

Rebecca Buffington: Technical University of Berlin (Semester 1, 2010)

UQ Program: Bachelor of Architectural Design

I went on exchange to Technische Universität Berlin in Germany during my 5th semester of Bachelor of Architectural Design.

I began the semester with a three week intensive German course, which was lots of fun and as well as brushing up on my German skills I also got to know Berlin and its history a little better and learnt about some cultural differences. I couldn't recommend doing a course like this more highly, because most of the other students were also on exchange from different countries and experiencing the same things that I was, so it was really easy to make friends quickly. I stayed friends with these people throughout the semester and we did a lot of sightseeing and travelling together.

In terms of Uni, I found TUB to be a lot less organised than UQ. It was very difficult and time consuming to figure out which courses to take and who to talk to, but once the organisation was done the rest of the semester ran smoothly.

As an architecture student, the best part about studying in Europe was the exposure to so many amazing buildings and architectural possibilities. I went on an excursion to Switzerland with my Design class and also spent time in France, Czech Republic, Poland and Austria. I've come away from the experience excited and enthusiastic about my future profession.

This exchange was my first experience of living away from home. I lived in student accommodation 10 minutes walk away from TUB and one minute away from the train station so it was convenient, cheap and I met many interesting people. However, there weren't very many Germans living there, so I'd advise people who really want to improve their language skills to try to live in a WG or apartment with German students.

After seeing and experiencing so many amazing places and meeting some really nice people from many different cultural backgrounds, I feel like I have come home more independent and worldly with a better understanding of other cultures.



Me (3rd from right) making Chinese food with my house mates