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 New South Wales

Study Programme at IT University: Cand.it Ebusiness

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

Entrepreneurship and New Venture Management

Business Intelligence Methods

Services Marketing

Ebusiness

Your stay abroad

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

UNSW does a great job welcoming new students. The entire first week was packed with events and activities where you could get a guided tour on campus, attend introductory events, or simply walk around between the overload of booths where all societies, sports clubs, faculties, etc. are represented. Whether you are looking for a baking club, a volleyball team, an organization for international students, for Buddhists or for photographers, you’ll find it here. It’s a great way to learn about the wealth of offers the university community offers, as well as practical stuff such as the library facilities, bars and cafés on campus and advisors. If not for anything else you can always go for the bunch of giveaways and candy 😊
UNSW offers a great selection of interesting courses. You sign up for 24 credits, which is four courses, already before you arrive, but they can easily be changed later by visiting or emailing the helpful staff at the UNSW International Office. In the first two weeks you can attend different courses and make changes in case some of them turn out to be different than expected. Be aware that a lot of the post grad courses are taught in the evening, so often you might have classes till nine in the evening.

It’s quite common that professors take attendance so you have to attend at least 80 percent of your classes. Furthermore, there are many mandatory assignments and presentations throughout the semester, just as most courses have midterms. All of my classes had mandatory group projects. Group work can be very rewarding, but it can also be quite a challenge when you are a team consisting of very different cultures with different takes on a task, different age groups, not to mention how difficult it can be to actually find a time to meet, when all group members also have two or three other groups to meet with.

Two of my courses were mostly lectures, whereas the two others were split between lectures and tutorials with more hands-on exercises. Watch out for courses that are shared between postgrads and undergrads. I had one such course and the academic level was very low, and much time was wasted asking the younger students to be quiet, etc.

The social life at UNSW is quite good with various bars on campus with the Roundhouse as the primary bar with many events each week such as quiz nights, live music, theme parties, etc. Furthermore, there are many clubs such as a cinema clubs or sports club that allow you to meet new people.

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

My initial motivation was simply to get an experience for life, and I certainly did! I chose Australia because I wanted to go to a part of the world I hadn’t visited before – preferably English-speaking – and because I went to the US during my undergrad. I chose UNSW because they have a very good business school.

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?

The learning outcome from the courses was varying, as some of the professors were not very good at communicating or structuring the course. I had an extremely engaged, organized and motivating professor in Services Marketing, though, who was really good at making the subject interesting and gave some very interesting readings and assignments related to those readings. Entrepreneurship and New Venture Management definitely was the course I got most out of. It is very hands-on and you apply what your learn, which makes it stick. We had to come up with a business idea in the course and my team and I won an external pitching competition that our professor encouraged us to take part in. That resulted in a trip to Silicon Valley and a lot of exciting meetings with advisors, industry players, inventors, media, etc., and that turned out to be the most educational experience – not only academically, but also personally just as it gave practical experience.
UNSW is a very international university, so you can build a network with people from all over the world while you are there. Furthermore, the whole experience of forming your everyday life far away from home, and dealing with cultural differences, always is a great personal experience. Not to mention the awesome experience of traveling Australia, which is a magnificent country.

**Arranging your stay**

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

Since it was exchange a lot of the practical stuff was taken care of by the International Office, which is great. You should be sure to check up on things if you don’t hear anything etc. as it actually turned out that the International Office at CBS had forgotten to send my application to UNSW. However, they were helpful in answering questions and passing them on to UNSW if they didn’t have the answer themselves. Also UNSW’s staff was friendly and helpful, however it took quite some time to get an answer due to the amount of emails they receive. About two months before semester start they shared a facebook page with all incoming students where a lot of questions were answered – also things that were not school related such as finding housing, finding a gym, local events coming up, etc. Great idea and very helpful!

Remember to get insurance and visa sorted early. It didn’t take long to get it (actually just a day from when I applied) as it is done online, but just to be on the safe side. UNSW has housing on campus, which you can apply for. They have some quite nice and completely new apartments (also quite pricey, though), but I chose to live off campus in Coogee close to the beach. Use gumtree.com.au, where you’ll find a lot of rooms offered. I also found a cheap bike on gumtree, which was great as it made it much easier to get around. Sydney is not so much a bike city, though, even though they are trying to get there, so there aren’t many bike lanes, so watch out when riding a bike!

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

The International Office – both at CBS and UNSW. Use CBS’ travel reports to get an idea of what different universities are like.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

I looked at gumtree.com.au and also used my own network. On gumtree you will often just call the owner and be able to see the room the next day. Be sure to get some kind of contract, though, as there are a lot of dodgy people.

**Expenses and Financing**

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
Note that Sydney is a very expensive city to live in. You will easily have to pay 4000-5000 DKK for a small room in a shared house – not necessarily in good condition. Also grocery shopping is quite expensive.

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

Yes, I did, and it was a great help in paying for the high living expenses in Sydney. I think Nordea fonden, Oticon fonden and Augustinus fonden are some of the scholarships that support quite a few students.

Recommendations for other students:

Remember that Sydney can get quite cold during winter (June, July, August) so bring some warm clothes even though you go there in summer.