Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
They had higher expectations for their students and stressed independence to their students. They were much less available for office hours/questions.

- Could you call them by their first names?
I’m not sure. I did not, but given the laid back Australian culture, probably.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
About equal.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
They were not as available as UCSB professors here.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
They were difficult in a different sense. There was less work but higher expectations. This depends on what a student is looking for in a program. Personally, I found it easier because I had more time to travel and socialize than I do here at UCSB.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
Definitely not. It was based on different distinction levels. What was nice though is when the grades transferred, they transferred in favor of the UCSB grading system.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
The course structure was fairly similar - just a paper during midterms and a paper during finals.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
I did not have exams. I only had papers.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
The final exam schedule was inflexible.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
I didn’t receive any. Their expectations were pretty straight forward.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
Yes, definitely. While abroad my independence increased tremendously.

- Was classroom participation expected?
Only in discussion sections. Hardly anyone asked questions in lecture.

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
The courses had fairly similar expectations and similar classroom sizes. There was however way more flexibility when it came to changing your schedule, such as wanting to add or drop a course.

- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
All my classes ended up being on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I had a four-day weekend every weekend!

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  It was very relaxed. Professors didn’t care if you were late or eating/drinking in class.

**Language**
- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  English
- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  English
- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
  N/A

**Host University**
- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
  It was about 35,000 students (almost double the size of UCSB) but had the same classroom sizes as UCSB. It was located right in the middle of the Melbourne Central Business District (CBD) but had the East Coast look and feel to it. It was a very beautiful campus. It was like walking right out of a bustling city and into a sanctuary.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off-campus?**
  Most students live at home or (if from out of state) in the residence colleges. This is much different to what the students do at UCSB.

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - **How far or close is it to the city?**
    It’s located right in the heart of the city.
  - **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
    The tram system was super convenient. You could hop on or off at almost anytime and it took you to everywhere you needed to go in the city. There were also buses and the train station too. It cost about 2.50 for a one-ride pass but you could purchase more rides for less if you bought them in bulk.
  - **Could students take cabs -cost?**
    We had to take cabs only if we were out late at night past the time the trams stopped running. Very expensive…..just hopping in the cab before driving off already cost you $4.00 AU
  - **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
    10 minute walk from campus, 5 minute (or less) tram ride.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  Yes. There are over 300 clubs/organizations and a very active student body.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  Yes. The bookstore was conveniently located right next to the library. I however did not use the bookstore since all my readings ended up being online. Woohoo for no textbooks!
- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  Yes, there were several computer labs. Many students brought their own laptops though.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  There were many cafes, restaurants, fast food chains, clothing stores, boutiques, farmers markets, post office…all the essentials basically.

**Housing**
- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  There are several options - a homestay, sublease an apartment/house with friends or stay in the residence colleges.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  All are very close to campus, depending on the suburb a student chooses to live.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  I applied directly through the University of Melbourne housing website.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived in one of the residence colleges, called International House, on campus. I had my own room but had floor mates to socialize with. I loved it!

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  N/A

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  They were comparable but I liked having my own room.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  Yes it was more expensive. You paid by semester, at the start of each semester. It cost about 9,000 U.S. dollars for one semester. This included 19 meals a week, your own room, a private gym, music rooms and recreation rooms for your own leisure.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  I paid the University since it was owned by them. I paid by credit card.

**Food**
- **What was the food like?**
  The café/restaurant culture is huge in Australia - delicious food from many different cultures. I however mostly ate at my residence college which was comparable to the dorm food at UCSB.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I ate most of my meals at the residence college. When I was out and about though, I loved getting coffee at the little cafes near campus.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  For a good hearty meal it ranged anywhere from 12-20 dollars. Food is very expensive in Australia.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  Lunch was always around noon and dinner was around 6.
- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  Not at all! There are tons of farmers markets with fresh fruit and vegetables daily.

**Travel/Safety**
- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**
  See above.

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  I felt very, VERY safe. Make sure you have different methods for payment (credit card, cash etc)

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
  The public transportation was very accessible with many options/routes.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
  It was very easy to travel within Australia. I was able to get flights for 20 bucks round trip! I didn’t travel outside of Australia so I wouldn’t know about traveling to neighboring countries. I would imagine it would be hard though since Australia is so far from everything else.

**Host City/Country**
- **What was the weather like?**
  It reminded me of San Francisco Bay Area weather - foggy in the morning, nice sunshine afternoons.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  As stated above, Melbourne is like the San Francisco of California. It was a very urban, trendy, cultured city. If you like the “café” or hipster culture then you would LOVE Melbourne. There was lots to do and see, always.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
  There were so many things. Sports are HUGE over there so I went to A LOT of sporting events. I visited several museums, went to some film festivals, shopped like crazy (such cute clothing) and enjoyed many different types of restaurants.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
  Melbourne was extremely diverse and international. People from all different parts of the world live in Melbourne. There was a wide array of businesses too.

**Culture**
- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    Not important. They call their time “Aussie” time.
  - **Eye contact & staring**
    Similar to U.S. When appropriate, it was common.
  - **Relationships**
    Very relaxed. Not much drama or emphasis on a person’s relationships with people.
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    In comparison to UCSB, there was much more emphasis on fashion and trendiness when going to school.
- **Alcohol consumption**
  I think drinking defines the Australian culture. Since the drinking age is 18, there are tons of bars on and around campus.

- **What culture shock did you go through?**
  At first I had a hard time adjusting to people being so nice and friendly. I feel like in the U.S., we are pretty stand-offish and wouldn’t talk to people while walking down the street. It was very different there, but a great difference at that!

- **Other?**

**Banking**
- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
  Yes.

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
  No. I wish I would have though because it was sometimes hard with my American account to do certain transactions.

- **If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?**
  It was easy because I banked with Bank Of America and they have a sister bank in Australia. There were no transaction fees for withdrawing money from Westpac but it was hard to complete other types of transactions besides just getting money. Westpacs are everywhere over there though which was nice.

- **Were there ATMs on campus?**
  Yes tons! It was very convenient.