

Spring 2019 (Semester One) Post-Exchange Report
Monash University Melbourne, Australia
Communications & Media Studies

My semester abroad was an incredible experience, and vastly enhanced my academic career. This report will cover some highlights of the trip, some challenges, and some important things I wish I had known before going. I would highly recommend this program for anyone looking to enrich their academic experience and see more of the world.

".....U.....
book was a little intimidating and overwhelming. I really relied on the resources provided by the SFU study abroad website, including this list of past exchange cheirado-aDided by

Academically, I found Monash to be pretty comparable to SFU. The lectures and tutorials held for my courses were very similar to the format I was used to. Only thing different was

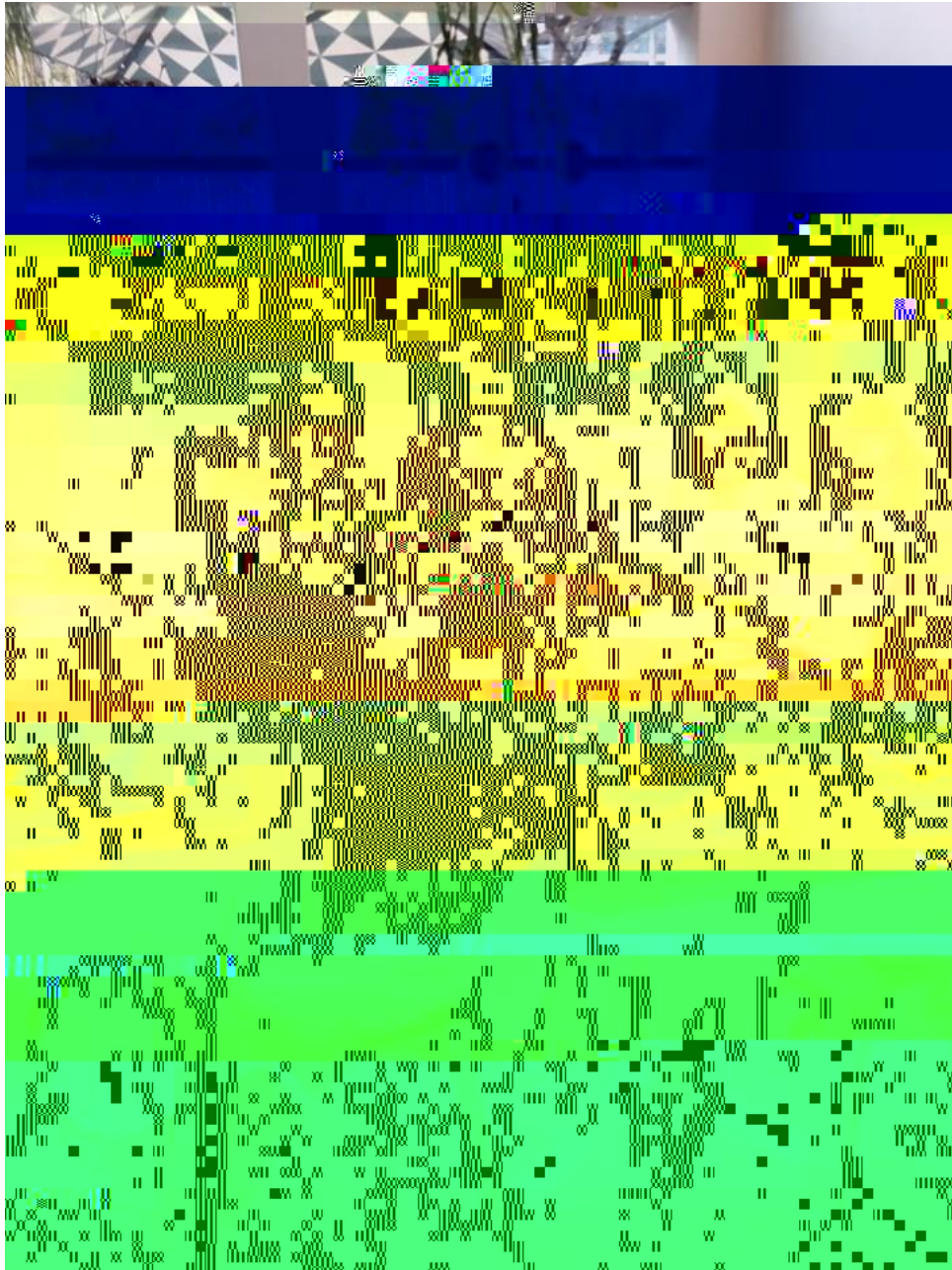
In terms of meeting new people and making friends, the most beneficial thing I found was would push myself to leave my room and actually attend events that my hall or the university was holding. They were a casual and fun way to get to know everyone you are living with and find your people for the duration of the exchange. By the end, my friends and I were out every weekend for brunch, checking out cool restaurants and bars in the city, and exploring new parts of Melbourne. Even though it was overwhelming and scary to be so change anything.

