

Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne, Australia

Student Exchange Summary - Summer Semester 2016 (Term 3)

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Intro

First of all, the exchange semester was the best experience that I've had during the degree. The opportunity to learn at different culture with different academic methods and meet new people is extraordinary. During these experience I meet a lot of new people and established friendships, I've had the opportunity to travel at Australia and enjoy new country and culture. **Don't hesitate and embrace these opportunity!** I came back with new hobby of wave-surfing...

Melbourne

Melbourne is the second largest city in Australia with population of around 4.5 million people. The city has a lot to offer! The city is multicultural with very nice people that would be happy to help you. Although it's a huge city, its steel feels nice and cozy - the tram network will bring you everywhere you need – extremely convenient. Most of the activities located at city Centre, the "CBD, however there is plenty of other cool areas like St.kilda or Carlton. The city has an attitude of new liberal city with agenda – you will find in each alley some graffiti with meaning and artistic sense. The Melbourne's like to set up political demonstrations – it's common to see protest around the library. The people isn't apathetic to the global and local situation in contrast to other Australian in the rural areas.

On your first week take the "**Free city tour**" – the tour is began at Melbourne library (CBD) and lasts around 3-4 hours – you will reveal the history of the city and get a lot of recommendations for Bars, restaurants and things to do.

Transportation – my recommendation is to use the tram network – almost all the city is connected with them and you will avoid the traffic jams. The trams also work during the weekends 24 hours and at "CBD" you will find the "**free tram zone**" – the tram makes a rout around the CBD and the ride is totally free (lines 30, 35). Download the "**Public Transport Victoria app**" to plan your journeys. To use the tram you should purchase the "**Myki**" card and to load him with money, don't play with that and always pay on your rides (accept the free zone) – it's common to see inspectors camouflaged to regular passenger and gave fine's to "free riders". In some points you can find yourself using taxis – I would recommend to use "**Uber**" and not other services or hail a taxi on the street. If you want to travel out of city you can rent a car – the best way is to rent through websites like www.orbitz.com which I found as the cheapest one.

Restaurants and food – Melbourne is full in very good restaurants and famous by her passion to coffee – and the coffee there is literally amazing! One great advantage is that the sushi in Melbourne is good and cheap – you will find stands all over the city. There so many restaurants in Melbourne, so just search on the web and you will find a lot of places for your taste and budget.

One of my favorite's restaurants was "**Din Tai Fung**" which is located at the emporium mall, you will find there the best dumplings at the city.

Groceries – Of course that you wouldn't eat all the day at restaurants and cook at home. I will recommend to do the groceries purchase at “**Aldi**” supermarket, it's the cheapest option. Another option is the “**Queen Victoria Market**” which located at the north-west side of the CBD – commonly it's a good place for vegetables and fruits. At Wednesday is when the night market occurs – these is totally different when the market is changes his face and become a great festive off food with a lot of stands – commonly on the last 30 minutes there is a discount of 50%.

Bars and Nightclubs – In some way Melbourne nightlife is reminds Tel-Aviv nightlife – there is huge amount of bars and parties, just choose the style which you like and go out! However, notice that most of the nightclubs are for 20-23 years old, hence choose you places wisely and ask the doorman if it's relevant for your age. Here is several nice places to go:

- **Asian beer café** – nice place to sit and drink beer. Show your student ID and get a discount.
- **Cookies** – Nice Dance Bar and restaurant.
- **The Carlton bar** - very nice dance bar that becomes a party at late-night. It was my favorite one.
- **Eau de vie** – the best cocktail and whisky bar at Melbourne! Order place before arriving, otherwise you will spend several hours in waiting for entrée.
- **Spice Market** – Nice party... On Thursdays there are “Ladies night” with free drinks for Ladies.

There are plenty of other options, just read about them on the web.

Other activities – Melbourne offers large amount of things to do. You can read about that on the web. I found very nice to go to **Australian football match** – highly rough game, notice that there are discounts for students – buy the ticket online prior to the game. Another nice spot is the **Melbourne museum** – show you student card and the entrance is free.

Accommodation

Arrive one week before the “orientation day at school” to get used to the city and find accommodation. Unfortunately MBS doesn't have dormitory and to find accommodation at Melbourne isn't easy or cheap. However, you are not alone and a lot of exchange students arrives to Melbourne and has the same problem – of course that the local's aware of these problem and offer a lot of solutions – Don't jump on the first one and be suspicious – I will recommend to test the apartments by your own and not to close the deal prior to arrival. I took 2-3 days at hostel while checking several options, at the end I closed a deal through Airbnb. I will recommend to you act by the next steps:

- Enter the Facebook group “[Exchange Forum \(Melbourne business school\)](#)” 2-3 months prior to your arrival — Here you will find students that will arrive with you and you can rent a flat together.
- Enter several other groups at Facebook like “[Melbourne rent a room/house](#)” or flatshare or short term rentals... try to find nice apartment
- Explore the next sites:
 - www.gumtree.com.au
 - www.realestate.com.au
 - www.airbnb.com
- **Price's** – private room at partners apartment supposed to cost around 250-400 Au/\$ per week, depends on the area and the apartment level

I paid 330 Au/\$ per week for private room in 2 bedrooms apartment at CBD with Australian partner – I found it on the last minute at Airbnb – one Australian guy made a sublet through the platform.

The apartment was completely furnished at cool building with pool and sauna (included in the price). The standards of the buildings is very high and fitted for young people.

I definitely recommend to leave at CBD which is not far from MBS

Melbourne business school

Melbourne Business School is the graduate business school of the University of Melbourne. Located at 200 Leicester St, 10 min from the CBD by walk. The business school considered as the second best one in Australia and on the top 50 in the world when the specialty in marketing considered one of top 5 in the world.

