



## 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. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.*

*Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.*

**Host university:** University of Technology Sydney

**Study Programme at IT University:** Ms Software Design

**Exchange agreement or Free mover:** Exchange agreement

**Courses studied abroad:** Big Data Engineering, Fundamentals of Data Analytics, Business Intelligence & Data processing using Python

**Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring)** Autumn year 2023

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

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## Your stay abroad

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

UTS has so many social clubs, canteen options and the overall campus is pretty big compared to ITU. The academic level lower than ITU and the grades are mostly based upon quizzes and assessments handed in throughout the year. I think UTS did a very poorly job at introducing you to other exchange students, so most people just spoke to people from their own country and you really had to put yourself out there to make friends. The courses I did was mostly taught during the evening (6 pm to 9 pm) which was quite annoying but very common if you are a master's student in Australia.

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

I have always wanted to visit and travel through Australia and have heard such great things about the country and the aussie people. The stay did meet up to my expectations in a lot of ways as I did

get to travel quite a bit. Unfortunately, I found it quite difficult to meet Australians, since I didn't have any classes with them and most often, they live with their parents and don't show up to class.

**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 learned how to make friends in a foreign country where I knew no one and really had to put myself out there – which was both uncomfortable but rewarding. The first two weeks I spent by myself but also gave me time to really adjust to the time difference, city vibes and getting familiar with the neighborhood. For me uni wasn't that tough, and it was hard adjusting to not spending that much time on schoolwork. However, it gave me a lot of time to gather my thoughts about my upcoming thesis and what I want to do after my studies is finished at ITU.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

I didn't find the process of arranging your stay too difficult as you get plenty of reminders from ITU. Overall the process was:

Firstly, the initial step required applying for admission to the university, which involved submitting necessary documents, meeting specific criteria, and completing the application form within the deadline.

The next step involved obtaining a visa, which is a rather expensive part of the process. Navigating through visa requirements, submitting the required documents, and paying the associated fees can be a bit confusing!

Next, I organized my accommodation and flights. Remember to buy your plane tickets early as they can get very expensive.

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

If I had any questions, I would ask any of the other students going abroad – help each other out! Otherwise, I spend a lot of time googling and UTS also has a very efficient study abroad department where you can ask any sorts of questions.

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

I applied for UTS' dorm rooms, but they only have a small number of spots, so unfortunately, I got rejected. I thankfully knew some people in Sydney that were able to help me find housing (but very expensive, paid 450 aud per week). In Australia you can't sign a lease without being here physically. I would recommend arriving early and staying at a hostel or Airbnb for the first two weeks and going to as many open houses as possible.

## **Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

"It's worth noting that the cost of living in Australia, particularly in cities like Sydney, can be

relatively high, with housing expenses being a significant contributing factor. Many individuals I knew during my stay found themselves resorting to take a SU-loan to manage their living costs. Therefore, I would highly recommend having a good savings account before going to Australia. Additionally, I would recommend exploring potential job opportunities in the hospitality sector while you are here.

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

I applied for a lot of scholarships and thankfully also got granted a few. I would recommend applying for ITU's travel grant as well as Lemvig Müller that is also related to ITU.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Remember to create a Facebook-chat or Whatsapp-chat with the other students who is going to the same host university!