



IT University Travel Report

Host university: University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad: Managing Change, Enabling Enterprise Information Systems, Project Management, Human-Centered Design Research Methods

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn **year** 2023

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: kasc@itu.dk or kammaschyum@gmail.com

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

Studying at UTS was a great experience. It is a nice university offering many different subjects and degrees. The academic level at the university surprised me, as it was generally higher than my expectations (although not at the same level as ITU). However, the standard varies depending on the specific courses you choose. While I had heard that the coursework would be relatively easy, it's important to be prepared for a huge workload, with numerous assignments throughout the semester. Additionally, attending most lectures and tutorials is required for passing. However, the semester at UTS is over in early November, making it a shorter but concentrated semester. Moreover, many courses do not have exams. Instead, your final grade is determined based on the assignments you complete throughout the semester. Another thing to be aware of is that all lectures were conducted online, while tutorials were in person.

Regarding the social aspects, UTS offers various activities and events for exchange students. Although I didn't attend many of these events, they provide a great opportunity to meet other students. I highly recommend participating in meetings organized by ITU before your departure and joining a Facebook group for ITU students going to Sydney as this allows you to connect with fellow students before arriving in Sydney.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My motivation for studying abroad was to try something else and experience life in a different city. I chose to apply for an exchange program in Sydney because I had heard many positive things about the city and UTS. In many ways, my stay at the university did meet my expectations. The academic experience was fine, and I had the chance to experience a new educational environment.

However, one aspect that surprised me was the relatively low number of Australians attending UTS. In all my classes, I encountered only a few people who were native English speakers, which made communication challenging. Consequently, I ended up primarily socializing with Danes during my stay, rather than with Australians. However, Sydney as a city exceeded my expectations. The city is a mix of culture and nature with many cool restaurants and bars.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

I had some fantastic months where I got to meet a lot of new people. Groupwork could be quite a challenge, but I really enjoyed working with people from all over the world who had different viewpoints. Plus, some of my courses were super interesting and a great fit for the DIM program, like the subject 'Managing Change'.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

I applied for the exchange program, and I was lucky enough to get the spot. Following that, I had to complete the application process for UTS, which involved some paperwork. I wouldn't describe it as overly challenging. Additionally, I had to apply for a visa and get a Medibank certificate. During this period, I also applied for various grants.

In terms of accommodation, I started searching for apartments before my departure. However, it's important to note that in Sydney, you typically can't rent an entire apartment (except for rooms) without attending an apartment tour. As a result, I arrived in Sydney two weeks before the start of the semester, to have time for looking for an apartment.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

I reached out to people I knew who had studied at UTS before and asked them questions for guidance. Furthermore, I used the information provided by ITU and the travel reports available on itustudent. Additionally, I sent numerous emails to both UTS and ITU to get assistance.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

As previously mentioned, securing an apartment in Sydney involves being physically present to attend house tours. I searched for apartments primarily on websites like <https://www.realestate.com.au/> and www.domain.com.au. However, it's important to be aware that finding accommodations can be challenging, so be prepared to visit numerous apartments and face some rejections. Additionally, it's important to know that accommodation costs can be quite high in Sydney.

In the end, I found a place to live in Paddington, which I loved. I would also recommend considering neighborhoods such as Surry Hills, Potts Point, and Darlinghurst.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Flying to and living in Sydney can be quite expensive. Prices are like in Copenhagen (although coffee is much more affordable). Additionally, renting a room or apartment can be quite costly. My boyfriend and I paid 480 AUD per week for a studio apartment, which is approximately 2208 kr.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

Despite the high cost of living in Sydney for six months, I managed to secure full funding for my entire stay through grants. I would strongly recommend dedicating time to the application process and making a great motivational letter. Additionally, it's essential to get recommendations from both your professors and your workplace.

Recommendations for other students:

Go!!!!!!! It's the most amazing city, and you'll have the best time there. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me 😊