



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| faculty/college | Beta/ Graduate school of life sciences |
| level | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Bio Inspired Innovation |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney |
| start date | 31 / 07 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 25 / 11 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|---|---|
| exchange application process | In my opinion the application process started late. After I heard that I was admitted to USYD it took a long time (maybe 2 months before departure) before I got emails from them with the application instructions. But when we eventually received emails, the instructions were very clear, and the process was very straight forward. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | The study abroad information sessions were very helpful and my emails with questions were answered very quickly. |
| academic preparation | There was no academic preparation needed for the courses that I did. |
| language preparation | Since my master program was already in English, my English was sufficient, and I didn't do a language test. |
| finances | Living in Sydney is very expensive and therefore I saved a lot of money in advance, and I received the Holland Scholarship. Furthermore, I tried to find a job in Sydney during my stay (because the loans are high), but this was harder than expected. When I finally got a job, I got scammed and they did not pay me for the first weeks (this is something that happens a lot since they don't do contracts in Australia, so be careful!). Eventually I received my money, but it was a lot of effort. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) | There is an extended list of courses (Units) that they offer for international students, and you can make changes in your program until the end of the first week of classes. So in the first week you can just try out different courses (also the ones that you are not enrolled for) and see if you like them or not. This is also the moment to check if you can make it to all the classes in time or if there is an overlap in your schedule. |
| academic quality of education activities | There was a big difference in quality of education between the different courses that I followed. In general the education was alright, but some teachers were not good in organizing or didn't speak the language well enough. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad | |



We received a lot of information from our study advisor from USYD and you could always reach him by email with questions. They also put a lot of effort in student wellbeing.

transfer of credits

6 ECT at USYUD is equal to 7.5 ECT at UU. The grades are not transferred but they work with a pass/fail system.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a 2-week orientation program planned, but eventually there were only 3 days in the two weeks that there were activities planned by the uni. Nevertheless, I was happy that I arrived on time for this introduction period, because on my first day I made a few friends, and we explored the city together. The activities that were planned were very nice and I would recommend going there. This week is also the opportunity to join different societies. All the societies will present themselves during a market.

accommodation

Something went wrong during my application process, so I did not receive any information of the accommodations that are offered by the university (Scape/QMB). Therefore, I found my room via Flatmates one week before I moved to Australia. In general, this is a bit cheaper than renting via uni but it is also riskier since lot of scams happen. People post pictures of rooms that look nice but in real life the room is 20 years older and is full of mold. Therefore, I would recommend living in a hostel for the first week and do physical viewings. Also, double check everything in your contract because they will try to keep your deposit. This is not only my experience, but almost everyone I heard that rented via flatmates had the same experience.

leisure & culture

There are many things to do in Sydney. There are a lot of beaches, and it is the place to be if you want to learn how to surf. Furthermore, there are beautiful national parks and hikes in and around the city. It almost never rained when I was in Sydney, so I tried to go outside as much as possible. Furthermore, almost all museums are free. Newtown is a great area to live with a lot of restaurants and bars (also a cool place if you are part of the LGBTQ+ community!).

The party scene is different then in The Netherlands. Most of the time you must be in the club before 10 PM or otherwise you have to pay a lot of money. They are also very strict about alcohol and if they think you are too drunk you will be kicked out of the club. They also don't know what techno is haha. I had to get used to this a bit the first weeks, but I still had a great time.

suggestions/tips

Get an Opal concession card. This is a discounted public transport card, and you will pay half the price of what people normally pay.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Sydney is an amazing city and there are so many things to do in and outside of the city. USYD is also a very nice university with a beautiful campus and loads of activities. I learned a lot about myself during this exchange and it was one of the best choices of my life.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Although Sydney might seem super far away, you will not notice it when you are there. Just go for it!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| | Contact info at the IO. |
| faculty/college | Geosciences |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Human Geography and Spatial Planning |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney |
| start date | 20 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 17 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|---|---|
| exchange application process | My application process was fairly easy and I received enough (a lot) emails to guide me through the process. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | The counselling and support from the UU was good. If I had questions or things were unclear to me, I could always contact the UU. |
| academic preparation | My studies didn't provide specific study related preparation. The UU did however offer some pre-departure meetings. |
| language preparation | <p>I had to take a language proficiency test to fulfil the language requirements from the University of Sydney (USYD). It was pretty clear to me from which tests I could choose from. For all of the tests it was not possible to take them in Utrecht, so I had to go to Amsterdam.</p> <p>I decided to take the IELTS test. When I signed up for this, I received a lot of material to study for the test. While I did study a bit, I didn't study too hard for the test. The IELTS ended up being fairly easy (for me).</p> |
| finances | <p>Australia is pretty expensive. Next to study accommodation being pretty expensive, other costs of living are as well. I did save up a lot of money and I still spent more money than what I wanted.</p> <p>Besides the money I saved up, I also received a scholarship: the Holland Scholarship.</p> |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|---|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | USYD offers a lot of nice and interesting units of study (courses), mainly focussed on international students. I received a lot of help and information regarding choosing my units of study. Units I recommend are: Learning in Outdoor Education, Introduction to Indigenous Cultures and Sport and Learning in Australian Culture. |



