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 Programme at IT University: MSc in Digital Design and Communication

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studies abroad: Business Intelligence, Financial Management, Business Systems Design, Enabling Enterprise Information Systems

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring). autumn ___ year ___ 2018 ___

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

Your stay abroad

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

Overall, I had a good experience studying at UTS – the campus is well-equipped and well-located in the center of Sydney, and I was able to get all the courses I applied for. The professors were all friendly and motivated to help you learn, and I had groupwork in all my courses, which was challenging to coordinate, but helpful nonetheless. The academic level was varying – I took Financial Management without prior knowledge of the subject, which was quite challenging since the academic level was high. But UTS offers additional aid for students in certain subjects, this one included, which was a great help. My other courses, however, was on the same level or below what I have been used to at ITU. The social life at campus is good, there are countless clubs and societies for you to be a part of, although I did not personally take advantage of this.

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

My motivation was mainly to take advantage of a unique opportunity to live and study in a foreign country,
both on an academic and personal level. I wanted to challenge myself and grow from it, which I think studying abroad really affords you, if you are lucky enough to go. Academically, I had a specific wish to gain an individual specialisation in my MSc within the intersection field of business and IT, and UTS offered courses that allowed me to do this.

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 feel that I have grown as a person from my stay abroad, having to create a life in a foreign country lets you discover your own capabilities and boosts your confidence, which I will definitely benefit from in my life ahead. Academically, the courses I have taken have given me specific knowledge in my desired field that I would not have been able to obtain at ITU, and I expect to use this knowledge in my Master thesis.
Arranging your stay

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

I applied for the exchange agreement with UTS through ITU and was lucky enough to get a spot, and then I applied directly to UTS and received my offer letter. I made sure to coordinate my efforts in applying for scholarships throughout the entire process to ensure I met all the different deadlines for applications. I applied for a pre-approval of courses and an individual specialisation by ITU, applied for a student visa through an online system and purchased the UTS required health insurance called OSHC. Then I bought a plane ticket to Sydney well in advance, since it can be very expensive if you wait too long, and I also rented an Airbnb for the first couple of weeks at this time.

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

I found the travel reports from previous students very helpful when planning my own stay, and I studied UTS’ website and researched Sydney in general online. Once you are admitted as an exchange student, the university relays a lot of useful information about your upcoming stay through e-mail.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

My friend and I decided to rent an Airbnb for the first two weeks and then find permanent accommodation once we arrived in Sydney. This was because we were cautious of signing any contracts or send any money to people we hadn’t met and for a place we hadn’t seen. This turned out to be a good choice, since accommodation was available to rent in Sydney, albeit for a high price. We used Gumtree.com to find rentals and arranged to inspect a few before deciding on a small apartment in Newtown, which is a great area in Sydney.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I expected to have a high rent in Sydney, which proved to be correct (I shared a one-bedroom apartment with my friend for approx. 10.000 DKK a month). Surprisingly, I did not incur expenses for study materials, as everything in my courses was available online. Other expenses included health insurance, student visa, groceries, which were quite expensive – especially fresh produce, which I would recommend buying at Paddy’s market for a cheaper price, public transportation via Opal Card, and weekend trips to Queensland, Melbourne, Blue Mountains etc.

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

I applied for many scholarships and would highly recommend anyone studying abroad to do the same. It takes a lot of effort, but I was lucky enough to receive funding from seven scholarships, and the effort therefore was more than worth it. I would recommend Lemvig-Müller Foundation, which offers a scholarship to ITU students, and also Marie & M. B. Richters Fond, Nordea-Fonden, Dansk Tennis Fond, Knud Højgaards Fond, Oticon Fonden and Rudolph Als Fondet.

Recommendations for other students:

Make sure to put in the effort of applying for scholarships and be aware that they all have different
deadlines and requirements. Wait with finding accommodation till you’re in Sydney, unless you have trusted contacts that can offer you a place in advance. Regarding good areas in Sydney, I would recommend Newtown, Redfern, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and Marrickville. I would refrain from living in the CBD (center of Sydney), since it’s very busy and touristy, and the atmosphere is a lot nicer in the smaller neighborhoods such as those mentioned.