



University of New South Wales (Sydney)

2022-2023

PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
Utrecht University provides all students with enough information on studying abroad, via the website, but especially through information nights. The website provides a clear pathway to follow when wanting to go on an exchange, it clearly states the deadlines and shows a lot of information, including all the options to consider when picking the destination. The information nights were very helpful for dealing with the main concerns, since there is the possibility to interact and ask questions.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
After applying and being accepted by both UU and UNSW, there was more individual support from UU. Study advisors were there to help with the study plans, and the exchange advisors were available to answer any questions regarding the exchange and to increase the fluency in contacting the partner university.
Academic preparation
All of the courses I took at UNSW required prerequisite courses at UNSW which I obviously didn't take. However, the knowledge I got from courses taken at UU was sufficient for UNSW to accept me for taking the courses, and to me it also felt like I had enough knowledge. The preparation from UU didn't give me a disadvantage relative to the other students who did take the prerequisite courses at UU.
Language preparation
Language preparation was not required since my studies at UU are English spoken. I didn't come across any serious language barriers or problems during my stay in Australia.
Finances (living costs)
I lived in student accommodation on campus which was catered. The total monthly rent (including meals) was 1420 AUD (about 878 euros). I had little expenses for food, but the prices were not high in my opinion. I traveled through the country at pretty low costs, but this really depends on where you want to visit and how luxurious you want the trip to be.

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
There are lots of courses available to exchange students, some of them very similar, and some very distinct from the courses offered at UU. All courses (also the ones at higher levels) covered the essential pre-knowledge in either the first week, or before the start of week 1, so coming from another university is not a problem.
Academic quality of education activities
The courses I followed at UNSW were all of good academic quality. The emphasis seems to be on assignments rather than mid-terms and final exams, which makes me feel like I had to work harder here compared to at UU. All of the professors and tutors I had were really good at teaching their courses and answering questions or providing help.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
UNSW has a student office which is easy to approach by making an appointment online, usually there is next day availability. If the student office is unable to help you, they will set up a direct line with the person responsible and they will make sure you get an immediate answer. I am very satisfied with the student counselling and support at UNSW.
Transfer of credits



The credit transfer was well organised: UNSW provided the academic transcript after releasing the final exam results, which I could immediately forward to UU.

STUDENT LIFE

Welcome/Orientation programme

UNSW has a big share of international students, so they know how to handle their orientation. In my case, there was a special international student welcome programme for exchange students in which we got to know more about the university and campus, and there were some icebreaking activities to get to know fellow students. The student body at UNSW (ARC) is very active and they also played a part in the orientation by providing numerous activities in the orientation week.

Accommodation

I stayed in one of the residential colleges on campus: International House. I lived in catered accommodation with +/- 150 students (bachelor, master, and PHD) from across the world. Living on campus has absolutely contributed to my amazing time in Australia, I met a lot of friends here, I didn't have to worry about transport from and to campus, and I saved lots of time for doing fun things by not having to do groceries, cook and clean.

Leisure & culture

Australia is a country which has so much to offer. If you want to travel and see the country the option is definitely there: domestic flights are affordable and reliable. If you prefer to stay where you are, there is also a lot to see in and around Sydney: from city life to nature and hikes, to amazing food and experiences. A must-try in my opinion is surfing: there are heaps of amazing beaches around where surf classes will be offered.

Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

Sydney prices are similar to prices in the Netherlands.
The academic calendar at UNSW is different from UU (trimesters rather than semesters) which meant an overlap and a study delay in my case (which I think is worth it for me).
Sydney winter gets pretty cold... It's not summer all year as I imagined.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

I would recommend UNSW and Sydney for your exchange experience. I fell in love with the beautiful country and I even hope to come back here for my master's degree. The courses offered at UNSW are of high academic quality and the variety of courses is huge: there will always be a course that suits your interests.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Studying abroad has been the best choice I've made during my bachelor's degree, I can only recommend this to everyone!



PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process took place over a longer period of time, but apart from researching the universities and destinations, it did not take a lot of time. I spent the most time looking up universities and location and choose a location I wanted to visit most and look which university and courses would suit me most after that.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The university provided enough support. Their website was really useful as well as the information meeting. The study advisors provided me with information as well, but it is not possible for them to know everything of all the host universities.
academic preparation
I don't think I prepared much academically.
language preparation
My studies were already in English and seeing Australia is English speaking, this was an easy task. However, getting used to the Australian accent and slang turned out to be a funny task.
finances
I have been saving up for quite some time and made sure I loaned enough money. I had this duo loan as a reserve in case my own savings were not enough. Really make sure you bring enough money. Sydney/Australia is expensive and you don't want to miss out on any fun trips there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Business programme
academic quality of education activities
Level 2 and level 3 courses
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was support available on campus and in the house I lived in
transfer of credits
?