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| I had to sign up for units before I arrived in Australia, however, I was able to add and/or drop units until week 2 of studying. This enabled me to try out some units and still change them if I ended up not liking the units. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| The academic quality of USYD was roughly the same as at UU. While some units were fairly easy, some were a bit challenging. This, however, depends on what units you choose. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| While USYD changed my tutor about 5 times, it was always easy to reach my tutor and to ask questions, especially during the introduction weeks and the first few weeks of studying. |
| transfer of credits |
| I received enough information from both the USYD and the UU to help me transfer my credits. |

| STUDENT LIFE | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| welcome & orientation programme | The welcome program of USYD was different than UU in a sense that the UIT-week in Utrecht also shows Utrecht as a city, whereas the welcome program of USYD only shows the campus. However, it was pretty good! There were lots of different activities and I got a lot of free stuff (which was convenient since I didn't have that much stuff over here). The welcome program over here does not offer groups and mentors to spend the week together, so I did have to find my own friends to explore together (which was pretty easy since I lived in a big student accommodation with a lot of international students). |
| accommodation | I decided to go live in the Queen Mary Building (QMB), on campus. This is a really big student accommodation (I think even the biggest of USYD) and a lot of international students live over here. At first I wanted to live off campus, but I realised QMB would make it the easiest for me to meet new people and to be sure of a nice accommodation. Besides this, QMB was (relatively) cheap. I was pretty happy with my choice and, while I did have to get used to living in such a big accommodation, I got to meet so many nice people. It was also nice to have my own room, instead of sharing a bedroom. QMB also offered a lot of welcome and introduction activities, besides the university. |
| leisure & culture | I signed up for a lot societies during the welcome week, however I ended up going to none of these. I mainly found my leisure in hanging with the friends I met and in exploring the city. I did not end up meeting a lot of Aussies, which I think is a bit sad. However, I did get to explore Sydney and its surroundings. Since I arrived during the summer, and left at the beginning of the winter, I got to see Sydney change, which was really nice as well. |
| suggestions/tips | My suggestions: try to see as many as possible of Sydney and the country. Australia is a really beautiful and interesting country. Try and meet many new people, and be interested in their culture. I almost felt at home in Sydney immediately and, unfortunately, the months abroad were done way too soon. |

| CONCLUSIONS | |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain | Yes. The university is nice and is used to a lot of international and exchange students, which makes it pretty easy to get used to the university as an exchange student. Sydney is an insanely nice city and really liveable. I |



think it was pretty interesting to live in such a big city, since being used to living in Utrecht as a 'big' city. Besides this, Australia is a really good country to travel to since its (of course) an English speaking Western country, while being at the other side of the world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try and explore Sydney and its surroundings (such as national parks, et cetera) by hiking! The Netherlands are of course really flat and its not possible to do a proper hike over here, but being in Australia opened up my eyes to hiking.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| faculty/college | Faculty of social sciences |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Psychology |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney |
| start date | 14/ 02 / 2023 |
| end date | 18/ 06 / 2023 |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was not too difficult, and both the UU as USYD were of great assistance. I got many emails about the steps I had to take, which made it really clear to me what I had to do and when. Also, the University of Sydney was really helpful, you can ask them anything and they will try to help you. The only thing is that they might not respond immediately, so it might be better to not wait until the last moment, in case you need to reach out to them.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It felt like the University of Sydney really stimulates students to go on an exchange and they are very supportive. The University arranged pre-departure meetings, which was really nice because I already got to meet some people who became my friends in Sydney. You can email them for all your questions.

academic preparation

I did not do much academic preparation, except for writing my motivation letter and doing the language test.

language preparation

The University of Sydney requires students to take an English test. There are some exceptions, for example if you finished Cambridge English in high school or if your entire studies are in English. Psychology is not entirely in English, so I had to do the language test. I took the IELTS test, which tests you on speaking, reading, listening and writing. It took a whole day, and I had to book the test some time in advance. The test was not too hard, but I do think it was kind of expensive.

finances

It is good to know that Australia is an expensive country. If you are aware of that, and save up some money, you will be fine. For me, the most expensive thing was accommodation, which they charge in weeks instead of in months. I did not want to get a job in Sydney, but if you do, you will get paid more than in the Netherlands, so that might help with the finances.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There were a lot of units to choose from, so what was a bit overwhelming in the beginning. Fortunately, the University of Sydney is very flexible in changing your units. I changed mine in the second week of uni, which was not a problem at all. The units I followed:



- Learning in outdoor education: This was my favourite unit! This unit takes you on fieldtrips into nature. We went to the royal national park and stayed in the Blue Mountains for a weekend. The teacher is amazing and I met a lot of people in this unit. The lectures are also fun. I would really recommend this one.
- Sports and learning in Australian culture: I am not really a sports person, but this unit was actually so much fun and very interesting. This unit also consists of fieldtrips, sports matches mostly. I went to rugby league, a football game and a horse race among others. It is a nice way to meet people and you learn a lot about Australian sports, which is a big part of the culture.
- Introduction to indigenous cultures: In the first weeks this unit seemed a bit vague and abstract to me. But I am really happy I did not drop it, because I learned so much. I believe that if you go to Australia, you should know at least something about the history and the traditional owners of the country. The teachers are really passionate and they have interesting stories to tell.
- Reality, ethics, and beauty: I took a philosophy unit, because I really enjoyed philosophy in high school. The lectures were very interesting, because some of the teachers made it really fun. The tutorials consisted of group discussions. I expected a bit more from this unit. The information was very interesting, but I did not really like what we had to do with that. More variation in the tutorials would have been fun, instead of discussion every week. So I am not too enthusiastic about this one.

