

General Information			
Host Country	Australia		
Host School	Swinburne University of Technology		
Program start & end dates	August 1, 2022 to November 15, 2022		
Program of Study	Criminology		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.	Overall, a great experience. Can be a little lonely and frustrating at first, as once you're there, you're on your own but tons of people/resources to help you find your way. Would definitely do it again if I could.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	Fairly easy, but it was definitely a lot of paperwork to fill out so start as soon as you can! The visa application was straight forward but takes a few weeks to process.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	Travelled by plane. Overall it took about 36 hours of travel due to layovers and transfers. (The time could be less, but more expensive for more direct flights). I would not alter my arrangements even though it was a long day!		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	No surprises, but necessary to arrive early for your flights as there are lots of checkpoints to pass - time consuming! Would recommend making a folder of all necessary travel documents to keep on hand, as different airports/areas require different documentation		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I ordered an uber from the airport - you are able to use the same Uber app, but the process of pickup is slightly different (they use a code) taxi's were available as well! It cost about \$75 AUS and took about 45 minutes		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	Satisfied! Super fun orientation week for study abroad students with tons of activities to meet people and get to know the campus/city! Also a lot of available staff/students to help at the study abroad office on campus.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	Connecting with other students and staff. Helpful with questions about the campus/courses. Great for directions or suggestions of activities to do on/off campus.		
Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)			
How was new student orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	Pretty basic information session held. Lots of information provided for campus/school questions and whom to contact for further questions. Was helpful for sure!		
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources available for you to talk to about what you were experiencing?	Definitely took some time to adjust to the culture, although the majority is similar to Canada. No matter how prepared you are, there will be some culture shocks! There were tons of available resources and people to contact for help and counselling was available on campus and online. I had a lot of free time for fun as well!		
Housing & Daily Life			
Describe your accommodation in	3 bedroom apartment on campus! Super spacious with full kitchen/living room		

your host country.	and a big bedroom with a desk. One note is you are required to provide all supplies such as bed linens, towels, dishes etc. So budget accordingly!
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	Move in and move out was flexible based on your needs! I moved in 2 weeks (July 16) prior to the first day of class (August 1). Continuence of accomadation was avaiable past Decemeber if needed but I left early!
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	Campus has a great location! Located about 2 minute walk to the train and tram station. Also located 2 minutes away from Glennferrie road that has tons of restaurants, stores, pharmacies, gyms, grocery stores, bars, cafes, and even a movie theatre! Campus had cafes and a bar as well!
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	Mostly cooked at home, but tons of restaurants and cafes to eat at! Some common fast food restaurants like Mcdonalds and Subway as well. Even had Uber eats! Some differences in the food like names/flavours/sizes, but overall good food! Coffee was big adjustment though!
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	Very, not even a 5 minute walk to my classes from my campus apartment! However, I heard that the cheaper accomadation was further out in the city.
Academics & Course Registration	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Registration was fine, as it was done through KPU mostly. However, I found it difficult to register for courses above first year due to the differences in pre-requisities between KPU and Swinburne. The library/ Student HQ had staff available for any questions or assistance with registration or course changes.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	The student HQ and library are super busy the first couple weeks of school so go as early as possible or you can be waiting awhile! Also get your KPU ID card asap as it has multiple uses for campus amenities!
What course load would you recommend for future students? Are there particular courses would you recommend?	Depends on what you are used to, but Swinburne's credit system is different than KPU so a full course load is 4 courses. I personally found the course load quite a bit heavier than my KPU course load (usually 5 courses) so 4 courses was a lot! I would recommend 3 courses or 1 course less than your usual amount!
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Fairly satisfied! It was interesting to learn how Australia and Canada differ in certain contexts, and how they are alike.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	Workload was heavier than I was used to and very independent learning style - alot of self-teaching. Definitely some differences in teaching style/assignments/expectations/referencing etc. One note was that I had multiple instructors for each of my courses. Also the semester was shorter (12wks vs 16wks) so faster paced learning!
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	4 full credit courses.
If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	It wasn't too bad, there were definitely some difficulties along the way with slang/different words! Also the wording and structure/types of assignments were quite different so make sure to clarify!!
What was your impression of the	Connecting to school wifi was a bit of a process - have to go to the student HQ

computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	for assistance for first time connection for your personal laptop. The library is multiple floors with tons of computers/desk space and supplies to use! Also tons of in person/online help available for specific needs.
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	Roughly \$300 for textbooks
Flight:	\$2000 to Melbourne. \$1800 Home.
Accommodation/per month:	Rent is weekly so \$350 a week or \$1400 a month for 3 bedroom on campus
Meals/per month:	Roughly \$400 on groceries, \$100 on restaurants
Local transportation/per month:	Roughly \$30 per month for student tranist card - pay as you go
Health insurance/per term:	Health insurance was through the school. Travel insurance for 6 months \$500
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Internet was included (on campus accomadation) Phone was \$30 a month for 20 gb of data.
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	Visa was \$500
Vaccinations:	I only needed one vaccination and it was roughly \$80
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	This one is tough to narrow down, it all depends on what you want to do while you're there, I spent about \$1500.00
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Alot of little unexpected costs, nothing major, but definetly costed more than I thought it would. Food/coffee/snacks/drinks were more expensive, toiletries and daily supplies were less than expected.
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	Orientation week had tons of activites available for students, such as BBQs, games, program sign ups and meet&greet. Throughout the semester there are tons of free on/off campus activities to sign up for such as bowling, scavenger hunts, trivia nights, movie nights museum trips! Also Swinburne partnered with "RealAustralia" and they have awesome tours I recommend checking out (extra costs)
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	Travelled up the Gold Coast for a few weeks after the semester end. Tons of places to go, but I recommened the Great Ocean Road and the Gold Coast. But tons of locations outside/in Australia are fairly cheap to fly to as well!
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	Unsure of volunteer opportunities but information was available via the study abroad office and Student HQ. Jobs on/off campus were available and generally didn't require experience/permits. The student visa allows up to 20 hours of work per week I think - I got a part time job while there.
Health and Safety	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	No major concerns while I was away other than coming down with a pretty bad cold/sinus infection. No safety concerns at all.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	Was able to contact a clinic while I was there, and bill it through my medicare (school benefits) and receive antibiotics from a pharmacy. No issues at all.
Personal and Cultural Connections	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not	Connecting with local students was more difficult than connecting with international students. However, it was easy to connect with

international) people and students?	local students at the events/activities the school held. Overall it was a super welcoming environment! Everyone is always interested when you have an accent, and loved learning about Canada.
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	Fairly easy to adjust. The major thing was learning the Australian slang, and there were little subtle differences within the culture as well, but overall fairly easy!
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Learning the overall slang, and some of the words they used were different than what we would refer to. Ex: Ketchup was tomato sauce.
What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?	The art and the architecture were beautiful! But the overall atmosphere, was relaxed and welcoming.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	Everyone was super friendly and helpful if needed!
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	The campus was fairly wide spread, but there were plenty of ramps and elevators for accessibility.
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	There was lots of diversity on campus!
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	There was lots of diversity on campus! Very welcoming and accepting people.

Overall

What are five important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?
1. Budget budget budget! Make sure you are accounting for the dollar difference
2. Pack for all seasons of weather!
3. Find your accomdation as soon as possible!
4. Talk to you bank before leaving about international charges and to let them know you are leaving!
5. Bring extras of any products you can't live without! They most likely won't be available
What are ten important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?
1. Sunscreen even if its cloudy! You will burn
2. Take part in the school activities on and off campus!
3. Try not to get overwhelmed with new/unexpected experiences! Try to enjoy all of your time
4. Explore as much as you can
5. Don't spend too much on decorating your room/dorm - too expensive and you won't be bringing it home!
6. Focus on school but make sure you leave time for fun as well! Treat yourself!
7. Take advantage of the school facilities!
8. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there! Take risks and make friends.



9. Ask questions! Places to see, people to meet, things to do, things not do, ASK!	
10. Make time to keep in touch with your friends and family at home! - Make sure you account for the time difference!	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Honestly, just the overall experience of being somewhere new, I made friends and memories for life.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Adjusting to the food and drink styles (I'm a picky eater).
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I've really learned to appreciate what I have and the opportunities available to me. I was on the fence about going at first but now I wouldn't change it for the world.
What else do you want to add about your study abroad experience?	Just do it.