



**UNSW**  
A U S T R A L I A

הפקולטה לניהול  
אוניברסיטת תל-אביב



Tel Aviv University  
School of Management

## **University of New South Wales (UNSW)—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

**Roni Bar, Fall semester 2015**

### **About UNSW in general**

Location: UNSW is a 15 minute bus ride from the city (CBD), and a 10 minute bus ride from Bondi Junction. AGSM-- the Australian Graduate School of Management—is the business school within UNSW. 95-100% of the students in AGSM are foreign (not Australian), who come from all over the world. The average age is 29 and there is a range of 30-40 students in the full-time business program. There are 2 main programs at MBS: part time students (students who are working as well as undergoing their studies) and full time students (students who don't work and devote their time only for study). Most students are full time.

The minimum amount of courses you must take are 3, but most full-time students at AGSM take 4. Unlike Tel Aviv University, there are no assistant teachers. Lecturers teach the classes only in English, and expect for students to be punctual. There is a room to print papers, as well as a section for students to book rooms for team/group assignments and for individual studying. Students are given a student card and a locker to put their belongings. The student card gives discounts to certain transportation rides, as well as other outings like going to the cinema.

The school staff is very nice and very accessible – you can approach "student services" or lecturers directly with any concerns you have.

In the first 2 weeks you can "shop" between courses and switch as much as you like (with the approval of Tel-Aviv University).

I strongly recommend bringing a laptop, although there is a small computer lab which is mainly used for printing, rather than doing work. There is free wireless network at AGSM and you can connect printers via the internet and print whatever you like for free.

The exam week takes place right after the semester ends. Throughout the semester, there are assignments to submit and readings to do. I suggest keeping up with the readings so that it doesn't pile up towards the end of the semester. Class participation and discussions are expected, so in order to participate, you must come prepared having done the readings. Depending which course you take, sometimes it gets stressful to keep up with deadlines, so you have to make sure you are organized.

I felt that AGSM had knowledgeable professors and a high level of education. In terms of student-professor discussions and dress code, it is more formal than Tel Aviv University. You do not have to wear business clothes to all classes, but much of the time there are

networking events straight after class, and MBA mixers and meetings, in which you would have to dress more formal than usual. Professors like to see student involvement in class, so contribute as much as you can and show interest by asking questions.

What was nice about the courses provided during my session is that they involve more practical work than theory based work. One of the courses offered is called “Strategic Consulting Project” and it is more of a project than a course. There is no professor, but there is a consultant that supervises the work you do with a team, for a big Australian company. You have to apply to be a part of the team. Usually they do not admit exchange students, but if they are impressed with your application, they will admit you to the team. These consulting projects take up more time than the regular courses because you must meet with the company you are doing the project for, at least once a week. Then you have team meetings one or two more times a week. You gain more experience through this project than in a class, in my opinion, and I highly recommend it.

### **Here are some courses I took:**

Strategic Consulting Project-- as I mentioned above, this is a legitimate team-based consulting project you do for a big company. There is no exam and no grade—it is based on pass/fail, and everyone passes if they present to the company at the end of the semester. I recommend taking it if you are interested in consulting or gaining practical experience.

Strategies for Growth—I took this course with Patrick Sharry as the professor. He is a wonderful professor, and I recommend taking any course that he teaches. He is a patient, kind, and knowledgeable man. He is passionate about what he teaches and is happy to help anyone/answer questions. The course requires a basic understanding of strategy, which it builds off from. I must say, it is an interesting course!

Principles of Marketing (online course): I do NOT recommend taking this course. It is extremely time-consuming and although the professor is knowledgeable, he does not clarify the material/assignments well enough. Many people dropped the course or nearly failed because they could not find time to keep up with his demands, and the assignments were unclear. The professor was Ian Benton.

Courses I have not taken but heard about are:

\*Business Modelling (everyone loved the professors)—heard great things about it.

\*Entrepreneurship—great course but extremely demanding as well. Many people found it difficult to balance this course with the other courses because of the time outside of class that was demanded of them to do practical work. You must start a business/app within 6 weeks.

\*Financial statement analysis—half the people liked the professor and the class, the other half did not.

\*Leadership—I heard only good things about this course. You also spend a weekend in Kangaroo Valley which everyone said was a great experience.

## **General tips \ information:**

### **Transportation:**

The transportation system is convenient in Sydney: use an Opal card (like a Rav Kav). You top up the card with any amount of money you want, and you can use it on any form of public transportation. You **MUST** top on when you get on, and top OFF when you get off. If you forget to top off, you will be charged the full fare. It calculates how much you have to pay according to the distance you travel. You can use it on trains, buses, and ferries. It does not go by "monthly" top-ups. If you top on/off 8 times within a week, it won't charge you anymore for the rest of the week. So from Monday to Sunday, if you reach 8 rides, you won't be charged for the rest. It is worthwhile if you use public transportation often. On Sunday, and this goes for everyone, it only charges \$2.50 no matter how far you go. Therefore, many people use this day to go travelling to further places.

