

Report on University of New South Wales, Sydney

June 2009- July 2010



The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is one of Australia's leading law schools and it is also located a mile away from some of Sydney's most beautiful beaches these two facts make it a very popular and very competitive exchange student location. Before departing Ireland for Australia and after being selected by UCD the UNSW law school and UNSW exchange office send numerous emails and packages helping all their incoming students with the visa application, health care applications, trying to provisionally enroll at UNSW and informing all incoming students of the different type of accommodation options. The visa applications and health care applications are easily completed with the help of UCD and UNSW.

UNSW advise all its incoming exchange students to arrive at least two weeks before classes begin, I would 100% recommend arriving two weeks if not three weeks before classes commence. The exchange office runs orientation activities three weeks before classes commence this range from day trips to Manly or pub crawls and there are both official and unofficial events. These events are a great way to meet people as most of the students that come to UNSW are the only students from their university and everyone is out to meet new people and to settle in as quickly as possible.

Accommodation:

The whole accommodation in Sydney is a bit of minefield, for my first semester I applied for accommodation through UNSW study abroad which is great for the accommodation it is ready on the said date and most of the houses have internet (which is really expensive and slow in Australia) and bills included however you have it for a week and half before the semester starts and it runs out on the last day of exams also it is very expensive it costs around 320 dollars a week. The benefits of this is that the houses are really nice and also your living with other students nearly 100% going to be Americans its a great way of meeting people and also my house was on the beach which is just living the dream.

There is also the option of on campus accommodation I know a few people who did this some liked it and some didn't. With on campus accommodation most of the people get adsorbed into campus activities and they don't hang around with the other exchange students and also internet isn't included and they are all dry campus i.e. no drinking is allowed and a lot of people get fined for drinking in their rooms and the rooms are tiny and its seriously expensive nearly 400 dollars a week, (expect the Mullaware apartments which are really cheap but so far away from where everybody else will be living)

There is also the option of finding a place when you arrive, i did this for the second semester, it is pretty hard to find a place takes around two to three weeks, if you wants to do this my best advice would be to arrive early and stay in one of the hostels in coogee because that is where other exchange students stay when they arrive and try and meet other people 'who want to get a house and look together', there are only a few places that are student houses other than the study abroad housing a lot of people ended up staying with Australian families or young professionals. Also rent for a single room is about 220-240 dollars a week and be careful many landlords try and tie you into a six month contract.



Academic Studies:

There is a big selection of modules to study at UNSW these modules can range from space law to international trade law. To complete a semester at UNSW four modules must be taken and passed each semester it is possible to select postgraduate modules from the law school. However exchange students are not allowed to do core subjects that UNSW students are required to do, exchange students can only pick from the elective modules the choice is still quite wide. It is best while still in Ireland to get approved for as many subjects as possible before arriving in Australia as this will reduce time in Sydney in trying to find lecturers who have to give their approval in writing for you to register for their course. Most subjects are assessed on continuous assessment and thus there are no exams at the end of the semester.

Extra Curricular/ Job Opportunities

There are many sports clubs and a small number of societies to join at UNSW. The sports clubs include the diving club which is very popular with exchange students. There is also part time work available however it does require that a decent amount of effort is put into searching for a job, most part time jobs would be working in the cafes around beaches or working in stores in the city.

Additional Information:

Sydney is a great city and a great place to come on exchange the people are very friendly and there is a great exchange student community at UNSW, many people going travelling with each other on weekend breaks to Uluru or the barrier reef or on spring break to Fiji and New Zealand. The night life is great and varied and it is not too expensive.

Estimate Cost of Living

Accommodation in euro : 170 per week finding own place
225 per week study abroad
260 per week on campus food included

Transportation: Depends on living location on average 14 euro a week

Food/ Meals: 35-50 euro a week

Academic expenses: 280 euro (purchase of books)

