

Exchange Report - University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney – Fall 2017



My exchange semester at UNSW in Sydney has come to an end and it is now my turn to look back at the last six months and reflect on my experiences. If you are interested in applying for an exchange at UNSW or already have been accepted, I hope that this information will be helpful and inspiring.

Deciding to go on an exchange semester has without doubt been one of the best decisions I have made so far. The choice to go to Sydney was quite easy since I had been there before and absolutely loved the city.

Education and Campus

During my semester at UNSW I took four classes, Managing Business Communication (MGMT2002), Global Business Environment (MGMT1101), Managing People (MGMT2721) and Business Ethics and Sustainability (MGMT2726). I think that the quality of the education was very high and I liked the fact that it was a mix of individual assignments, group projects and presentations. In many of the classes you also got marks for your participation, which meant that being active during the tutorials was being rewarded.

A big difference from studying at SBS was that you took all the classes at the same time and then had a final exam period in the end of the semester. If you choose courses that do not have exams, it could mean that you finish the semester earlier. A good advice is therefore to carefully read the course outlines that are provided for each course, in this way you can decide on courses with or without exams and also see what type of assignments you will be expected to hand in. Good to know is also that courses like MGMT1101 that starts with 1, is a first-year course and therefore a bit easier than the ones that starts with 2 or 3.

The main campus is located in Kensington and this is where I had all my classes. It is a very big campus with students from all over the world, the majority being Chinese.

On campus you have many different places where you can study, green spaces where you can relax and enjoy the sun during the breaks, many different food options, a travel agency and several coffee shops.

Regarding the orientation week, I was quite disappointed since I was hoping that there would be more arranged activities where we could meet other students. Even though there were some parties that the Exchange Society arranged I got the feeling that it was quite difficult to make new international friends. Fortunately, we were seven people from SBS that went to Sydney so we spent a lot of time together and had a great time. From what I have heard afterwards though, it seems like the ones that were living on campus had another experience than I had and made many friends through UNSW. Therefore, living on campus can be a good option if you are looking to get to know other students.

Housing

When it came to housing me and two other students from SBS decided to rent an own apartment in Randwick, which is a 20 minute walk from UNSW. By using websites such as Gumtree we found our apartment after only three days. If you also are planning on living outside campus I recommend that you arrive in Sydney a few days before orientation week, so that you have time to arrange your accommodation and settle down. Randwick and Coogee are good areas to live in, but I think that if I could choose again I would stay in Coogee since it is closer to the beach and not much further away from UNSW.

Sydney is an expensive city and the costs for renting apartments or even staying on campus are high. Sharing rooms with other students are very common and can help you save some money. UNSW had a Facebook page where people were sharing ads for accommodation and where you can find roommates. I can also recommend Facebook pages such as "Svenskar i Sydney", where you can ask questions and get a lot of information about living in Sydney.

Traveling

Many students travel a lot and explore Australia during their exchange semester. There are many things to see and do around Sydney and traveling along the east coast is also very popular. Since the semester runs from July to November, you will have a long break of two months before you have to head back to Sweden and this leaves plenty of room for traveling after your final exams. During the semester you will also have a mid-semester break that lasts around 10 days, in the end of September.

Going on an exchange is something that I highly can recommend. Except the fact that I learnt a lot and grew as a person, I had a lot of fun and felt lucky every day for living in such a beautiful city with all the beaches nearby. I spent many hours along the coastal walk and at Sydney Harbour. Taking the ferry over to Manly was one of my favourite things which you must do during your stay in Sydney.

With that said, I hope that I have provided some useful information and that you feel inspired and excited about your exchange semester. Please let me know if there is something else that you want to know, and I will do my best to answer.

Good luck with your exchange!

Evelina Norén

evelina-n@live.se