



University of New South Wales (Sydney)

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

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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

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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?

2016-2017

preparation
exchange/placement application process
Efficient, digitalised and comprehensive
counselling/support at home university
Personally very helpful (thank you again Ms. Naylor). Greater attention however must be given to: the study programme formulation, help and advisory to integrate host institution courses in study programme, communication between home-host institution, cycle time (to be reduced) of decisions for programme/course approval
academic preparation
Sufficient. No/little discrepancy in home-host preparation, yet very different learning environment
language preparation
Exchange conducted in English, preparation not required
finances
Privately financed (living and travel expenses)
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
Great uncertainty for courses and study programme prior to arrival (due to overlaps, approval of courses due to requirements...), yet flexibility and help with study programme thereafter.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Excellent. Engaging lectures, innovatively devised courses, practical orientation with theoretical backing, support for future employment and career services (above average, i.e. university "LinkedIn" platform advertising all jobs due to university conventions with companies, allowing fast applications and transparency,



strong focus on internationality), start-up environment and accelerator/incubator/resources support, provision of resources for non-academic initiatives, university offers communication platform
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Excellent. Help with orientation and ancillary services, help with courses and programme registrations, help with events, career development, academic (assignments etc.), personal, health-related. Institution with strong digital infrastructure, transparency and clear division of competencies throughout university organs
transfer of credits
Efficient.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
Exchanging at UNSW is an extraordinary way of fostering countless new interactions with diverse backgrounds. Welcome programme well-structured with strong social orientation (besides providing contextual cues that aid the adaptation process at the beginning). UNSW Randwick campus affords a liveable and lively atmosphere.
accommodation
Accommodation unfortunately not granted on host campus due to limited availability (notwithstanding application in advance, highlighting somewhat inefficient process), hence found accommodation upon arrival (relatively difficult and expensive). Suggested strategy: preparation from home country (no payment, only contact creation in host country, participation in FB groups, accommodation groups etc.), Airbnb (or similar) for initial 1-2 weeks, subsequently find options in University area (areas: Randwick, Coogee...) with peers, or through previously established contacts. (off-campus may even be recommended to be further immersed in the foreign country)
leisure/culture
Multicultural melting-pot endowed with innumerable leisure and travel opportunities (unique natural landscapes). Art mainly local and modern/post.
suggestions/tips
albertbosco@gmx.com contact directly for suggestions/tips. Travelling outside Australia, visiting Australia, visiting Sydney.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
100%, the only risk being the attractiveness of remaining in Australia a lifetime.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
For students. Keep an open mind when travelling.

