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Report from Sydney!

1 message

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To: Evangeline Abriel <eabriel@scu.edu>, Carly Koebel <ckoebel@scu.edu>

Hi, everyone - I just landed in Sydney and wanted to give you an advance report. Weather is great; just light sweater weather with a few sprinkles of rain.

Here's what to expect at the airport. The airline will give you a customs and immigration form that you can fill out before landing. Once you disembark, you'll go through immigration with the Australian Border Force. They have electronic passport readers and then you may or may not speak with a border agent.

In past years, I have just gotten an automatic authorized stay of a couple of months, but this time, they actually asked me how long I would be in the country. Be sure you get a sufficiently long authorized stay. You can just tell them your departure date, and that should work.

The agent (or the electronic passport reader) will stamp your customs and immigration form and give it back to you.

Remember that you are not studying at an Australian institution, so you do not need a student visa. And for persons staying on afterwards to volunteer, remember that you are doing a volunteer placement, rather than an "internship," as that term means something different for purposes of Australian immigration.

After immigration, you will pick up your bags and then go through the exit; a border agent will take your customs and immigration form there. Then you'll go through double doors and you'll be in Sydney!

I took a cab because I had so much luggage, but it was a little on the expensive side - AUD 64 to downtown Sydney. To get to the cab stand, go out of the airport exit doors and turn right. You'll see a set of railings for the taxi queue.

It's less expensive to take the train from the airport. I'm sorry, but I was too groggy to check that out this morning, but our students take the train every year.

I'll send out an email later today with my Aussie phone number, but wanted to get this advance report to you right away!

See you Sunday at 4 in the UTS Law Faculty lobby. Let me know if I can be of any help in the meantime.

Prof. Abriel