As far as living expenses go, it was pretty comparable to Vancouver, perhaps a little more expensive when eating out in the city. Living on campus, I spent around \$1100 each month on rent, and then around \$800-\$900 in other living expenses, such as groceries, eating out, activities, etc. I found it really helpful to open a bank account at Commonwealth Bank. There is a branch on campus, and they make it very simple. I opened a student account online before I left, wired myself funds, and then obtained a debit Mastercard once I arrived, which I used for most of my purchases. I used a Myki card to pay for transit (the equivalent of a compass card), and specifically requested the student Myki it was a bit of a hassle to obtain this, but it was definitely worth it as it cut the maximum daily fare in half.

Melbourne itself, while expensive and a ways from campus, was definitely a city worth exploring. The CBD (central business district) offers really cool streets and laneways to explore with beautiful street art, cool little hidden bars, and endless restaurants and cafes to try. The coffee was incredible everywhere my favourite cup being from Industry Bean café in a sub-district of Melbourne called Fitzroy. As a student, I was always looking for budget activities to partake in and found a lot of exciting yet cheap events like live music, comedy shows, and free walking tours.

The experience taught me to always stay open to new opportunities. To other students definitely focus on getting out and meeting new people, because that is what is going to make the experience memorable. I would also say to try and take as many trips as possible around Australia while you are there. I took several little trips around the East Coast, using the budget airlines JetStar and Tigerair, and it was definitely possible to see more of the country while still on a budget. Meeting great friends and doing little trips in between really helped keep the homesickness at bay and make the exchange semester a well-rounded and

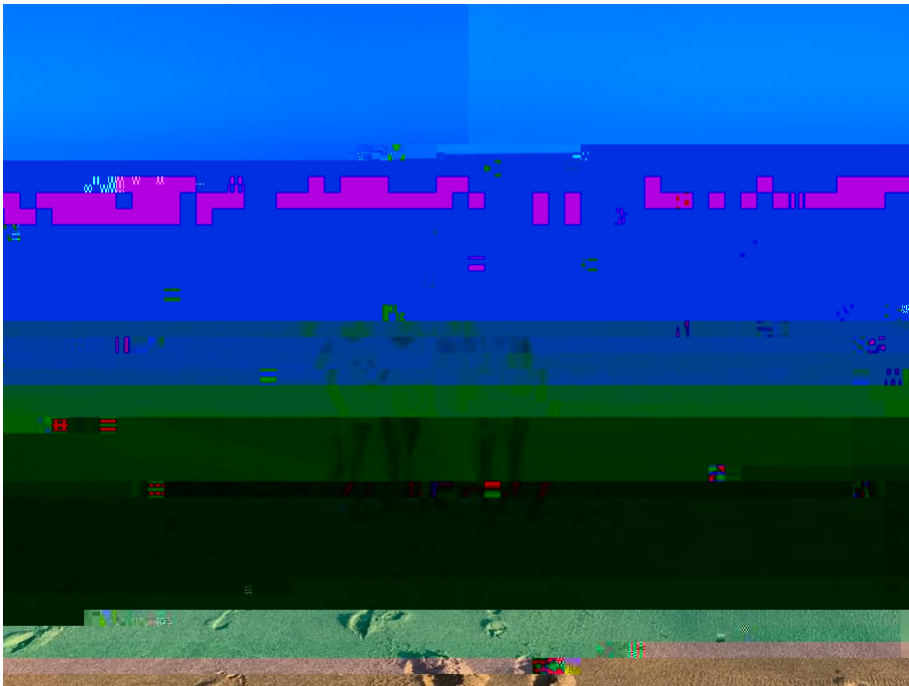
full experience. I am so glad I decided to do a semester abroad it was an invaluable opportunity that taught me so much about myself and the world around me.



