

**Study program:** International Business Administration  
**Exchange semester:** Fall  
**Academic year:** 2018-2019  
**Host University:** University of New South Wales  
**Country:** Australia

### **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

The main UNSW campus is situated in the eastern suburb Kensington, in Sydney. The other faculty is the UNSW Art & Design which is situated in Paddington, but since I chose economic courses, I only had to be at the main UNSW campus, where also almost all facilities were. From the university to the CBD, it's only 20 minutes by bus. To the closest beach, Coogee Beach, it's a 50 minute walk, which is totally doable, especially when the weather is nice and warm! The campus is pretty big, so it is definitely recommended to download the app "Lost on Campus". Trust me, you'll need it. It has a lot of restaurants and cafés, different study areas and a huge library.

Sydney itself is a great place to live. It is so terribly big that every time, I underestimated the distances. The best places to go for dinner are the restaurants in the Rocks and the bar "Ivy" is a nice place to go out. The suburbs are not so special, but every time I went to the city centre, I enjoyed it so much. The Sydney Harbour is amazing, with the beautiful Opera House (especially by night), the Harbour Bridge obviously and the biggest cruise ships, surrounded by numerous restaurants and ice-cream shops. The Botanic Gardens and Darling Harbour are really close as well and worth visiting. Watsons Bay is the place to be when you would like to watch the sunset. I also did the Bondi to Coogee walk multiple times, since it is so beautiful! A bit further away, there are also beautiful things to see, such as Manly, Palm Beach and different national parks (Royal National Park and the Blue Mountains).

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

#### Information before I left

I received all information from my host university in time. Everything was very well organized and everything was clear. You don't need to worry too much about that. However, as soon as the subscriptions for the courses are open, it is recommended to do that immediately, since it will give you a higher chance that you will end up with a nice timetable.

#### Visa procedure and arrival

Also for this part it is recommended that as soon as you have all papers needed, you should start applying for your visa. As long as you do that, hardly anything can go wrong. A student visa will cost you a bit more than 300 Australian Dollars.

The university arranges a pick up service for exchange students at the airport, so you can subscribe for that if you want to. However, we did not make use of this service since we arrived a bit earlier to search for a room in Sydney.

#### Orientation/Introduction activities

This university didn't organize an introduction week like we do in Tilburg. The week before the classes start, there are a few activities which take place on campus. I only went to the "afternoon tea for exchange students", where I could shortly introduce myself to some other students, but it is nothing like the TOP-week in Tilburg. This makes it a bit harder to get to know people.

The first day of the official start of the semester, there was an official welcome to all new exchange students. They basically told you everything you need to know to survive in Australia and on campus, which was really helpful.

### Housing

Via the website of UNSW, you can apply for a student accommodation on campus. I decided to go to Australia two weeks before the semester would start, which gave me some time to find a room. I ended up having a pretty expensive (300 dollars a week), but really nice room, next to the university. Although the student houses on campus are as expensive as a house off campus, I would recommend applying for a room on campus, since a lot of activities took place on campus especially for those students living in that specific building. Also, you are then surrounded by exchange students which will make it easier to get to know other students. However, if you choose to search for a room off campus, go for a house next to one of the beaches or in the CBD, this can be really nice. Also, it is best to move a bit earlier to Sydney and visit the houses yourself. The best way to find a room is via flatmates.com.au or via Facebook.

### Living Costs

Since I am studying at Tilburg School of Economics and Management, I unfortunately did not receive a grant from Tilburg University. To finance my exchange period, I used a part of my savings and my family also helped me. Australia is a very expensive country, everything is roughly twice as expensive as in Tilburg. I spent most of my money on travel costs, food and housing. When you choose to study in Australia, keep in your mind that it is pretty expensive, but do not economize on your travel plans. You are only once in your lifetime on exchange, so make sure you make the most of it!

Indication of the monthly budget:

- Housing            1200 AUD
- Food                400 AUD
- Transport        100 AUD        -> as long as you use public transport, not Uber ;)
- Books              400 AUD        -> I did not order any books, but if you do, this is an indication
- Travels            you can make this as cheap and expensive as you want yourself

### Academic Calendar

During my exchange semester, the academic year consisted of two study periods. The first day of the semester was in July and the semester ended in November. After 6 or 7 weeks of classes, there is the so-called mid-semester break. The exam period is in November and there are no resits, so as soon as you finished your finals, you are free to go. The 5th of December, I got my results. From this year on, the academic calendar of the UNSW consists of three study periods.