academic quality of education activities

I did not choose psychology units in Sydney, which makes it hard to compare academic quality. I did notice that the pressure felt way lower than back home. That might be because the units I chose were not the most challenging ones. But I got very good marks for everything, while also having so much free time.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

transfer of credits

I did not transfer my credits yet, but I believe the process is fairly easy. The University sends you an email, and I think the only thing you have to do is email the examination board. After, the credits will appear in Osiris,

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome week was very well organized. During the welcome fest, all the associations set up a stand to present themselves. It was so fun to walk around and look at everything the uni has to offer. I signed up for three associations. There was also a nice party in that week and a sunset cruise, which was really fun.

accommodation

I stayed at the Queen Mary Building, at campus. I am so happy with this choice, because this is where I met almost all of my friends. Everyone was very friendly and open, which made me feel really at home. There are nice communal spaces and the rooms are fine as well. If I had to choose again, I would choose QMB!

leisure & culture

I think there is something for everyone. For me, I really like nature and going on walks. Sydney has some amazing coastal walks and national parks nearby. If you like sports, there are a lot of clubs you can join. And the beaches are amazing as well. If you want to learn surfing, Sydney is a great place for that.

suggestions/tips

A tip is to get the opal concession card for public transportation, because it is way cheaper that way.



CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university and destination, because I had the best time here. I would recommend the city, because the people are really nice. I did not really get a big culture shock, because the culture did not feel very different from home. If anything, Australian people are way more relaxed. The university is a really good one, and so beautiful. When walking around campus, I just could not believe I actually studied there.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| | Contact info at the IO. |
| faculty/college | University College Roosevelt |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Liberal arts and sciences |

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney (USYD) |
| start date | 13 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 17 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|---|---|
| exchange application process | I felt that this was pretty straight forward most of the time, but it was pretty lengthy. I would recommend getting started early so you can get all your required documents/papers/etc. ready in time, and not leave things for the last minute. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | I was glad to have a study abroad advisor who I could direct my questions to, and I thought that the information sessions were pretty helpful as well. |
| academic preparation | I didn't have to do any significant academic preparation besides completing my requirements at my home university, as well as reading up on course manuals to decide what courses I wanted to take abroad. |
| language preparation | No language preparation was required as I speak English fluently and my university program in The Netherlands is already in English. |
| finances | I was able to apply for and receive the Holland scholarship which was greatly beneficial to me, as Sydney and Australia in general are more expensive than the Netherlands. Besides this I researched and asked other students who I knew were in Australia about the prices of things in general, to prepare myself. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I really enjoyed the content of most of my courses. I am studying environmental science and earth science, and took courses at USYD that complemented my studies ("Oceans, coasts and climate change", "introduction to sustainability", "Volcanoes, resources and sustainability"). I especially enjoyed introduction to sustainability for its holistic approach (lecturers from a variety of departments), the perspective that it showed me regarding Aboriginal Australian ways of living and connection to country, and its methods for assessment (reflections, writing sustainability reports and group case studies). I also enjoyed the content of Oceans coasts and climate change as I got to work with real data of the topography of the Great Barrier Reef as well as data from global climate records. Courses were organized in a similar way to my home university so there wasn't |



too much trouble adjusting in that sense. However, my schedule was more packed at USYD as I was used to having less classes per week.

academic quality of education activities

In most cases I thought the quality of education as USYD was pretty good, I was able to use good quality lab equipment and go on an interesting field trip. Generally I feel that I had access to good learning opportunities and that my professors in general were very good and helpful, although I felt that I had less of a personal connection with them and with my class.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't make use of the counselling at USYD, however I do know that there were several services available to me. I did ask for help with academic/administrative issues from my study abroad coordinator/advisor. However, usually this took a few days as all the advisors were busy with many students.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits is not fully complete yet but so far it has been pretty smooth.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

USYD had a really packed programme for O-week (orientation week). With live concerts from pretty well known and local artists, many clubs/societies, free food/drinks/ice cream/club tickets/and random other freebies and deals. It lasted several days and there was something for everyone. I thought it was informative and fun, it was a little overwhelming, but not everything was mandatory.

accommodation

I chose to stay at Scape Sydney Central (this was one of the university's guaranteed accommodations along with Queen Mary Building). It was definitely a pricey option, however I think it made up for the price. Its location was perfect (15-20 minute walk to campus, 10 minutes to Haymarket or Central, 3 minutes from a large shopping centre with supermarkets, clothing stores, etc.). The room itself was very clean, the furniture was relatively new, and had several amenities. Scape also organises several events such as dinners, exercise activities, parties and other fun things every week. The price is definitely something to keep in mind though.

leisure & culture

Sydney was a great city for leisure and culture as there is constantly something going on. When I arrived in February there was Mardi Gras (World Pride) which had many free and ticketed events going on around the city for almost three weeks. Museum exhibits, a Mardi Gras fair with performances, freebies and food, the Mardi Gras parade, street art and music, and many more. Then towards the end of May, Vivid was taking place, which is a month long light festival. With several exhibitions and markets around the city, it really lit up Sydney at night and was a beautiful experience. Besides these larger scale events, Sydney is very big (for my standards) and it was loads of fun exploring it. I would recommend looking at <https://concreteplayground.com/> for tips/things to do in Sydney or other Australian cities.

