

**Please describe your experiences and comment on the following:**

A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

I'm a Finance student at Telfer in 4<sup>th</sup> Year (final semester), and I decided to take the following business courses abroad at **USYD**:

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Format (Time)</b>	<b>Grading/Weights: Group (g) or Individual (i)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
IBUS1102	Cross-Cultural Management	2H lecture + 1H tutorial	20% project (g) 30% midterm (i) 10% quizzes (i) 5% summary task (i) 5% participation (i) 30% final exam (i)	This course is probably similar to cross-cultural management that is offered by Telfer. We essentially look at how culture differs across the globe (using theories from Hofstede, Hall, etc.), and the implications on international business as a result. Not as exciting as some of my other courses, but still an okay course.
IBUS2104	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	2H lecture + 1H tutorial	20% report (i) 25% take home task (i) 25% midterm (i) 15% business plan (g) 15% pitch (g)	Probably the most challenging course I am taking this semester; this course focuses on the profit-making side of entrepreneurship. Essentially, the tasks are to identify a problem facing the business school with the goal of creating a technology based innovative solution (which can hopefully also be monetized). It is very interesting (and the professor is interesting as well) but very stressful.
IBUS3108	Social Entrepreneurship	3H lecture	25% report (i) 15% reflection (i) 10% participation (i) 25% final report (g) 25% pitch (g)	This course explores the idea of social entrepreneurship which focuses on creating social enterprises that do good for the community. We work on a real project with a real entrepreneur to help out a community. I love this course because we are solving real issues. Thanks to the course's link to the RARE program, there is an opportunity to travel (which I applied for and was selected) to the rural or remote community in which we are working with. While

				travelling, we get hands on business experience, and work on understanding the culture of the community in which we are working with. This is an extremely challenging and unique experience and I would highly recommend this course (the 3H lecture goes by quickly).
MKTG3121	Advertising: Creative Principles	2H lecture + 1H tutorial	15% assignment (i) 2% research task (i) 28% midterm (i) 10% participation (i) 15% presentation (g) 30% project (g)	This is a really interesting course, we go in-depth into how to produce creative advertisements based on our target audiences and the brand stories we want to tell. Assignments are fun and creative, and the midterm is a critique of an advertisement.

**B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the *precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.***

Event	Date
Orientation "O-Week"	February 26, 2018 – March 2, 2018
First Day of Classes	March 5, 2018
Last Day to Change Classes	March 16, 2018
Last Day to Drop Classes	March 31, 2018
Holiday: Good Friday	March 30, 2018
Reading Week "Mid-Semester Break"	April 2, 2018 – April 6, 2018
Holiday: ANZAC Day	April 25, 2018
Last Day of Classes	June 8, 2018
Holiday: Queen's Birthday	June 11, 2018
Study Week before Final Exams "STUVAC"	June 11, 2018 – June 15, 2018
Final Exam Period	June 18, 2018 – June 30, 2018

C) *Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.*

<p>Registration and Course Selection</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In September you will get an e-mail detailing how to register for the University of Sydney – this is an application like when you applied to UOttawa before first year.</li> <li>2. Mid-October you will receive your unconditional offer letter</li> <li>3. You will have to follow the instructions to go accept your offer, then email the advisors proof of your Overseas Student Health Cover – Once you do this, they will email you your Confirmation of Enrolment (which will be used to apply for your visa)</li> <li>4. Around the end November, you can start started requesting approval for taking courses from your Exchange Officer</li> <li>5. Complete the Enrolment task in Mid-December; your exchange officer will e-mail you detailed instructions on how to complete this (at the end of this you must upload a picture for your student ID – you must do this ASAP or else you will end up waiting weeks to get it, and won't be able to do things on campus such as print)</li> <li>6. Enter timetable preferences from the end of January to Mid-February</li> <li>7. Mid-February: Receive your timetable. You can make changes to your courses until the end of Week 2.</li> </ol>
<p>Optional Social Activities</p>	<p><u>Pre-Semester Trips:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tour to either Newtown, Circular Quay (Opera House and Harbour Bridge), or Manly Beach (FREE)</li> <li>2. Surf Camps (\$265)</li> <li>3. Overnight Escape (Wine tour, sand boarding, wildlife park, and dolphin watching) (\$299)</li> <li>4. Jervis Bay Overnight Trip (\$270)</li> </ol> <p><u>After the Semester Starts:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Breakfast with Koalas at Wildlife Sydney Zoo (\$50)</li> <li>2. Sydney Harbour BridgeClimb (\$290)</li> <li>3. Blue Mountains Day Trip (\$99)</li> <li>4. Sydney Footy Game at Sydney Olympic Park (\$15)</li> <li>5. Vivid Lights Walking Tour (Lights Festival at the end of May) (FREE)</li> </ol> <p>The is also a MATES ABROAD program, which essentially partners you with an Aussie “mentor” who is a student – they will be a contact for you if you have any questions, and you'll hang out at least a few times with them and likely their other mentees.</p> <p>The University of Sydney also has hundreds of super interesting clubs: Chocolate Society, Food Adventure Society, Wine Society, Food Coop, Global Exchange Society, and SO MUCH MORE!</p>