### The International Office

The UNSW has an international office, so if you need any help with anything, you can always contact them or visit them on campus. They provide you with all information needed. I never made use of their service, since everything was pretty clear.

### Exchange Promotion

There were no specific activities I could participate in to promote Tilburg University to other students. However, I took the opportunity to tell my classmates about my home university.

### Social Activities

The only social activities that took place were the introduction activities before the semester started. There are a lot of different student organizations, but as far as I know not specific for international students. However, there are a lot of international students on campus who join these student organizations, so you will feel definitely the international environment. I had contact with both local and international students, mostly because they were attending the same classes. During my mid-semester break I went on a roadtrip through New Zealand with some exchange students and after

my finals, I went to Uluru (the Outback) and travelled along the East Coast from Cairns, to Melbourne.

### Culture and Language

I did not experience a culture shock, since Australia also has a Western Culture. However, there are multiple things that are different from living in the Netherlands, such as the big distances and not riding the bicycle that much and the fact that there are no chocolate sprinkles to put on your bread. During my exchange, but especially my travels, I learned that a lot of people find Dutch people really direct. Although it can be a bit challenging for other cultures, a lot of people really admire our directness. On the other hand, I really liked the typical Australian culture: "No worries". I have never seen an Australian worrying about anything! Everything is easy, everything is all good, so relaxed. I liked everything from their culture. All Dutch people can learn from this culture, because sometimes we can worry too much about little things and there is absolutely no need to. The culture in New Zealand is not too different from the Australian culture. Kiwi's (the residents of New Zealand) are really nice, open and always eager to help. I did not follow any language courses during my exchange, but there was no need to, since it was very easy to get along with everyone because of the fact that Australia is an English-speaking country.

### Personal Development

During my exchange, I learned to build a new life on the other side of the world. I had to find a new room, make new friends, study at a different university and so on. It helped me to become more independent. Also, because you meet a lot of exchange students from other countries, I learned to be more open towards other cultures. Especially during my travels when I was travelling alone, I discovered things about myself I didn't know before. It sounds a bit cliché, but for sure that you will experience the same while studying abroad!

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### Academic level at a host university

All courses at the UNSW are offered in English obviously. I took the following courses, which follows from the table below, because I thought they were interesting and different from courses at Tilburg University. I would definitely recommend MGMT2002, this was a very interesting course and the lecturer was really old, but told us so many stories about his life as a police officer. If you are interested in marketing, MARK2085 is also an interesting course with a lecturer who makes her classes very interactive. The level of English is much higher than at Tilburg University obviously. All my lecturers were Australian, so native English speakers. The workload was not too high, it was pretty steady. At the UNSW your workload in the beginning is the same as at the end of your semester, because of all assignments in between. Therefore, it is pretty easy to pass a course. As long as you put some effort in all assignments, you will pass those and thus in my case, my finals didn't matter anymore since I already got at least a 5 out of 10. The teaching style depends, sometimes it's more practical, but in general it's theoretical. The teaching method consists in general of group work and lectures. In the course MGMT3001 I got a case study every week, but this was not too hard. The lecturers are all really nice, some even knew my name. In general, I was happy with my courses.

### Exams

I had two finals, which I did not really need to do. Both were written, pretty much the same as in Tilburg.

### Other

Students can easily access the library and other resources on campus. In the library, there are public computers and private/group study rooms available.

### Description of courses

All courses beneath are undergraduate courses.

Course	Prerequisites	Exam	ECTS	Comments
COMM1000 Creating Social Change	None	No exam	7,5	Many assignments
MARK2085 Consumer Centric Innovation	Given on the website of UNSW	No exam	7,5	Many assignments, in-class participation
MGMT2002 Managing Business Communication	Given on the website of UNSW	Written	7,5	Many assignments, unexpected quizzes
MGMT3001 Business & Corporate Strategy	Given on the website of UNSW	Written	7,5	Many assignments, most difficult course of these 4

### Tips for future students

I would definitely recommend going on exchange! The UNSW was a nice university to study. This is really a once in a lifetime experience, so enjoy every second. I did that too and I had an amazing time!!

### A picture is worth a thousand words