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Welcome was really fun. They had an orientation week with lots of freebies, activities and information. We got a tour of the massive campus and explanation of how the university worked. They even explained beach safety 😊
accommodation
I lived in International House on campus. This was absolutely amazing and maybe one of the best and cheapest



options. It was a catered accommodation so we got 3 meals a day. I lived with 150 other international/exchange students and made really good friends there. Living on campus was easy too and was not too far from the beach or city centre. If you feel like this is something for you, send me an email and I'll see if I can get you an advantage to get in (k.m.tax@students.uu.nl)

leisure & culture

I had such a fun time hanging out with my friends, discovering the city, hiking and surfing. I volunteered at a surf camp in the weekends and learned quite a bit of surfing there, it was absolutely amazing. Culture is very interesting in Australia. Aussies are way more laid back and chill and the indigenous people of the land bring some interesting culture with

suggestions/tips

I definitely recommend living on campus. There are so many people there to make friends with and this makes it easier to make contacts. Also, definitely go see the country, it is absolutely beautiful. The Blue Mountains are a short ish train ride away and definitely worth it, same as the famous and less famous beaches.

Sydney is pretty expensive, so make sure you have enough funds, but it is definitely worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend! See my texts above for all the reasons why.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

This was the best decision I could have taken. I made friends for life, studied in a fun environment, travelled the country and learned so much about myself.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

In December 2021 I submitted my first application for the Exchange program. We had to create a list with our personal top three destinations . Initially these three did not contain Sydney or not even Australia. In the first place I chose Canada. Therefore, the motivation letter I wrote was written to them. Unfortunately, I did not get selected for any of these three, with the result I had to make a new top three. This time I did include Australia in the top three, but for other universities than UNSW. Again, there was no spot for me at these universities, until I got a call from the Exchange Board. A spot at UNSW in Sydney came open, and I could apply for it if I wanted to. Without a doubt I took this opportunity. That is when the excitement for my half year study abroad started. You may conclude my application process did not go very smoothly. I thought it was quite stressful as there were points where I did not feel confident whether I would go at all. However, it all worked out and I even went all the way to the other side of the world.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Before the application process the University organized a presentation in which they provided information about the Exchange program from beginning till the end. In this presentation they said the chance a student would be placed at one of the destinations out of their top three would be around 70 per cent. They did add that this percentage was not reliable as it depended on the amount of applications and some other factors. However, this stimulated the expectation it was plausible I would be placed at one of the universities from my top three. When this did not happen two times, the disappointment was bigger as I had different expectations. In the end, the Exchange Board was very helpful as they were very active in finding me a spot.

academic preparation

As I did the exchange in my third year, the courses would be part of my optional course profile. At first, I thought this gave the opportunity to choose random courses unrelated to economics. However, I was instructed to choose business related courses as I came as a Business student. Also, a normal semester in Australia includes three courses. My minor consists of four courses, so this was not enough. Fortunately, UNSW offers a winter term where you can follow one course in three weeks. This takes place before the actual semester starts (beginning of August - beginning of September). Cumulated this will add up to 4 courses. The courses I chose were: Creating Social Change (level 1), Real Estate Finance (level 3), Negotiation Skills (level 3) and Marketing Analytics and Big Data (level 3). The process of choosing the courses and applying for them took a long time, as UNSW did not respond quickly. My suggestion is to start early with choosing and applying for courses. In the end, a week before my study started I still was not accepted to a course, due to a little slackness of UNSW, but happily it worked out.

language preparation

The main language in Australia is, of course, English. As the spoken language at my study in Utrecht also is English, I was not worried and did not really prepare for it.

finances

While preparing for my exchange, it already came clear to me that Australia really is expensive. I had to buy a Health cover, a visa and flight tickets, all three quite expensive and I hadn't even arrived in Sydney yet. While looking for housing I found out that a rent of 1000,- euros per month is average. With the help of my student loan, some savings and support from my parents I could get by. However, I sometimes felt limited as I could not join trips as it was too expensive. I would really suggest saving a good amount of money if you are interested in seeing more of Australia than just the city.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As it took quite long before all my applications were processed, I got my schedule shortly before the start of the winter term. This wasn't really a problem as I didn't really have a lot on my planning. In the winter term I



followed one course in three weeks. Every Tuesday we had courses all day and the rest was self-study. When the real semester started I followed 3 courses. Every course included a lecture of 1,5 to 2 hours and a tutorial of 1,5 to 3 hours. I followed a lot of my courses online, as the real life lessons were already full. I would have liked it better if I could have followed more face to face lessons, but due to Covid-19, they only did lectures/tutorials for a small group.

academic quality of education activities

I thought the education was of a good level. I had to work harder than I did at Utrecht University. This was not because the difficulty level was so high, but because they did a lot of assessments, and so, a lot of deadlines. Also, I thought the lessons were way more interactive than at UU. I thought this was quite fun, as I participated more actively in the courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At the UNSW they really care about your well-being as an exchange student and they have a lot of weeks focused on this theme. I, myself, did not need counseling, but I can imagine they are really invested if you encounter any problems.

transfer of credits

During my time in Australia I had to follow 4 courses. Two courses of level 3, and two courses as optional course profiles. After I finished the courses I sent my courses including the grades to the Board of Examiners and they gave me the right amount of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At the beginning I could sign up for multiple introductory activities such as BBQ's. Also we had a mandatory introduction in which they provided us with all kinds of information on UNSW. I met a lot of people during this period.

