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Degree Program at TAU: MSc in Technology and Information System.

Host University: Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne, Australia

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Overall

My exchange student adventure was one of the best decisions I have ever made. You should choose Melbourne if: you would like to live in an amazing city that always has something to do in; if you would like to study in a high level school; and if you like to travel (with the right planning you will have a lot of opportunities to see this amazing country).

It is important to mention that choosing MBS (Melbourne Business School) and traveling to Australia overall requires having a considerable amount of money! The flight is expensive (around 8K ILS) and the cost of living is high! (Around 350\$ per week for rent and bills – 900 ILS per week).

Visa

You need a visa to travel in Australia. You can apply for a **Visitor Visa** or a **Student Visa**, both will give you the option to stay there for the entire term. However the Student Visa will also allow you to work for 20 hours per week. I personally applied for the Student Visa, but at the end I didn't work (finding a job only for 3-4 months in your profession is almost impossible, but if you want to work as a waiter or something similar, the Student Visa will allow it).

If you choose the Student Visa- ask from MBS to send you the **CoE code** before you start writing all the papers to the Embassy! Don't send them any visa requests without the code - you will lose time and (a lot of) money. I got my answers between 2-3 weeks from the moment I paid the visa fees.

Flights

As I mention before, the flights cost me around 8K ILS. You can fly from Hong Kong or Bangkok. I would recommend you take a long connection between the flights (even take a day or two at the city) it will help your body adjust the time difference more

quickly and will give you the option to rest between those two l-o-n-g flights!
 If you can't find a long connection, you can always search two separate flights 😊

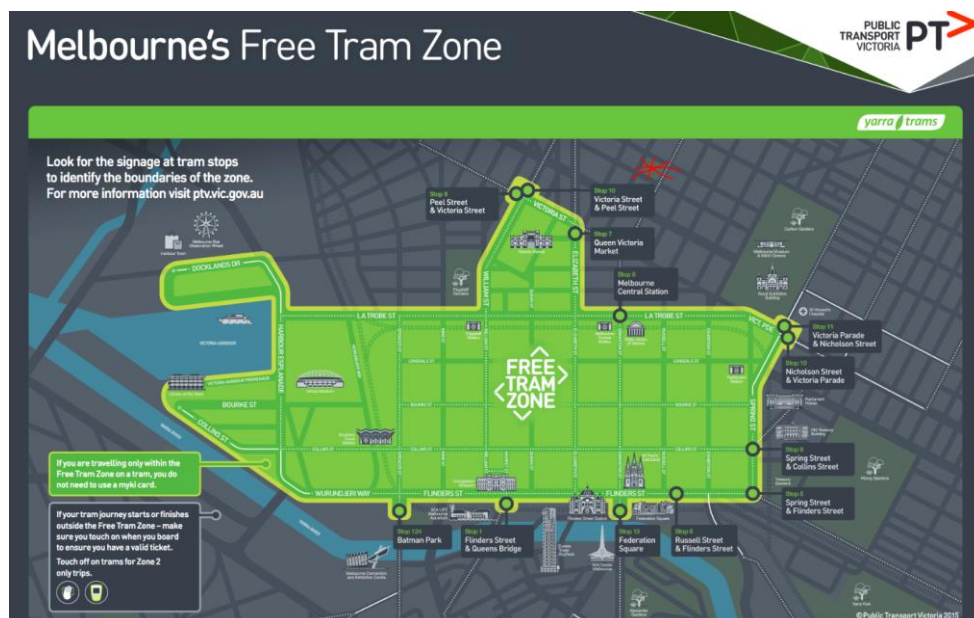
Living place

It is important to mention now; I have a family in Melbourne, and I stayed at their place in the first couple of weeks until I found my own place, so I end up making the housing decisions without any pressure.

Dormitory- the university don't have any dormitory for the long term Exchange and all the places that rent rooms for students don't provide renting for less than 6 months. For the first week or two, I recommend you to book something on Booking or AirBnB, and when you are in Australia, they have a website called " Flatmate Finders" (<https://www.flatmatefinders.com.au/view/874640>) which is a great place to find a room in a shared house.

Prices- room in a shared house can cost between 250-500\$ per **week** (Australian dollar), depending on the level that you want to live in. I paid 300\$ for room in 3 rooms apartment (one flat-mate) which was located outside of the CBD and 30min walk from the university.

