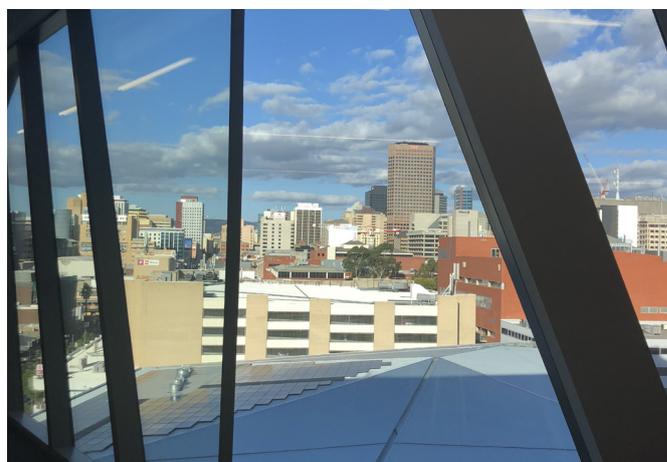




Whitsunday Island

Exchange Report: Adelaide, Australia 2019

On the 23rd of February I was heading to the airport in Zurich to head to Australia and start my exchange there – little did I know, it was going to be one of the best experiences of my life so far. After many hours and little sleep I finally arrived in Adelaide, where I was picked up and dropped off at my accommodation. Being hit with the Australian heat was an instant shock but it turned into a rather pleasant shock, after getting used to it after many days at the beach. After a week of being in Australia the introduction day started, where I met most of the strangers that later turned into really good friends of mine. It was difficult, adapting to a completely new study system in an enormous campus. Even though I had my issues in the beginning, with the help of the international office I was able to solve most of them after a couple of weeks.



View from the library



Walk home from university

During studio it wasn't as easy as I expected to integrate myself because most of the other students weren't really interested in meeting someone from abroad. In the end I managed to find three really nice Australian girls that I was able to work with and drink a beer sometimes after studio.

Adelaide itself was an amazing first city for me to live in. Even with its 1.3 million inhabitants, everything's easy accessible and the city never seems too crowded. Even the beach was reachable in less than half an hour, which proved to be amazing especially during the insanely hot summer days in the beginning.

The city centre also offers a lot of different activities, from a variety of parks and museum to huge amounts of nice bars and restaurants, there's something interesting there for each and every visitor. In comparison to Liechtenstein eating out is way more affordable, therefore one of my favourite activities in Adelaide was to explore the different food venues.

Of course no one would go to Australia to just stay in one place so the travelling already started after not even 3 week in Adelaide. Australia is an insanely big country, therefore to get to another place there's no other way than taking the plane or if you have a lot of time to rent a car. Every visit I made was 100% worth it and they were always extremely different to the other places. One of the best parts of travelling Australia is how many people of different origins you'll meet. Especially if you're staying in a hostel, where you can meet likeminded. Where else would you randomly meet a guy from Indonesia and talk to him about the differences of your countries?



Trip to Melbourne - 12 Apostles



Kangaroo orphanage in Alice Springs



Hike in the Northern Territory



Little joeys in a basket

Australia just never ceased to amaze me.

At the end of the semester me and some of my friends I met there, decided to celebrate the end of the semester in the most Australian way possible, a trip to Bali. Indonesia was an adventure in itself and (of course) there I probably experienced for the first time what a proper culture shock is. I think through my 4 months that I spend beforehand in Australia I manage to overcome that first „shock“ and of course also the beauty of the country itself played a huge part in achieving that.

After travelling Indonesia I went on to travel New Zealand for a month by myself. After already being amazed by Australia and Indonesia I didn't think it could blow me away at this point. New Zealand turned out to be one of the best few weeks I ever had and I am sure that I will return there at some point.

To conclude, these 6 months were the best months I had yet and I enjoyed every minute of it. I got to learn so much about myself and about the people around me. I experienced moments I will never forget, like snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef, visiting deserted islands in Indonesia or swinging over a canyon in New Zealand. I know, that the experiences I made there will always follow me and have a huge impact on my academic and also my personal life. I am infinitely grateful to the university and to my family for allowing me to have been given the chance to go on this adventure. I left this part of the world with a smile because I am sure that I will return eventually, may it be on exchange again or because of other reasons..



Outback adventures



Deserted island in Indonesia



Morning hike in Komodo national park



View over Queenstown, New Zealand