Out for brunch a weekly occurrence in Melbourne.



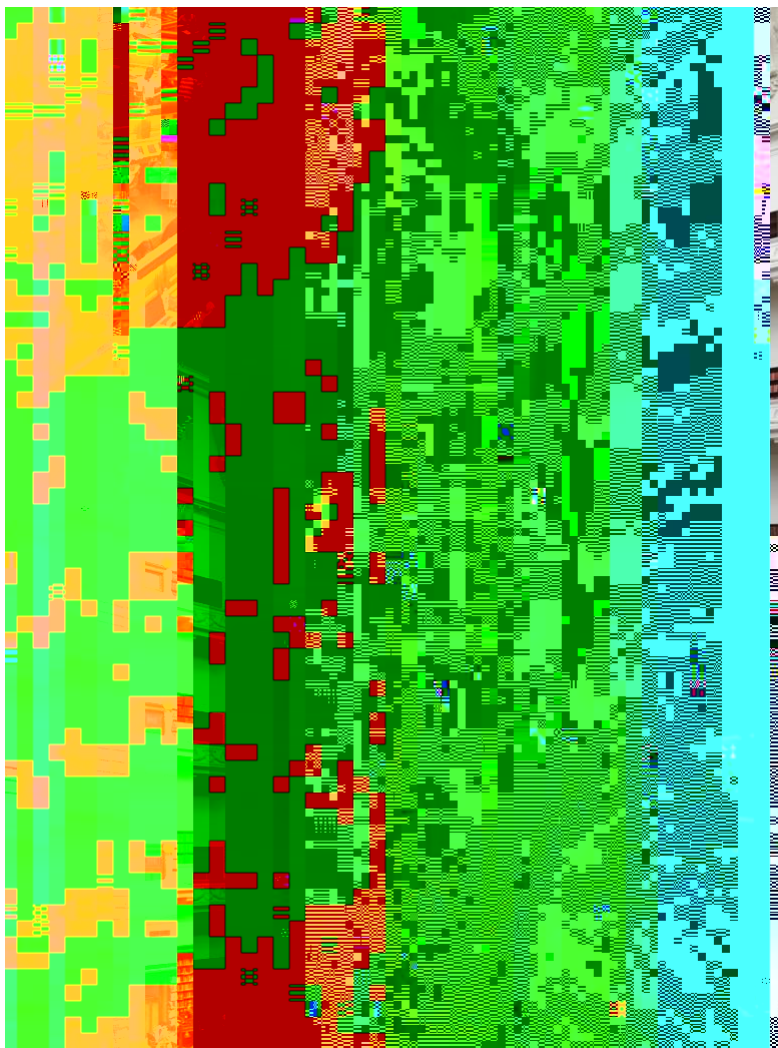
A sub-district of Melbourne called Fitzroy a cool area to explore in the city!



Road trip along *The Great Ocean Road* a must-do while in Melbourne!



The Twelve Apostles (along *The Great Ocean Road*)



The State Library Victoria another must- U (#")