

# Field report

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## About Architecture:

I spent 5 months in Australia and completed one semester of my architecture studies there. This semester was a very successful experience for me and my whole life, not only in terms of my studies, but for my entire environment!

In terms of architecture, I learned a lot about the culture and the differences in building styles between Australia and Austria. It has helped me to get involved internationally, to expand my knowledge and I have also been able to make valuable contacts and friendships that may one day help me in my career.

The university in Australia where I did my semester also had exciting and new approaches to learning and delivery methods compared to my home university. These were and are now valuable insights that I have brought home and I will be able to use my experience in this regard for my final bachelor's semester.

Due to the foreign language, the stay had brought with it a certain challenge, but one that I felt I had successfully mastered. Exciting discussions were held with the teachers by using a combination of my "Basic English" and pantomime to explain my plans. This kept the lectures and presentations exciting and dynamic. As time went on, my English improved more and more, so the pantomime efforts slowly decreased.

The buildings in Australia are built differently to Austria. They have very small windows with only one layer of glass. The structures and isolations are a lot thinner, because obviously it is a warmer country, and therefore it is not as much needed as in Austria. A new typical building in Adelaide is made of brick and other than that, they have old existing buildings which is very beautiful and makes the city interesting. Between any high tower or modern constructions is a smaller old building or even a little church. I would say this is nothing typical for a bigger city and it makes Adelaide very special.

Adelaide is one of the smaller cities in Australia and is called the 20-minute city because it only takes that long to get around the entire center. The streets through the city build some kind of system and it is immediately obvious where you are inside the city. Grenfell Street and Pirie Street are good places to eat and for accommodation. Curie Street and especially Hindley Street is the place to go for a great Saturday night! Those two streets are full of good night clubs and bars. There is something for all ages, and the music changes the further you walk down the street. It is a great place to go club-hopping, going from one bar to the next.

### About cultural and personal differences:

A stay abroad over a longer period of time not only brings about progress in my career, but also in my entire way of life and I noticed various changes in my personal attitude towards life, towards some people or even in various situations. I opened up a lot and became more spontaneous as well as adventurous. You simply step out of the familiar bubble of your daily life from home and embark on a journey into the unknown. In the process, I met many new friends and cultures that I now appreciate. Also, since I've been back home, one or two previously familiar situations have changed somehow for me and I now know what or who I need in my life and who not. On top of that, I have gained independence and the freedom that comes with it!

The culture of Australia is similar and at the same time different to our culture. I learned that Australia has no own culture except the Aborigines, but they are rare and not very common. Someone told me once, that they are stealing different habits or types of food from other cultures and sell it as their own. This created the feeling of familiarity with my home country and at the same time an open-minded state of awareness. The country gave me the feeling of living according to the motto "live and let live". So there is no social pressure to follow the newest trends and adapt to the culture, but instead find your own right way to do things and live your life.

Nevertheless, there is one culture which is very present in Adelaide, and this is the Asian culture. I knew that Asia is a lot closer to Australia than Europe is but still I did not expect so many Asian people when I got there. I met and got to know so many Asian people and learned a lot about how they live. Asian's are very different to what we are used to and inside of Asia there is again many differences between each country.

### A Saturday night experience:

In my opinion, a Saturday night in Adelaide is not that different from a Saturday night in Austria. There's dancing, drinking, partying and meeting new people! One of the few differences I noticed was the way they dressed. In July, for example, it is winter in Adelaide and about 10 degrees cold. I definitely had a jacket with me at that time, while the Australians didn't seem to have a problem with the cold and just walked the streets with off-the-shoulder, belly and legless clothes. Sometimes the girls only wore a bra and the boys even went shirtless.

### About travelling and my journey:

Last but not least, another important point of my whole stay was travelling! I had several months to get to know Australia, not just the tourist version, but the real Australia. I got to live out their culture and be a part of them. I was able to experience everyday life with them, the circumstances and problems, work with them, laugh and cry. Finally, my greatest achievement was the wonderful trip that me and my friend made all over Australia and as we were allowed to get to know a lot of the culture beforehand, we felt safe and at home all the time, even while travelling.

All in all, the last few months have been a great experience, with up's and down's, but in the end one thing has always been true for me: the journey was my goal!