



## **IT University Travel Report**

*Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.*

*Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.*

**Host university:** University of Technology Sydney

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

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

**Courses studied abroad:** Business Intelligence, Operations & Quality Management, Strategic Supply Chain Management and Python Programming for Data Processing.

**Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring):** Spring 2024

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:** frno@itu.dk

## **Your stay abroad**

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

I really enjoyed studying at UTS (University of Technology Sydney) and living in Sydney in general. In contrast to ITU, the UTS campus was super big, and there were a lot of students from all over the world (apparently, it is very rare for Aussies to do a master's, which I discovered to my surprise). The academic level was high, similar to ITU, but the approach to teaching and structuring the courses and lectures was quite different. All my lectures were online with mandatory physical tutorials on campus in smaller classrooms. Additionally, I was surprised by the number of assignments we had to submit in all courses during the semester, which made studying at UTS more time-consuming compared to ITU.

I found my courses, Business Intelligence and Python Programming for Data Processing, particularly interesting as the teachers and tutors were very inspiring and helpful. We got to work with real datasets to derive useful information, which I could see being very useful in any organization in the future. My two other courses, Operations & Quality Management and Supply Chain Technology Management, were also good courses but more focused on distribution and cost, where I missed a bit of the digital and technological aspect.

In terms of social life, UTS arranges a lot of social activities prior to and during the semester, so it is very easy to meet new friends. Most of the students are from abroad, so everyone was in the same

situation and keen to make new friends.

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

I wanted to explore what it was like to live and study in another country. I had never been to Australia before but had always heard so many good things from friends who had been there. Therefore, I had high expectations, but Sydney was way above that and did not disappoint!

**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?**

Academically, I gained a global perspective on my studies. I learned a lot of things that connect to my studies in Denmark, but I also got the opportunity to work within the Australian market and sectors, as well as apply Australian business models and techniques. I developed a broad network of other students from all over the world, and lastly, I crossed my own boundaries in many ways. Moving across the world by myself really made me more independent, and I got to know myself a lot better. I also became much more confident with my English language skills, which is a huge plus for me.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

In terms of arranging the whole semester, ITU's study abroad team was super helpful with everything practical up to departure, and UTS was great at providing instructions and information about the semester, intro days, living and studying in Sydney etc. I made my own list of everything I needed to do before departure and upon arrival, which made everything a bit less overwhelming. In terms of accommodation, I chose not to stay at the student housing as I wanted to get the more "local" feeling of living in Sydney. I downloaded the app Flatmates.au, where I looked for accommodation a few months before departure. A girl from Poland living in Sydney contacted me and offered me a room. We spoke on FaceTime and texted a bit before I came to Sydney, and I paid her a small deposit in advance for security.

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

The ITU study abroad team, friends who have been abroad, and the app Flatmates.au for accommodation were all very helpful.

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

Here is the corrected version of your additional text:

I found a room on Flatmates.au while still in Denmark. Everything went well, but I did take a risk agreeing to rent and pay for something I had not inspected in real life. I chose to do that as I had no idea at that point how easy it would be to find a place to move into quickly in Sydney. There are many people renting out rooms with soon move-in dates, which I discovered midway through my stay when I had to find a new place to live and moved into the new place a week later. I would 100% recommend not rushing too much about finding a place and instead renting an Airbnb for the first few weeks to inspect some rooms while you are in Sydney to avoid disappointments and fraud. I had

no idea which areas would be nice to live in either, so I started out living in an area a bit far from the beach and the city. However, I got the opportunity to move to my favorite suburb midway through my stay.

## **Expenses and Financing**

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

Sydney is very expensive, which I underestimated a bit. I thought almost every place would be cheaper than Copenhagen, but Sydney costs more to live in. Accommodation prices are very high. Supermarket prices and transportation costs are also quite high, as well as gyms and sports activities. Takeaway and restaurants are a bit cheaper, but coffee is super cheap and of high quality there, which is amazing for long days at Uni!

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

I recommend applying to Augustinus Fonden, William Demant Fonden, Nordea Fonden, and Knud Højgaards Fond, as they helped me financially during my stay.

### **Recommendations for other students:**

Go to Sydney and explore the city before committing to accommodation. There are many different areas with a lot of different vibes, and a lot of places are rented out immediately. Also participate in the intro activities. It is a great opportunity to make new friends.