

IT University Travel Report

Clovelly Beach



On the ferry from Circular Quay



Kangaroos at Taronga Zoo



The Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains and a group picture



NRL game at the Olympic Park



Host University: University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Study Programme at IT University: MSc Software Design

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad:

Fundamentals of Data Analytics,
Advanced Data Analytics Algorithms,
Advanced Database,
Data Processing Using Python & R

Exchange Period: Autumn 2022

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: jngu@itu.dk OR jnny1707@gmail.com



Your stay abroad

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

I had a great time studying at UTS! The courses I chose were within my area of interest and suited well with my specialisation. There is a wide range of courses offered, so it should not be a problem to find something interesting. The academic level at UTS is overall fine but I feel that it was much easier compared to ITU which can be both a good and a bad thing. The good thing is that you will have some more time to enjoy the city and have fun. The bad thing is that you will feel behind your buddies back at ITU...

Most of my courses were conducted online, which made me worried a bit in the beginning because then the chance of meeting other students would be less. BUT there were lots of social events, so don't worry about not getting to know others.

The social life at UTS is good. UTS got lots of clubs and societies for students to join which is a great way for meeting other students – with the same interests as you. Beside that UTS also arranges lots of events in the beginning of the semester. I liked all their Discover Sydney events which was how I met the people I ended up hanging with.

UTS got the best location of all the universities in Sydney. It is centrally located which makes it easy for you to walk around the CBD. By walking 30-45 minutes, you will be able to see attractions like the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. I did this walk almost every day and it was fantastic every time to experience the busy city life and it somehow made me feel like I was a part of it – that I was a local. My favorite thing of the whole stay was probably these city walks.

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

I also went abroad on my bachelor's which was also incredible and that was why I wanted to do it again. And my stay absolutely met my expectations.

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?

Personally, I have become more open and now I can easily start a conversation with a stranger. I think the good thing was that I went to many events on myself which made me more likely to approach and talk to others. If you go to events with your friend(s), you are more likely to stay with them. So, independency is also a thing I have developed. I have also improved my English skills and grown my network with people from all around the world. I have also developed academically and I'm now ready to start my thesis writing.

Arranging your stay

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

At first, I applied for a spot through ITU. In the meantime, I also contacted EDU, which would be my backup plan if I didn't get a nomination from ITU. I would highly recommend EDU as well because of the good service they provide.

After the nomination, I had to send in some relevant documents to UTS and I had to spend some time looking for the required student insurance (OSHC) and apply for the student visa.

I also applied for staying at the student accommodation (6-Share apartment at Yura), but I didn't get it. By staying there, you will meet other students and create some close bonds to your roommates. I have heard many good things of staying at the shared apartments, but I have also witnessed how dirty many students can live, so if you were a clean freak, I would recommend applying for the studio instead. Initially, I didn't apply for the studio because of the price but after having "studied" the market, I think the price of the studio at Yura is pretty good.

Other than that, you will have to look on the internet to find accommodation. I looked a lot on Flatmates but it



is a good thing to inspect the rooms before agreeing on something because there are a lot of scammers and the pictures might fool you. It can be very hard to find a room in Sydney, and that was probably the worst thing about the whole stay. I stayed two different places – each for a month. I got my own private room in both places, but I had to share bathroom and kitchen with others. Luckily, I have some family in the city, so I ended up staying there.

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

As mentioned, Flatmates for finding a room – and there are also several Facebook groups for this. I think the rooms on Airbnb are too expensive...

If you stumble into any questions during your stay, then it is a good idea to contact the department for international students at UTS. They are quite helpful.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Answered above.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

It was of course not a cheap stay. You have probably googled about the prices in Sydney. Many sites state that the city is more expensive than Copenhagen. In my opinion, this is true rent-wise but other than that the prices are kind of similar. If you don't go to the high-end restaurants, shops etc., you will actually find that the prices are a bit cheaper. They got an eating-out culture, so the prices of food and drink is reflecting on that. I was able to eat out every day. If you are a heavy coffee drinker, then you have come to the right place. The price of a coffee is about half price of what you will find here – and the baristas in Australia are also better, most of them are trained and got more experience compared to ours.

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

Yes, I applied for about six scholarships and got three of them. I got from:

- Rudolf Als Fondet,
- Marie og M.B. Richters Fond,
- Knud Højgaards Fond

It is probably a good idea to check out Nordea Fonden because they usually give out scholarships to postgrads. And check out Dansk Tennisfonden as well.

Recommendations for other students:

I can only recommend other students to do the same if they want to have fun and make memories for life! But if you want a serious semester then you should consider staying at ITU.

I hope this travel report has helped you. If you got any questions, you are welcome to contact me. Cheers! ☺