Taking the train for an hour or two can take you to several national parks (Ku-Ring-Gai Chase, The Royal National Park and the Blue Mountains to name some) where you can hike/bushwalk and see some incredible views and wildlife! The bushwalking society in USYD also organized several walks throughout the semester which were great fun. The beaches in Sydney are all very stunning and great to walk along (coastal walks), go swimming at, or just relax by

Something I didn't look into too much before going to Sydney was about Aboriginal Australian culture. This is something that I would 100% recommend to anyone heading to Australia, as it is vital to understand their



history and experiences in the country. I was able to learn about various communities' art, cultural traditions and their connections to country, which was a very valuable perspective to me. Learning about this firsthand from Aboriginal people themselves was insightful and important as well. USYD themselves organized some opportunities for learning in this way, but I also sought it out in some cases around Sydney and other Australian cities.

There are many more things I can go further in depth about regarding bush walks, traveling, food and other leisure activities, so feel free to reach out to me!

suggestions/tips

Be bold and reach out to people during O-week and in classes, people (especially students in my experience) are friendly and want to meet other people! Many friends were made just by taking the chance and saying hi to someone (worst case scenario, it doesn't go anywhere). Focus on doing what you want to do and not what you think you should be seeing/doing. Some things are quite expensive and might not end up being what you wanted. I would recommend traveling around Australia or to nearby countries if it's within your budget, but there's so much to see and do around Sydney so you can definitely have a great experience without traveling far.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Although it is quite cheesy to say, my study abroad experience had a really big impact on me, and although it was intimidating and scary at times, it was so worth it. It's great to see what I can do, and taught me a lot about myself. I managed to make friends that I hope will last a while, and have seen some sights that I couldn't even imagine seeing before.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| | Info at the IO. |
| faculty/college | Geneeskunde (Medicine) |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Biomedical Sciences |

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | The University of Sydney (USYD) |
| start date | 06/02/2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 18/06/2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|---|---|
| exchange application process | Starting your application process on time and following all the required steps makes the process quite easy. Both universities offer a lot of guidance by sending step-by-step information. However, USYD takes a while to process all the application documents, which can be stressful. You'll just need to have some patience. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | UU gave me all the support I needed to prepare for my study abroad period. The IO staff was always very helpful. |
| academic preparation | Academic preparation is not needed, except for the average grade requirement. |
| language preparation | If you are confident in your English skills, language preparation is not needed, as Australia is an English-speaking country. You'll just need some time to get used to their funny accent. |
| finances | I would recommend saving a lot of money, as living costs (especially rent) in Australia are quite high. And apply for scholarships! I received the BMW scholarship (the scholarship that my study programme offers) and the Holland Scholarship. Lastly always be prepared for some unforeseen costs. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) | As an exchange student at USYD, you can enrol in any introductory/first-year course or any other course that doesn't require too much prior knowledge on the topic. Popular courses among exchange students include Sport and Learning in Australian Culture and Learning in Outdoor Education, which involve many field trips in and around Sydney. If you're unhappy with your courses, you have the option to add or drop courses within the first few weeks of the semester. The professors are accessible and can be easily contacted through email or phone. |
| academic quality of education activities | |



I feel like the level of academic quality at USYD is similar to the UU level. I was happy with the courses I took and the things I learned through them.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Other students have informed me that USYD provides excellent counselling and support services, although I have never required any additional support myself.

transfer of credits

6 credit points at USYD are worth 7.5 credit points at UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

If you plan on attending USYD, it's best to go during their first semester (which is our second semester) so you can experience their amazing welcome week programme. If you go during their second semester, they still have an orientation program specifically for exchange students, although it's smaller in scale. Additionally, I suggest joining a club or society while you're there.

accommodation

I stayed in the Queen Mary Building, one of the university's residential buildings. I recommend this accommodation if you want to live on campus and be able to make friends easily. The building has a vibrant community with lots of fun weekly activities.

leisure & culture

Sydney is an amazing city to explore, with a lot of nature too. The hiking trails in and around the city are particularly impressive. During my time in Australia, I was amazed at how much sunshine there was. For five months straight, almost every day the weather was beautiful. Australia is a culturally diverse country with a breathtakingly beautiful landscape. Plus, the nightlife is pretty good too; you can go out every night if you'd want to. Just be aware that alcohol can be pricey.

