



Westminster School – Adelaide, Australia  
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For my exchange, I went to Adelaide, Australia for seven great weeks. My experience and all the people I met there will be remembered for a lifetime.

My plane ride was fairly unremarkable, save that it encompassed 30 hours of travel that left me tired and hungry. One funny event did happen on my layover from Sydney. A class came to sit next to me at the gate and I was mistaken for being part of their trip. The teacher's suspicion that I was an extra member of her class was soon extinguished since I spoke with an American accent, much to her class's amusement. Once I arrived in Adelaide airport, I found Mikayla and her mom there to welcome me. They were an amazing host family and made my exchange fun and worry-free. They had dog, a cat and a bird as pets, with which I became acquainted.

I had the opportunity to do a whole bunch of activities. We went to the beach lots, and went to a wildlife park where we saw Australian wildlife and plants. I got to hold a koala, feed kangaroos, and see heaps more animals like Tasmanian devils, wallabies, and emus. Mikayla and I also went shopping several times which was really fun. The three of us went sightseeing around Adelaide and Sydney and we went to Mme Tussaud's, the famous wax museum. The figures were incredibly life-like, which was a bit spooky. Mikayla and her friends and I even went surfing! The highlight of my trip was definitely getting to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We went at night, and wore jumpsuits as we scaled the bridge above the beautiful glittering city and black waters.

The school I went to was Westminster School. It was a boarding school, like most of the private schools in Australia, but most people were day students. I thought the coolest thing was that pretty much everything was outside. Our lockers, the hallways, and even lunch were eaten out in the sunshine every day. On the first few days, my rather short skirt was very out of place but I soon got my own uniform, a not-so-attractive long dress and hat. The classes were nothing harder than what we have here; the usual math, history and English but our class had so many cool people to meet and talk to, which was great.

I got to take cooking, at which I failed miserably but had a laugh anyways. Gym was also really fun, minus the 3km run at the beginning of term. We even had swimming classes since Westminster has a pool. The students at the school were really welcoming and curious. My accent was pretty obvious and I answered loads of random Canada and America questions. Everyone there was more relaxed and had a sarcastic sense of humor, so I got on pretty well with everybody. Most days Mikayla

and some friends and I would go get “chips” (French fries) after school and sit on the grass to laugh and chat.

In sum, I would definitely recommend everybody to go on an exchange. You meet so many new people and it is so fun to experience life somewhere else! You learn how to live with others for seven weeks and make the best of it. You learn that sometimes things aren't what you expect, but are still actually pretty awesome. Most of all, you learn how to be independent and thrive in a different environment, which is the most important skill of all.