

A Semester at the University of New South Wales



The First Week in Sydney

G'Day Mates! This is the common Aussie's language to say 'Hello Friends'. Surviving in Sydney is not hard but the most difficult thing is to adapt into the new environment. These are few tips to know and do in the first week when you are moving there...

Sydney City (CBD)

Sydney as everyone know always mean the city where Opera House and Harbour Bridge are located. Actually, Sydney is a big city that has the inner city, where all important places and most attractions are at, and the surrounding areas which are usually called Surburbs (just like Bangkok). So when you are going to the Shopping Centres or the city, you usually mean Sydney CBD.

Sydney is located in New South Wales State which is on the east coast of the country. Each state is having its own government and regulation. Therefore, when you are traveling outside New South Wales, you might need to learn about that particular state's law.

Getting to the University of New South Wales (UNSW) from the Airport

From the airport, normally, International Student Centre at UNSW will provide airport pick up service to all on-campus apartments and apartments surrounded the university.

Apart from airport pick up service, bus number 400 that is heading to Bondi Junction will stop at UNSW as well [Note: do not mess up with 400 to Burwood, they are traveling same route but different direction.]

Another choice is Taxi, which is the fastest way to go to UNSW. The price is varies from \$30-\$50 upon traffic condition.



Transportation

There are 5 common types of public transportation in Sydney. And since Sydney is a part of New South Wales, travelling across New South Wales is very convenience.

1. Buses: Buses are covered throughout Sydney (including Suburbs) and are the cheapest way to travel around the city. Before you travel, you need to learn to count the 'zone' that you are going which is calculated by the stops that you are passing. The number of zones will tell you which type of bus ticket that you are going to buy: MyBus1, MyBus2, or MyBus3.

2. Trains: Train is another alternative to travel in Sydney. One of the most exciting thing in Sydney's Train has 3 levels!: Upper floor, Middle floor (where the doors are), and Lower floor. Moreover, the seats can be flipped, whether you want to face the front or the back of the train. Like buses, trains have zones and 3 types of ticket: MyTrain1, MyTrain2, and MyTrain3.

3. Ferry: You wouldn't take ferry often in your daily life since most ferries are going to the beaches at North Sydney and stops along Paramatta River (the new city). However, it is another good choice to choose if you have time to explore the beautiful views of Sydney. Again, they have MyFerry1, MyFerry2, and MyFerry3.

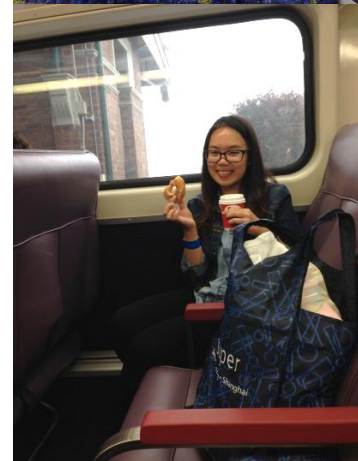
4. Light Rail: Light Rail or in the other word, tram. Sydney used to have Monorail that covered CBD. Later on, since buses are accessed every streets, the government cancelled Monorail and changed them into Light Rail that only stop at the main tourist attractions like The Star and Fish Market instead. Tickets are only sold at the Light Rail and the price is depended on the distance.

5. Taxi: Taxi is easy to find. You can catch a taxi everywhere or even online! There are lots of private taxi companies. But the one I recommend is Combined Taxi, which you can book online by tell them your location and destination, and time to pick up!

Many of you might have learned that Sydney is one of the most expensive cities. And yes, it is! Luckily that government has created a ticket call 'MyMulti' which you can take unlimited rides in bus, train, ferry, or Light Rail! [Note that most exchange students who live near or at the university would not buy MyMulti since it is expensive comparing to Thai Baht or any other currency. Me, myself didn't buy it as well. But at the end, since we are exchanges and wanted to explore Sydney, I spent more than 300AUD on transportation! So, if you know that at least you will go somewhere else besides university often, getting MyMulti is a good idea.]

Moreover, every time when you are buying a ticket the seller will always ask 'Consession or Adult'. Since you are an international student, please remind that you are an ADULT. The police will randomly check the ticket whether you are using the right type or not, if not, the fee is 200AUD!

Tickets are sold at convenience stores and train stations. Also, you can buy MyMulti at a cheaper price from the exchange student office under their conditions.



Money and Banking

Nowadays, electronic bankings and online shopping in Australia are used widespread. At least, most people are carrying their own 'Debit Card' to purchase everything even a \$2.7 bus ticket at the convenience store! Most shops are accepting cards without minimum price. When you are paying with card, the shopkeeper would ask 'credit or savings'. If you are using a debit card, it is a saving! I would suggest you to have a card with you and your life will be much easier!

