



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

School of Business

Exchange Report

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Management and
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Part I

Monthly Activity Log

July

I arrived at Australia about a month sooner than the start of the university on 31st July. This was partly because of the early beginning of the contract on student accommodation. I visited a friend from Brisbane before I went to Sydney. Brisbane was beautiful in the sense that it was surrounded by natural environment. There were a lot of recreational spaces. The famous Gold Coast was stunningly beautiful. I checked in the student accommodation, Queen Mary Building afterwards. It was a big complex with good facilities. There was also a good blend of local students and international students. I spent the month in joining hall activities and walking around the nearby area named New Town. I also went to some famous tourist attractions such as the Opera House and Darling Harbour.



August

The school life kicked off at the end of July. I was staying at the main campus, which was around 20-minute short walk from my hall. The main campus was comprised with new and old buildings where the oldest one was the Quadrangle, which was built since 1850s. During the month, studying was not too stressful so I spent time on exploring the city. I also joined an exclusive tour organised by the university for exchange students heading to the Hunter Valley and Port Stephens. Whale watching was one of my favourite itinerary and we were lucky to spot three in that afternoon!



September

September was a challenging month. Workload got heavier at that time but my adventure went on anyway. I enrolled in a hiking course for exchange students at university and we hiked on a prestigious national park called Blue Mountain for three days. It was a tough trip but I did it! I also went to some more spots in Sydney like the Bondi Beach, the Rocks area, Taronga Zoo and Paddington. They were amazing! I also tried a Chinese restaurant to yum cha, which was called Zilver. The dim sum was nice there and the price was reasonable. It was an interesting experience.



October

It was the Mid-Autumn festival in the early October. It was the first time that I did not celebrate it with family but my friends here and I gathered together to have dinners and ate mooncake. I went to a Chinese restaurant called Spicy Joint with my Chinese friends and cooked with another group of friends for another night. Both nights were full of festival sentiments and we had a lot of fun! It is also worth mentioning that I went to one food festival in Sydney called the Noodles Market. Food there was not limited to noodles but also exotic food like Malaysia Lasak and Pad Thai. Sydney was a culturally diverse city and the market totally reflected that.



November

It was my last month here in Sydney so I grabbed to chances to go as many places as I can after my examinations. I had around two weeks after those so I spent eight days going on a road trip in Tasmania with other exchange students. Tasmania was named as the heaven on earth and it was right! Everywhere is untainted, the ocean and the sky were stunningly blue. Just when I thought that they were beautiful enough in Sydney, those in Tasmania was even more astonishing. Also, we went to a zoo called Unzoo. It was built on a hill where most of the animals can run freely. We also saw Tasmania Devils, which looked so cute and innocent that I almost forgot they ate meat. For the few days remaining in Sydney, I went to the Opera House again for a drama and met up with my friends at some other undiscovered spots in Sydney.



Part II

General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Applying visa was not difficult but it required coordination from some authority and me. I had to communicate with my exchange adviser at the host university for several times in order to get a study proof called cOE and purchase insurance during my application for visa as the two materials were required in the process. At the same time, the visa authority needed proof on my health so I went to a health centre appointed by the Australian consulate. Since going through the process took time, I suggested you to start beginning with everything at least two months prior to your trip.

Orientation Activities

There was an orientation day organised by the university where we got to see all of the exchange students from around the world. The host university arranged a quick lunch meal and let us gather in the Great Hall of the university where we got to enjoy a dance show from aboriginal people. Also, they gave us some talks with a warm welcoming booklet. Most of the student accommodations also offered orientation activities where mine were talks and gather sessions.

International Services & Activities

There were lots of cultural activities for international students to join. There was an international student centre at the Wentworth Building where they organised a large number of those activities. I joined a weekly English communication session and there would be a local student talking about their culture each week. There was even a session about dating tips with local people! It was interesting to interact with other international students as well as local people like this. I also joined several other activities like the Boomerang painting.

