

EXCHANGE REPORT

FALL 2019

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



CYNTHIA LI

IS & MARK, YEAR 3

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Monthly Activity Log

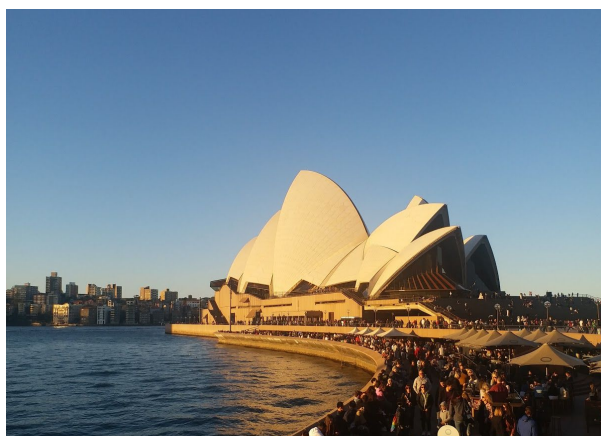
July/August 2019

Arrival & Orientation | Sightseeing | Bushwalking

I arrived in Sydney in late July to attend the orientation for exchange students, it was my first time to the famous Quadrangle Building (Trust me, it looks even more magnificent in real life than in photos!) And then I met a couple of friends at the dorm mingling sessions and Study Abroad program which the school arranges full-time students to show international and exchange students around the school.



School started in early August but coursework was not that busy in the first few weeks of class so I could go sightseeing in Sydney during my day offs and weekends. I have been to several weekend markets and some famous tourist spots like the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. I was never a hiking person in Hong Kong, but in Sydney I have picked up the habit of bushwalking.



September 2019

Blue Mountains | Melbourne | Tasmania

September was a fruitful month since I went to a lot of places. I went to the Blue Mountains National Park in early September, it was just 2 hours train from Sydney CBD and a popular destination for a weekend getaway.



Before the mid term exam week, I took a short trip with my high school friends to Melbourne. I also went to the Great Ocean Road and Twelve Apostles and it was one of the most beautiful natural wonders I have ever.



And after finishing all my mid term exams, I headed to Tasmania for a break. My friend and I joined a local tour and we went to all the famous spots like Cradle Mountains and Wineglass Bay, we even get to feed wallabies in the wildlife sanctuary and meet some penguins in the dark.



October 2019

Outback | Presentation week

I did more than 30km of hiking during the outback trip, with steep slopes and a couple hundred of stairs under extreme hot weather. It was a challenging trip but the majestic view makes it all worth it. The Red Centre is a must-see destination, tour around Uluru, Kjata-Tjuta and Kings Canyon and get stunned by the sacred and breathtaking sites.



October was quite busy since it was presentation weeks and I had to work on my presentation slides and written report. It's also the moment when you will see the jacaranda at school blossoms.



November 2019

Gold Coast | Bushwalking | Final Exam Week

After the presentation week, I headed to Gold Coast with my friend for a short break during the study vacation. Gold Coast is the perfect destination for water sports, I tried paddleboarding and kayaking, and also enjoyed several relaxing afternoons at the beaches.



After coming back from Gold Coast, I had to prepare for final exams and time flew by like an arrow, it was already my last two weeks in Sydney. Therefore I decided to grab the final chance to explore Sydney and I did the famous Bondi to Coogee Walk and the Wedding Cake Rock track!



December 2019

Cairns | Departure

Cairns was my last trip before coming back to Hong Kong, so of course I need to get the most out of it. First snorkelling, first scuba diving and first skydiving, I have ticked a couple of things off my bucket list. As a non-swimmer, it was my first time being able to maneuver my body in the water and seeing marine creatures with my naked eye at a reachable distance.



General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

You will need to obtain the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from Usyd first before applying for the student visa Subclass 500 (For further details, you may look up from this link:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>)

All international students studying in Australia are required to get the OSHC, which will help you cover the costs of medical and hospital care while in Australia. You will be asked for evidence of your OSHC when applying for the visa, so make sure you have it ready before you start the online application.

2. Orientation Activities

Before the semester starts, you will receive emails from your exchange officer about the arrangements of the orientation day, please keep an eye and pencil down the date. I strongly recommend all of you to join the orientation since you will meet other exchange students around the globe, this is a great chance for you to make friends and learn more about the University.

3. Accommodations

Regiment Building and Queen Mary Building are your choices for on-campus accommodations, I chose Regiment since it is newer and closer to the business school. Urbanest is the off-campus accommodation recommended by Usyd, there's different room types and locations you can choose from, Urbanest@Cleveland Street and Urbanest@Sydney Central should be closest to Usyd main campus.

4. Courses Registration

Course registration system of Usyd is very different from UST, you will first receive a course list from the exchange officer and then you can select the units of study and upload your photo for your student ID card on your student portal. And then Usyd will confirm your enrolled courses and you will receive a personal timetable. If you would like to change your units, you need to email the exchange officer before the add/drop period deadline.

5. Teaching & Assessment Methods

The teaching style of the lecturers in Usyd is quite different from UST, you are expected to do the readings and go through the textbooks before class and raise questions. Some courses may have coursework in the beginning of the semester and tutors may not explain the assignment beforehand. You have to keep an eye on the deadlines and take the initiative to ask your tutor if you got any questions.

6. Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a University Sports & Aquatic Centre located near to the business school which gives you access to a wide range of sporting clubs, group classes and cardio machines, however they do charge a membership fee.

7. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I recommend opening a bank account at the Commonwealth Bank, there's no annual charges or a minimum amount of deposit. So you can pay with your phone and no need to carry cash around with you all the time.

8. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There is a lot of social clubs and student societies and they welcome exchange students to join them. All you need is USU membership, which you can sign up for during Welcome Week or online at any time of year.

9. Health & Safety

Sydney is a pretty safe place, but stay away from nightclubs and bars especially during late nights on Fridays and Saturdays.

10. Food

The Asian food in Sydney is very authentic since most of them are run by immigrants. The brunch is also very nice, get yourself an all day breakfast with a cup of coffee on your first day and you will not regret it!

11. Transportation

Be sure to apply for the Opal concession card once you arrived in Sydney, you can enjoy half price for all public transportation within travelling NSW. Remember to download TripView Lite app on your phone to know the train schedule!

12. Climate

The climate in Australia is quite comfortable, you can enjoy a mild winter and will gradually get warmer if you are coming to Sydney in the fall semester. But please do remember to wear sunscreen all the time, since the sunlight is extremely strong during the day and you can get sunburnt easily.

13. Communication

English is the official language in Australia.

Items to Bring

	Passport		Toiletries
	Credit Cards		Medicine
	Clothes for Winter & Summer		Small size suitcase (for domestic travel)
	Electronic gadgets & chargers		Duffel Bag (best if foldable)
	Converters & adapters		Backpack
	Sunscreen & moisturising cream		Hiking shoes & swimwear (if you are an outdoor lover)
	Sunglasses		Others

Useful Links and Contacts

Usyd website:

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

Sydney Student Portal:

https://sydneystudent.sydney.edu.au/sitsvision/wrd/siw_lgn

Sydney Student Accommodation Services:

<https://usyd.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal/Default.aspx?Params=L9ezxPcOnQuRGKTzF%2b4sxeNblvAA%2b26c>