suggestions/tips

I recommend saving up enough money to go on trips from Sydney, as there are so many beautiful places you'll want to explore. A lot of people travel up the east coast during mid-semester break or once the semester is over.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I highly recommend Sydney as a destination to study abroad, especially USYD which has a stunning campus and a central location in the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just go! You won't regret it. If you're able to, I would recommend going during our second semester (their first semester), as you'll skip the Dutch winter (who doesn't want to experience two summers in one year?) and get to experience the full welcome week programme.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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|----------------------|--|
| faculty/college | Graduate School of Life Sciences |
| level | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Neuroscience and Cognition |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney |
| start date | 29 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 17 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION | |
|---|---|
| exchange application process | The application process went fairly smoothly. Both UU and USYD guided us through the whole process pretty well by sending a lot of emails with step-by-step information and important deadlines written in bold. Despite the time difference between the Netherlands and Sydney, I was still able to communicate with my USYD advisor pretty well. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | I mostly looked for support at my faculty, and the study advisers there were really helpful and open minded. |
| academic preparation | I can't recall doing any academic preparation before coming to Sydney |
| language preparation | I did not do any language preparation. My Masters programme and my internship were mainly in English, and I like languages, so for me the language was never a problem. You do have to show USYD proof of English proficiency. Because my Masters main language is English, I didn't have to take any additional exams. |
| finances | I saved a lot of money (I started saving since secondary school), and also worked some jobs to put money aside for Sydney. Living in Sydney is relatively expensive compared to the Netherlands, and the visa and compulsory Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). I was able to obtain a Holland Scholarship, as well as a grant from my faculty, which really helped. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|---|--|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I followed electives during my exchange, which weren't directly related to my Masters, but I didn't experience any difficulty during the units. USYD is much bigger than UU so there is a lot of flexibility regarding the units. Once you've chosen your units, multiple classes are offered each week, so you can decide if you'd rather have a lecture every Wednesday morning or Thursday evening, for example. After classes have started, you can still drop or add units after one week. Don't leave this to the last minutes though, as many students will do the same, and then it is difficult to get last-minute advice from people who's emails are flooding with messages from students who want to switch units. |



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| academic quality of education activities |
| The academic quality overall is pretty high. My classes were not big in size so very personal, and teachers are very involved. I'd say most classes cater to a lot of different styles of learning. The only thing was that I'd expected to have classes with more people from Australia. This was only the case in one of (my four) units. In my other units, a lot of students struggled heavily with the language, so unfortunately we didn't have many discussions even though some classes were made for discussion. This might differ per unit though, so I'd suggest contacting USYD about unit demographics when picking your units. It might also have to do with the fact that my classes were on Masters level: only me and other Masters friends had this problem, people who followed Bachelor units didn't have this experience. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| Before coming to USYD and shortly after arrival, counselling and support were pretty helpful. You could email them about anything and you would get a response quickly after, which was really nice. I don't know why, but for some reason advisors changed quite frequently, so that was a bit confusing, but I didn't affect their support for me. |
| transfer of credits |
| 7.5 ECT at UU is the same as 6 ECT at USYD. I haven't received my marks yet, but my UU diploma will only have a pass or fail system. |

STUDENT LIFE

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| welcome & orientation programme |
| My exchange was in the first semester for Sydney, as the academic year starts in February at USYD. Because of this, their welcome and orientation programme were enormous. They had a welcome week with an insane amount of activities (both during the day and night), and stalls (and freebies). USYD also has a large number of clubs and societies which are represented during the whole week by people from those clubs or societies. It was a really fun week in my opinion, but also very hot, so be careful with the sun and the heat! I've heard from people who arrived in semester 2 that it wasn't as big as in semester 1, but they still organise some events. |
| accommodation |
| USYD has guaranteed housing for exchange students in a few of their accommodation, which include buildings called Scape and Queen Mary Building (QMB). I stayed in QMB, which is a big building with over 800 people living there. It was a really nice place for meeting a lot of different people. They offer a lot of facilities at QMB, such as musical instruments, a small gym, rooftop, and basement with a lot of games. Mainly international students live there, so if your social life is only in QMB you do tend to stay in an international bubble within Sydney, but it is a great way to meet people from all over the world. |
| leisure & culture |
| USYD and QMB offer a wide range of different activities. University of Sydney Union (USU) is the student-led organisation of USYD, and all the clubs and societies are part of USU. USU organises trips all throughout Sydney (from parties to trips to the beach, zoo, or indigenous events). Some students in QMB organise events as well throughout the semester, such as sip and paint, or trips to museums in Sydney. You could basically fill up your whole semester with events that are organised by USU and QMB. |
| suggestions/tips |
| Make use of all the freebies that USU and your accommodation offer. Not only do you get to have free food, these are often made with native ingredients or are dishes from various cultures, so it's a nice way of experiencing different food cultures! Another tip I'd give is make sure you apply for a concession card. Public transport in Sydney gets very cheap with that card. Finally, take the ferry to Manly (one of the most famous |



beaches in Sydney), it'll give you a fantastic view of the Sydney skyline, as well as the harbour bridge and the Opera house!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I had an amazing time at USYD, and I am sad that I couldn't stay for two semesters. The Australian people I've met have a strong 'no worries' mentality, and they enjoy being in the outdoors. Sydney is the perfect place for this, as you can go from the city to the beach or beautiful nature within an hour by public transport. I am also incredibly grateful that I've got to experience USYD as a student. They offer a lot of help and opportunities to make the best of your stay there.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

And exchange is incredibly rewarding, but can also be really overwhelming and stressful at times. That is perfectly okay, but try to come up with ways to deal with this that work for you (keeping frequent contact with people from home, joining clubs to meet new people, or seeking support at the university).