accommodation

I had an apartment on the campus of UNSW. Housing is really expensive in Sydney, and this option was doable compared to other rent prices. I arranged the housing 3 months in advance. If you are interested in living on campus, I would recommend you also arrange it on time, as the apartments were already fully booked when I arrived in August.

leisure & culture

Australian citizens are really kind and relaxed. There are many beaches, which I thought was the best. Almost every day we went to the beach, which was packed with surfers. We also surfed ourselves a couple times, which was great, but it was quite expensive. I also loved the city. It is really big, so we tried to see as much as possible. It certainly has plenty to offer. We also did a trip to Blue Mountains National Park and a road trip along the Gold Coast. This was really great!

suggestions/tips

I would just recommend exploring as much of the city as you can, there is so much to see. Also, if you have the budget, I would recommend undertaking multiple trips in Australia, for example, along the Gold Coast.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I had such a great time during my exchange! Sydney is a great city and it has a lot to offer. I saw the great distance to home as an advantage, because it makes you focus on your Australian life for 100%. The beaches and sunsets are unique and the relaxed vibe is great. UNSW gave a different way of education, which I really enjoyed. Overall, I can only say I would really recommend going to Sydney!



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Besides that Sydney is great for an exchange, I would really be aware of how expensive it is. I worked as a pizza deliverer to earn some extra money so I could make some trips. However, without the work, I would not have had enough money to undertake trips or do other nice things.



PREPARATION	
Exchange application process at Utrecht University	Firstly, I needed to look which universities were available through the University of Utrecht and which seemed the most interesting for me to go. Once I'd chosen, I needed to get approval from the International Exchange Office over my exchange study plan. When I got the approval, I needed to write a motivation letter (addressed to your number one university) and then uploaded that to Osiris. After that it was just waiting for a long time to hear something back, because the University of Utrecht needed to turn in my exchange application with UNSW.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support at Utrecht University was there, but you needed to ask for it, because most of the information was on the site. For me personally, I found the preparation a little bit difficult because everything was a bit vague in my opinion.
Academic preparation	I did not prepare for the courses beforehand. I just let it happen and I feel like that is the best thing to do. Since I was already in my third year of my bachelor degree and the courses I wanted to follow were similar to those I followed at the University of Utrecht, there was no need for academic preparation.
Language preparation	I already got my Cambridge Certificate in high school, so I did not need any more language preparation (since that is one of the requirements of UNSW).
Finances (living costs)	I did work the whole summer before I went to Sydney, and I had already saved a bit (I lived with my parents my whole study period before moving to Sydney), so I had already had like a back-up. Next to that I decided to borrow college money from DUO.

Study period abroad /About the host university	
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)	At UNSW, the Terms are different; they have three 'normal' terms during a normal school year in which you will take three courses and a summer or winter term in which you will take one course. My study programme contained of two terms at UNSW: a normal Term and the summer term. That period covered a half year in Utrecht University semesters.
Academic quality of education activities	The quality was comparable to the quality in Utrecht. One thing to remind yourself: if you are going to study law, they have a completely different law system in Australia than in the Netherlands, so you need to get to know that law system. For me, I got used to it quite quick so that was nice.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)	Responses can take up some time if you contact the board or teams like student services, but if you e-mail a professor you will get an answer quickly.
Transfer of credits	At UNSW, one course gives you 6 UoC what you can equate to 7.5 studypoints at the University of Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE	
Welcome/Orientation programme	UNSW puts a lot of time and effort in Welcome Week and Orientation week, especially for the normal terms. There are heaps of programmes and events you can attend to, and plenty of opportunities to get to know new



people and make new friends. You can think of movie nights, parties, events on campus, freebies, free food, sport activities etc.

Accommodation

I personally booked a AirBnB with three other Dutch girls in a neighbourhood close to the campus which was super fun and nice. I've heard mixed reviews on the rooms in dorms on campus, so I do not know if I would recommend that. You can find a lot on: flatmates.au

Leisure & culture

The culture (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) is highlighted on every 'official' event. They will mention a recognition of the land, and you can get to know a lot about the culture while studying at UNSW (if you are interested in that).

Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

Yes definitely, they are super friendly and welcoming to international students and they want to make sure your time in Australia will be unforgettable!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

No



PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
<p>The application went fine. I had to fill in a top 3 of Universities and got chosen for my number 1. The information about application was clear on the UU site. Only some things about Sydney were not correct or out-dated looking back. Also I had never heard/seen any of these reports being published and that would have been very helpful. The UU can do better and should make it more clear on the website where you can find these reports. .</p> <p>*Note from the IEO: since 2016-2017 there have been student reports at the UU website at each destination's webpage.</p>
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>Very bad. They do not have/know a lot of the information I needed and I needed to search things a lot myself, what was stressful. Also they take a very long time to respond to emails. I also had the idea that the UU did not have good contact with my exchange University. So if you're stuck, go search it out for yourself!*</p> <p>*Note from the IEO: both the UU and the host university expect students to adopt a proactive attitude in doing research, reading carefully and arranging matters. Patience and flexibility are also sometimes put to the test. Not all information is known or available well in advance.</p>
Academic preparation
Nothing for me.
Language preparation
I had to hand in my Cambridge exam.
Finances (living costs)
<p>Sydney is VERY expensive!!</p> <p>House: 1100 eur</p> <p>Living (groceries, eating/going out, activities, etcetera): 1200 eur (easily)</p> <p>Traveling: depends (book the tickets and tours early because the prices run up quickly!)</p>

