



My name is Bente Kornumpf and I currently study in Berlin, Germany. I am in my last semester of the German degree “Diplom-Psychologe”, which is equivalent to the Australian degree “Master of Science in Psychology”. From October 2005 to September 2007 I did my Undergraduate in Psychology at the Christian-Albrechts University (CAU) of Kiel in northern Germany which I finished with the intermediate diploma. In October 2007 I transferred from the CAU to the Humboldt-University of Berlin which is an excellent university in Germany, offering an environment of high scientific standards, highly qualified teaching staff and many centres of research and graduate schools – e.g. the “Berlin School of Mind and Brain” that is part of a so-called Excellence Initiative and represents a great opportunity for my future career. In the first year of the second half of my degree (the first year of my Master’s degree at the Humboldt-University) I studied clinical psychology, diagnostics, educational psychology and organisational and engineering psychology. I then entered the last and main part of my degree – the emphasis Cognitive Science and Neuropsychology. To broaden my knowledge and experience in this area and being supported by the German National Academic Foundation that

I have been a scholarship holder of since 2006 I applied for the exchange program between the Humboldt-University and the University of New South Wales. Thus, I became a UNSW-student for the academic year 2009.

Besides classes in Cognitive Science, Neuropsychology, Logic and Philosophy of Mind I also participated in four classes of the Master of Forensic Mental Health program. With Psychiatry being one of the most commonly chosen electives in my degree I had planned to gain knowledge in forensic mental health matters in particular. Cognitive and emotional cause-effect-connections in criminal behaviour – especially concerning violence and deviant sexual behaviour – in the context of mental and personality disorders represent an area of high interest in my field. Thus, I found it very interesting to be informed about up-to-date resources and applications by highly experienced, qualified and very friendly staff. Even though being the youngest and least experienced student in the courses as I myself am not a practitioner it was well manageable to follow the discussions. The perspective of practitioners nicely contrasted the perspectives of theorists that I usually study and thus truly broadened my horizon in this matter. Being back in Berlin I am now able to apply this knowledge in further courses that deal with this topic from the perspective of Cognitive Psychology. Planning on starting a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology in 2011, I am confident that my experiences in the MFMH-Program during my year abroad will be of value for me.