

**Host university:** University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

**Study Programme at IT University:** MSc in Digital Innovation & Management

**Exchange agreement or Free mover:** Free Mover

**Courses studied abroad:**

- 21745 Services and Network Productivity with Data Analytics - Spring 2024
- 21926 Managing Change - Spring 2024
- 32541 Project Management - Spring 2024
- 32557 Enabling Enterprise Information Systems - Spring 2024

**Period studying abroad:** Autumn semester 2024

**Contact info (optional):** fannith0604@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 both challenging and rewarding. The courses were highly practical, often involving real-world case studies and group projects. The academic level wasn't the highest, but the professors were approachable and encouraged critical thinking. Social life on campus was vibrant, with events, workshops, and clubs catering to diverse interests. I especially appreciated the BUILD programme.

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

My initial motivation was to experience a different academic culture, broaden my horizons, and network internationally. I also wanted to challenge myself by stepping out of my comfort zone. My stay exceeded my expectations—I gained valuable insights, built connections, and developed skills that I wouldn't have acquired otherwise.

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

Personally, I am very independent, adaptable, and open-minded, which is why I enjoy exploring and experiencing new things. I have lived abroad before on my BSc and this experience was even better! Academically, I honed my analytical and collaborative skills while exploring new frameworks and methodologies. These experiences will significantly contribute to my MSc thesis, as I plan to integrate global perspectives into my research on gender equality and technology.

---

## Arranging Your Stay

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

The process began with researching available exchange agreements and ensuring my courses matched my study plan. As a free mover that has decided on Sydney Australia I knew I had to start early in case I wouldn't get the one spot DIM had to offer. Gather recommendations and other documentation that states your intended stay so you can start applying for grants early on.

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

ITU's International Office and UTS's exchange student coordinators were instrumental in providing guidance. Online forums and previous students' reports helped me prepare for the experience.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

I used the app Flatmates to find accommodation and facebook is helpful as well – watch out for scammers though. It is easier to find accommodation once you are here and are able to meet up with possible roommates etc. in person. With that said I was lucky to find a great place to stay in Manly whereas others I know had a lot of struggle with moving around and was forced to live in backpacker hostels etc. for several weeks. It is not easy to find a place in Sydney and be prepared for expensive rent that has to be payed weekly or fortnightly. I knew I wanted to live in Manly and didn't mind the commute with the ferry to UTS.

---

**Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad:**

Sydney is an expensive city, especially in terms of rent and dining out. However, budgeting and meal prepping helped manage costs. Public transport is efficient, and I took advantage of student discounts where possible.

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

I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and received financial support from ITU's international exchange program. I highly recommend exploring these options early.

---

**Recommendations for Other Students**

- Start planning early, especially for grants and accommodation.
- Join student clubs or activities to meet locals and other exchange students.
- Explore beyond campus—Sydney has amazing beaches, cultural events, and nature reserves.