### **Accommodation:**

You can look for apartments through [Flatmatefinders.com.au](http://Flatmatefinders.com.au) or [Gumtree.com.au](http://Gumtree.com.au). The best one is flatmatefinders because it is specific to accommodation, whereas Gumtree is equivalent to Craigslist. You can find or advertise anything on Gumtree.

The suburbs to avoid are the ones in the west side of Sydney, such as Paramatta, Bankstown, Cronulla. You want to stay either around the CBD (central business district- city), or the eastern suburbs. Popular suburbs include Surry Hills, Darlinghurst, Potts Point, Glebe, Pyrmont, Bondi Beach, Coogee, Randwick, Newtown, Marrickville, Paddington, Bondi Junction. The hipster suburbs are Newtown and Marrickville. The ones around the city with awesome bars and a lot of events are Darlinghurst (where I lived), Surry Hills, Paddington, Pyrmont, and around Central Station. The beach-life suburbs further from the city are Bondi, Coogee, Bellevue Hill, Tamarama. Randwick and Kensington are the closest to UNSW and they are cheaper suburbs, but they are not as close to the beaches and/or the city.

You can live on campus if you prefer, but I do not know too much about it. No matter where you live, most people share apartment with 2-5 others, depending on if you share a room with someone or have your own private room. Rent is VERY EXPENSIVE. So is food. Eating out is pricey, so it's best to cook at home.

You have to pay 2 weeks bond when you move into an apartment, and you should receive it when you leave the apartment.

You can decide on an apartment to live in before you arrive to Sydney, or you can arrive and stay at an airBNB until you find an apartment.

## Places to go:

Sydney is a 1.5 hour flight from Melbourne. I recommend doing roadtrips down south towards Melbourne for a weekend. Amazing places to visit are along the way. Jervis Bay has the whitest sand. Kiama is beautiful as well. I highly recommend doing an overnight “farm stay” in the Southern Highlands, which is the countryside. It is a 1-2 hour drive from Sydney, and it is absolutely STUNNING! Robertson is within the Southern Highlands region, as well as Bowral, and many other towns. Visit the Kangaroo Valley, which is adjacent to the Southern Highlands. Unbelievable landscapes. Also check out the Hunter Valley, which is known for over 300 wineries. It is in the countryside, not far from Sydney. The Royal National Park is a must see—you can kayak there and find some stunning beaches and forests. Check out Wattamolla Beach in the Royal National Park.

The Blue Mountains is what I call the “Grand Canyon” covered in forests. It is a one hour drive from Sydney and has beautiful waterfalls.

I also recommend doing the Great Ocean road.

Sydney has café, restaurants and bars. Great bars within Sydney include:

The Rook

Baxter’s Inn

The Barber Shop

Palmer & Co.

Shady Pines

Pocket Bar

Uncle Ming’s

Opera House Bar

The Establishment (Tuesdays are salsa dancing nights)

The argyle (Wednesdays are salsa dancing nights)

Stitch

Rambling Rascals

and many many more!

However, most bars close between midnight and 2 am because of a new law called “lock-out laws”. The government is talking about changing it, but it may take time until this happens. Due to a few violent incident of drunk people punching people on the streets, most bars within and around the city close early. The nightlife culture here is far different from Israel... people go out straight after work, from 5 pm- midnight or later. So get ready to start your outings in the early evening!

If you google all the sites above or look at your lonely planet, you'll find much more information.

## **Banks**

The 4 big banks are: Commonwealth, Nab, Westpac and ANZ.

I strongly recommend opening an account with your student visa (takes 15 min) in a branch close to where you live, and transferring money from Israel – it's the cheapest way.

There are more ATM'S around Sydney for Commonwealth or NAB.

## **Airlines**

There are several low-cost airlines which operate in Australia (buy your tickets via their websites!):

Tiger airways

Jetstar

Virgin blue

## **Weather\clothes**

The weather in Sydney is \*Unpredictable\*! You will experience 4 seasons in one day. Bring winter and summer clothes.

## **Mobile phone**

2 main providers: Vodafone and Optus. I went for Optus, and I am happy with it. I am not sure if there is a big difference between the two. The most annoying thing is that, unlike Israel, you cannot have unlimited data. In Israel, I had unlimited data, but here it runs out, so don't be watching too many youtube videos without Wifi connected! Otherwise, your data will run out fast.

If you have any questions or want to know more, please do not hesitate to contact me. My name is Roni Bar.