

Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

Eileen Hagen

Major: Business Economics

Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia



Program Highlights:

- Noosa/Sunshine Coast: During orientation, we took surfing lessons, lived in cabins and were able to feed kangaroos who came right up to the door.
- Mt. Tambourine: Here we went camping, hiking, rapelling, and saw huge waterfalls.
- Fraser Island: The largest sand island, with beautiful rainforest, guanias, dingos, and crystal clear freshwater lakes.

How did your experience fit into your major and your Wooster education?

I took electives while I was there. It was nice to be able to take courses like “Writing for the Web”, a website design class, which would only be available at such a large university. My favorite class was called “Globalisation: The Asia-Pacific and Australia”, a discussion-based class that brought up issues regarding world powers. It was nice to hear how the rest of the world views America, and it is partially what inspired the topic I’ve chosen for my junior I.S.

What did you think about the courses you took abroad?

Courses at Griffith University were very different from Wooster courses. Every class had one assignment, and one final exam. Usually the assignment was a paper ranging from 3-10 pages. This meant that there was no room for error, because if you fail a test or paper you’re out 50% of your grade. In general, however, the professors in Australia completely follow the “laid-back” culture. The grading system is also very different, in that it is all curved. It’s not like in the U.S. where if you meet the criteria you will get a certain grade; you are essentially competing with your classmates to get the higher grade. With that, 50% is equivalent to a “C”, so getting anything above a 70% is considered a good grade.

What unique experience did you have abroad that contributed to your education?

I would say that the best part of the experience was living with people from all over the world. I became friends with as many kids from Peru, Germany, Brazil, Austria, Norway, Sweden, and Zimbabwe, than even Australians. It was really awesome to be able to see our different world views, taste what kinds of food and candy are popular in other countries, see the differences in fashion and music tastes, etc.

IFSA-Butler, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia

Griffith University is one of the Asia-Pacific’s most progressive universities, offering a wide range of courses on its three campuses.

Come to the IPO or check out <http://www.ifsa-butler.org> for more information!