

# FU Direct Exchange Programs

## The University of Melbourne (2022)

### ➤ Preparation in Germany

**Uni Melb Application:** Once you get the nomination from FU, you can start your online application for the Study Abroad/Exchange Program at the University of Melbourne. Besides FU transcripts, as part of the application, you should upload a Study Plan. The University Handbook (like our Vorlesungsverzeichnis) is very useful when you create this plan. If the subjects that you've chosen 1) are available in your exchange semester, 2) are available to incoming study abroad and exchange students - this information will be listed in the 'further information' section of the subject entry in the handbook, and 3) have no prerequisite requirements, you should be able to get the enrolment approval for these subjects. I didn't know this at the beginning, so I got only two subjects approved and had to request additional subjects. The minimum enrolment load is three subjects per semester as a full-time student, and a maximum of four subjects, but in this case, the study load is very high, I will explain more in the next section.

**Visa Application:** To apply for a student visa / SUBCLASS 500, you should purchase visa-length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), around 320AUD per semester. I've chosen Bupa, as it is the official OSHC provider of the University of Melbourne and the university can also help arrange this insurance for you. And remember to check the details in your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) carefully, as it is a highly important document for your visa application. The visa cost me around 650AUD and took two weeks in my case.

**Flights and Accommodation:** I would recommend flying with Scoot, it is a Singaporean low-cost airline. Due to Covid, my flight was still very expensive, around 750AUD and I booked it also very late. Usually, they provide good prices and comfortable flights connection with transit in Singapore. The student accommodation suggested by the university is quite expensive. Many of my friends have found rooms in a shared house for 200-250AUD per week in the city. But during my exchange in Melbourne, many international students haven't got back to Melbourne and the demand for housing was lower than usual, so the rent was also relatively cheaper.

## ➤ **Studying at the University of Melbourne**

**Study Load:** I've chosen the subjects from the Faculty of Arts. Take them as an example, I had two assignments (midterm and final, in total 5000 words) for each subject. If you want to transfer the credits later, I would suggest that you first discuss with your Bachelor- /Master-Berater or Prüfungsbüro to make sure this kind of assessment is comparable in study load (Leistungen) with your FU module. The due dates were scheduled very close to each other. To finish four assignments within two weeks was very stressful. And, if you have not submitted assignments by the due date, you will have marks deducted at a rate of 2%-10% per day. (Yeah... I got this penalty because of the late submission). So make good time management! But if you're facing challenging circumstances such as sickness or mental health problems, you can still apply for a short extension of up to 10 days for an assignment.

**Resources:** Your subjects coordinators will provide a lot of learning resources on the LMS – an online learning platform similar to our Blackboard, just use them! And tutors are very kind and helpful. Moreover, the Uni Melb also has the Water Safety Program, a free aquatics education course. Well, Australia is a paradise for water sports... And there are over 100+ university clubs and societies, which is a good way to know new people and get involved. For example, MUSEX (Melbourne University Student Exchange Society) organizes events and activities regularly, you can easily find friends there who are also interested in exploring Melbourne or Australia.

## ➤ **Living in Melbourne**

The city is really multicultural and you're sure to feel welcome there. Having an Australian number and bank card will make things much easier. I have used Optus and Westpac, recommended by a local friend. There are many other options and I don't think they make much difference. Even though the living cost there is higher than in Berlin, it is not difficult to find a part-time job, such as sales or waiter/waitress. And if you want to concentrate on your study or just to be flexible (for planning traveling etc.), I would recommend you to use SIDEKICKER. You can work as casual or temporary staff and just apply for a job when you have time! Remember to apply for a tax file number (TFN), if you want to work there.

I hope the tips above can help you a little bit and wish you an unforgettable experience in Melbourne!