

## ***5 months down under***

Hello future exchange students!

In the coming pages I will try to explain everything you need to know about going on exchange. Since you are reading this, I assume you have already decided you want to study abroad for a while and I can reassure you, whether you will get a spot in Sydney or somewhere else; it will be unforgettable.

### **General information:**

*University:* University of Technology

*Place:* Sydney, Australia

*Period:* 22<sup>nd</sup> of July till the 28<sup>th</sup> of December (the semester lasted from the 25<sup>th</sup> of July till the 12<sup>th</sup> of November)

### **Preparation:**

*Application at UTS:* One of the first things you need to get, is some sort of proof that your English level is sufficient. I did this through a TOEFL test, however, there is not enough time between the announcement of where you will be studying next year and the application deadline at UTS. So, you will need to at least book the TOEFL test before you apply for an exchange semester through the ESE (and you should probably complete your TOEFL before the end of February).

Another thing about UTS is that you immediately need to select the courses you would like to do. There is lots of information on which courses you can follow and UTS will send you some of this information as well to help you out. I will get back to what courses I did later on, but you should not forget to check how the subjects will be assessed (a lot of group work/presentations/mid-terms or a final exam).

*Visa:* the applications for the student visa changed shortly after I applied for mine, so I am not sure how it will work from now on. But for me, it was rather easy to get one. As soon as you get your Confirmation of Enrolment from UTS, you will have a code which you need to be able to apply for your visa. You can then get your visa online and you will have it within minutes after your application. (You also need to check if your passport is valid for the required period).

*Health Insurance:* in order to get a student visa in Australia, you need an OSHC (Overseas Student Health Cover), which is a health insurance especially for international students. UTS will send you enough information via email to be able to apply for this at Medibank (an Australian health insurer).

*Australian bank account:* whether you choose to open a bank account in Australia is up to you. I did open one, as I prefer to be able to pay by card (which costs money if you use your Dutch card). You can open an account online (I did it through ANZ) and already transfer some money before you go to Australia. You just need to visit one of their offices once you arrive to confirm your account.

*Ticket:* the only advice I can give you here, is to do this as soon as possible, as tickets to Australia are not cheap and will only get more expensive the longer you wait. Furthermore, you can book whichever ticket fits your needs. I booked mine through Kilroy. Whenever possible, try to book a tickets with only one transfer, as you will already be pretty much dead after such a long trip and the more transfers you have, the worse it gets.

*Accommodation:* no need to worry here. UTS has excellent campus facilities, for which it is rather easy to apply. Just keep in mind that there are certain deadlines. Unfortunately, (like pretty much everything in Australia), UTS Housing is rather expensive. You can therefore also try to find a place yourself, but I recommend the campus, as there are many other exchange students there. On campus, you can choose from four different types of housing called Geegal, Yura, Gumal and Bulga. There is lots of information on all types at the website of UTS Housing, however, if you have any further questions, you can always contact me!

### **Arrival:**

The moment you arrive, you will probably feel pretty overwhelmed, but don't worry, you are definitely not the only one.

The first thing I did when I arrived, was get an Australian phone number at the Optus stand at the airport. I recommend doing this, as you will immediately be able to exchange phone numbers with the other students you get to know and you can arrange to meet up etc. (and of course, it is always good to be able to WhatsApp your friends back home that you arrived safely and already saw a kangaroo).

There is a shuttle bus service provided by UTS Housing which brings you from the airport right to your dorm, which is incredibly convenient.

The next thing to get is an Opal Card, which you need to be able to travel by public transport in Sydney.

There are two simultaneous introductions. One is from the university itself, which is way more serious than the EurekaWeek in Rotterdam. Please bear in mind that some of these activities are compulsory, so make sure you are in Sydney by then (which often means you will need to miss some resits of your subjects at the ESE).

The other introduction is from UTS Housing and starts right at the move in day. I recommend arriving at the move in day, as most friends are made during these first days. This introduction is a lot more fun. You will visit wildlife parks, some beaches near Sydney, parties, etc. It is a great way to meet a lot of people in a short period of time.

