

Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

MinYoung Heo

Major: Biochemistry-Molecular Biology

Minor: Mathematics

IFSA-Butler: Australian National University, Canberra



Program Highlights:

- The more I get to know other countries, the more I feel the whole world seems closer. I learned Oz slang and Oz football, went to the beach for surfing in Brisbane, watched a play at the Sydney Opera House, saw kangaroos etc.
- The people I met in Australia. Saying good-bye to the many great people I met in Australia was the hardest thing about leaving it.

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

Since I used to want to be a physicist, I always wanted to take physics classes. But, due to time complication and my busy course schedule, I couldn't take physics courses at Wooster. In Australia, students usually never take any other courses outside of their major. But, as a liberal arts college student, I decided to take two advanced physics courses at ANU, which is well-known for physics. As a BMB major and math minor, I am sure that these courses will affect my future studies.

What courses did you take and how did you like your courses?

I took Advanced Physics II, Astrophysics, Molecular Biology, and Cognition & Visual Perception. It was pretty unusual to take two physics classes as a biology student, but these classes became one of my most memorable experiences in my study abroad semester. I probably would have had an easier semester if I hadn't taken these classes, but I never regret that I took them, even though I had to do more work and I got a lower GPA. My two other classes were also definitely worthwhile. I still love the incredible experience of realizing how all my classes could be related to each other.

Why did you choose your program and location in particular?

Whenever I looked at the globe, I wondered what it was like to live "down under". Everything there would have the opposite vertical direction. Also, it seems to me that Australia is a similar country to America: similar size, diverse people from all over the world, English influence, etc. The Australia National University is located in Canberra, which is the capital of Australia. Although it is new and in a very small city, I chose ANU over Sydney University, because Sydney University seemed too big for me. Another reason that I liked ANU is the fact that they are one of the world's foremost research universities.

IFSA-Butler: Australian National University, Canberra

Only in Australia will you find an irresistible combination of rugged Outback, urban sophistication, and outstanding academics. Rural Australia's desert of red earth and vivid blue skies are home to intriguing geological rock formations, unique wildlife, ancient fossils, and Aboriginal rock carvings, while the semitropical rainforests and Great Barrier Reef offer endless tourism possibilities. Along the coasts, numerous large cities teem with liveliness and endless opportunities for culture, sports, and entertainment.

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