

## About my Time in New Zealand...

I'm currently doing my masters in Applied Business Innovation. I used my third semester to study at Massey University in New Zealand (Auckland). In comparison to the Munich University of Applied Science the semester began a little earlier (17.07.2019 – 17.12.2019). The reason I choose Massey University is because it provides you with a high standard of education. Furthermore I was looking for a country where I can improve my English knowledge. Lastly I choose New Zealand because it provides you with the most beautiful and untouched nature on the planet.

In my opinion the international office managed the application process for the exchange semesters really good. All information that was needed can be found on the website and in case you get lost, the international office is super friendly and always welcome to help. The Toefl test was one requirement for my studies, therefore I didn't have to do it again. Always check the language requirements before you apply for a foreign University. When you're in the application process you'll have the possibility to apply for three different universities. When you think about how many people apply for a foreign semester and the amount of exchange places the university can provide, you really have to consider what becomes your first choice. What I'm trying to tell you with this is that you might not really have three possible choices, because your second choice can be someone's first pick and therefore your chances might shrink to be chosen. I was glad to get my first choice, which was New Zealand and luckily I got supported with the PROMOS scholarship. The application process for the visa is pretty simple. It's all online and done within 2-3 Weeks. Massey university provided their students with a student's safe insurance which you have to apply for while your application process for the university.

There are many great things about New Zealand, one of the negative aspect is that it's so far gone. Additionally the semester does not perfectly match with the time schedule of the German universities. Therefore I had to leave three weeks before my semester in Munich was finished and missed two weeks of the semester in New Zealand. That wasn't a problem because I was talking to all my professors in advance. But this is definitely something you have to arrange by yourself!! Do it early because it might affect the classes ad courses you are able to choose.

My first day in New Zealand was quite nice. I was living at the student Accommodation the TeOra halls, which I wouldn't recommend. It's quite expensive and it's similar to the American fraternity culture. There are always people called RA which are looking after you. Sometimes it feels like your parents are looking after you. I would defiantly recommend you check out trademe, because everything that is being sold or rented goes over trademe. It's like ebay, just also for apartments,.... . I was surprised by the New Zealand culture. Because the people in Auckland seem really nice at the beginning, but when it comes to deeper friendship they kind of miss out. As I was traveling around the people told us that Auckland is not the best place to be. The people aren't that close and sometimes it feels like they miss out on deep and good friendships. During my time in New Zealand I only took computer science classes, which was quite a challenge but the professors where really nice. They are generally super friendly but their study system is a little different. You'll have test, assignments during the entire semester. You'll have one midsemester break of two weeks and then one final exam.

Lastly some advices for you. DKB or Santander Bank will be your best choice when it comes to banking alternatives. Some students opened up a bank account in New Zealand, but the transfer from the German bank to the new Zealand is connected with a interest rate of 4-9% which you'll have to pay. As a active customer of DKB I never had to pay any fee or interest for picking up money. Secondly, get yourself a car. The public transport around the north Shore, which is where Massey University is located isn't that great. December to March is the traveling Season. When you buy a car off season and sell it within the traveling season you'll be able to loose no money or even make some money.

Concluding all this, my time in New Zealand was great. I learned a lot during my studies, improved my English and found some really nice people, travelled to amazing places and was able to surf a lot.

Have Fun and enjoy your time !!