



## BRISBANE FROM AN EXCHANGE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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As a student, I was attracted to the land down under because I was seeking an adventure. A quote from Disney's UP says, "Adventure is out there!" Coming to Australia has been the right adventure for me.

Packing my life up and saying goodbye to all my friends and family for six months wasn't easy, but it was something I needed to do. After a full day of flying, I was finally able to walk out of the airport, breathe in the summer air and choke on the humidity. I guess that was my welcome to Brisbane. Gotta' love the heat. Once I got settled in Brisbane, I was thrown into the

was crucial in helping me become more comfortable as an exchange student at QUT. From events like going on a river cruise to mixers and student organization fairs, I was happy to call QUT my new university.

In my opinion, being able to attend the best university in Brisbane (#sorrynotsorry UQ) has been wonderful. With its excellent teaching staff, top notch facilities and abundance of resourceful technology, QUT has been a large contributing factor to my positive exchange experience.



What comes to mind when I think of QUT is a university for the real world (because I haven't heard that saying before). It's great studying at a world class university like this. It's challenged me but also helped me improve in my pursuit of a Public Relations degree.

As a city Brisbane is quite entertaining. I've been able to ride ferries along the river, eat at amazing restaurants, walk in the beautiful Botanic Gardens and many more great things.

Brisbane has its own charm. It's a real melting pot which is something I wanted on exchange. I love that it's one city made up of several distinct suburbs. For instance, I live in West End which has a quirky vintage feel to it that's completely different to other suburbs. I'm still waiting for the moment when I turn into a hipster.

One thing I like about Brisbane, is that it's not centered on any university, it's just a city full of people from all walks of life. Back in the U.S, I lived on campus in a college town so I'm usually centered in my little college bubble. But now it's been wonderful meeting people from all across the city while experiencing a new way to live outside the university.

In Brisbane I've been able to see and try new things. "Sunday sessions?" Yes Please! "World's Largest Toga Party?" I'm down! "Pub Crawl?" Is that even a question? All these new experiences have shaped my time abroad to be one that'll be completely unforgettable.

Some things I've questioned while others I've embraced. The prices here? "Ouch!" Where's the dollar menu when I need it? I guess I really should make a budget. But I've gladly embraced the laid back and open-minded attitude many people have here. I love it and have already started saying "No worries" frequently.

So far the adventure down under has been everything I wanted and more. Many things fascinate me so I always have my camera in hand. Sometimes I look

like a tourist but that's okay. You can hate on my selfie game all you want.

Some of the best experiences I've had in Australia have been hanging out with kangaroos at the Australia Zoo, surfing on the Sunshine Coast, watching a Rugby League game at Suncorp Stadium, sand boarding at Moreton Island and paddle boarding at Currumbin Beach. Oh yeah, I also snorkeled in the Great Barrier Reef. That place is okay.

And then there's Vegemite. Sorry Australia, but I just don't know how you guys eat that stuff. Tim Tams on the other hand, are heavenly. I may or may not have gone through a packet in under 10 minutes. I'd just like to personally thank Australia for making this wonderful treat. My suitcase will be filled with Tim Tams once I go back to the States.

Overall, I've learnt so much from my time here and am so happy I took advantage of this life changing experience. Sadly, the semester is slowly coming to an end. So thanks Australia and thanks QUT for taking this American in.

From the people I've met, classes I've taken and new things I've experienced, I didn't just go on exchange, I found a new home. Cheers!