

Cheers Mate!

**Australia** has always been a place that I have wanted to visit. Fall semester 2012, I was given the opportunity to study at the University of the Sunshine Coast on the east coast of Australia. My decision to visit was simple since I have always wanted to study abroad and really get to use and improve my English skills. So a couple days after my last exam in the very beginning of July, I caught the plane heading down under. Supposedly it was winter by the time I got there. However, it was only a slight difference in temperature compared to our Swiss summer climate. I would have classified my initial language skills as rather good, but there I was, having a hard time understanding the locals and in particular the elderly, due to a strong and unfamiliar accent. One can clearly hear British influences of the past in the way people express themselves.



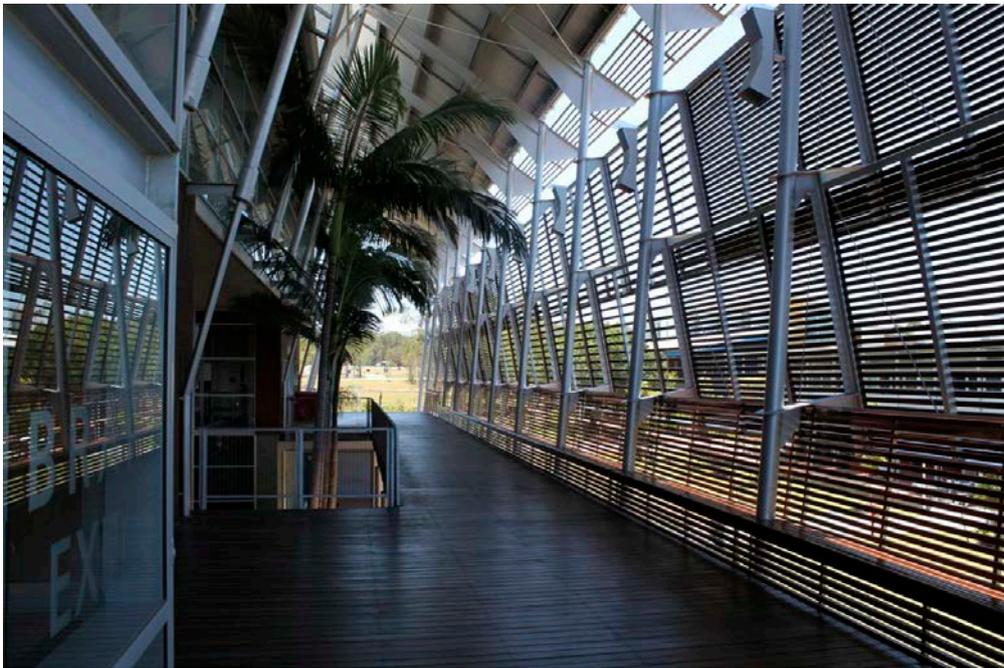






**University** of the Sunshine Coast is two hours away from Brisbane. It has a business, engineering, arts and health faculty. The facilities are very modern and there are heaps of places where one can meet up and spend time. The University is in the middle of natural Australian habitat and bushland, thus it is totally possible to encounter some kangaroos on the way to Uni or even on campus. The attendance time is far lower than here in Horw. Yet students are supposed to work on their courses more individually in self-study. This requires a higher self-discipline. The University offers a wide range of helping boards and personal assistance, which will help you getting through your assignments. Speaking of which, there is a fair bit more work to do during the semester, little projects, reports, essays and presentations called assignments that count to your final grades. Study material and lecture notes are available through an online platform called Blackboard, which is comparable to Ilias. There are study weeks without lectures in the middle and at the end of the semester, which you can either use for studying or traveling. I preferred the latter. Further information about the university is available at [www.usc.edu.au](http://www.usc.edu.au)







**Accommodation** is offered in very close proximity to the Uni. It is rather expensive with weekly costs of \$185AU. However, it is very convenient to get to know other students. I chose to live there since I was only around for one semester. An apartment is shared with four people and a swimming pool, volley court and fitness centre is free to use. In general, there are very nice common areas all over the place.



**Public transport** is well established. One can get around pretty comfortably by bus. It takes 20 minutes get to the beach, so you can go for a surf between your courses or on a day off. It is a magnificent country, I used every free moment to explore more of it. There are 'relocation van' websites where you can book overstuffed vans and drive them back to their initial destination for less than \$5 a day - free gas included. We drove all the way from up north to south along the east coast, which is more than 4000km for a ridiculous small amount of money. I highly recommend doing that. As already mentioned, Australia is one of the most beautiful places on earth and has a lot to offer. From vast outback sweeping landscapes to coastal beaches and surf spots, the Australian countryside has a bit to offer for everyone.

**People** are genuine and always willing to help. It is easy to get in touch with locals, as they tend to be open and interested in other cultures and people coming from different backgrounds. I made many precious friendships over time, some of them have already visited me. Apart from studying, there is so much to do and let's say there is no lack of parties.



**I look back** at an absolutely amazing time and would definitely do it again. I recommend every business engineering student to take advantage of our various study abroad programs. It is really worth the effort. If you have any queries get in touch with me! [lukas.julen@stud.hslu.ch](mailto:lukas.julen@stud.hslu.ch)

