



Chanticleer Tales from Abroad

“I wouldn’t change my decision to study abroad.”

By Hans Kaser with David Cummings

David Cummings is a senior at Coastal Carolina majoring in Sports Management and International Business. In the Spring 2015 semester, David studied abroad at Deakin University’s Melbourne Burwood Campus located in Melbourne, Australia.

Deakin University is one of our most popular foreign exchange partners among students and there are 4 different campus’ to choose from. Over 52,000 students are enrolled at the university and about a quarter of them strictly study online. The institution has been awarded a 5-star rating by the prestigious university ranking organization, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). This ranking indicates that Deakin is world-class in a broad range of areas, has cutting-edge facilities, and is internationally renowned for its research and teaching.

Not only are the academics at Deakin University exceptional, but the school’s location offers easy access to various fun-filled activities and fantastic sightseeing. The city of Melbourne is the lively capital of the state of Victoria and the 2nd largest city in Australia. There are plenty of plazas, bars, restaurants, beaches, gardens, and cultural events along the Yarra River. Moreover, let’s not forget that Australia’s main attractions, such as the Sydney Opera House, Great Barrier Reef, and the Ulura-Kata Tjuta National Park, are all possible sightseeing destinations for a study abroad student.

David gives his sister most of the credit for bringing his interest in studying abroad. He explained that he was envious after hearing about all the experiences his sister had encountered. David was convinced in studying abroad near New Zealand and discovered the closest opportunity was at Deakin University.



David’s study abroad experience became possible by asking questions at the Office of International Programs and Services (now in LJSU 109) and doing some research on the various programs offered. He carefully weighed all the benefits from each program before choosing Deakin University. He expected to experience different cultures and traditions from studying abroad, allowing himself to break out of the comfort zone of living in the United States.

David thoroughly enjoyed his time in Australia. He explained that he noticed some significant cultural differences. In Australia, there are not many franchised restaurants to visit, such as fast food restaurants like McDonalds. Most restaurants are family owned and operated. Also, David said it was difficult adapting to driving on Australian roads because cars drive on the left side of the road just like in Europe.

Studying abroad helped David meet and befriend many new people. David was first introduced to other Coastal Carolina students going to Deakin at his study abroad orientation. He quickly became friends with these students and spent quite a bit of time with them while in Australia. They helped each other pack for the trip and decide where they wanted to sightsee. During his travels, David always had at least 2 or 3 friends to accompany him.



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David's most memorable experience studying abroad occurred on Spring break, when he had the opportunity to travel to Milford Sound in New Zealand. Milford Sound has been described by many as the 'eighth wonder of the world.' It is an incredible scenic valley that was carved by glaciers during the ice ages. Among the things to do there are diving, kayaking, boat tours, and scenic flights.

Studying abroad has led to some great personal opportunities for David. He hopes to travel around the world in his lifetime and the friends he made will help him do it. Several of his study abroad friends are international students, and they offered him a place to stay whenever he visits their country.



When asked if there was anything that he would do differently, David said, "To travel more!" He elaborated and explained that he did not get a chance to visit the Great Barrier Reef or the Outback. This was due to spending 10 days of his trip in New Zealand. "It was a compromise I was willing to make," said David. He wished he had another 1 or 2 weeks to spend in Australia.

David enjoyed his study abroad experience in Australia so much that he is already planning for another study abroad program offered by Coastal Carolina University. He is very interested in the study abroad program in the United Kingdom during the 2016 Maymester. That particular program offers CBAD 478 Strategic Management, which is the business capstone class.



For future study abroad students, David advises to "start saving money as soon as possible." He recommends that students should not hesitate when deciding how to spend their time during the trip because "you are going to run out of time real quickly." For students who are having trouble deciding whether or not to study abroad, David advises to just "do it if it's out of your comfort zone." He clarified that there were 250 students from around the world on his study abroad trip. Everyone had an opportunity to speak to new people and step out of their comfort zone. "You are not going to be alone" and "I wouldn't change my decision to study abroad," concluded David.

For more information about study abroad programs, international internships or other international opportunities, please check out our website at: coastal.edu/studyabroad.