



RMIT University | Melbourne, Australien

**Fatima**

Chemie und Chemische Biologie | MSc. Chemie | 3. Semester

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## Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

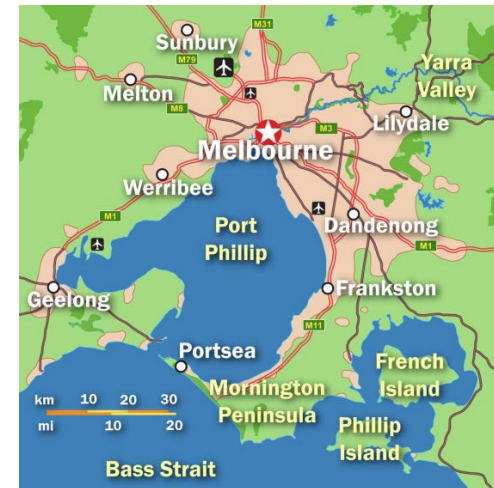
RMIT University is a public research university and the largest tertiary education provider in Australia, with additional establishments in both Europe and Asia. It has three campuses in Melbourne alone and falls in the 5-star category according to the QS World University Rankings.

Australia stands strong in the education sector, with 7 of the world's top 100 universities located here. In order to assess first hand what it had to offer, I chose to study at RMIT because it was the perfect blend of research in areas that closely coincide with my current studies, and a unique approach to the subject through a different plethora of courses, departments and facilities to choose from.

## Melbourne, Australia

It's no secret that Melbourne has been voted the 'most livable city' for the 7th consecutive year in 2017 and the reasons become rapidly apparent.

Spanning over 9,992.5 km<sup>2</sup> and home to over 4 million residents, the city not only boasts a spectacular skyline, it's gold dust sprinkled beaches, candy floss sunsets and coffee scented lanes will have anyone swooning under it's magic.



File:Greater Melbourne Map 4 - May 2008.png, Eigenes Werk von Diliff, lizenziert unter CC BY-SA 3.0, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne#/media/File:Greater\\_Melbourne\\_Map\\_4\\_-\\_May\\_2008.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne#/media/File:Greater_Melbourne_Map_4_-_May_2008.png)

## Organisation

I was lucky enough to have a friend living in Melbourne, who arranged to fetch me from the airport as well as save me the hassle of looking for accommodation.

The university does have dorms of its own, but these are relatively more expensive. Websites like [flatmates.com.au](http://flatmates.com.au) or Facebook groups like Fairy Floss Real Estate can be helpful platforms when searching for a place to call home.

RMIT additionally hosts an orientation event to assist with a variety of matters, so I would definitely recommend attending.

RMIT University | Melbourne, Australia



Since English has always been practically a mother tongue to me, the opportunity to practice it again was one I embraced with open arms. That being said, however, I was just as much a blank canvas when it came to the local Aussie lingo, which is something my interactions definitely helped me improve on.

## Academic Impressions

Probably my favorite part about the courses at RMIT was how interactive they were. Professors are extremely approachable, understanding and open to helping.

Lecture materials are all made available online, some even have video recordings uploaded.

The university also facilitates learning spaces, with plenty of access to computers and online databases for research, as well as sleeping pods for a quick snooze.

The courses I enrolled in during my semester at RMIT were:

- Advanced Spectroscopic Analysis\*
- Chemistry of Drugs and Toxins\*
- Energy and the Earth's environment\*

As a chemistry student, being familiar with analytical methodologies and their application is no doubt a necessity. Since cosmetic chemistry is my desired profession, knowing how certain chemicals may elicit an undesired response is vital. The environmental impact is also not a negligible matter, so all in all I definitely think my courses have been beneficial for my degree as well as my future goals.



Admittedly, it is comparatively harder to get to know the locals, predominantly because they already have a social circle, so you have to be the one to take the initiative. I was paired up with a group for a lab that was part of one of my courses, which definitely helped move things along.

## Social Integration

RMIT has something to offer for everyone in terms of finding that social niche. RMIT Mates is a great program dedicated specifically to international students. There's sports opportunities with RMIT Sport, if that's your cup of tea, or you can choose Yoga/ Dance/ Pilates if you're looking for something more mellow. RMIT Trips is another cool way to make new acquaintances and simultaneously explore Victoria. RMIT Student Union (RUSU) also organizes a weekly 'Chill 'n' Grill', which has you sorted for a free meal, entertainment and a lively, laid back atmosphere to socialize.

## Your 'promotion' for the TU

Surprisingly, Australians are also big on celebrating the Oktoberfest! As September drew to an end, RUSU organized an Oktoberfest themed Chill n Grill, to which they invited international German students to represent their respective universities. The idea was to meet and encourage one-on-one conversation with the local students, which was perhaps my best opportunity to address a larger crowd. Aside from this, through joining the dance and yoga classes as well as attending my regular ones helped me deliver more information through conversation.

My general assessment led me to conclude that students are more inclined towards staying put or studying in the U.S. or UK, largely because of the language. Only a handful do consider European countries, so my audience was rather limited and predominantly other Germans looking for 'their own'. While I was able to dispel the language concerns to a great extent and sing the TU's praises, the interest remained lukewarm.

## Culture

I definitely think what took me most by surprise was how racially diverse Melbourne actually is! Contrary to popular belief, people are extremely friendly and hospitable towards all ethnic origins.

This of course also means there is no end to the variety of food you can find, which is without doubt any food lover's paradise.

The general atmosphere is quite laid back and non judgmental. People seem to almost radiate positivity!



Perhaps what took me a little time to adjust to was the comparatively relaxed mannerisms. For instance, addressing professors by their first name or seeing people stroll barefoot into the supermarket was something completely new. A welcome change, nonetheless, it helped make things less daunting and people more approachable.



## Tips and Suggestions for future students...

- If you're on study abroad for a **year**, be sure to ask RMIT Connect for a transport concession, it will save you a lot of money.
- If you're having trouble with anything, contact RMIT Connect or the Global Experience Office. Don't be shy to contact Professors, they are more than willing to help.
- RMIT is in the heart of the city, so accommodation is expensive near campus. Look for a suburb that fits your budget with a minimum commute time (travelling during peak hour is frustrating!).
- If you want to explore, but don't have a vehicle, GoGet often has good offers.
- I did not receive a scholarship for my semester abroad, so my advice: spend on travelling rather than shopping, you won't regret it.



## Life afterwards...

If I had the opportunity to relive this experience, I would do it again without a second thought! It was truly a dream come true.

There's a multitude of activities and events I participated in for the first time during my stay, which I never thought I was brave enough to accomplish!

Cherry on top of the cake: I finally got to personally interact with one of the most inspirational people I have followed on social media for a few years. Life in Melbourne certainly makes you count your blessings!





