

Victoria University - Australien - WiSe 22/23

I was lucky enough to spend a semester abroad in Melbourne with the support of the Baden-Württemberg Scholarship. I am more than happy about this experience since it has contributed significantly to my development in several areas.

I found out about the Baden-Württemberg Scholarship through my home university and I am fortunate that they have accompanied me on this path. I spend my semester abroad at the Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. In preparation for my semester abroad, I applied for the scholarship listed above, saved up money, and researched Victoria University extensively. I applied for my visa and looked for accommodations in Melbourne.

It was not easy for me to choose this university, because of its distance from my home country. Yet, I can say that it was the best decision. The university offers several well-equipped campuses and I especially enjoyed the city-campus. I studied through the VU-Block model, which I extremely enjoyed because it contributed to the fact that the contents of the courses have opened up to me deeply. Since the block model checks performance based on weekly assessments, there was no stressful exam period at the end of the semester. Instead, the learning was well distributed throughout the semester and content could really be absorbed. My courses especially gave a good insight into teaching English as a second language in a multicultural context. As Australia is one of the biggest immigration countries, they are a big step ahead of Germany when it comes to multiculturalism. Due to the ever-increasing globalization, it is of immense importance for an English teacher to be well-trained in this subject. Victoria University has been extremely helpful in expanding my expertise as a teacher and therefore I can only recommend it to others.

I lived in the so-called UniLodge right next to the Footscray Park campus during my semester abroad, which made it extremely easy to meet new friends. The UniLodge organized several excursions, meetings, and barbecues during the week, where it was very easy to make new friends. Furthermore, I lived in a six-bedroom apartment and got along with my roommates really well. We went on trips together, explored the area, and

went out or cooked traditional foods together. I am blessed to have made so many new friends all over the world and they really helped me to expand my worldview. But not only in the UniLodge did I get to meet many people, the openness of the Australians also made it very easy to get into conversation with each other. The culture of Australia impressed me a lot. The people are very helpful and friendly and always happy to meet new people. But not only the people but also the diverse landscape of Australia has overwhelmed me. The Great Ocean Road next to Melbourne is absolutely stunning; I would definitely recommend visiting it.

I came to Australia with several expectations. I wanted to improve my English, and my expertise as a teacher, and I wanted to learn about Australian culture. Not only do I feel so much more confident speaking English now, but I also learned a lot about the different varieties of English such as Aboriginal English. Furthermore, I learned a lot about culture. Obviously, I learned a lot about Australian culture, but because Australia is a big melting pot I also learned so much about culture in general. However, I have developed the most on a personal level. I have become more self-confident, have mastered new challenges, and can now say more than ever that I know what I want in life and what I don't want. I now know that one of my greatest aspirations is to become an exceptionally good teacher and I feel well-trained to do so. I can proudly say that Australia was the time in my life where I have grown the most and can only recommend this experience.