Accommodations

The university offered us two guaranteed accommodations called Urbanest and Queen Mary Building. I chose the latter because of its proximity to the university. The price was not cheap but was reasonable as compared to other student housing. The information about accommodations will be sent to you around a month prior to your arrival by your exchange adviser at the host university.

Courses Registration

Course registration was quite different from the one in Hong Kong. I only knew the timetable of the courses after enrolment, which means that it was assigned. Before the enrolment, you will get to choose the time you want to keep free and the university system will try to accommodate your wants as much as it can.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Similar to HKUST's, courses at the host university are comprised of two sessions, lectures and tutorial lessons. Most of the tutorial lessons are compulsory. Not only is attendance taken but also participation is required. They are very interactive. In case you cannot make it to the lectures, you can view the lecture videos afterwards.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are two large sports complex on the main campus but both required registration. To complete the registration, you need to purchase membership from the university. There are free gym facilities at my accommodation, Queen Mary Building though.

Finance & Banking

The financial service is excellent. You can register for a bank account at one of the local banks and use the credit card to pay almost everywhere. I used Commonwealth Bank and they even have an app on the phone to let you transfer money from one account to another and to facilitate the taking out of money at ATM.

Living standard of Australia is high so make sure you prepare more than sufficient amount of money. Eating out in general restaurant will cost more than 70 Hong Kong dollars for a meal. I spent around 18000AUD for the whole trip.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are numerous student societies at the host university where the two days of orientation from the club were not even able to show all of them. Be prepared to pay 5 to 20 dollars for membership of a society for one semester. Networking opportunities are also abundant not only provided by the clubs but different schools at the university. Make sure you do not miss emails and keep track of the website of the university.

Health & Safety

Insurance can be purchased from either the university or directly from the companies providing Overseas Student Health Coverage. It is more convenient to buy via the university but it can only be brought for one year so you have to claim for the remaining unused coverage after your exchange trip.

Food

Australia is a highly diverse city in terms of ethnicity so there are a wide variety of choices on food. Near and within the main campus there are a lot of Asian choices of food where the price was generally around 80 Hong Kong dollars per meal.

Transportation

Short after arrival, you will be reminded to apply for a concession card for transportation, which will let you enjoy half of the price for most of public transports you take in Sydney. The major types of transport are trains and buses.

Climate

There is a large daily range of temperature at Sydney so layers of clothing are recommended.

Communication

There are many people coming from different cultural backgrounds in Australia but English is still the major type of language.

Cautionary measures

Sun shine is abundant as well so make sure you apply enough sunscreen every day.

Part III

Items to Bring

Wearing (Layers of clothing are suggested for the ever-changing weather in Sydney)

Long-sleeved shirts		Swimsuit	
Sweaters		Underwear	
fleece jacket/other coats		Sunglasses	
boots		Rain jacket	
Scarf		Socks	
T-shirts		umbrella	
jeans		running shoes	
shorts		A backpack	
Belt		Formal outfit	
Pyjamas/sleepwear			

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and charger (portable charger)		Electric converters and adapters	
Notebook and charger		Headphone	

Toiletry Basics

Toothbrush and toothpaste (for a week)		Comb	
Shampoo and conditioner (for short travel)		Body wash (for short travel)	
Sunscreen and lotion		Personal hygiene items	
Towel		bandages	

Medication

Prescription medication with the label/script (Please check if they can be brought into Australia)		Eye Drops (Please check if they can be brought into Australia)	
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Travel Documents and Necessity

Cash		Credit Card	
Electronic cOE		Printout of Electronic VISA	
Flight tickets		Travel Document Photos	
Insurance Certificates			

Part IV

Useful Links of Contacts

Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection

<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au>

Allianz Global Assistance (OSHC)

<https://allianzassistancehealth.com.au/en/>

Official Australian Tourism Website

<https://www.australia.com/en>

The University of Sydney on Orientation Week

<https://orientation.sydney.edu.au>

University of Sydney Student Accommodation Services Portal

<https://usyd.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal/Default.aspx?Params=L9ezxPcQnQuRGKTzF%2b4sxeNblvAA%2b26c>