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
Random courses for fun (I had already finished the bachelor)
Academic quality of education activities
<p>Outstanding! The education is in my opinion way better than in the Netherlands. The teachers and peers are very engaged and enthusiastic what made the courses so much fun. Never had that in Utrecht.</p>
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)



Very bad. Same as UU. They do not have/know a lot of the information I needed and I needed to search things a lot myself, what was stressful. Also they take a very long time to respond to emails. I also had the idea the the UNSW did not have good contact with the UU. So if your stuck, go search it out for yourself!*

***Note from the IEO:** During the application process at UNSW, their International Office was understaffed, which meant that answers were delayed for a long time. They are now fairly strong again.

Transfer of credits

38 dollars to print it out and the Student Nucleus Hub. You can find this easily online. DO THIS IN TIME WAY BEFORE YOU LEAVE!

STUDENT LIFE

Welcome/Orientation programme

Fun! Made all my friends their for the whole period.

Accommodation

I booked an amazing Airbnb in Coogee area with 3 other Dutch girls. I would recommend doing the same, because the Campus is absolutely not fun whatsoever.

Best suburbs to live: Coogee, Bondi (junction), Clovelly, Marouba, Randwick, Paddington, Surry Hills, Watson Bay area.

Leisure & culture

Beach, walks, city: anything is fun in Sydney!

Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

Buy an Opal Card (kid), which you can travel with. The kid card is 50% cheaper than the normal and the stores easily give it to you.

You need a creditcard or revolut. You can not pay with your Dutch account anywhere.

Look on Google Maps for public transport and also follow on there where you need to stop, because the bus doesn't tell you!

Best places to go out: Golden Sheaf, Coogee Pavillion, Cargo, Bungalow 8.

If you want to work you need to get a RSA certificate and apply for a tax file number before you leave.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

Yes, had the best time ever. Made the most amazing friends. Australia and Sydney are such special and great places, especially if you love travelling. The Aussies are so nice, open and relaxed. The UNSW provides outstanding education, but just don't live on the campus as a tip!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go on exchange! You'll have the best time.



PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
All the information of the universities can be found on the website. The application itself for UNSW was quite time consuming.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
You can always email the exchange office however they cannot help you with everything and most of the times you need to email the host university of look things up yourself.*
*Note from the IEO: both the UU and the host university expect students to adopt a proactive attitude in doing research, reading carefully and arranging matters. Patience and flexibility are also sometimes put to the test. Not all information is known or available well in advance.
Academic preparation
I believe you need to have an GPA of 6.5 to be accepted at UNSW.
Language preparation
Your English needs to be good. My study was already in English so UNSW did not require me to do any language tests.
Finances (living costs)
between the 2200 –2500 euro (also some travelling included) Housing: 1000 euro (on campus) Groceries: 650 euro other expenses (eating out/partying etc): 400 euro

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
I chose random courses to study at UNSW (Negotiation Skills; International Business Strategy; Creating Social Change; Finance, Banking and Technology). The courses that you choose need to be approved by the host university based on if you match the prerequisites for those courses. This process takes a lot of time and the communication with the host university was difficult.
Academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good, in comparison to the Netherlands there were more assignments and you were graded on your participation in class.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
Very bad. Most of the time I needed to email multiple times before I got a response from UNSW. Also the enrolment of courses was very stressful and badly structured.
*Note from the IEO: During the application process at UNSW, their International Office was understaffed, which meant that answers were delayed for a long time. They are now fairly strong again.
Transfer of credits
You can apply for your transcript of records online and then report that to the Exchange office. They will then transfer the credits into ETC's.

STUDENT LIFE
Welcome/Orientation programme



Nice to meet new international students. Made a lot of friends during orientation week.
Accommodation
I lived on campus, which was fine and easy to apply for. However, I would not recommend it, since there are many more student accommodations that are more fun. Overall, it is quite hard to find accommodation in Sydney so start searching on time.
Leisure & culture
There are lots of nice events/bars/pubs/restaurants/parties/activities in Sydney. The people are really nice and the culture is not that different than in the Netherlands.
Suggestions/tips (need to know)
Opal card for public transport (you can buy it at every new agency) If you want to work here you need to apply for RSA if you need to serve alcohol for the job. Additionally you will need to apply for a tax file number and get an Australian bank account (Common Wealth bank is very easy).