Services Offered by International Exchange Office	<p>The services offered are extremely similar to those that would expect to be offered to exchange students at UOttawa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Point of contact for questions regarding the application process and anything else about the university</li> <li>- They are the ones who can change your course selections/preferences (if you have clashes)</li> <li>- They can direct you to any service you would require (how to access counselling if you are homesick, how to access medical care)</li> <li>- They coordinate the MATES Abroad mentoring program</li> </ul>
Procedures Upon Arrival	<p>Plan to arrive at least one week before classes begin – at minimum. The following is obligatory upon arrival:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend the compulsory Welcome Orientation (it is for all exchange and study abroad students) – you can also sign up to attend the business faculty orientation which is held on another day (not mandatory – but I would highly recommend it)</li> <li>2. Update your address within one week of arrival, and anytime you move thereafter, with the University of Sydney – it is a requirement of your Student Visa. You are required to do the same with you Overseas Student Health Care (OSHC) Provider.</li> <li>3. Pick up your student card in the allotted pick up time (you will choose this, but follow the instructions – and be mindful of the points allotted to different ID types, since you need to bring 100 points of ID to pick up your card)</li> </ol>

D) *Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).*

Description	Cost	Comment
Airplane Ticket	\$2600	You can get a flight for \$1000 less, but I bought a one-year ticket and changed my travel dates due to travelling with family for the first month, so I ended up paying extra.
Visa Application	\$500	Cost of Student Visa application.
Overseas Student Health Care (OSHC)	\$350	This cost covered me for 8 months (End of December to End of August). Your OSHC must begin on the date of your arrival (not even one day later) and must cover you for the entire length of your stay.
Housing	\$230 per week (approx. \$1000 per month)	I live a 5-minute walk from campus, right across the street from 4 grocery stores and public transport. It's an ideal location, and much less than my friends on campus are paying (double – and unlike my Wi-Fi which is unlimited, they only get 10GB per month). \$230 is very cheap for my area (Chippendale), as many single rooms go for around \$300 per week. I have a single room in a share house; my roommates are all of similar age (and mixed gender) and are all either students or on a working

		holiday visa. I would suggest living off campus to save a lot of money.
Textbooks	\$0	I did not have any required textbooks for my classes. However, the textbook prices are around \$100-\$150 each, just the same as the University of Ottawa.
Groceries	\$100 per week	Groceries are expensive here. Be prepared to spend more than you would in Canada. I personally love avocados, and they cost \$3-\$5 each here! I'm also very much a foodie, so if you're not you can definitely get away with spending less.
Restaurants	\$40 per week	Average meals in casual dining are around \$20 (i.e. Nando's meal). Note that tip and tax are included in all Australian prices, so what you see listed on the menu is what you actually pay.
Coffee	\$20 per week	Drip Coffee is not a thing in Australia. In café's, everything is espresso based. This means that all coffee is \$5. Not great. But it tastes really amazing.
USU Membership	\$45 for one semester	This is an app membership that you buy from USYD's student union. It is so worth it. It gives you access to discounted memberships for clubs, free food during O-Week and the semester, free access to events, 15% all café's and shops on campus, and special rewards at café's (happy hour, buy 6 and get the 7 <sup>th</sup> coffee/meal free, etc.)
Travel	\$500-\$1000 per trip	I've visited many places within Australia, and I plan to visit many more. Air travel is cheap across Australia compared to Canada. If you do your research, you can find good quality hostels at fair prices. Use websites such as Kayak and Skyscanner to do your searching for the best deals. Some places I have been to: New Zealand (North Island), Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Geelong, Perth, Cairns... and currently planning my future travels. If you plan on actually holding a koala in your hands, note that it is illegal in every state except South Australia and Queensland.
Public Transport	\$10 per week	Since I live in downtown, I did not use public transport often as I could walk most places. As an exchange student, you are eligible to apply for the concession (student) OPAL card (like our Presto card) which you do through the Transport New South Wales website (they mail you your card). As a student, you can basically travel for half the cost. They cap your weekly spending at \$30, after that all transport is free. In addition, after you have taken 8 single trip in a week, the rest of your trips are half price. Also, travel for EVERYONE (even adult fare) is capped at \$2.60 on Sunday no matter the distance you travel (this includes all trains, busses, light rail, and ferry).

