

Exchange Report  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES,  
AUSTRALIA  
UNSW Business School



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Global Business and Information Systems

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# Part I – Monthly Activity Log

## August

The arrival to Australia blends with mixed feelings of joy to explore around and fear of the new environment. As we arrived at a time in between two terms in UNSW, we attended a class mostly for exchange students. This helped us know a lot of new buddies from all over the world, all new to the school. Through the class activities of exploring the city, we also got a lot of exposure to the city culture in Australia, the business environment and main tourist attractions. I highly recommend the course (COMM 1040: Entrepreneurial Ecosystems) I attended if one really wants to know more about the city and the businesses here.



*Figure 1 Visiting Bondi Beach with friends*



*Figure 2 Group Project Discussion*

## September

Coming to September, with the start of semester, I started to get to know more about UNSW and its courses. I can glad to attend classes I liked a lot. In negotiation classes, I got the change to practice negotiation every class, to speak with a foreigner every week, which helped me gained a lot of confidence and learned the different ways of thinking of other people. In critical thinking class I learned a lot on the way of thinking and in astronomy class, I learned to appreciate the nature. Australia is really a place to appreciate the natural landscape. Therefore, I started to bushwalk alone during weekends in national parks in Sydney, to be in the wild and contemplate. In several weeks, I have already been to several national parks and completed medium level of tracks. It is a challenge to me but also a great way to explore good places not that known to the world.

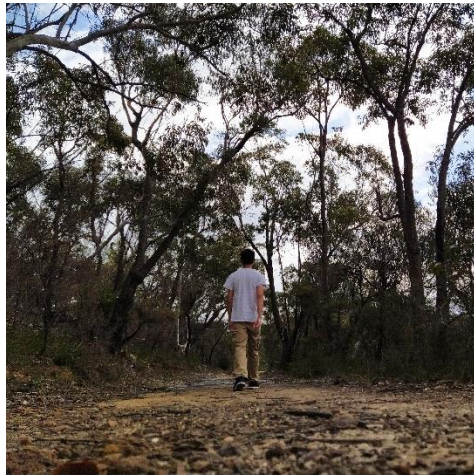


Figure 3 Garigal National Park (And yes this is a selfie)



Figure 4 Watsons Bay

## October

October represented some changes. As UNSW is very close to Coogee Beach, after feeling some pressure on academics and life, I decided to start running from UNSW Hall to Coogee Beach at night and run back. The whole run was around 5 km and it usually took around 1 hour to finish it. It is a very good exercise amid a day of hustle with assignments and work, and it provided me a very good opportunity to stargaze at the beachside at night. The month was very regular, tiring yet fruitful. At the same month, I used my spare time to visit two other national parks/reserves.



距離	移動時間	速率
2.83	17:24	06:08
公里	分鐘	分/公里

Figure 5 One of the run towards Coogee



## November

November is the same as the previous month, with assignments and classes daytime, running nighttime and hikes at the weekends. There was the Sculpture at the Sea during the time and it was a brilliant walk to look at the arts by the shore. Definitely recommend having a look.



Figure 6 My Favourite Sculpture that day

## December

After the exams, I challenged myself to an adventure in Sydney. As the government has opened the new Bondi to Manly Walk, I spent two Fridays to walk all 80 km of the trail. It was a tough walk walking the length of a marathon each day, but it was also fruitful seeing the great view of Sydney and challenging myself on it. Not only have I gained strength and persistence afterwards, but also a more positive approach towards future challenges in life.

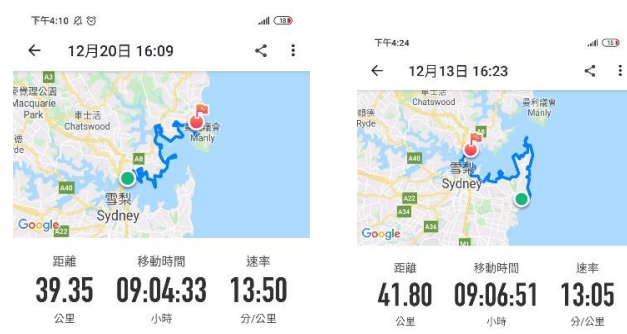


Figure 7, 8 The two Bondi to Manly Walks

## Part II – General Exchange Information

### 1. Visa Procedures

As I am an Australian citizen, I do not have to apply for Visa. Applying Visa to Australia would require the application of Medibank insurance. If the exchange student is an Australian passport holder, they may apply for concession Opal card for 50% off in transportations.