The school has several MBA programs and the collaboration is with the **part time MBA program**. The meaning is that most of the courses are given at evening and the student's in class is on their works prior to classes. The average age of the class is around 32 years old, hence it's common to find students 45 years old seating next to you. I see that as one of the strengths of the program – you have the opportunity to learn from your colleagues at class – In some cases the student's would elaborate on business dilemmas in their companies, for instant we have a discussion on vertical integration's in class and several students gave examples from their real life experience.

Exchange – On your orientation day you will meet other exchange students that will learn with you on the term. The best friendship's that I've established was with them because the Australian students are busy with their work and family and it's hard to find time to meet. Actually you will become a small group of very good friends and it's a great. **I would highly recommend to build your schedule together and leave time at weekends for travelling.** The minimum amount of courses is 4 for all the term.

Learn atmosphere - The Learning method as I said is a little bit different and the students are take a big part in the class through conversations and debates. You should prepare yourself well for classes and read the articles that attached in the LMS – like the moodle in our school. It's common that the lecturer will ask about your thoughts on the case or on the article. The mentality is very strict and the lecturer tend to stick to models that studied in class – unfortunately leave your creativity at home and **use those models** – you can add information on them but not to dismiss them , it would defiantly heart your grade. In most of the courses you will work in **syndicates** – nice opportunity to meet more people beyond the exchange ones.

Courses & Subjects - You must choose at least 4 courses. I don't recommend to choose more than that and to leave some time for travelling and having fun in Australia. More than 4 Subject's its overload, you will find yourself studying all the day long. I would recommend on the next subjects

- **Product management** with Debi Mishra – Although these course is demanding, all the assignments are in syndicates and there isn't final test (only the assignments). The subject is interesting and Debi is a very interesting lecturer with unique temper and style.
- **Negotiations** with Ety Jehn – Although I didn't participated I heard that is very interesting.

I will not recommend on **Corporate Strategy** with Geoff Martin – very difficult subject with a lot of readings. The final test is difficult, especially if you aren't native speaker – you should submit within 2 hours 8 pages of answers typed on your computer.

Expenses and budget

I would not recommend to bother and to exchange money in Israel – the change stands in Melbourne would convert dollars and euros in a low exchange rate. However, if you will **pay with your credit card** your bank will made the conversion almost by the representative exchange rate.

If you came with cash and need to exchange the money went to Swanston St and enter to one of the changes. You must to negotiate on the exchange rate – the difference is around 15% - Don't hesitate to negotiate, although it's not common in Australia in these stores it is.

Another option is to open a bank account. I didn't try it

Expenses (without traveling) – in Au dollars – 1 Au \$ = 2.85 Shekels

- Accommodation 250-400\$ **per week** for private room
- Visa – 450\$
- Flight from Israel – 1000 – 1600 Us \$ - It's better to order early as you can
- Health insurance – 150-300\$ for all the period.
- Transportation – out of the free tram zone in average each trip is around 3\$.
- All the other things (food, travelling, party and etc.) is up to you
- Mobile phone – Buy a local sim when you enter the country in the airport – I recommend on **Otpus** provider as the cheapest company.

Visa

You should apply for the temporary student Visa – 575. All the process is made through the website <https://www.border.gov.au> – open the request by creating an immi account. Prior to the request you should get from your coordinator at MBS 3 papers: COE, letter of acceptance and health insurance. About the insurance the coordinator will discuss with you and recommend for you a policy – I will recommend to take here and not to waste time on that.

The process is fully digitized and you won't need reach the embassy. After the confirmation of the visa it's in the systems, you aren't needed to show anything on the border control (only the passport). Of course that you should take one hard copy of the visa with you.

Travel around

It's the best part of learning in Australia! Take the Lonely planet with you and plan your journeys. Several recommended spots

- **Great Ocean Road** – These amazing road is the most famous in Australia with plenty of interesting spots and views. Rent a car with friends and go for it
- **Byron Bay** – These amazing town is Australia as you imagine her – exotic view and beaches, full of surfers and crazy nightlife. From Melbourne you should take the flight to Ballina and not to gold coast, because the transportation from Ballina is much easier and cheaper. Try to take several surfing lessons I recommend on the black dog surfing school – very good instructors and less busy.
- **Sydney** – very close and cheap by flight. There are a lot of things to see that including national parks around where you can hick.
- **Fraser Island** – It's a little bit far but worth the journey.
- **National Parks** around Melbourne like Phillip island – rent a car and travel

Golden tips

Don't come on term 3 as me, Take term 2 or 4 – equivalent to spring and autumn semester at our Uni. Term 3 is in the winter period in Melbourne and its very cold and windy. Moreover, bigger amount of exchange students arrives on those terms.

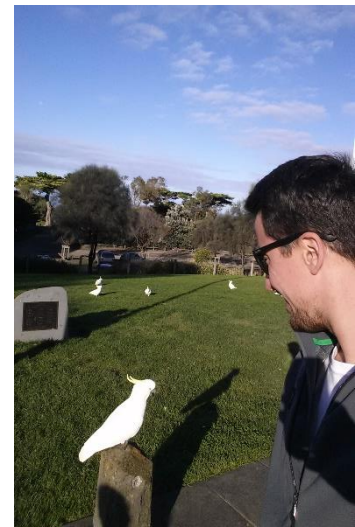
Plan your stay in Australia and leave several weeks for travelling beyond the trips during the semester. It's worth it!

Pics to express the experience

Melbourne:



Great Ocean Road



Byron Bay

