

Spending twelve months of my Biofabrication master's program at the University of Bayreuth in Melbourne was one of the best decisions in my life so far. The long-term stay at the University of Melbourne was very beneficial for my research skills. I have learned several techniques in the laboratory and got to know many different research groups, which helped me to expand my knowledge in the field. Besides that, the exchange year gave me the opportunity to explore Australia and nearby countries, improve my English language and learn about different cultures.

Melbourne is a multicultural city and it was chosen as the most liveable city in the world for past seven years. The weather in Melbourne is nice and warm most of the year, which helps to enjoy the extraordinary beaches around the city. Moreover, Melbourne is rich with parks, modern buildings, plazas, bars and restaurants. If you like food, then you will love Melbourne. The city has tremendous number of fantastic restaurants from different parts of the world. Personally, I would recommend Laksa King (Malaysian food) and Betty's Burgers to start with. Australia has many amazing cities that you can visit during your stay in Melbourne, such as Sydney, Perth, Adelaide, and Brisbane. The location of Melbourne opens a gate to travel to many different cities around the world which are very far from Europe. Therefore, it is highly recommended to plan your trip in advance in order to get the chance to get the best out of your stay in Melbourne.

Finding an accommodation in Melbourne while you are overseas can be tricky. Thus, I would recommend booking a hotel or Airbnb for couple of days or weeks then it would be easier to hunt apartments while you are in the city. Apartments can be found in [realestate.com.au](https://www.realestate.com.au), [domain.com.au](https://www.domain.com.au), [gumtree.com.au](https://www.gumtree.com.au), or Facebook market. If you prefer to stay in a sharing house, [flatmates.com.au](https://www.flatmates.com.au) and [roomster.com](https://www.roomster.com) could be the best websites to find what you are looking for.

Two of the top 100 universities in the world are located in Melbourne. Therefore, the long-term stay in Melbourne can help to secure a PhD position at one of the best universities in the world. In my case, I applied for a PhD course at the University of Melbourne and happily got an offer for the PhD course as well as a scholarship for the entire program, which I believe it would have been difficult without the exchange year in Melbourne.