

IT University Travel Report

Host University: University of Technology Sydney

Study Programme at IT University: Data Science

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad: Fundamentals of C programming, Application programming, Technical communication, Cyber security

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn 2022 year

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

The courses I took were nicely organized and the teachers were very good as well. The academic level seemed to be lower than the courses I have taken at ITU, except for in the course Application programming where the level was very similar. The biggest difference between UTS and ITU was that at UTS they do assignments during the semester that contribute greatly towards your final grade, and the actual exam will only count 20-30% towards the final grade.

I felt that this was nice as it takes a lot of pressure off the final exam, but of course it also means that you have to be more on top of things during semester.

The social life at campus was a bit disappointing in my opinion. I think this is mostly due to a lot of courses still being online. Luckily the social life among the exchange students is great, and you can sign up for a lot of events if you'd like to.

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

My initial motivation for studying abroad was to try something new out of my comfort zone and see what it would be like to be on my own in a different country. It was definitely a bit harder than I expected, especially due to the time difference between Sydney and Denmark, as it took some time to get used to the fact that I would be going to sleep the same time as my family and friends would be waking up.

In terms of the university, I think I expected to be on campus a lot more than I was, but because so many activities were online, it was quite disappointing to not have to be there.

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 learned a lot from being on my own in a country so far away from Denmark. There were a lot of admin stuff that I had to do like setting up a bank account, finding a place to live and so on which taught me a lot about learning to ask for help but also putting out fires by myself.

On an academic level, I learn

Arranging your stay

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

I mostly followed the recommendations of ITU and UTS as we received many emails from them about the process and what to do. I didn't apply for a visa until I was absolutely certain that I would be accepted at UTS, and once I applied for the visa I received it within days even though the website said that it would take months.

In terms of airplane tickets, I recommend buying them as soon as possible as the price can get very high if you wait until the last minute. If you are not sure exactly when you want to leave it might also be a good idea to get tickets that are refundable as it might end up being cheaper than waiting. Also a lot of airlines like emirates or etihad has some pretty good student discounts, so it might be worth looking into that.

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

I pretty much only used the UTS and ITU websites for planning my stay as well as talking to the other exchange students from ITU about how they were arranging certain stuff like accommodation, banking, applying for visa and so on.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Arranging my stay was a lot easier than I expected. I personally applied to stay at the UTS housing called Yura Mudang. Staying here was expensive and I had 5 roommates so it was a bit much at times. The facilities however, were nice and there were a lot of social events so it was nice to stay here in terms of the social aspect. The price initially seemed quite expensive to me but I think that it's hard to find anything better at a smaller price. You can also apply for a studio apartment at Yura if you don't want roommates, but it is very expensive in terms of what you get.

However, be aware that if you sign up for places like this and similar dormitories (like scape) you have to sign a lease for 6 months and can't move out early in case you want to travel or leave early. I do also

know that there are a lot of facebook groups for finding housing which could be useful in case you want something a bit more flexible.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

It was definitely expensive to go to Australia. Housing alone will end up being 20-50 percent more expensive than in Denmark and plane tickets are very expensive as well. You also want to make sure to have extra money for activities and so on so you can get the most out of the stay. But also be aware that it's very easy to get a job in e.g. the service industry in Sydney right now as there are many work shortages and I knew many exchange students who were easily able to find a job.

Recommendations for other students:

The biggest thing that I wish I would have done differently in terms of practicalities is that I would have paid a bit more attention to how my address was registered. I was first advised to change my address to living outside of Denmark but once I did this, there were a bunch of problems with my bank and so on, so I wish I would have paid a bit more attention to how I would have done this, especially once I came home from Denmark as I ended up having a lot of difficulties with SU and so on. Another thing I wish I would have done differently is that I would have chosen my courses a bit better to avoid online classes.