

IT University Travel Report



Host university: University of Technology Sydney

Study Programme: Software Design

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Study Abroad (fee-paying student)

Courses studied abroad: Cybersecurity, Internet Programming, and UNIX Systems Programming

Period studying abroad: Spring 2024

What was it like to study at the university?

The facilities at UTS are amazing. It's spacious with many great study spots and the main building has plenty of options for food. I had 3 classes accounting for 7.5 ECTS points each, which made me think that I would have a lot of spare time, which didn't turn out to be the case. UNIX was a fairly good course, while Internet Programming and Cybersecurity posed many problems. Internet Programming probably hasn't changed the learning material for the last 20 years, making it outdated and irrelevant for most people, while Cybersecurity probably had 3-4 times too much material and contained around 20 assignments. Socially UTS is very different since the Australians don't seem to take a master's within the field of IT, meaning that you will almost exclusively study with other exchange students, where many of them have fairly low English comprehension skills.

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

Going to Australia has always been on my bucket list, and going on an exchange was a great way to fulfill that dream. I was happy with my stay but found it difficult to meet Australians and found myself having to spend a lot of the time studying, due to an unlucky selection of courses.

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?

Traveling around Australia is an incredible experience, and I highly suggest doing it with the friends you get along the way. I made some great friends that made my trip much better. Academically I was pushed further than usual, which was bitter-sweet since I wish I could have spent more time doing other things, but also felt very satisfying to succeed.

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

The process wasn't super complicated as ITU was very good at always helping and constantly reminding you about everything you needed to do. However, there are definitely some hours of work required, as ITU as well as Australia and your host university require all kinds of documentation.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I arranged an Airbnb for the first two weeks and then went apartment hunting in that period, mostly via the app Flatmates. I would highly recommend using this app, as it is probably the most used way of arranging accommodation in Australia. As the housing situation in Sydney is even worse than in Copenhagen and mostly based on luck, it was fairly tedious, but I got lucky and found myself a decent accommodation. However, the rental prices in Sydney are about probably around 1,5 times higher than those in Copenhagen and are usually paid on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. While I think the accommodation near campus seemed expensive and relatively bad, not having to go through the struggles of finding a place down here, seems like a great idea. Additionally, since the people at these accommodations are almost exclusively exchange students there's a big social aspect to living there, making it much easier to make friends.

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Living in Sydney is a bit more expensive than in Copenhagen, so make sure to save up as much as you can afford and apply for as many scholarships as possible.

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

I used legatbogen.dk to find most of the scholarships I applied for and I applied for as many scholarships as I could find. I ended up receiving 3 grants for a total of kr. 35.500. While I recommend applying for every single scholarship you can, I received grants from William Demant (kr. 10.500), Knud Højgaard (kr. 15.000) and Dansk Tennis Fond (kr. 10.000).

Recommendations for other students

Make sure to participate in as many social events as possible in the beginning! Friend groups form super quickly, and these events are created to give the exchange students the opportunity to make friends. Also, travel as much as possible. There's nothing like Australia, and there is so much to see!