

**FINAL REPORT
UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (UTAS)**

SEMESTER 1 (20th FEBRUARY – 30th JUNE 2012)

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INTRODUCTION

In the 4th semester of my bachelor degree in Business Administration I applied for an exchange semester. I handed my application documents and the letter of motivation to the International Office at the University of Klagenfurt (Büro für internationale Beziehungen) and waited for response. Tasmania was not the place I applied for but finally I am happy that I got the opportunity to study at the University of Tasmania.

Before I started my semester abroad I choose my Units at UTAS and discussed the selection with the "Studienprogrammleiterin" Ms. Dr. Erken-Hüttner.

ACCOMMODATION

It is important to apply for an accommodation as soon as possible to get the one you prefer. The application has to be done online.

I lived in one of the university apartments. This accommodation is only a 7-minutes-walk away from the campus. It is a very good choice because the apartments are very quiet. Only six people live in one apartment and share one kitchen, one living room and two bathrooms. Every apartment has a small balcony and two study areas. The rooms can only be entered with a key card, so all the stuff in your room is safe. Electricity is included in the rent. There is also a laundry nearby. It is for free, you only have to bring your own washing powder.

Two times a week the University Apartment Committee organized a "coffee hour" where I had the possibility to meet new people and to drink a cup of free coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

There are three other halls of residence available: John Fisher College, Christ College and the Mount Nelson Villas. The first two are also a 7-minutes-walk away from campus. There is a big kitchen and a common room where students meet. The two colleges are a bit noisy but all right. I would not recommend the Mount Nelson Villas. They are a 20-minutes-walk away from the campus on a steep hill. The villas are in the middle of the nature. If someone likes it, it is fine but for me it was a bit weird up there.

You can also rent a room in a share-house. Be careful to ask, if there is electricity included in the rent. Temperatures can go down to 2 or 3 C° in winter time and the houses have a bad isolation. Turning on the heater might cause you considerable extra costs.

ON CAMPUS

On the campus you can find nearly everything you need for your student life. There is a book shop, a general store, a post office, a pub and a cafeteria. The big supermarkets Woolworths, Coles and Chickenfeed are a 20-minutes-walk away from the campus. For the big grocery shopping it is an advantage to have a car or to know someone who has a car because Tasmania is very hilly and groceries are very heavy ☺

The Accommodation Service offers a free shuttle bus service from the accommodations to the city centre and back. A time table for this shuttle bus was sent to all students via email. There is also a public bus system, the "Metro". You can buy a bus card in Hobart city if you use it regularly.

There is a gym on campus but it is quite expensive. If you are interested in sports you can join one of the sport societies. I tried rugby but there is much more choice: soccer, softball, football, fencing.... You will get an overview of the whole offer of societies on the "Society Day" in the first week of the semester.

THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Tasmania consists of several buildings. I recommend every student to attend the introductory sessions in the Welcome Week. There I got all the important information about the campus, the university system, my contact person and I met other exchange students.

EXPENSES

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| Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) 7 months (\$ 280) | € 212 |
| Visa (\$ 565) | € 420 |
| Health insurance (additional to OSHC) | € 222 |
| Acceptance Fee (\$ 80) | € 60 |
| Rent (16 Feb. – 1. July 2012) | € 2867 |
| Bed linen and towels \$ 175 | € 130 |
| Short stay Fee (\$ 250) | € 195 |
| Flight (back & return) | € 1823 |
| Prepay mobile phone (\$ 197) | € 85 |
| Books and copies | € 300 |
| Food | € 1500 |

Life in Tasmania is expensive. I spent about € 70 every week for food because I cooked on my own. Please note that there is no cooking stuff in the kitchen of the University Apartments. This means that you have to buy your own cutlery, pans and pots.

LIVING IN TASMANIA

Tasmania is a nice and quiet place. There are a lot of opportunities to explore the island. In Hobart city there is a small tourist information centre in Elisabeth Street which offers all different kinds of tours to a reasonable price (<http://www.hobarttravelcentre.com.au>).

My Units for this semester (all up 30 ECTS):

The system is similar to the system in Austria. Every unit contains lectures and tutorials. The difference is that there are a lot of tests and assignments during the semester. The workload for 4 Units is quite high and if I would have the choice again, I would only do 3 Units because I would prefer to have more time to see the country.

The University offers a service for students who speak English as a second language. The office is in the Morris Miller Library on the first floor, downstairs. They help you with essays and tell you how an exam looks like at UTAS. You have to make an appointment beforehand via email at student.learning@utas.edu.au.

BEA111 Principles of Economics 1 (7.5 ECTS)

This unit included a weekly 2-hours lecture and 2-hours tutorial. In addition I had the possibility to attend a weekly 1-hour Pass Program where we practiced what we learned in the lectures. Before every tutorial we had to find solutions for the "tutorial problem set" which contained examples. Then we discussed our solutions in the tutorial.

Nearly every week we had to write a short test. I liked this system because students had to keep up with the Unit. The lectures and tutorials were perfectly aligned and I could apply my knowledge in a 500-word essay.

The assignments and tests during the semester were worth 40 %. The final examination was worth 60 %.

BMA326 Entrepreneurship and Innovation (7.5 ECTS)

This unit included a 3-hours workshop every fortnight. We had a lot of "guided freedom". Every student had to reflect on the topics we discussed in class. Then we had to organize an event in a group of seven students. Furthermore we had to read a book, written by an entrepreneur and reflect on questions, given by the unit-coordinator. Then I had to find an entrepreneur for an interview to discuss the topics from our workshops. I liked this unit because I learned a lot and my own opinion was asked.

I totally recommend this Unit with Mr. Collin Jones as unit-coordinator. A hands-on-workshop and learning by doing. There was no final examination.

BMA201 Organisational Behaviour (7.5 ECTS)

This unit included a weekly 2-hours lecture and 2-hours tutorial. The topic was about personality and the behavior in groups. In the tutorials we did games and exercises to apply the theory from the lecture. After every tutorial we had to write a reflection with 500 words which was graded. In this unit I also had to write a 3000 word essay. This is a very good unit. I learned a lot about my personality and the behavior through learning by doing and the reflections.

The reflections and the essay during the semester were worth 50 %. The final exam was worth 50 %.

BMA211 Communication for Business Professionals (7.5 ECTS)

This unit included a weekly 2-hours lecture and 2-hours tutorial. The emphasis of this unit was to create a job application portfolio and to learn communication skills which are important in the workplace.

The assignments for this unit were to create an employment communication portfolio and a 1-minute-videoclip, 3 reflective writings, an excel- and word-proficiency test and a group project where we had to write a consulting report.

This unit was very well guided through the tutor. The workload was quite high but the level of difficulty was not. There was no final examination.



CONCLUSION

I am grateful for the experience in Tasmania. The University of Tasmania is very well organized, the units are of high quality and I learned for life. I am happy that I met so many kind people from all over the world, especially from Asia. A semester in Australia is costly but finally worth the money. Experience and adventure are waiting there. 😊