

University of Technology, Sydney 2016

General Information and Daily Life

So, I did my exchange at UTS in Sydney, Australia. I would recommend Australia to anyone who is looking to have the absolute best time of their life. The university was super easy, which leaves a lot of time to go out to explore Sydney and Australia. I would recommend going on SurfCamp as soon as you can. This will teach you the basics of surfing, which you will be able to enjoy the rest of your stay at Sydney's beautiful beaches. Maroubra beach is probably the best one if you're not looking to get into surfbattles with the native Australians. I also did a trip along the eastcoast, which is a must if you go to to this destination. You will find beautiful beaches along with the great barrier reef. Do not forget to visit Magnetic Island along your way, which is the most beautiful little tropical paradise you'll ever see.

Sydney and Australia do have their drawbacks. First of all, prepare to be absolutely broke after your exchange. Think Albert Heijn is expensive? Get ready for Aldi in Sydney, which is more expensive than Albert Heijn. And woolworths?, forget about it, prepare to pay 4 euros for a container of yoghurt. Going clubbing is also absolutely ridiculously expensive. Beer costs around 8 euros per beer and entry fee can be as high as 20 euros. However, if you go on special days, you can usually avoid the entry fees. For example, go to Ivy on Thursdays and the Argyle on Fridays. Clubbing in general is a much different experience in Sydney. They have lock out laws which prohibit you from entering a club after 1:30 and most clubs shut down at 3. On top of that bouncers are super picky on who they let in or not. A counter to Sydney's expensiveness, it going out for dinner in stead of cooking at home. There are a lot of places where you can get a full meal for just 6 euros.

Preparation

First of all, try to find another student who is going to the same destination. This will help you a lot when preparing for your exchange as you can discuss any issues you may run into. To apply at UTS, you will need to get your transcript printed and get a statement that you study in English from the ESE. Now you must get your student health insurance with MediBank (300 AUD). After you have your letter of admission from UTS + your health insurance you can apply for your student visa, which will cost you another 560 AUD. You can now book your housing with UTS housing, which I would certainly recommend. It's also very expensive, but you won't find anything much better on the free market. If you book with UTS housing, you can choose your residence. I stayed at "Geegal". Geegal is a great place if you want to have a quieter place to live. It's a 5 min walk from the city center, whereas all the other housing facilities are right at UTS in the center. If you are a party animal, I would recommend "Yura Mudang". This place has a roof terrace, where all UTS people go to party before going out. However, if you live at Geegal, you will not miss out on this, you can also join. Once you have all that sorted, you can book your flight ticket.

Arrival

You will be absolutely dead tired when you arrive at the Airport in Sydney, but at least you have done the hard part. If you book your housing with UTS housing you can use their shuttle bus services, which makes life much easier. Otherwise you can take a taxi/uber or take the train. You will have to check in at Yura Mudang, after which you will be shuttled to your student accommodation. This is another reason I would recommend UTS housing. You will be sure to get to the right place without any hassle. If for some reason you book somewhere else and you can't get into your house immediately, there are many hostels in Sydney that will be able to accommodate you. Just scout them out before hand, if you anticipate that you will not be able to move in to your accommodation immediately. Once settled, try to make your first friends. Everyone is in the same situation as you, so everyone is open for a chat. UTS housing also provides many activities to get to know your fellow students.

Courses

Note: none of my subjects had exam. All of them were graded on papers, essays and computer labs.

Foundations of Law – elective space – 10 ECTS

This is probably the hardest subject I had at UTS. It will teach you legal writing and reading, which can be quite interesting. It will also teach you very much about Australian culture, as well as the relationship between indigenous and white Australians. You will be shocked at what you hear. Attendance is mandatory for all classes. You will be taught by a professor in a seminar setting. You will definitely learn something from this course, without too much effort.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship – obligatory part – 7.5 ECTS

Very easy subject if you are used to Erasmus. You will pass with flying colors. However, I didn't find it at all interesting.

Programming Fundamentals – obligatory part – 7.5 ECTS

This is a very cool subject. You will learn the basics of Java programming. All of the teaching material is online, which makes the course very easy to follow. All you have to do is show up for the computer labs, which are not too difficult. Your grade will depend on how many computer labs you completed.

Finances

Okay, hold on tight for this one.

Costs	Amount
Flight to Sydney	1420 EUR
Rent	4200 EUR
Phone bill	180 AUD
Gym membership	290 AUD
Costs of living	2200 AUD

Travelling	2000 AUD
Visa	560 AUD
Medibank insurance	300 AUD
Miscellaneous	1500 EUR
Exchange rate 1 eur = 1.38 AUD	Total Expenditures: +/- 11000