

# Questionnaire

University of Technology Sydney  
2 Semesters Abroad (July 2017 – July 2018)

***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.***

Autumn Session

- 1) The Tourist Experience (Tuesday Lec @ 12-13:30, Tuesday Tut @ 16:30-18:00)
  1. Assessment Task 1: Short Essay 1 & Short Essay 2
  2. Assessment Task 2: Fieldwork (group)
  3. EXAM
  
- 2) Innovation Lab (Tuesday Lec @ 18:00-19:30, Tuesday Tut @ 19:30-21:00)
  1. Assessment Task 1: Team Video & Group Pitch
  2. Assessment Task 2: Individual Portfolio (3 parts)
  
- 3) Managing Strategic Performance (Wednesday Lec @ 8-9:30, Wednesday Tut @- 14:00-15:30)
  1. Assessment Task 1: Group Assignment
  2. Assessment Task 2: Essay
  3. Take Home EXAM – Reflective Essay
  
- 4) Events and Entertainment Contexts (Thursday Lec @ 12:00-13:30, Thursday Tut @ 16:30-18:00)
  1. Assessment Task 1: Weekly Questions (5/9 submissions are required)
  2. Assessment Task 2: Mini Event (group)
  3. EXAM

Each class consists of 1.5 hour lecture per week and 1.5 hour tutorial per week; therefore, each class has a total of 3 hours per week. Some tutorials and lectures are mandatory, but some are not. Lectures will consist of discussion of the lecture slides and readings, but as well as guest speakers on occasion. The tutorials focus more on group work and in-class activities and readings that help enhance the understanding of the course content. Exam schedules come out after the Stu-Vac (end of April). Exams are a duration of 2 hours + 10

minutes reading time. They are held either at Wentworth Park (15 minute walk from campus) or on campus.

The courses from last semester will help me with the courses I am taking this semester. Last semester I took Innovation & Entrepreneurship, which has prepared me for Innovation Lab (no final exam only assessments). I also took Event Management last semester, which has prepared me for Events and Entertainment Contexts. I have classes Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, giving me a 4 day weekend!

***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.***

#### Spring Session

Orientation	Monday 24 – Friday 28 July 2017
Session Commences	Monday 24 July 2017
Census Date	Friday 25 August 2017
Mid-session StuVac (Study Vacation)	Monday 11 – Sunday 17 September
Formal Classes End	Friday 20 October 2017
Final StuVac (Study Vacation)	Monday 23 – Friday 27 October 2017
Final Assessment Period	Saturday 28 October – Saturday 11 November 2017

#### Autumn Session

Orientation	Monday 19 February – Friday 9 March 2018
Session Commences	Monday 12 March 2018
Census Date	Monday 9 April 2018
Mid-session StuVac (Study Vacation)	Monday 23 – Sunday 29 April 2018
Formal Classes End	Friday June 8 2018
Final StuVac (Study Vacation)	Monday 11 – Friday 15 June 2018

Final Assessment Period	Saturday 16 – Saturday 30 June 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.**

- Obtain Student Visa
- Obtain health insurance (Medibank OSHC)
- Book Flight
- Arrange accommodation
- Register for courses
- Get international driver's license (optional)
- Register on DFAIT to report your duration outside of Canada

University of Technology will email you with all the steps that need to be taken prior to arrival. Once the university emails you the Confirmation of Enrolment you can complete your visa application. Once your student visa is granted, UTS will be in touch with you to provide you with information and steps on how to register for courses. Once you have selected your courses make sure to have them approved by uOttawa. You will also receive an option for housing and residence. If you wish to go that path complete those steps. I personally prefer finding my own accommodation and living on the beach. I highly recommend you find a place with flat mates (it can be found on Facebook groups or on flatmates.com). You are in Australia so why not live on the beach while you have the opportunity! If you plan on staying for two semesters, you will be able to register in your second semester courses end of October. Once again you will need those courses approved by uOttawa.

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

- Airplane ticket round trip (Toronto → Vancouver → Sydney) \$2300
- Health insurance \$720
- Visa \$550
- Housing – I lived with family so I did not need to pay rent
- Weekly travel costs for me were between \$30-40 (OPAL) but I was living about a 30 min from campus (in North Bondi)
- Two of my courses required textbooks each were roughly new \$150 or used \$90
- A standard meal is around \$20-30, a coffee is around \$4
- I spend between \$50-70 on groceries a week
- Domestic flights (round trip) cost between \$150-300 (i.e. Sydney → Melbourne cost me \$180, but I booked last minute)

**E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).**

- Apply for your visa as soon as you get all the required documents (the Certificate of Enrolment and your health insurance).
- For the visa application you will need the Certificate of Enrolment, a copy of your health insurance, and a copy of your passport.
- Visa is granted in roughly 48 hours (it is possible for delays so do not book flights until you have received your visa).
- You will get an email from UTS with the Certificate of Enrolment and further steps to register your account (UTS email) and to register your courses. Follow those steps and deadlines.