Personal/Misc/Hygiene	\$10 per month	I only spend on toilet paper and paper towels since I brought things like toothpaste, face wash, shampoo with me from Canada (and they give you things like shampoo and razors at O-Week), but if I had not, they are not cheap here. Be ready to spend \$15 on the most basic face wash.
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E) *Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).*

Visa Deadlines	My visa was approved within one minute of me pressing the submit button, however, I would apply at the latest one-two months in advance just in case there is a delay. There is no specific deadline, you should coordinate your visa in accordance with your future plans. I went to Australia to months early to travel (December), and I applied for my visa in November.
Visa Documents	You'll need your passport to apply for the visa (ensure it will not expire any time soon or while you are abroad), your proof of overseas student health care (OSHC) which you will obtain after purchasing the insurance, as well as a confirmation of enrolment which will be sent to you by the university once you have completed their enrolment instructions.
Course registration	You begin requesting courses for approval in late November (for USYD Semester 1 – UOttawa Winter Semester), I suggest you request as many as possible because it will make it easier for you to switch courses later. You will then wait for the enrolment task, meanwhile, your exchange advisor will ask you which 4 courses you actually want to take. This happens at the end of January up until Mid-February; this is also when you enter preferences (block of Mondays, for example, or mornings). Your preferences are taken into account, but not guaranteed. The day after enrolment closes (Mid-February), timetables are released, and you will see if you have any clashes (which you are allowed to keep, since most lectures are recorded, and you will still be responsible for keeping up – but I do not recommend keeping clashes) and can now make changes – this is where it is handy if you have already requested many courses, because now it is an easy switch. You can make changes to your timetable until the end of week 2 of your classes. Note that every time you change one course, your whole timetable may shuffle, since the system allocates you based on availability and preferences (of ALL students).
Housing Deposit	Not applicable. I lived off-campus, so I did not make a housing deposit prior to departure.

F) *Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.*

**45 Rose Street.** \$230 per week rent.

It is a private room in a shared house. There are 8 beds in total in the house, but there has never been more than 5 people in the house at any point that I have been here.

G) *Work term (if applicable).*

Not applicable.

H) *Other comments or recommendations.*

I think I covered most of the basics, here are just some tips and reminders:

- It rains a lot, so if you have rain jacket/boots/umbrella, it would be useful
- Bring warm clothes if you will be in Sydney after March (April – May – June – July), it does get a little chilly, especially at night
- Don't live near the beach if you want to live near campus (campus is downtown, 50Min-1.5Hour away by bus or train to most beaches)
- Be prepared for bugs: spiders, roaches, and mosquitos are very common (I have yet to see a snake though, thank goodness)
- Apply for a "Concession OPAL" Transit Card as soon as possible
- When collecting your student ID, they are very strict. You need 100 points, so I used my passport, my driver's license, and my Australian debit card.
- The Sydney Airport has an access fee of \$16 each time you enter or leave the airports by train; you can avoid this fee by taking the bus
- Go to O-Week (So much cool things, you'll get to see all the clubs, and collects LOTS of free "swag")
- Connect with the USYD international student pages/groups on Facebook and other social media
- Try new courses that you would not take at UOttawa (outside of your specialization, etc.)

I) *Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.*

It's always been a dream of mine to go to Australia and coming here on exchange was truly one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I got to explore a new country, and really see how different their culture is; despite being a highly developed and Westernized country, there are still many differences (for one, no brewed coffee – say goodbye to the Tim's double double, get used to the flat white; say goodbye to coffee chains – there are very few Starbucks locations in the city, say hello to cute small cafes). I got to meet new friends, from all around the world, that I will appreciate forever and that will always be a part of my network. I got to see how academics are in another country, and although it has its similarities, it still feels like day one of first year university all over again. If you're thinking about coming to Australia and the University of Sydney for an unforgettable and invaluable experience, do not even hesitate, it's definitely an amazing accepting place that you will soon call home (alumni status, check!).