

Dear sir/madam,

In this motivation letter I will explain to you my motivation for going on exchange. I will start with introducing myself and proceed with my motivation for three universities of my choice.

My name is ----- and I am currently nineteen years old. I am a second year International Business Administration student and I am very happy with my choice to pursue this study. I am a very keen student and my entire life I have enjoyed to communicate with people from different countries and cultures. I am already in contact with a lot of international students and going on exchange would give me the opportunity to get in touch with even more.

Besides studying, I am an active member of the study association Asset International Business and Management. Last year I was active in the First Year's Committee and this year I am the chairman of the Activities Committee. I really like to be chairman because I have a lot of responsibilities and each meeting is educational due to the fact that I improve my communication skills and that I have to work with a team. Moreover, I am the one that is responsible for the final decisions which makes it a big challenge. Additionally, I have worked in a flower shop and as a cashier in a supermarket. These working experiences have also contributed to my communication skills.

I want to go on exchange because I have got international ambitions. I am interested in international developments happening all over the world. Also, I think that there is a great possibility that I will be living abroad in the future, since I have dreamed about this for my entire life. Therefore, an exchange could give me a good insight whether this is really something I want.

From Europe I already know a lot; I have visited more than 15 capitals/ famous cities. I would, therefore, like to expand my horizon by going on exchange outside Europe. I have visited New York and Washington and I went on a study trip to Buenos Aires and Santiago last year. Especially the latter increased my interest for countries outside Europe since this experience really opened my eyes and I really learned a lot from this trip.

One of the reasons I applied for Tilburg University was because I wanted to get outside of my comfort zone. All of my friends went to Groningen together and I was the only one from my school to go to Tilburg. By getting out of my comfort zone I learned to make friends just by starting up a new life all by myself. Tilburg is of course just the beginning and I think that by going to a country that is remote, I can experience this in a much bigger way. Hence, going to Australia or New-Zealand will definitely be this kind of challenge.

My dream destination for exchange would be Australia or New-Zealand. A big con is that the people speak English and that there is a Western culture. Hence, this would be a great opportunity to improve my English even more. What I also like about these countries is that they have a very diverse population. At the universities, as stated on their websites, 1 out of 5 students are from abroad. I think this is a great way to get to know all kinds of people from different countries.

Australia and New Zealand have a very interesting history. Their current population is a mixture of the original inhabitants and of people who have immigrated from all over the world. Since I am internationally minded, I think going to such a country with a big international history will give me the opportunity to learn more about this. Furthermore, I think it is interesting to learn more about the economy of these countries since their borders are the sea.

My top three universities include the following:

Macquarie University in Sydney

This university instantly caught my attention because when I saw a video of the campus, I could immediately see myself walking there. It felt like a nice atmosphere. Macquarie University is known as being thoroughly international. They are among the top 2 per cent of universities in the world (Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2014) and are the 9th most international university in the world. Concluding, the university is focused on being international and I want to be more internationally minded, I think this is a great combination. On top of that, studying in Sydney is something I would really like to do because of its history and I have always been intrigued by the Australian language and culture. Sydney is ranked as the fourth best student city in the world by QS in 2015 and it is the 6th safest city in the world (Economist Intelligence Unit's 'Safe Cities Index,' 2015). Knowing that its safe is also very important to me.

At this university, interesting courses seemed to me to be *Investments* and *Business forecasting*. They seem very useful to me for a future job in international business.

The University of Melbourne in Melbourne

This university was ranked number one in Australia. I see this as a perfect opportunity to go on exchange because this university will help me improve my academic skills. I would like to take the opportunity to study at the best university of Australia. This university is well known for its international image and studying here will give me the opportunity to get in touch with more nationalities.

Besides that, Melbourne is a city with a vibrant hub of style, sport, culture and fun. Going here would definitely broaden my horizons. Just as with Sydney, Melbourne has been ranked the most liveable city in the world.

Victoria University in Wellington

I talked about this university with a former exchange student who went to Wellington, Kim Janssen. Her stories were really interesting and I could see myself going there as well. The way they teach at this university is different from Tilburg University, students at Victoria University have to make more assignments than students in Tilburg. I think that assignments are very useful because you are not only indulging in a certain topic, you are also focusing on your writing skills and thinking which information is most relevant. These skills are necessary in doing business internationally.

For both the University of Melbourne and Victory University in Wellington, *International trade* and *Investments* are the courses that seem most interesting to me. Just as with the courses offered at Macquarie University, these courses seem very useful to me for a future job in international business.

I think I can be a good ambassador for Tilburg University, since I really enjoy studying here and I think that Tilburg University gives everybody the chance to prepare for a good future. Tilburg University has a beautiful campus and I think that everyone will love to study there. Moreover, I am a very communicative person so I am not afraid to talk. I can also be very persuasive so Tilburg University will be displayed as a very good university.

In sincerely hope that I will be given the opportunity to study in either Australia or New Zealand. In my opinion these countries are the best to live and study in during the exchange period. I am looking forward to a positive reply and I am more than willing to explain my plans in personal.

Yours faithfully,