Accommodation



Living On-Campus is easy to go to class and you can get to know lots of friends. But I would say that Australian On-Campus Accommodation and American's Dorm are completely different from what you have seen from the television. Australian is more reserved and quiet, which creates a better atmosphere for studying.

Living Off-Campus would give you more sense of independence. However, most apartments are long-term contract which are at least 6 months. One suggestion is to find an apartment that is located very close to the bus stop. At the few first days of arrival, you might rent some room in the hotel and spend those times hunting for the apartment. You can look up for rooms from these following websites: www.domain.com.au, www.realestate.com.au, www.gumtree.com.au. [Note: UNSW is located in the Eastern Suburb at Kensington or Randwick area]

Moving into an apartment, 99% of Sydney's apartments do not provide bedding materials for tenants. The best place to shop for home stuffs is Eastgarden, where you can take bus number 400 to Burwood and get off at Eastgarden stop. There would be lots of stores like Target, K-mart, and Big-W to check out. To buy groceries, Coles and Woolworth always offer a good price and promotion, which are always cheaper than convenience stores.

Phone Call

2 major phone operators in Sydney are Optus and Vodafone. Both of them have monthly plan that included international call, unlimited text, unlimited call to same operator, and 4G internet. The plan starts with \$30 with about 500mb data plan and 150 minutes call including international call. [Note: I would recommend Optus since it provide a better signal at the university and most people I met are using it, which is free to call them!]

For those who would make lots of call internationally, I would recommend bringing 2 cell phones. One is for a normal uses, and another is for calling internationally. 'Lebera' is another operator that is very cheap for an international call.

Studying at UNSW



University of New South Wales (UNSW) is one of the best universities in Australia. There are 3 campuses: Main Campus in Kensington where most of our courses are here, COFA Campus in Paddington which is the place for arts and media courses, and Canberra Campus.

In the main campus at Kensington, you can find everything there, from class buildings, apartments, libraries, restaurants and cafes, to supermarket and banks. The campus is located on Anzac Parade Street where lots of Chinese restaurants and supermarkets are operated. Up to High Street, there will be another suburb called Randwick where you can visit shopping mall and movie theatre.

Studying at UNSW is not tough but not easy. The university will offer you a grade according to benchmark upon your performance as High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Pass, and Failed. At each course that you have registered, you will need to attend both Lecture, which is the 3-hour session in a large room that taught by instructor, and Tutorial, which is a 1-hour session that group up a small number of students to a tutor where you can discuss with your tutor the topic taught in lecture.

Textbooks

After you have enrolled courses, and get username and password to access to myUNSW (a system like TU's registration), you can download class outline and look for textbook that will be using in each course. Textbooks at UNSW Bookshop are expensive. You can buy a second hand textbook from Arc Bookstore at the University. Or rent textbook online, which they will delivery to your address. Another way is to get from ebay or Amazon. Although some courses are using American's edition in Australia, you can get an international edition since the content are same but just a different cover!

Stationaries

I highly recommend bringing your own stationaries from Thailand since there are not many choices in Australia. Moreover, the price is extremely expensive comparing the same product to the price here. But you can still get those stuffs from WHS Shop in the campus.



Activities

Sydney is a peaceful city with beautiful environment. Most Sydney people enjoy outdoor life. Moreover, the NSW Government has encouraged tourism by set up many festivals throughout the year.

Beaches



Sydney people love beaches! There are lots of beaches along the coastal line in Sydney. One of the world's best-known beach or Bondi Beach is located about 30 minutes away far from the CBD. From UNSW, going to Coogee Beach is not far. Manly is also one of my favourite where you can take a ferry there in North Sydney.

Markets

There are lots of interesting markets that you can visit every weekend. There will be lots of foods, souvenirs, art crafts, handmade stuffs, and many interesting goods to buy.

Friday: China Town Night Market

Saturday: The Rocks Market, Paddington Market, Glebe Market

Sunday: Bondi Market



Sydney is an amazing city where you can have a chance to get to know many people with different background learn lots of cultures, and try new things you've never done. Thank you BBA for the great opportunity that you have offered. I have learnt more than business courses at the great university at UNSW. Thank you for build us as a 'BBA TU Student' where we can adapt into any situation and places effectively. Thank you every moment there. Wish best luck to all next BBA generations who are looking forward to come to UNSW. You will fall in love with Sydney as I did!

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Semester1, 2013