UU Study Abroad Report Form

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| faculty/college | Faculty of Science |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | College of Pharmaceutical Science (CPS) |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney |
| start date | 20 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 29 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was straightforward. Both UU and USYD universities offer very clear step-by-step guidance for applying, which is very easy to follow, in my opinion.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The study abroad advisors at Utrecht University provided a lot of counseling and support, making it incredibly convenient to reach out to them via email and receive prompt responses. I used to have some questions in the beginning of my application, but I have very fast response for this when email the UU counselling and I am very happy for their support.

academic preparation

Regarding to preparation for my Pharmacy and Biology course, I didn't need to prepare anything besides the knowledge I learn from UU courses. All of the courses are quite understandable if you go to the class regularly and asking question in the end.

language preparation

As I participate in UU fully-taught in English programme, I was exempted from English requirement.

finances

Living in Sydney is quite expensive and for me it is the most expensive place in Australia regarding housing price. I would recommend saving as much money as possible as the housing price in Sydney will be at least around 1000euro/ month if you live in campus and around 800 euro/ month for off-campus room. The transportation fee is also quite expensive as well, you have to pay around 30 euro/ week for transportation. Moreover, the Australia student visa and an obligated overseas health insurance (OSHC) is around 700 euro in total as well. For living in Sydney, you should expect to spend around 2000 Australia dollar (~1400 euro)/month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study program is efficiently structured, allowing you to make adjustments (add/drop) to your subjects within the first three weeks. The professors are supportive and easily accessible via email and phone. They display a high level of engagement with students, often going as far as knowing individuals by name.



Furthermore, there were always a record lecture for every class so that you can watch it later if you cannot attend the class or if you want to revise the lesson for exam.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the pharmacy and pharmaceutical subjects are very good. The lectures were clearly organized and there are many labs for practicing learning knowledge. Besides, the main final exam, the accumulated score for each class were distributed throughout the semester so that you have many chances to improve your score and do not need to depend much on final exam. For pharmacy course, you should expect to spend around 150-180 hours/ class per semester for learning.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support provided by USYD was exceptional. They assign a dedicated study advisor to each student, who regularly communicates via email and is easily accessible for any inquiries or assistance you may need.

transfer of credits

With regard to the transfer of credits, there is guidance from both universities. 6 credit points from USYD is worth 7.5 credit points from UU. There is a bit complicated process in the end as they use MyEquals system instead of send the transcript directly to UU, the grade transfer you have to do it by yourself so remember to check this.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The USYD welcome programme was really well-coordinated in the week 0 (week before class starts) and attending this event is highly recommended! Welcome Week (week 0) was organized by the university and USYD student organization (USU). During this week, there are a lot of clubs and societies presenting themselves and also a lot of free food! I would also recommend joining a club or society, to get the full university experience!

accommodation

When it comes to accommodation, you have the option to either reside on campus or off campus. While off-campus rooms are often more affordable, finding suitable options in Sydney can be challenging. Personally, I chose to live off-campus, but commuting to the university required some additional time. Based on my experience, living on campus offers a more vibrant student life, enabling you to forge connections with both domestic and international peers, and enjoy a lively nightlife with several student bars conveniently located within the campus

leisure & culture

Personally, there are many things you can do in Sydney from museums, theatre to outdoor sports like hiking, surfing, swimming, kayaking which you can take part in by just sign up for it. Moreover, there are a lot of sport clubs presented in Welcome Week. Make sure you join this event and check them out.

suggestions/tips

My suggestion is trying to participate in at least one sport club during your exchange semester.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely, I would highly recommend it! Not only does USYD offer a wide range of courses to choose from, but Sydney itself is a stunning destination to explore and reside in. Overall, you can expect a remarkable and unforgettable experience.



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Save as much money as possible for this exchange as Sydney is a very expensive city! Otherwise, try to take a part-time job to sponsor your stay.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| faculty/college | Geosciences |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Science & Innovationmanagement |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | The University of Sydney |
| start date | 25 / 07 / 2022 |
| end date | 05 / 12 / 2022 |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I found the application process to be a little stressful since there were a lot of steps I had to undertake. I also had an issue with the university system not taking my first year subjects into account when calculating my GPA which resulted in my GPA being too low. This was however solved by just including my average grade on my Transcript of Records and not including the GPA. I then also submitted a GPA conversion table with my application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Support from my exchange coordinator at UU was great. She provided me with the necessary information and responded quickly to questions I had.

academic preparation

I knew when I started my bachelor that I wanted to do an exchange. Because of this I rearranged my schedule in such a way that I was able to include the exchange without having a delay in my studies. I did however have to miss out on some courses I would have liked to follow and take others that I did not enjoy as much in order to make room for the exchange during the first semester of my third year.

language preparation

I did not do any preparation since I am very comfortable speaking, reading and writing in English. For the application, since my bachelor at the UU is not taught in English, I had to provide proof of my English Proficiency. I have a Cambridge Certificate but since it was older than 2 years the University of Sydney will not accept it. Instead I could provide a translated copy of my final result I had obtained in high school for English at VWO level. The University of Sydney accepted this since my final grade was higher than an 8.

finances

Sydney is a very expensive city so definitely save enough money before you go. If you are from the Netherlands, make sure to cancel your student travel product and request compensation. Also remember to apply for Holland Scholarship, UU should send a mail when the application is open and how to apply.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed two 1000-level (first year) courses and two 2000-level (second year) courses which meant my workload wasn't that much so I had plenty of free time.

academic quality of education activities

I found the quality and workload of my courses in Sydney to be similar to the courses provided in Utrecht. One difference is that instead of following two courses per period you follow four courses simultaneously during a