### 2. Orientation Activities

There would be an Orientation Week/Day for newcomers before first week on semester. There would be separate orientation for students living in their halls.

### 3. International Services & Activities

There are several societies in UNSW providing activities for students from different backgrounds (e.g. HK Society, ASEAN Society UNSW). As I am mostly joining activities from Hall, I am not sure about the other activities for exchange students.

### 4. Accommodations

Students can apply for Hall in UNSW. They can also rent houses around the campus, which are of similar price. There are fully catered, half catered and non-catered halls for selection. The price ranges from \$400AUD a week to \$600AUD a week.

### 5. Courses Registration

UNSW provides a portal for students to pre-register classes. Students may visit UNSW Handbook (<https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/>) for class details and schedules. You would need to apply for approval for classes in the portal. After approved, you would need to fill in a form to register. Getting approved does not mean successfully applied for the class. If you cannot apply for the class, you could contact the course instructors to see if there would be more places available. Do not hesitate to ask. There is also one trick that is to look for the class quota daily and see if someone has dropped the class so you could re-apply for the class. That is how I get to one of the courses. After getting in the course, you would need to select the timeslot to complete registration.

## **6. Teaching & Assessment Methods**

There are face-to-face teaching and online courses in UNSW. Students could only apply for one fully online course. I got in classes where there are two lessons per week lasting for around 1.5 hours each. Different classes have different assessment methods, but with a focus on assignments and a final.

## **7. Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There are a lot of clubs for sports, and a large student association ARC organizing different activities (<https://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/>). There is a gym and a pool in UNSW. They are not free of charge though and would need a semester/year plan for them.

## **8. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

The currency used here is AUD, and the main expense in Australia would be the accommodation and the transport expense. Living in hall costed around \$2000AUD per month and transport could take up to \$400AUD a month. The daily eating expense in Australia is a bit higher than that in Hong Kong. I do not recommend opening a bank account as the interest rate is very low in Australia. It would be better to get the money in Hong Kong and bring them to Australia. It is recommended to get an Opal card for transport. Do not get a concession card if you are not an Australian passport holder as the fine of it would be huge.

## **9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are a lot of clubs to join. As mentioned, the ARC club organizes different activities for students here. I particularly like ARC Goes as they organize trips to the wild in Australia. There are also a lot of support for businesses in UNSW, and for people to network. There are case competitions and a startup centre for students.

## **10. Health & Safety**

Students would be covered by Medibank insurance. There is a clinic, a dental clinic and a psychology consultation centre in UNSW, which are all covered by Medibank. For Australian passport holders, they may apply for Medicare in Australia for the same coverage. There are also emergency call services in UNSW.

### **11. Food**

There is a huge variety of food in campus, for western to Chinese to Japanese to Indian. Out of campus the food is mostly western in the city, but lots of Chinese food in Chinese suburbs.

### **12. Transportation**

UNSW has bus and light rail around the campus. To other places the main transportation would be trains. All of them supports Opal card payment and some only Opal card payments.

### **13. Climate**

If you exchange in Fall semester, you would experience the Winter of Australia around 7°C – 10°C and becoming hotter to around 40°C in the summer. There would be bushfire bringing haze to Sydney. Below is a photo of the seriousness of the haze and it is not filtered.



### **14. Communication**

Students could buy a sim card 2 dollars in Coles/Woolworth to get an Australian phone number and go to telecom shops to get a data plan. The data plans are not cheap though and only provides limited data. There is no unlimited data plan.

### **15. Cautionary measures**

The Australian sun is a hazard. Do bring a hat, sunglasses and get on sunscreen before a hot summer day. a hat would also be good to avoid the nuisance of Australian flies in the summer.



# Part III – Checklist

Sweater
Jacket
Summer clothes
Winter clothes
Pillow
Blanket
Notebook
Charger
Hat
Sunscreen
Medicine

## Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

Opal card

<https://transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal#/login>

Medibank

<https://www.medibank.com.au/>

UNSW Handbook

<https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/>

ARC

<https://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/>