for you in advance. If you are unable to sell the car, you can sell it back to them for 50%. But normally, you shouldn't have a problem with selling a car there. There are always new students coming that are interested in buying a car.

Stay a little longer than just your semester if possible. The workload can be quite intense and you might have not that much time to experience the country. While travelling be sure to check out the website of the Department of Conservation. They built a lot of nice huts and campgrounds in the most beautiful places. CamperMate is also an app that I can highly recommend.

The best tip that I can give you if you are unsatisfied with a situation or you need help, just ask. The people at LU are very helpful and want to find a solution with you.

**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).