Free Tram Zone- Melbourne transportation is amazing (compare to ours) and in the CBD area all the trams are free! You can include this information in the decision you make of "where to live" (I marked MBS in red):



First week in Melbourne – take your time with this one, give your body time to adjust the time difference. The only thing I would recommend on doing as soon as possible is arranging an **Aussi (Australian) phone number**. I bought “Vodaphone” and I wouldn’t recommend it! They don’t have any signal outside of the main cities.

Courses at MBS- having a Student Visa requires taking at least 4 courses while abroad. I wouldn’t recommend taking more! MBS is much more demanding than our school and the professors don’t care if you are working or not! There are a lot of reading for every class (one-two papers minimum for E-V-E-R-Y class).

The courses I took-

- **DBiA** – it is an easy course, with not a lot of academic content. The only reason to take this course is to meet people! This course is pre-term course with only exchange students in it. MBS can be a lonely place during the term without knowing other exchange students, as the “local” students are quite busy with their lives. Prof. Pet, was nice and funny. The course give you the option to go on trips (Beer factory, winery, tennis game and cricket game) and requires you to go to at least one of them. I recommend going to **all of them**, you will make better friends and also- there is nothing more Aussi than beer and sports 😊



- **Think like Entrepreneur** – it is the best course I did in MBS! The teacher is nice, but more important than that, the course gives you the freedom to create something by yourself with a group of other students. I joined the local students' group and it was the best decision and the best experience I had.

- **Internet Marketing** – it is a nice course, though I personally didn't like the teacher and I didn't feel this course actually taught me something that was not obvious from reading the course cases.
- **Negotiation** – it is an amazing course and you can learn a lot for your own personal life. The course is being given as an intensive course (5 weeks) and it is intense (4 reading case for every week!!+ writing a paper for almost every week) so take it into consideration.

Overall – the courses were interesting and in high level! I didn't have a lot of options to choose because my degree at Coller is focused on a specific subject, but – if you do the regular MBA program, I would recommend taking only the intensive courses and then you will have a lot of time to travel! (This is what other exchange students did and they traveled almost every week).

Another issue regarding MBS is the **grades**, MBS keep an average grade of 75. Getting more than 80 is almost impossible! (Getting below 70 is also almost impossible either 😊), you should keep that in mind.

More information about Melbourne, Australia, Exchange and friends:

Australian people like their alone time and being alone, it is hard to find friends in Australia. As I mentioned before, joining one of the pre-term courses can help you find other exchange students, that can become your paper-work buddies, your drinking buddies and more important- your travel buddies!



If they are not enough, you can go to "Chabad". Melbourne is one of the best locations for "Chabad", there is a huge community of Jewish people and a lot of after-army Israelis

that come to Melbourne for working-Holiday (and nobody will understand you better than other Israelis).

Also, before you are flying to Australia, you can publish on Facebook or between your friends that you are going to Melbourne and if they know anyone who can be your friend for the beginning (or more than that), that would be great.

The application “Meetup” can help you with knowing other people. And overall, don’t be afraid to do things by yourself.

Trips

Australia is the best place to travel in, so – don’t stay in Melbourne all the time!

Some of the places you can go to:

Great Ocean road & Grampians - It is 2-3 days trip going out from Melbourne. Sightseeing mainly.

Wilson’s Prom- 3 hours away from Melbourne, beautiful area for beaches & short hiking.

Sydney – you can’t say you have been in Australia if you've never visited Sydney (although most of the people who fall in love with Melbourne will tell you that Sydney is terrible!)

New Zealand- if you are already on the other side of the world, it is just another 4 hours flight from Melbourne and the best views I have ever seen (I did it after the term and it was wonderful).

Final Tips and tricks

- There is 10+ Facebook groups for Israelis in Melbourne or Jewish in Melbourne or traveling in Australia (and if you are a woman, the best group, which personally helped me the most is – **Israeli women and mother in Australia**), you can join and ask all the questions you want.
- There are WhatsApp groups you can join to (You can ask in one of those Facebook groups and someone will add you).
- Money- the best is to use your credit card! The lowest rates 😊
- Maki Card – Transportation card in Melbourne. Don’t be attempted to not use it when you are using the trams– there is a lot of cops and checks in Melbourne.

- Sky Bus- the only way to get from and to the airport in Melbourne (they have a few lines for different suburb, the cheapest is to buy tickets online (<https://www.skybus.com.au/>))
- Airports- **Tullamarine** is the main one, **Avalon** is the second airport and it's located more than an hour outside of Melbourne (if possible, I recommend not to take flights from there).

Have Fun! You will never regret choosing Melbourne 😊

Hen Rabinovich