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| semester. This did lead to me suddenly having three different deadlines on the same day but if you need extra time it is very easy to apply for a simple extension online which gives you an extra five days to hand in an assignment. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| During the application process I had an issue I had to discuss with the international advisor at the University of Sydney. It took a long time for them to reply to my email. I ended up calling them after which they did immediately solve my issue. |
| transfer of credits |
| Both universities provide sufficient information via email on how to transfer your credits. |

STUDENT LIFE

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| welcome & orientation programme |
| The welcome week was supposed to allow students to settle into life in Sydney and the university provided a short intro to Sydney session. During the orientation week the university offered activities for international students where you could meet lots of other people. I did a scavenger hunt on campus and went on a food tour through Newtown, a popular suburb next to campus. The university also promoted a surf camp lots of international students went to during a weekend at the start of the semester. |
| accommodation |
| I applied for the guaranteed housing the University of Sydney offered because I wanted to live with other students. The application process for this was easy and I got a confirmation very quickly. I stayed at Scape Cleveland which was a 15 minute walk from campus and a 5 minute walk from the nearest train station. I shared an apartment with 5 other international students who I got on well with. This option was pretty expensive and it is definitely cheaper to find a room via Facebook or flatmates but if you don't want to deal with the stress and uncertainty that comes with trying to find a room while already in Sydney then I would recommend this option. |
| leisure & culture |
| Sydney has lots of nice beaches where you can try surfing and the city is also surrounded by national parks accessible by train where you can go hiking. The blue mountains are about a two hour journey away, definitely worth the trip. But exploring the city and trying lots of different food is also very enjoyable. The nightlife in Sydney is usually not as good as in Utrecht and the alcohol is also expensive except for the wine from the bottle shops which is relatively cheap. Ivy is quite a popular nightclub though with their student Thursdays. |
| suggestions/tips |
| The student Visa expires about a month after the exchange period ends which leaves you plenty of time to travel. The east coast of Queensland is definitely a good option if you don't have a car since you can travel with the Greyhound bus. This is a very popular route also for solo travellers so it's really easy to meet people. |

CONCLUSIONS

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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| I would definitely recommend this university and destination. The campus and facilities are great and since the University and city are so international you will never feel like an outsider. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| If you are having doubts about studying abroad, just go for it. You will not regret it! |



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| faculty/college | REBO |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Bestuurs- en Organisationswetenschap (Utrecht School of Governance) |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | University of Sydney |
| start date | 25 / 07 / 2022 |
| end date | 25 / 11 / 2022 |

| PREPARATION | |
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| exchange application process | The application process for USyd is quite elaborative. Every few weeks new steps in the application process became available. However, your assigned exchange officer from USyd will help you through this via weekly e-mails telling you exactly what to do and when everything is due. Still, it does not hurt to be on top of this yourself, since there are some confusing deadlines and you sometimes don't get new information until you submitted the last steps. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | The support at Utrecht University is helpful as well. At some point I got stuck at one of the steps of the application at USyd, and after I reached out to my coordinator at UU they were able to help me get through. They also organize a pre-departure meeting where they present you some general information and give opportunities to ask questions. |
| academic preparation | The academic workload at USyd was kind of the same at UU for me. The main difference was that at USyd, you will attend 4 units at once for the duration of the semester, while at UU the semester is divided into two blocks in which you each attend two units. |
| language preparation | USyd has a language requirement. Because of that, I had to take an IELTS test before I was able to start my application process at USyd. There is some waiting time before you are able to take this test, so if this is the case for you, plan your test as soon as possible! |
| finances | Australia is really expensive. Having that in mind, I took on some extra shifts at work so I was able to save some more money before I left. I also signed up for some scholarships, one of which was the Holland Scholarship. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I choose four units which did not necessarily align directly with my course at UU, but seemed interesting to me. In the end I choose two units about Australia (politics and Indigenous history) and two other units about sociology and international relations. All my units consisted of two hours of lecture and a one hour long tutorial. You can choose your own tutorials from some options given to you, so I was able to plan my week that I had all my lectures and tutorials on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, which was really nice. |
| academic quality of education activities | |



The academic quality of education activities is similar to those at UU. You had to read literature to prepare for tutorials, and that combined with the lectures formed the base for the tutorials. During tutorials there were some interactive aspects in which you had to work out a specific case in groups with other students and parts in which the lecturer asked questions based on the literature.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support I got was mostly from my exchange coordinator, which was good. She was available via mail and was most times quick to respond. I did not seek out much other support, but the support I got was nice.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was quite easy. In general, one unit at USyd transfers to one unit at UU. This means that you need to attend 4 units for a semester worth of credit. At the end of the semester USyd creates an online transcript for you. All in, this process was really easy.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

USyd held a welcome fest at the beginning of the semester. This gave possibilities for day trips to the zoo or botanical gardens, a scavenger hunt around campus and a few days where the different student clubs from USU had stands on campus. They also organised a few welcome parties in the first weeks of the semester. By attending these activities it was really nice to meet other people.

accommodation

I lived at two different accommodations in Sydney. I started at Scape Sydney Central, which was really nice but really expensive. I did meet a lot of my friends through the free scape activities they organized throughout the whole semester. Halfway through the semester I moved out to the Queen Mary Building. This building is part of the university accommodation. You share a big common area with pool tables, table tennis and a movie room with the building, even as a big rooftop where you can chill out in the sun all day. Everyone has their own room, and you share the bathroom with the whole floor and the kitchen with the whole building as well.

