

Voices of Students Dispatched to the University of Newcastle in 2025

Visiting period: October 7–16, 2025

(These are translations of parts of the student survey.)

1. What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university

This program focused primarily on laboratory-based research activities. After arriving at the University of Newcastle (UON), I completed ID registration and laboratory safety training, followed by detailed instruction on the use of experimental and analytical equipment. My research project involved the development of adsorbents and supercapacitors using porous biocarbon derived from waste wood chips.

This was my second time being dispatched to UON. During my first visit in my third undergraduate year, I struggled to study chemistry in English. However, after gaining two additional years of research experience, I was able to smoothly operate instruments such as X-ray diffraction and scanning electron microscopes that I regularly use in my research. Through continued research activities, I realized that I had acquired solid specialized knowledge and technical skills. I also experienced firsthand how expertise in chemistry can serve as a common language even in different environments, helping me understand that in international communication, not only language ability but also professional expertise plays a crucial role.

2. What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country

In terms of daily life, I was initially surprised by the higher cost of living compared to Japan. However, activities such as visiting wineries in Hunter Valley and trips to Oakvale Wildlife Park with local students provided valuable opportunities for cross-cultural exchange. I also came to understand the importance of clearly expressing my own wishes and opinions.

Furthermore, living in the dormitory allowed me to communicate daily with people from diverse nationalities, which significantly enhanced both my language skills and my understanding of different cultures and values.