

## Study Abroad Testimonial: Brisbane, Australia

During the winter semester of 2009, I went to study aboard at The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) which located in heart of Brisbane city, Queensland, Australia. The time used to fly there was around 8 hours excluded hanging around in the airport during transit. Brisbane can be spotted on the map in the middle of the east coast line of Australia.

QUT has a variety of students from every corner of the world and it has knowledgeable lecturers who come from the organizations that can provide students with real life experience. The university is divided into 3 campuses; all of them provided natural environment, safety and cleanliness. The access to each of the campuses and other places in town is very convenient by using the municipal bus system that transports every man to his destination on schedule.

The grading system, even though looks different, is not that difficult to understand. They use 0-7 instead of F to A; 0-3 means you are underwater and 4-7 means D to A. How to get a good grade here? Just go to class once in a while, pay attention in class, submit assignment, and go to exam are all you need to do. In case you get 0-3, don't be discouraged, you can do supplementary exam in order to get 4, which can be transferred back to your home school as "C+". What a great deal here!

Rent in Brisbane is quite expensive in relation to other cities. The price ranges from around \$100 to \$400 a week! If you want to be economical, you can share a room with mates or lease for at least 6 months. Transportation from your place will be very convenient as I mentioned above. The cost of food is acceptable, just 2 times as expensive as in Thailand. There are a lot of convenient stores and supermarkets, but I recommend supermarket because everything is cheaper. Worry about cost? Let's make a profit then.

There are many places that you can work by just letting the government taxed you for 30 cents out of your hard-earned dollar. Anyway, your working hour must not exceed 20 hours a week limit. Example of typical workplace for a student; restaurants, fast-food chains, banks (for a related field), department stores, supermarkets, theatres, arcades, clubs and many more. If your head is so biz, you can open business or trade stocks under the same basis, just pay government the tax!

What can you do during your spare time? Well there are shopping malls, gaming arcades, restaurants, theatres and many more. You can choose from this list. If you are a late-nighter, the nightclub might be a great choice during Friday and Saturday nights (till dawn!). There are lots of nightclubs in Brisbane, but I suggest going to an Asian one or an Asian hosted party for your own safety. You might ask is there anything to do outside of the city? Plenty!

Outside of Brisbane, there are many great places that you should visit. Gold Coast, the beach town, is just an hour by express train. It has the most famous beach in Australia called Surfers Paradise; there are lots of places to visit and tons of activities to enjoy in the city and nearby. Out into the ocean lies the largest coral reef in the world, the Great Barrier Reef. If you are an adventurous person, you can go for a ride deep into the continent.

All in all, Australia is a land of natural beauty accompanied with friendly people from around the globe. The Australian culture will not drive you towards stress; you should find yourself happy there.



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