### **Courses:**

In my experience, the courses at UTS were easier to pass than the ones at the ESE. However, this can be different for every course and every person. I recommend choosing two 6cp subjects and one 8cp subject. This will give you 25 ECTS in total. I followed the following three courses:

#### *Transnational Management (7.5 ECTS):*

This subject examines the management challenges associated with the strategic and operational management of organisations whose activities stretch across national boundaries. The subject develops a conceptual framework which enables students to understand the interplay between the multinational corporation, the country in which it does business, including an understanding of the psychological, social, political and economic forces useful for managers and consultants involved in multinational organisations and cross-border management. Through theory, cases, readings and research articles, the subject considers approaches to the development of strategy, organisational capabilities, and management challenges for operating in the global economy. The subject provides comprehensive understanding of managerial processes such as, cultural diversity, the entrepreneurial process (identifying and acting on new opportunities), the integrative learning process (linking and leveraging those pockets of entrepreneurial initiative), and the leadership process (articulating a vision and inspiring others to follow).

#### *Global Operations and Supply Chain Management (7.5 ECTS):*

This subject builds on the business knowledge taught in the core subject Integrating Business Perspectives and provides students studying in the Management, Human Resource Management and International Business majors with an opportunity to develop their understanding of sustainable business operations and global supply chain management from a systems perspective. Through a blended process of experiential, engaging and reflective learning, this subject further assures problem-based learning skills, added with the ability to manage the development of higher order capabilities for addressing complex operational issues in a real business context.

#### *Global Politics from Above and Below (10 ECTS):*

World order hierarchies pattern world politics. From above, dominant Northern states, militaries and corporations reproduce the status quo. From below, social movements, non-government organisations and Southern states seek alternative models for world order. Conflicts between dominant and subordinate forces shape central issues of world politics including issues of world peace, global poverty, environmental change, international migration and women's status. These and other issues are addressed in this subject, which aims to convey the dynamics driving change and transformation in global politics. Ways of understanding world politics from traditional international relations approaches to post-colonial and southern perspectives are evaluated against key issues and problems.

I really liked both business subjects. You work with cases, which immediately gives you the opportunity to apply everything you learnt from your text book to a real life case. However, I was not too fond of the politics subject. This was because politics did not really appear to be my thing and the structure was rather messy.

### Finances:

As you might have guessed, Australia is not a cheap country, but the investment is definitely worth it.

<i>Costs</i>	<i>EUR</i>	<i>AUD</i>
Visa	365	
UTS Housing	4200	
Flight	1310	
OSHC	230	
Public Transport		250
Living Costs per month (estimation)		800
Sim Card		180
Traveling*		2750
Gym Contract		210

\*This was the traveling I did on my own. I also travelled with my parents, who came to visit me.

The conversion rate was about 0.70 AUD for 1 EUR during the time I was there.

### Daily life:

When you are in Sydney, you will realise that all of the clichés are true. The people are incredibly nice, helpful and relaxed. The innumerable beaches are all beautiful. The nature is breathtaking and the cities are a melting pot of all sorts of cultures.

People will always come up to you to ask if you need any help (apparently I often looked lost) or to have a little chat.

If you have had a stressful couple of years at the ESE I can reassure you: there is no better way to destress than to spend some time down under.

Furthermore, Australia has endless opportunities to travel. I only travelled in Australia itself and covered much of the West Coast, half of the South Coast and some parts of the East Coast. However, the Fiji Islands, New Zealand and even Indonesia are easily accessed through Australia.

For the weekends, there is enough to do near Sydney. The Blue Mountains, Bondi Beach and the Harbour National Park are just some examples (and with the Opal Card, you can travel anywhere within New South Wales for just 2.50AUD).

Also the weather is a great plus. Even though there can be a rainy day every now and then, I can assure you: if you don't get a tan while being in Sydney for 5 months, you have been doing something wrong.

All in all, I can truly recommend UTS and Sydney as an exchange destination. I fell in love with the place more and more every day and will definitely come back. However, from what I have heard from fellow exchange friends at ESE, you will have a splendid time at any exchange destination!

Anke

If you have any further questions, you can always contact me via [anke.clerx@gmail.com](mailto:anke.clerx@gmail.com) or look me up on Facebook