CONCLUSIONS
Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)
Yes, I had a great experience in Sydney. I loved the city since it has beautiful beaches all along the coast, nice people, lots of nice coastal walks, parties and restaurants. It was very nice to meet lots of new people and share this amazing experience with them.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?
No



PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
I don't remember having any troubles here.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
Good if you seek for support on time, however if it is close to deadlines all the counselling will be full so keep that into account. Last minute support will be very difficult to find in my experience.
Academic preparation
No extra academic preparation needed.
Language preparation
As a Economics and Business Economics student I already have all my studies in English and since my exchange was in Australia there was no language preparation to be done, however if your study is not in English you will need to get a English certificate to study at UNSW, so keep that in mind.
Finances (living costs)
Australia and Sydney are sadly very expensive so living costs are very high, if you manage to get in any colleges, which are on campus buildings where students live and where all meals are included, I think you can keep costs at around 1000 euros a month, depending on your alcohol consumption, since alcohol is very expensive in Australia. Some people don't want to live on campus or if you are unlucky like in my case and then you need to find something else, which can easily cost around 700 euros a month and that is without food or drinks. When traveling through Australia you will easily spend 2000 euros a month.

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
UNSW was quite hard to communicate with from my experience and they can be very strict regarding prerequisites for certain courses. The structure of the courses were kind of the same as in Utrecht and the difficulty was also similar to Utrecht.
Academic quality of education activities
No remarks.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
Before your stay the communication was very bad, the time difference is annoying it was all very vague and you can't call as easily, since it costs a lot of money to call to Australia.
Transfer of credits
This was no issue. Credits are 6 per course, but if confirmed by Utrecht will be worth the 7.5 ECTS you need.

STUDENT LIFE
Welcome/Orientation programme
If you start in winter term, which most people will there is a welcome programme, but it's short and only for other exchange students. There is also a more proper introduction week if you start in UNSW's term 3, but it did not make a big impression on me.
Accommodation
As mentioned I did not get in on campus, however I knew a lot of people who lived on campus and it is an easy way to make a lot of friends quickly so I would recommend. I heard the food was decent and several activities



were organised for the different colleges. The only downfall is you will instantly create a bubble for yourself and most people on campus did not make many friends outside of campus, at least from my personal observation.

Leisure & culture

Australia is of course very beautiful so I won't go in depth you can find a lot on this easily yourself. I would recommend to find people as soon as possible and travel with them in a van that is ideal. Culture wise you should not have a lot of expectations, the aboriginal culture is basically destroyed and all the aboriginals you will encounter all live on the streets, which is a sad sight to see and other than that you only have the culture, which came with the Brits.

Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

Australia is a very easy country to get used to so there is not much I can give a real tip on. Just have a good time find people you like and go to the beaches often. Just make sure you don't expect the best weather ever, since especially in Sydney you will be disappointed.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

Yes, but be very careful with your expectations. This university is very Asian dominated, which is not a bad thing by any means, however they come from Asia to study here and often know very little English and are very shy, so making actual local friends is in my opinion extremely difficult in this university. Don't expect to make a lot of Australian mates it is hard and you won't join their groups easily even though they are very nice people. You will mainly make friends with other people on exchange and there will be a lot of them so if this is something you are also interested in the lack of locals will not be a huge issue. Sydney itself is beautiful and I would certainly recommend going there, there is a lot to do in the city and if you have found yourself some friends just go and enjoy the beaches everyday or make a daytrip to the Blue Mountains or a National park, then you will have a very good time.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

My biggest advice would be before going on exchange really take a good look at your own personality and if you make friends easily, because if you are unlucky in the beginning it can be quite a lonely experience and if you can't handle that exchange might not be for you.



2019-2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I always knew that I wanted to go on exchange to an English speaking country preferably outside of Europe. I visited the exchange lecture in my second year and started preparing all the documents needed.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Huub, the study advisor, helped my big time. He is amazing and helped me find courses at the right level.
academic preparation
/
language preparation
Since my study in Utrecht is in English I didn't need to do anything to prove my English skills.
finances
I saved a lot of money beforehand so I wouldn't have to worry about money. Australia is an expensive country so keep this in mind when you want to study here.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I did an intensive August course called: 'Creating Social Change'. This was a 3 week course with mostly exchange students, this was really nice and I made some good friends there. Furthermore I took the courses 'Entrepreneurship and Innovation', 'Retirement Saving and Spending over the Lifecycle' and 'Organisational Economics'. Entrepreneurship was really like the name tells you. Retirement was a really interesting course about the Australian pension system and some psychological aspects. Organisational Economics was a math course which I wouldn't recommend if you are not good in math since it takes a lot of time and causes a lot of stress which you don't want when you are on exchange.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of UNSW is comparable to UU.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
UNSW really cares about the (mental) health of her students. I doesn't matter if you are a domestic or international student UNSW offers a lot of help to everyone.
transfer of credits
Not experienced yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
UNSW gave a warm welcome to all exchange students with an Aboriginal show and a BBQ.
accommodation
I didn't get accommodation on campus since there were not enough houses. I found my house in Coogee through flatmatefinders. It was really expensive (900 euro a month) but on campus living is not much cheaper. But I loved my house with jacuzzi and a pool table and lovely roommates.