leisure & culture

In my free time I loved the option to explore more of Sydney and its surroundings. The public transport is quite good, so in your free time you were able to do some daytrips to national parks, beaches, or small towns surrounding Sydney. I also explored the many coastal walks the city has to offer. In addition to nature, they also have a great range of museums and they are often free to visit which is really nice. There were also a lot of markets during the weekends in different parts of the city. Depending on the specific market, these were great places to grab some food, buy some second-hand clothes, buy some accessories or clothes of a small brand or buy some souvenirs.

suggestions/tips

Everything I wrote down under leisure & culture haha.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend this destination! I really enjoyed my time in Sydney and Australia in general and also appreciated the academic quality at USyd. The country itself is really beautiful, there is so much to see. But I also liked to live in a major city as Sydney for once.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure that you are prepared for the high prices here so save up a lot of money and apply for grants. Other



than that: just have a great time.

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's |
| name study programme | Artificial Intelligence |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| destination city & country | Sydney, Australia |
| name university abroad | The University of Sydney |
| start date | 01/08/2022 |
| end date | 26/11/2022 |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process only really started for me after I was chosen by Utrecht University. It was quite doable even though it involved many steps. This was mainly because the support from USYD was really good, they explained every step. They were always ready to help when I had any questions. There is a lot of things to take care of when you go on exchange to Australia so make sure you keep track of it all so you don't run into any issues.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from UU was pretty good as well as far as I know. The most issues I needed to solve were things that I needed to contact USYD.

academic preparation

No specific academic preparation was required for me personally. I followed some elective units for my course instead of a minor, so that meant for me that I was also following some first years units. The site where you can check what units you can follow is very clear on what knowledge you need to have for each unit. So make sure to check it well.

language preparation

I first thought that my CAE certificate would be enough, but I didn't read well and USYD actually requires you to have obtained your CAE certificate during the past two years. Make sure to check all the ways you can prove your language skills well so you'll have enough time to fix this. I ended up being able to use my high school diploma English grade as proof.

finances

You have to be prepared for the fact that Australia is freaking expensive. I spent so much money during the semester and also after when I explored the west coast. Rent is a lot more expensive than in the Netherlands. I lived in the Queen Mary Building which costs roughly 800 euros per month. Groceries are also quite a bit more expensive. Besides that I spent a lot of money on doing fun stuff and taking trips around Australia as well, so also factor in a few plane tickets. You don't want to have to worry about money during your exchange so make sure you save up as much as you can.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I found USYD to be very well organised. I followed four units, all as electives and all at different faculties. I was very easy to switch units last minute, even during the first week of class. It was very nice to follow my electives there, since they were less academically challenging than my normal AI units at the UU. During your exchange



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| you don't want have to work your ass of for your classes since you also want more than enough time to explore your new home and meet all the lovely people there. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| The quality of my units was pretty high. I would say it was very comparable to Utrecht University. Back then all the lectures of my units were still online due to covid (others did have some lectures offline) but I am pretty sure that they are now all offline. The tutorials were also very good and I noticed that most students were really present and participated actively. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| The support from USYD was really good. They have a lot of exchange students and they make sure you are always know all the information you need. They were also very helpful whenever I had any questions. |
| transfer of credits |
| The transfer of credits was pretty easy. USYD sent my transcripts to UU themselves, all I had to was let my faculty know they needed to transfer them. The whole process was really quick. |

STUDENT LIFE

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| welcome & orientation programme |
| I made sure to arrive in Sydney like a week before the welcome programme, so I had enough time to get used to Sydney and take care of some things. The programme was really helpful and it was great for meeting people which is great especially at beginning of your time there. You do have to be proactive since there weren't necessarily a lot of social activities. However since all exchange students are very open to meeting new people it's almost hard not to make new friends. |
| accommodation |
| As I said before I lived at the Queen Mary Building. It was very easy to get a room there through the university. The building doesn't win any prizes when it comes to the amenities and looks, except for the amazing views from the rooftop. But if I had to make the choice all over again, I would go for QMB again. The reason being that it's the most social place you could probably find. Most of my friends lived there as well and it was so nice to always have them close by. |
| leisure & culture |
| I loved Sydney so much and especially because it has so much to offer for everyone. After over 4 months of living there I still hadn't seen it al. There was still so much to do there and I wish I had had more time. Sydney is so beautiful and has some amazing beaches which are great for surfing. |
| suggestions/tips |
| There are so many things to do and see in Sydney like Surfing at one of the beaches, like Maroubra or Bronte Blue Mountains National Park The Opera House (of course), Botanic Gardens and the Art Gallery Go for dinner Newtown Go watch the sunrise at one of the beaches (Bondi) |

CONCLUSIONS

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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| I would definitely recommend going to USYD or Australia in general. Sydney is an amazing place to live for a while. And the University of Sydney is a really good and beautiful university with a good location. Australia is |



very far so it's really worth it to go there for a whole semester. And Sydney is not a city that you can fully explore by just visiting it for a week. Australians are super friendly and always want to help. I am so happy I chose USYD, I truly believe it's the best choice I have ever made.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at the IO.