



## **IT University Travel Report**

**Host University:** University of Technology Sydney

**Study Programme at IT University:** Digital Innovation & Management

**Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:** Study Abroad (fee-paying student)

**Courses studied abroad:** Enabling Enterprise Information Systems, Fundamentals of Interactive Design, Managing Change, and Business Intelligence

**Exchange Period:** MSc. 3<sup>rd</sup> semester (31/07-2023 – 31/12-2023)

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### **What was it like to study at University of Technology Sydney?**

At UTS I chose the courses mentioned above and I enjoyed all of them (especially Business Intelligence). The academic level is a bit lower than at ITU, but I was surprised by how much schoolwork there was. I was graded for each assignment throughout the semester so did not have final exams. The majority of students are from India and China and not all of them speak English fluently, but I managed to find some Europeans to group up with. The social life at UTS is great – they have many clubs you can join and host events and parties for both exchange students and the whole university. They have some really cool buildings and a food court with all sorts of kitchens such as sushi, kebab, salads, and thai!

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

I wanted to study abroad to broaden my horizon both academically, socially, and culturally. I have always dreamt of going to Australia, Sydney especially, to experience a school with many nationalities and explore the Aussie life. I enjoyed the mix of being a student in central Sydney and spending my weekends as a surfer at the beach.

### **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 got to push some boundaries in the sense of meeting many new people and making relations. You end up entering many group dynamics, especially considering the many different nationalities and cultures. In result, you learn how to be open and curious towards new people and understand their perspectives!

Academically, I learned lots of new knowledge and skills. I chose the Service Design specialisation at ITU but have now decided to dive into Business Intelligence and Data Analytics for my master thesis – it is so interesting! I have also learnt many new ways of studying and what works well for me.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

I made the following steps to arrange my stay in Sydney and at the university of Technology:

1. Applied for the spot at ITU (did not get it so I decided to go as fee-paying student)
2. Read emails from Student Affairs and Programme and made sure to provide all needed documents before deadlines
3. To begin with, I only applied for four courses at UTS – I would recommend applying for more so you can choose and combine – I ended up doing this (you might experience that some courses overlap and therefore you need to choose another course)
4. Checked emails from UTS and made sure to do what was expected (register as student and for courses)
5. Paid tuition-fee (remember it is covered by Udlandsstipendium (up to around 50.000 kr.))
6. Bought the OSHC (Over Seas Health Certificate)
7. Applied for Student Visa (subclass 500) one month prior
8. Bought one-way flight ticket (apparently it is best to buy it on Tuesdays ;))
9. Booked a two week stay at Wake Up! to explore the city and find a place to stay during uni

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

I got help from ITU (Study Affairs and Programme) throughout the process and made some desk research regarding how you get the most out of your stay. I also spoke to others who had gone to Sydney asking if there is anything I should know or if they would recommend places and things to do.

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

I decided not to apply for accommodation at UTS as this would make it more as a boarding school experience (which I have tried before). Therefore, I booked a bed at Wake Up! just 5 minutes from UTS for the two first weeks. However, I ended up living four different places the first month in Sydney as it was really difficult finding a room to rent. In the end, I rented a room in Bondi, sharing the apartment with an Australian guy and a Spanish couple. Looking back, I would recommend you find somewhere to live before going to Sydney. It was stressful both moving to a new city (on the other side of the world), meeting new people, and finding a place to stay all at once. However, living in Bondi definitely gave a vibe of being one of the locals instead of staying at student accommodation. I would recommend looking at [Flatmates](#) to find a place to stay if you want to try a more “local” approach. Other great places near the beaches are Coogee and Bronte – otherwise lots of good places in central.

## Expenses and Financing

1 Australsk dollar i DKK den 29. maj 2023

4,54

Uddannelsesrelaterede udgifter	Type	Beløb (AUD)	Beløb (DKK)	Total (DKK)
Flybilletter (tur-retur) [1]	Engangsbeløb	-	kr 20.000	kr 20.000
Studievisum (Student Visa) [2]	Engangsbeløb	aus650	kr 2.951	kr 2.951
Undervisningsudgift (Tuition Fee) [3]	Per semester	aus9.400	kr 43.930	kr 43.930
Sundhedsforsikring (OSHC) [4]	Per semester	aus300	kr 1.362	kr 1.362
Husleje [4]	Per semester	aus7.500	kr 34.050	kr 34.050
El, vand og varme [4]	Per semester	aus520	kr 2.361	kr 2.361
Transport [4]	Per semester	aus910	kr 4.131	kr 4.131
Bøger samt andre studiematerialer [4]	Per semester	aus416	kr 1.889	kr 1.889
Mad og dagligvarer [4]	Per semester	aus2.600	kr 11.804	kr 11.804
Internet/telefon [4]	Per semester	aus780	kr 3.541	kr 3.541
Oplevelser	Månedlig	-	kr 1.000	kr 5.000
<b>Totale uddannelsesrelaterede udgifter</b>				<b>kr 131.019,04</b>

Uddannelsesrelaterede indtægter	Type	Beløb (AUD)	Beløb (DKK)	Total (DKK)
Legat fra Johan Schrøders Fond	Engangsbeløb	-	kr 15.000	kr 15.000
Legat fra William Demant Fonden	Engangsbeløb		kr 10.500	kr 10.500
Legat fra Knud Højgaard Fonden	Engangsbeløb		kr 15.000	kr 15.000
Udlandsstipendium efter skat [5]	Engangsbeløb	-	kr 42.669	kr 42.669
Statens Uddannelsesstøtte efter skat	Månedlig	-	kr 5.500	kr 27.500
<b>Totale indtægter</b>				<b>kr 110.669</b>

<b>Totalt finansieringsbehov</b>				<b>kr 20.350</b>
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### Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Expenses: If you compare Sydney and Copenhagen, I will say the prices are quite similar, however, rent in Sydney is more expensive. I decided to only buy a one-way flight ticket as this gave me more flexibility to decide where and when I should return to Copenhagen. I flew from Copenhagen to Bangkok, had a layover of 2 hours, and then flew from Bangkok to Sydney. I applied for the Student Visa (subclass 500) through the Australian Government. Remember that you can get your tuition-fee covered by Udlandsstipendium – I borrowed some money from my parents to pay for the fee and applied for the Udlandsstipendium through ITU. Two weeks later, I received the fund and transferred it back to my parents. UTS recommended the OSHC I bought.

Financing: I was granted three scholarships and received SU – the rest I paid myself with own savings.

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

I contacted Fundraising.how to help me apply for grants which I as an IT student on my masters could use. I received grants from [Johan Schrøders Fond](#) (DKK 15K), [William Demant Fonden](#) (DKK 10.5K) and [Knud Højgaards Fond](#) (DKK 15K). I recommend applying for [Nordea Fonden](#) and [Stibofonden](#) too.

**Pictures from my stay!**