leisure & culture

I joined the gym close to my home, spend a lot of time at Coogee beach. Did a lot of beautiful hikes and explored the many (hidden) bars and clubs in Sydney.

suggestions/tips

/

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would recommend UNSW to future exchange students, it is a beautiful university in an amazing Sydney. Try to travel as much as you can and enjoy your time!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process required me to write a motivation letter and create a study plan. This process is adequately explained on the website of the University of Utrecht.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office counseled and supported me when necessary. Besides, they contacted me to ask whether I was okay considering the current bushfires in Sydney, which I thought was very thoughtful.

academic preparation

I did not academically prepare myself for this exchange, neither do I believe that this is necessary.

language preparation

The UNSW requires you to take a TOEFL test. I already took that test a while ago for my first exchange to the University of California, Berkeley. I believe that if you speak a moderate level of English, you should be perfectly fine.

finances

As expected, Sydney is an expensive city to live. TIP: public transport is very cheap on Sundays!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

An important difference that I have noticed between the law courses in Utrecht and in Sydney is that I did not have any 'normal' in-class exams. All assignments required me to write a (big) essay. As a result, I had to write a total of at least 20.000 words this semester. Although this significantly improved my English writing skills, I would have preferred a more balanced mix of in-class exams and writing assignments.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is comparable to the University of Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The University of New South Wales has an exchange team that you can approach by e-mail or in person. This



was especially useful in the first weeks, to ask questions about the enrolment in classes.

transfer of credits

One course in UNSW (6 credits) transfers to 7.5 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

UNSW welcomed us on a one day orientation day

accommodation

I lived in a student-house in Coogee, 2 minutes from the beach and a 20 minute walk or 10 minutes bus ride to the University. I really recommend living in this area!

leisure & culture

During my semester, I was able to make trips to Cairns (the great barrier reef), Fraser Island, Byron Bay and Noosa. This was possible because I only had class on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, which allowed me to travel in the weekends.

suggestions/tips

I would really recommend to explore Australia, because it has so much more to offer than just Sydney!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

YES, studying at UNSW is the ideal opportunity to enjoy Sydney and all the other beautiful spots Australia has to offer!!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not forget your international drivers license if you want to rent a car :-)

2018-2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was fine. There was no issue with my application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counselling at UU was good. I went there once to ask for some information on criteria for my motivation letter. However, I never received a student report of students who have been to Australia before me. I am not sure if every student is aware of this extra information/website.

academic preparation

-

language preparation

No language preparation was needed. The language spoken at the UNSW is English, just like the teaching language of my master program.



finances

Finances is an important aspect of preparation before you go to Australia. Australia is a very expensive country. There are a lot of things that have comparable prices to the Netherlands: public transport, groceries, coffee to go, etc. But the rent is much higher compared to a students house in the Netherlands. And even then you probably have to share your room (very common in Sydney). Furthermore, once you are in Australia, you want to see the country! Australia is beautiful and this exchange is an opportunity to travel in one of most beautiful countries of the world!! But traveling is not for free and quite expensive. On average I would say that it is comparable to traveling in the Netherlands times 1.5. So make an overview of your savings and income during your stay in Australia to make sure that you can study but also can explore the country.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I choose courses on master level. These courses were related to my master program and to my personal interests. Because these courses were an addition to my master program, I was free to choose courses of my own interest. Also, I choose one bachelor course since this was about the history of Sydney and Australia.

academic quality of education activities

The three master courses were comparable to the courses I follow at UU in terms of quality and expectations. The bachelor course was a first year bachelor course and therefore not in any way comprable to my master program. However, it was an interesting course and did help me gain knowledge in Australia's history.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I had to change some of my courses when I arrived. This all went quite smooth and there is an exchange office that will help you out if you reach out to them.

transfer of credits

30. The system in Australia works different than in the Neteherlands. The total amount of classes you can take in one semester is 4 which is 30 ects.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the week before class started, we had a welcome afternoon tea to get to know other students. The week after started with classes and finalizing your courses and program.

accommodation

I went to Australia without organizing my accomodation. This was because I wanted to see several places before saying yes to one place beforehand. This is how I did it during my other exchange as well. This means that in the first week (or weeks) you need to find an accomocation. Make sure you prepare some inspections before leaving the Netherlands. Otherwise it might be quite stressful.

leisure & culture

Australia offers a lot of beautiful nature. This made me travel around a lot in Australia. My house was right next to the beach and a beautiful coastal walk. This coastal walk was almost daily routine. Sydney is a big city in Australia but Australia is also very big. This means that if you want to leave Sydney, you have to drive for hours to get to the next city, or you have to fly. Resulting in a weekend trips. The people in Sydney (and Coogee, the eare where I used to live) are fit and therefor working out is part of their daily routine. You will see a lot of people working out in parks or beaches. Make it part of your daily routine cause it is amazing!

