

Student testimonial question form

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Degree: MASTER OF BUSINESS (APPLIED FINANCE)/MASTER OF BUSINESS (MANAGEMENT)

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1. Why did you choose to study abroad for your postgraduate studies?

I've always wanted an international career and I was certain that I wanted to study in a country that spoke English. That's the reason why I applied to various universities in the UK, US, Canada and Australia. *Study Abroad* helped me out with all my applications in each of these countries which made things much easier. Before my application to QUT was accepted, I didn't know very much about the city of Brisbane ... or QUT for that matter. It was totally by chance that I applied and I had initially thought that if I get in, I might accept.

Another thing that was very important to me was the ranking of the university's business degrees. A friend of mine told me about QUT's Financial Times ranking, I sent my application in and hoped for the best!

"It turned out to be exactly what I was looking for and much more!"

2. Why did you choose your area of study?

I chose business at QUT as I had already completed a Bachelor of Finance and wanted to be specialised in this area. Originally I enrolled in the Master of Business (Finance) but after one semester, I decided to do a 'double' Masters degree. I now get to incorporate the human interaction side of business. I think people and figures make the perfect combination.

3. What parts of the course have been most beneficial, or have you particularly enjoyed?

I really enjoy that the classroom is so multicultural. The location of Australia in the Asia Pacific means that the content of my degree sometimes has an Asian focus. I've also made friends with classmates from so many nationalities. Recently I went out to dinner with a group of friends from my class and I realised I was the only European! What a great way to network and learn about different traditions. I want an international career and therefore having an understanding of different cultures is key to success.

4. What have been the highlights of your experience in Australia so far?

A major highlight has been (and will be) my own personal development. I know Australia is a long way from my Swedish family and friends but you can still stay connected. My time abroad is about self-empowerment and having the ability to start over. I'm getting good grades, I've already got a job and the whole experience feels good.

"It's a huge challenge but I feel like I could do anything from here."

5. Have you participated in any internships or volunteering opportunities during your time at QUT?

Yes, I'm working at [Adepto](#). I attended a business event and spoke with the Chief Operating Officer, Michael Derwin. After the presentation, Michael and I exchanged contact details and I now work approximately 20 hours per week in the Brisbane office. Adepto enables organisations to build a community of workers. Currently organisations are made up of around 70% employees and 30% consultants but this will be the opposite in the future. I really enjoy working for a start-up as I have more responsibility.

In future semesters, I also wanted to get involved in some of the activities that QUT offers in the start-up space, including QUT Starters and the QUT Foundry.

6. What did you find was great about your lecturers and tutors? What experiences did they add to your learning?

My first semester was dedicated to core units and were taught by Asian lecturers. The material felt a little 'old'. However, this changed in my second semester where I was able to choose electives and the content is much more interesting! I'm involved in more workshops instead of being only in a lecture theatre and the audience is engaged.

The other thing I really like is that all lectures are recorded so I don't miss anything.

7. How is your QUT experience helping to shape your career?

As I'd like an international career, studying abroad is a really important activity to add to my CV. So is improving my English language skills in order to transition automatically between multiple languages. I think the experience of studying at QUT is making me a more independent and I feel like I'm a more motivated guy just by being here. Studying abroad makes you more flexible and accepting that change is possible.

8. What advice would you give to prospective QUT students?

"Give it a shot, there is nothing to lose!"

Make sure you visit the food markets! There are multiple locations every weekend (for example West End, Milton, Logan and Kelvin Grove).

QUT has fantastic facilities! Smart solutions, high quality systems and all lectures are recorded. This makes study more flexible as you can study at a time that suits you.

9. How did you find the transition moving from your home country to Australia? Did services at QUT support this transition?

The first two months were terrible but I was prepared for that by outlining 'why was I here?' I recorded it and wrote it down so that I could regularly remind myself. I'd also talk to my family almost every day. Then, step by step, you get friends and a social group and everything is great! I've even swapped my interest in Swedish politics for Australian politics! I didn't want to be reminded of

my life back home and what I could be missing out on. The interesting thing is that I went back to Sweden over the European summer and I'm not missing anything! Focus on the outcome, write down what you want to achieve from studying abroad and refer back to it regularly!