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

- N/A – I stayed with family in a suburb called Hurstville. I did not need to pay rent for my first semester, then for my second semester I moved to North Bondi
- North Bondi is a 15 minute bus ride to the train station and then a 15 minute train ride to Central Station, where UTS campus is located.
- I am sharing a room with a flat mate and we are each be paying \$260.
- Rent is very expensive in Australia and it is difficult to find a private room unless you want to be paying \$500 per week.
- Rent is paid weekly.
- I am working in Bondi Junction; therefore, I just need to take the bus from North Bondi which is only a 15 minute ride. The busses come every 15 minutes.
- Bondi Beach is a 10 minute bus ride to Bondi Junction, where you can take the train to Central (where UTS campus is located).
- The train ride from Bondi Junction to Central is just under 15 minutes.

**G) Work term (if applicable).**

- My first day of work was Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- I could work max. 20 hours per week with my visa conditions during school, and when classes aren't in session I can work unlimited hours
- Zara @ Westfield Bondi
- Hourly wage - \$25, weekends wages are higher
- I am a sales assistant
- Some of my duties include running clothes back to the floor, working in the stock room, working in the fitting room, closing the store (i.e. closing a specific boutique)
  
- I was also working at Poked @ Australian Square on George St.
- Poked is in a food court that is about a 7-minute walk from Martin Place Station. Martin

Place Station is only 15 minutes away from UTS.

- Poked is a Hawaiian theme healthy fast food.
  - Poke bowls contain a base of rice or salad, a protein, toppings, and sauce.
  - Hourly wage - \$18 an hour
  - Hours: Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
  - Some of my duties include working at the cashier, taking orders, calling out orders, and setting up the salad bar.
- 
- I did an internship at the Clean Treats Factory
  - I started in beginning of February and am working as a marketing intern for 6 weeks (unpaid)

I recommend finding work during your time abroad. Sydney is a very expensive city. You are not required to be in class for many hours of the week; therefore, there is plenty of time to work a little bit. You meet amazing people and many who are on working holiday visas from all around the world! I have met great friends from the people I work with!

The train systems in Sydney are very easy to follow. I personally loved taking the train! You can download an app on your phone that will tell you all the routes and times of the trains. The trains are always packed in the mornings because everyone is trying to commute to work. Throughout the day the trains are not really packed.

#### ***H) Other comments or recommendations.***

- I recommend finding work during your semester abroad because Sydney is one of the most expensive cities to live in Australia.
- I recommend travel as much as you can!!! Australia is a beautiful country with lots of things to see and do!
- Plan ahead!!! Time flies; therefore, it is important to know where you want to go and what you want to see to get to it all. Before you know it, your semester is almost over!

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

Sydney is beautiful! I would love to move here in the future. I have travelled to Melbourne and did the Great Ocean Road & 12 Apostles one day tour, it is a must!

After my first semester, I travelled to Thailand. The duration of my trip was 20 days. I started in Bangkok then go to Phuket. From Phuket, I travelled to Koh Phi Phi then to Koh Tao, and then to Koh Phangan. From Koh Phangan I returned to Bangkok to catch my return flight to Sydney. I stayed in hotels and hostels throughout the trip. I got to and from each island by ferry. The entire trip cost me \$2000 AUD (that includes all flights, transport, accommodation, food, and activities).

End of January I visited family friends in the Gold Coast and went to Byron Bay and Brisbane as well, which are both an hour drive from the GC.

End of February I travelled to the east coast with 4 friends. The trip cost roughly \$1500. We flew from Sydney to the Whitsundays. We started in Airlie beach, then did a two-night boat trip on the Whitsundays islands, then we went to Magnetic Island, and finally Cairns. In Cairns, we did a one day tour of the Great Barrier Reef, where we got a chance to go snorkeling! Finally, we flew back from Cairns to Sydney after travelling for 9 days. This trip I booked with Peterpan's Travel Agency (one of the most popular agencies in the country).

I have learned so much and met amazing people from all around the world. It truly is an unforgettable experience!