suggestions/tips

If you want to work during your exchange, start looking for a job immediately. With the students visa, you are



allowed to work for a limited amount of hours per week/month.
 UNSW does not have a program to meet new people. I lived in a house with 33 students and this made it easy for me to make new friends. Join sports or other associations. That will make it easy to make some new friends.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend this university to others. Also I would recommend the destination.
 The university offered a lot of different courses and that was very appealing to me. Since I had the chance to really pick classes of my interest, this wide range of different classes was good to have.
 And for the destination, please read the part about leisure!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy your time in Australia. It was an amazing experience. It may feel like you are far away from family or friends, but you will find new friends in no time!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Although the process was relatively simple and easy to understand, final responses took a very long time, which was not ideal since it meant I was only sure I was going in May. This meant I could not book my flight a long time in advance.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I received proper counselling from the study advisors relating to courses I could take which for fulfilling the requirements, however no one was able to get me answers sooner or at all from Utrecht's end relating to UNSW, so still always had to contact the Australian office.

academic preparation

I did not prepare academically specifically for my exchange as it was the same sort of study as at home.

language preparation

Since everything was done in English I did not prepare for the language.

finances

It took a relatively long time to establish how much everything would cost in particular accommodation, however luckily the Uni was free.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had applied for an internship over the Uni which exchange students could do and did not receive any response until one week after classes in Sydney had started. I then received the details of the internship I had gotten and found out that it was unpaid, and that I had to pay a 3000\$AUD fee to the Uni because the internship program was counted like a course and was not covered under the agreement between UNSW and UU.

academic quality of education activities

The level of academia was very high, however there were a lot of exchange students which were not motivated making group work hard.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not need counseling, however support was relatively easy to access at the international office, the house dean or anywhere.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits was no issue since i coordinated well with the study advisor in Utrecht and UNSW is one of USE's direct destinations.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The welcome and orientation program was as i expected in the sense that it fulfilled its purpose. It is relatively easy to meet people, however a lot harder to find people with similar interests to myself.
accommodation	Accommodation of campus is very expensive and i did not share many interests with the people in my house.
leisure & culture	This was particularly disappointing. The university students are more interested in studying than leisure making the campus a relatively boring place. Going to downtown sydney takes a long time and is expensive and you will not easily find people to go with you regularly. Also Australia is a car culture, and hence not having one is not ideal. Furthermore it is hard to meet Australians and you are often only with internationals.
suggestions/tips	Try live in the kensington colleges i have heard they are more fun.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I can not recommend this destination. The level of academia is more challenging so you will likely decrease your average grade. Furthermore it is very expensive, and very limited fun. Even if you go with friends and have a great group of people, university require too much time to be able to do many trips unless perhaps you take fewer classes than usually. For me the cost benefit was not good.
you have any additional advice or comments?	I have heard better things from the University of Queensland and unis in melbourne

2017-2018

preparation	
exchange/placement application process	I applied to go to Sydney in the second application round, as my first and second choice were rejected. I got a list with all remaining destinations and the remaining places, which was very nice and clear. There was only one place left and a selection did take place. The selection was based on the motivation letter and study plan that I handed in for my first choice in the first round. This did feel a bit odd, but in the end, I think that the motivation and enthusiasm to go abroad will be expressed in your letter anyway.



counselling/support at home university

I feel that the support from Utrecht University was very good! There were plenty of opportunities to go to information meetings, and I feel like I could always ask questions. Both the international office and my study advisor were very helpful in planning everything. I also got a presentation about a culture shock, which was helpful in general. I do think that it made the problem a bit bigger than it might actually be, which may result in unnecessary stress.

academic preparation

I just made sure that I got enough study credits to be eligible to go abroad. I already planned my courses in such a way that I had already done some level 3 courses. This allowed me to take some courses from different faculties in Australia, which I really enjoyed!

language preparation

I did not need any language preparation as the courses in Australia are taught in English.

finances

As I had not expected to go to Australia, I had not saved a lot of money to go to Australia. As soon as I heard that I was selected, I increased my study loan. I also made sure to make a financial plan, and I increased my working hours.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

The university that I studied at, the University of New South Wales (UNSW), is quite similar to Utrecht University. It is a huge university and offers a very broad selection of studies and courses. There were lots (heaps) of courses to choose from. I looked at their course catalogue and just made a list of what interested me. Courses at UNSW are generally 6 units, which is similar to 7.5 ECTS. Therefore, four courses are a full-time study load. These four courses are all spread out over the entire semester. The course catalogue is very clear, which allowed me to plan my study times quite well. You can email the university with your course preferences (with plan A and plan B), and you can even specify your preference for tutorial times. Because of this I only had class two days a week! UNSW is flexible and very clear in its communication, so organising my stay here went very well.

academic quality of education/placement activities

In the university rankings (e.g. Times Higher Education) UU is ranked just a little higher than UNSW. In my own experience the academic quality of UNSW is very similar to that of Utrecht University. Studying does cost a little more time as one generally does four courses, and every course has at least one lecture and one tutorial. Furthermore, courses require a lot of hand-in assignments during the semester. However, the difficulty of studying was definitely not higher than that of Utrecht University. The tutorials seem to be focussing on general knowledge rather than on passing the exam. I did worry a bit about this during the semester, but in the end,



this turned out to be perfect! The things that you learn during the semester are very helpful for your general understanding of the subject, that passing the course is relatively doable. And because every course takes the whole semester, all important things have been repeated lots of times.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

Beforehand the communication via e-mail was great. My e-mails were answered very quickly and in general the university was very supportive. I did not really have any issues at UNSW, so I have not experienced any inconveniences with their support. All the general information about the courses and the university goes via Moodle, a kind of Blackboard.

transfer of credits

If everything goes well, UNSW will transfer my credits soon.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

When we arrived at UNSW we got a great welcome day. We received information about courses, credits, the university's history, but also about things like beach safety. Furthermore, there were also activities like campus tours. During this day we got almost all the information that we needed. We also got the contact information that we needed if something was unclear.

