

## My Exchange Experience at Macquarie University

I studied one fall semester of academic year 2017-2018 at Macquarie University, where I took elective courses for my masters program. Currently, I am in my last semester of masters in Management studies at Stockholm Business School. I had already been on an exchange in Taiwan two years prior to this recent exchange at Macquarie University, Australia. The first exchange experience was at National Taiwan University, which was during my bachelors program, and it was what sparked my desire to do another exchange. Since I had such an amazing experience from my first exchange semester I figured that I really wanted to go for yet another exchange but to a different country and different environment.

The academic semesters in Australia differs from the one in Sweden due to the reversed weather seasons in Australia. I arrived to Sydney mid-July and it was fairly cold but mostly sunny. The fall semester starts in the beginning of August and ends in December with a three month long summer break from university. The first couple of weeks were about settling in and arranging my university schedule. For my living situation, I lived on university campus, which was about a convenient five-minute walk to university. The house unit, called Herring Road Apartments, I shared with three other housemates was located between the university and a huge shopping mall. I had lectures three days per week, and the courses I had chosen were in marketing, management, digital media, and philosophy. The system in Swedish universities works in a way that one course at a time is held and one final exam at the end of each course follows, but the courses in Australian universities run simultaneously through the whole semester. In my opinion, the difficulty level of study is similar between Swedish and Australian universities. Though the workload was a lot more requiring at Macquarie University since all of the deadlines for assignments and exams were clustered around midterms- and finals weeks.

Furthermore, making friends may vary from person to person but in general it is quite easy to go out and meet new people when on an exchange. In the beginning of the semester, everyone is in the same situation as you. I found some new friends fairly quick, I got to know both Swedish, international and local students. It was lots of fun meeting people around the world and sharing the same experience with them. Also, there are a lot of student activities and student clubs at Macquarie University, where you can find people with the same interests.

Moreover, Australia has a beautiful landscape consisting of cities surrounded by beautiful nature and beaches. Exploring the country by itself is a good idea, something I wished I did more of, but I did go on hikes around Sydney and also visited a few other smaller cities nearby. Sydney is a large city that is divided into smaller townships and each one of these townships felt like an own city in itself, which was amazing because it felt like one was visiting a new city every time. There is always some event or entertainment going on in a city like Sydney. There are plenty of drinking bars to hang out at and many food places that serve various delicious cuisines. Sydney is truly a lively city that never sleeps.

To conclude, my overall experience of studying abroad was incredible. Although I had already gone on an exchange once before, I am glad that I took the opportunity to study abroad again. I strongly recommend anyone who is considering on going on an exchange to do it - you will not regret it.

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