



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 (UTS)

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation and Management (DIM)

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange

Courses studied abroad: Managing Change, Enabling Enterprise Information Systems, Service and Network Productivity with Data analytics, Project Management.

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) Autmn, year 2024.

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

Your stay abroad

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

Studying at UTS was a great experience! The university is right in the middle of Sydney, so it's super easy to get to no matter where you live. I picked my courses to balance management and tech, aiming to explore the space where they overlap. *Managing Change* was definitely my favorite. It's perfect if you're into case studies and want to learn about change management theories in a very hands-on way. I also chose *Service and Network Productivity with Data Analytics* because I wanted something that included data analytics, and it fit well with my specialisation in Service Design. That said, if you've already done *Introduction to Service Design*, this course might feel a bit repetitive. Similarly, *Enabling Enterprise Information Systems* was focused on design thinking, which I'd already worked with before. Still, it was helpful to revisit those tools.

In terms of academics, I'd say UTS is less theoretical than ITU and much more about hands-on work (lots of assignments!). The classes themselves aren't overwhelming, but the assignments definitely keep you busy – there are weekly tasks, and some are quite extensive. The good thing is that this spreads out the workload, so exams aren't as intense as back home. You're already prepared because you've been working with the material all semester.

Socially, UTS has a lot to offer. The campus is huge, which can make it a bit tricky to know where to start. Socializing in classes really depends on you – it's up to you to take the initiative and make connections. That said, there are plenty of activities and events on campus that are worth checking out if you're looking to meet new people.

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

I always wanted to study abroad to gain international experience and see what it's like to live and study in a another country. I thought it would be a great challenge to step out of the comfort of my everyday life in Copenhagen and build something new in a country like Australia. It felt like one of those once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, and I didn't want to miss out. Especially Australia – like I would just love to explore that!

Overall, my stay met my expectations. I love being apart of the Australian culture, experiencing the beach life and be able to go travel with people you meet along the way! That said, I found it harder than expected to make deeper connections with the Aussie people, whereas a big part of my motivation also was meeting new people that actually live here and not just other exchange students. While I came here with some from ITU made the transition easier, but it might also have limited me from branching out as much as I'd hoped. If I could go back, I'd might have tried to join more local social clubs or attend more local events to meet people outside my usual circle or UTS.

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?

On a personal level, living in Sydney taught me how to adapt quickly and figure things out on my own. From managing the logistics of moving to building a new daily routine here have been really great. Academically, the hands-on nature of the courses was a big shift from what I'm used to at ITU – like doing assignments every week. I think this has been good, as it have made me able to write more and also execute on things a bit faster, as sometimes you simply didn't have more than a day or two to work on a 10 page assignments. But I would also say the workload took a lot time, and I ended up spending quite a lot time doing this – especially also with part-time working.

Arranging your stay

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

The process was super easy - seriously, kudos to ITU! They made sure we had all the information and resources we needed, so it was hard to forget anything important. Their preparation and support really took a lot of the stress out of the process.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I took a pretty flexible approach and sorted a lot of things after arriving. One of the other girls from ITU and I booked an Airbnb for the first two weeks while we looked for a more permanent place. We planned to find something together, but it turned out to be harder than expected. At first, we succeeded, but unfortunately, we got ripped off by a landlord who tried to make us share rooms unexpectedly. That forced us to split up and look for new places.

In the end, I moved around a bit. If your budget isn't 450 AUD a week or higher, it's tricky to find something near the beaches, where I wanted to be. However, I found a great spot through Flatmates and ended up living with three other girls in an amazing house for only 270 AUD a week - but this was also my third place. So, I mean it worked out well, but it was definitely a journey – and a pricey one as well with moving around and so forth.

If I could give advice, it would be to start messaging people on Flatmates before leaving Denmark – one of my friends did this, and found such a nice place in Manly with a very nice housemate. You can also wait until you're there and visit potential homes in person and do inspections, which makes things move really quickly - but it can get stressful, so just prepare yourself ;)

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Sydney is *expensive*! Eating out is actually slightly cheaper - but groceries cost a lot more, and accommodation is a major expense. If you're not prepared, it can get overwhelming quickly. Definitely save up before coming and apply for as many scholarships as you can. If you plan to travel during your stay, you'll go through money even faster, so budgeting is key.

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

Yes, I applied for scholarships and used *Legatbogen*. I ended up receiving five grants totaling 70,000 DKK, which was a huge help. One of those grants I actually applied for was after arriving in Sydney, because I realized I didn't have enough to cover all my expenses. So, even if you don't secure everything beforehand, keep applying - it makes a difference!

Recommendations for other students:

GO FOR IT! Studying in Sydney is an experience you'll never forget. If you can, try to live near the beaches - either in the eastern suburbs or somewhere like Manly or the northern beaches. The lifestyle there is incredible, and even though it might look far from campus, it's really not that bad. Plus, the sense of community in those areas are so nice!

And *apply for scholarships*! Living in Sydney is amazing, but it's not cheap, and you'll want to have some financial flexibility. Money runs out fast, especially if you're traveling.