



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, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University:

University of Technology Sydney

Study Program at IT University:

Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:

Study Abroad (EDU)

Courses studied abroad:

IT Professional & Society, Managing in a Multicultural World, and Enabling Enterprise Information Systems

Exchange Period:

Autumn 2022

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:

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Your stay abroad

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

UTS is a very big and modern uni with great facilities ranging from a street food-style food court, a gym with different types of classes, and several green rooftops, just to mention a few. So, as you can tell it is a very different experience from ITU. They also have a wide range of social spaces and activities and numerous clubs to join. The same counts for their variety of courses. I chose courses that I knew wouldn't be too demanding for me as I obviously wanted to experience the city and the country while there. This is of course an individual matter. That being said, I obviously wanted – and had to – find courses of my interests and that suited my specialization at ITU. Furthermore, the academic level at UTS was way different from ITU and more similar to the Danish gymnasium. My courses were taught in classes, similar to exercise classes at ITU. We often did presentations, and, in some courses, we did group presentations every week. Moreover, we had several hand-ins throughout the semester, which altogether counted in the final grading. Some classes had an exam assignment that counted for half the grade. Oftentimes, you had the possibility to choose the theme or case study yourself for a paper or project. We both did individual and group projects. It was also different whether groups were made by students or teachers depending on the course. Finally, all my lectures were online and recorded. Participation was mandatory for exercise classes.

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

I decided to go abroad because I did it as well in my bachelor, and it was a great experience. Obviously, it is a great way to experience a different country and culture. For me, it just made so much sense to experience such a large country as Australia which has so much to offer and is so far from home. On top of that, it was also just a good way to improve my English skills – especially when studying for a degree in English anyways. Finally, I also knew it was my last chance for getting the 'study abroad experience', and I simply could not miss out on that. Personally, I try to enter new things with few expectations. Sydney and UTS was a very positive and unique experience for me, and I would say it exceeded any expectations I could have on beforehand.

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?

There is so much to gain from studying abroad on all levels. Personally, it gives me a lot of confidence and independence and broadens my perspectives - living in a totally different environment and meeting new people. Especially, being in a place like Sydney that is so multicultural and diverse. Academically, the teaching style and learning environments are so different from home which really provides good challenges that improve other skills than those we exercise at ITU – or Danish universities in general. The learning methods are more practical and hands-on and less bound to research and academic literature. Hence, soft skills can be said to be more in focus. I see these experiences as very useful contributions to my further studies and professional career.

Arranging your stay

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

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

I applied to Study Abroad through the Danish organization EDU which was super helpful. They really have good resources such as online content, webinars, and personal counsellors. Furthermore, UTS provides good information through its website and gives you all relevant information and updates through emails. Finally, I had a couple of coffee meetings with some former students who had been to the same city or uni. They gave me great advice and handy insights.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

For accommodation, I mainly used Flatmates.com and FlatmateFinders.com. Other than that, networking is really good. I started in a temporary Airbnb and found permanent housing during that time. Moreover, EDU was also helpful in providing advice and how to avoid scams. I knew beforehand that I wanted to live by the beach, but most international students actually lived on the student campus at UTS. But I know that it is a good idea to sign up for that as early as possible. So, do some research before you get there to get an idea of places you would like to live because Sydney offers such diverse and cool areas for living.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Rent is very expensive in Sydney. It is kind of how people in Jutland make fun of how crazy the prices are in Copenhagen – if you can relate to that. For students, it is even common to share a room. But it is definitely not impossible to find housing in Sydney. I think the most important factor to have in mind is where and what kind of social life you are looking for while abroad. Do you wish to stay with other international students or local students? Or with a local family or other Danes? My experience was that most students paid around 5000-8000 DKK in monthly rent. Other than that, living expenses in Sydney are very similar to those in Copenhagen. That being said, I would say that public transportation is more affordable and accessible in Sydney than in Copenhagen.

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

I applied for all the grants and scholarships I thought were relevant for me to apply for. And I can only recommend doing it! At least if you are on your master's degree. It can be harder if you are on your bachelor but not impossible. EDU, the organization I applied through, also had a webinar just for this. Legatbogen.dk is a good website to get an overview of Danish grants. Other than that, it is a good idea to have some fresh recommendations from professors and employers to add to the applications. Moreover, a detailed budget and personalized application are important. Finally, my experience is that the chances of receiving a grant are the same among large as well as smaller funds. It really depends on the individual criteria from the funds and your ability to be creative in your application to meet those criteria. What I mean is that I got a grant from the Danish Iron Industry Association, but I have absolutely no connection to that industry. Also, it is a good idea to have some sort of detailed overview of the different grants you would like to apply for – I just made a simple Excel sheet with deadlines, links, and important things to include in the individual applications. Also, decide if you want to put in the extra time to apply for the few grants that only receive applications by snail mail.

Recommendations for other students:

My best recommendation is obviously to do it! Exchange/study abroad is such a unique and awesome experience. I have also experienced that former employers saw it as an advantage that I had international experience. Second, I will say, at least if you are on your master's degree, apply, apply, apply for grants!!! If you really put in the effort, it is well paid off. Third, I will say to prioritize social activities. Even though you might not see yourself as a super social or outgoing person at home, being abroad in a totally new and international environment just makes it so much more fun to have new experiences with people you just met. I really enjoyed joining an outdoor club, I started indoor climbing, and did a bunch of day trips around Sydney with different people. Things I would never have done back home in Copenhagen because you are busy with all kinds of everyday things. Finally, the climate and weather are also important factors to consider when choosing a destination to study abroad. I really enjoyed the beaches and warmer climate of Sydney. Furthermore, I also took advantage of the great options for travelling to countless pacific islands including beautiful New Zealand.