

Final traineeship report **[C1]** ERASMUS traineeship – Academic Year 2025 / 2026

Version: February 2020

Please fill this form out on a computer, not by hand, and send it as an email attachment to the EU-ServicePoint: eu-servicepoint@international.uni-mainz.de

Your report will be made available to other students looking for traineeships. Therefore, please make sure to provide important websites and other helpful information!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Host country:	Australia
Program of study:	M.Sc. Environmental Science
Home university:	RPTU Landau
Professional field of traineeship:	Ecotoxicology
Language of work:	English
Duration of traineeship:	from 29/06/2026 (dd / mm / yyyy) to 28/08/2026 (dd / mm / yyyy)

ORGANISATION/ENTERPRISE OF THE TRAINEESHIP

Name of receiving organization/enterprise	Southern Cross University
Street/P.O. Box:	Military Rd
Postal code and city:	2480, East Lismore, NSW
Country:	Australia
Website:	https://www.scu.edu.au/
Email:	enquiry@scu.edu.au

BEFORE – Information about preparing for the traineeship abroad

Please fill the following fields in a detailed manner and give exact information about your search and preparation (websites, tips, contacts, etc.) for the traineeship.

Search for traineeship:	Looking up various universities and institutes across the world looking for relevant research areas overlapping with my personal interests. I also reached out to program coordinators and professors at my sending institution.
Application (process, unsolicited application, interview, etc.):	Various applications were sent as unsolicited emails. For this internship the contact with the supervisor Amanda Reichelt-Brushett was

	provided by professor Mirco Bundschuh at RPTU. Amanda quickly agreed to supervise after being in contact via email.
Search for accommodation:	For accommodation I used websites such as AirBnB, an internal SCU service as well as a Facebook Group for private rentals within the Northern Rivers region in Australia. The Facebook Group is where I eventually found my rental.
Insurances:	Except for the travel health insurance, all other private insurances were already existent independently of the internship. The general liability and accident insurances were in my parents' names. The travel health insurance was signed through the DAAD program.
Telephone/Internet access in the host country:	Phone and mobile data access were covered using an eSIM by Boost which accesses the Telstra network in Australia. Having an Australian phone number was helpful for various services as well as communication as texting is more prevalent than WhatsApp for example. WiFi was available in the accommodation as well as on the SCU Campus (eduroam).
Bank/opening an account:	Not applicable. All purchases were made using a visa credit card. The service Wise was used for paying rent and the private rental car.
Helpful websites / Other things:	Private car rental: https://turo.com/au/en/car-rental/australia

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRAINEESHIP

Please fill the following fields in a detailed manner and give exact information about the traineeship as such (websites, tips, contacts, etc.).

Type of traineeship:	Research (ecotoxicology)
Tasks within the traineeship: Could you apply learned skills and knowledge? Were the tasks too much / not enough? etc.	The main objective was setting up an experimental design for a semi-flow through system. The tasks were carried out independently in agreement with the supervisor. The goal was to have the set-up in working order for an 8-day experiment as well as successfully carrying out the experiment itself. Additional tasks included the support of a mountain frog husbandry program which is updating its facilities. The scope of the support was helping build new aquaria as well as setting up audio recorders to monitor frog activity in certain rainforest habitats.

Supervision (introductory/concluding conversation, weekly/monthly feedback, etc.)	During the main project, setting up and carrying out the experiment, daily contact was maintained with the supervisor. Workload, arising, issues and schedules were discussed together. The supervisor offered opportunities to take part in additional projects such as the frog husbandry program and field trips as part of their teaching obligations, facilitating contact with other researchers and students. At the end of the internship a conclusionary meeting took place recapping the experiment and offering feedback for each other.
Social contacts during the traineeship:	Contacts with other researchers, students and PhD students of the supervisor were fostered.
Language skills (benefits, improvements, etc.):	Due to previous stays in English-speaking countries my language skills were not affected much by the internship except for more focus on scientific language.
Short overall evaluation of your stay abroad: Private / professional benefit? What were your expectations? Were these fulfilled? What was particularly good / not so good?	Tremendous professional benefit. Contact to international researchers and good prospects for a publication. Personal development, narrowing down research interests and future plans in general. More confidence in research interests and skills. Expectations were surpassed, especially in the skill and independence required for the tasks as well as the amount of trust given by the supervisor.
Duration of the traineeship: Too short, just right, too long? Recommendations for an optimal length of time?	9 weeks felt like a reasonable amount. I would not recommend going much shorter (depending on the intensity/nature of the project) as it allowed for a good amount of time to get settled, as well as accommodating some days where less work was available and others that were more packed.
Average monthly expenses abroad in €; Additional costs in contrast to expenses in Germany:	Ca. 2000 €, cheaper options are available for accommodation. Depending on the region having a car is non-negotiable.
What should one absolutely know / keep in mind?	Temperatures/seasons are very different. Public transport is lacking.
Are you of the opinion that the traineeship will benefit you in your future professional career? If yes, how? If not, why?	Definitely! Through the research experience itself but also by having high-ranking references in the scientific community (especially SETAC) in Australia and the US.
Can you recommend this traineeship? (Please be sure to elaborate)	Yes! It is a great opportunity to experience research in a different country and culture.

If yes, would the organization/enterprise accept trainees in the future? – as far as I'm aware yes.	
Helpful websites / Other things:	

Do you agree with the anonymous publication of your report on the www.eu-servicepoint.de website?

Yes ☒

No ☐