During the semester the exchange office also organised a lot of activities! Especially during the start of the semester these activities were well-visited, and an excellent opportunity to meet new people.

accommodation

Accommodation is a bit of an issue in Sydney. There is a lot of accommodation in Sydney available, so you don't need to worry about that beforehand. However, the prices are just really high. Rent is paid per week in Sydney. I would guess that the average rent is about 225 AUD per week. It is also very common to share a room between two or three students. I paid a very high rent in the end, 295 AUD for a shared room, but this was definitely not necessary. If you are looking for accommodation, the Exchange Facebook group is generally enough. There is a group specifically for accommodation. I would also recommend just booking temporary accommodation when you arrive (AirBNB, Hostel) because it is fairly doable to arrange something once you are there. Most students look for accommodation in Coogee, Randwick, Kingsford or Kensington, which are all very good options! I lived in Randwick (very close to Coogee), which was perfect because I could walk to the beach in 10 minutes, and UNSW was only a 30-minute walk. Living in the Eastern suburbs is great, so I would definitely recommend this!

leisure/culture

Sydney is an amazing city, and there is so much to be explored in- and outside the city. What I liked the most were all the walks and hikes. Sydney is surrounded by National Parks, and spending a day (or multiple days) in these parks are great. I loved the Blue Mountains and Royal National Parks. A bit closer to the city you can do



lots of walks. The walking tracks usually take about 3-4 hours and are a perfect way to explore the city. You can for example take the ferry to Watsons Bay, and walk to Rose Bay from there. I could just talk about all the great walks for hours! Furthermore, from Sydney it is easy to travel to other places in Australia. In the mid-semester break I have been to Southern Australia, and later in the semester I have done a roadtrip from Adelaide to Uluru. After the semester ended (which is mid-November), I still had 2.5 months left. I have spent the first month doing a roadtrip along Australia's East coast. The second month I have spent in Indonesia.

Anyway, traveling in Australia is amazing! I really loved doing roadtrips, but you can also take the bus or travel by plane. Apart from traveling, spending time in the city is also great. There are lots of cafes, restaurants and bars. I would recommend buying the Lonely Planet of Sydney as well, so you explore every part of Sydney during your time there!

suggestions/tips

Because of the high prices I have tried to find a job in Sydney. The prices are relatively high, but so are the salaries. I have found a babysitting job at a family nearby, where I worked for two afternoons every week. I earned 25 AUD per hour, which is a nice salary for Australia (just a bit above average). In my experience not a lot of exchange students had a job, but it was a great experience for me. I loved being part of an Australian family for a while, and it allowed me to feel a little less guilty about traveling so much!

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes, definitely! UNSW is a great university, and it allows you to continue getting high-quality education abroad. Sydney is an amazing city to live in. The weather is perfect, and there is so much to be explored! Sydney is a city which made me feel at home easily. If you like exploring, walking and traveling, this is a perfect destination.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend making a financial plan beforehand. Even though the prices are not that high apart from the rent, it is great to have some extra money for traveling.

preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application for my exchange was relatively easy. It takes some time to write a perfect motivation letter and to have all documents sorted but the process itself was relatively easy. Only make sure you check the GPA/ English/ etc requirements because sometimes this is not clearly stated.

counselling/support at home university

The support from the UU was really good, they helped me with every little problem and also with choosing my



courses.
academic preparation
-
language preparation
As my study is taught in English I wasn't required to do an English test such as a TOEFL test
finances
Make sure you organise your finances well. Sydney is really expensive (mainly housing and food) however if you decide to have a job next to your study you will earn also a lot (\$20/hr is common)
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
Negotiation skills, Marketing, Managerial economics, Development economics.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality of the education at UNSW was really high. In general the courses were easier than at the UU. However there were a lot of mandatory elements. Also your participation was 5 a 10% of your grade.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
good
transfer of credits
good
student life
welcome/orientation programme
ARC
accommodation
I did not want to live on campus (also really expensive) and I decided to live in Coogee. There are so many houses really close to coogee beach, mine was 300 m from the beach! Accomodation is in general really expensive in Sydney. I paid 250 AUD per week. Which equals 660 euro per month. I do think there are cheaper options available.
leisure/culture
Sydney is amazing and there are so many places were you can go for small weekend trips such as hunter valley (wine), blue mountains etc.
suggestions/tips



conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend UNSW!
do you have any additional advice or comments?