

Sharing:

Please write an essay on your experiences of studying abroad:

(At least 1,000 words)

Please include the following items:

- Introduction of the school
- What courses have you taken? The course you benefit most.
- What benefits have you gotten from the study?
- Impressions and suggestions

Introduction

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is located in Brisbane, Australia, and is known for its emphasis on innovation and real-world applications. Situated in the heart of the city, QUT has two campuses: Garden's Point, located along the Brisbane River, and Kelvin Grove, known for its creative disciplines. During my studies, I was based at the Kelvin Grove campus, which offers programs in education, design, nursing, etc. One feature I particularly appreciated was the free shuttle bus service connecting the two campuses, which made navigating between classes and exploring the city much more convenient.

Course Benefits:

During my time at QUT, I enrolled in three undergraduate courses: *Early Childhood Development and Learning*, *Trauma-Aware Education*, and *Counselling Theory and Practice 1*. These courses were carefully chosen to align with my academic interests and professional goals, particularly in the areas of education, child development, and counselling. Since my home university, NSYSU does not offer comparable courses, studying at QUT provided a rare and invaluable opportunity to broaden my academic horizons.

The most beneficial course to me was *Trauma-Aware Education*, which explored strategies for supporting students who have experienced trauma. The curriculum emphasised practical approaches, such as creating safe and supportive learning environments and collaborating with external professionals. This course deepened my understanding of how trauma affects children's learning and behaviour, equipping me with skills to better support vulnerable students.

Early Childhood Development and Learning provided me with knowledge that can be applied in my future work with young children, enabling me to design learning experiences that nurture their potential. In *Counselling Theory and Practice 1*, I developed essential counselling skills such as advanced micro-skills and worker positioning. Role-playing activities helped me apply these techniques in realistic scenarios, building my confidence and enhancing my ability to support individuals emotionally and psychologically.

Benefits of Studying Abroad:

The benefits I gained from my time at QUT extend far beyond academics. Interacting with students from diverse backgrounds taught me to appreciate different perspectives and adapt to new environments. Classroom discussions were enriched by the variety of ideas and experiences shared by both local and international students. The courses I took not only deepened my knowledge but also equipped me with skills that will shape my future career in education and counselling.

Academically, the courses at QUT encouraged critical thinking and real-world applications. The hands-on learning helped me bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing me with tools I can directly apply in my future career. For instance, I now feel more prepared to address challenges such as managing classroom behaviour or providing trauma-informed support.

On a personal level, living in Brisbane helped me to develop greater independence and resilience. From navigating public transport to managing my schedule and budget. The city's relaxed and welcoming atmosphere made it easier to balance academic commitments and personal well-being.

Impressions:

Brisbane and Kaohsiung are sister cities, sharing similarities in weather and lifestyle. Brisbane's emphasis on sustainability, evident in its public transport system and numerous green spaces, stands out as a model for urban living. It is a relaxing and welcoming city that offers a perfect blend of nature, cultural activities, and modern amenities. The city's sunny weather, riverfront views, and proximity to outdoor recreational activities made Brisbane an enjoyable place to live and study.

One of my favourite aspects of Brisbane was its proximity to outdoor activities. Weekly markets on weekdays and weekends provided excellent and affordable choices for fresh fruit and vegetables, and the city frequently hosted outdoor events. Parks offered plenty of opportunity for recreation and exploration. Weekends often included trips to nearby beaches, hiking trails, or wildlife sanctuaries, providing a refreshing break from academic life. The friendly locals and multicultural community further added to the city's charm, making it an ideal destination for international students.

However, it's important to plan your journeys ahead of time. Public transport can be inconsistent, with buses often running late or occasionally being skipped. On the bright side, public transport in Queensland has been priced at 50 cents since August 2024. The Gold Coast, accessible by train, is one of the most popular holiday destinations, known for its beautiful beaches, diverse cuisine, and excellent shopping.

Suggestions:

For students planning to study at QUT, here are some suggestions:

1. **Engage in orientation activities:** QUT's orientation programs are well organised and provide valuable information about the university, its resources, and life in Brisbane. Participating in these activities is a great way to meet new people.
2. **Explore Australia:** While academic commitments are important, take time to explore Australia's unique landscapes and culture. Whether visiting places in Queensland or exploring cities like Melbourne and Sydney, these experiences will enrich your time abroad.
3. **Get involved on campus:** Joining clubs and societies is an excellent way to make friends and immerse yourself in campus life. QUT offers a wide range of student organisations, catering to various interests and cultural groups.
4. **Stay organised:** Balancing academics, social life, and personal responsibilities can be challenging. With only a 12-week teaching period, plan your schedule accordingly to ensure you have time for your assignments and exams.
5. **Seek support when needed:** QUT provides numerous support services. Online workshops can help improve your academic writing, and Studiosiy is a free online platform that offers suggestions to enhance your assignments. HiQ services, available on both campuses and online, are always happy to answer questions or concerns.

Conclusion

My experience at QUT was both rewarding and transformative. The university's emphasis on practical learning, combined with its supportive multicultural environment, allowed me to grow academically, professionally, and personally. The courses I took not only deepened my knowledge but also equipped me with skills that will shape my future careers in education and counselling. Studying abroad is a journey full of self-discovery, filled with opportunities to learn, adapt, and grow. For students planning to study at QUT, I encourage you to embrace every aspect of the experience—from academic challenges to cultural adventures. It's a chance to step out of your comfort zone, create lifelong memories, and develop skills that will last and benefit you in all aspects of life.

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