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**Program at Coller: MBA in Financial Management**

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

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### **About UNSW in general**

We were 12 exchange students (many from Germany- I'm not sure why) and study together with the full-time students (~60 students).

95-100% of the students in AGSM are foreign (not Australian). The average age is 30 (usually the exchange people are younger) and there is a range of 40-50 students in the full-time business program.

You will study in AGSM the Australian Graduate School of Management—is the business school within UNSW (Randwick neighborhood) is a 20 minute bus ride from the city (CBD), and a 15 minute bus ride from Bondi Junction all by bus. They are building now a train to the university, so maybe by the time you will be there you can use the train 😊

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 number of courses you must take are 3, but most full-time students at AGSM take 4.

Lecturers teach the classes only in English and expect for students to be punctual. There is a common room for the AGSM students with free printers, drinks and a table tennis. Also, there are many nice spaces for group and individual assignments. Students are given a student card and a locker to put their belongings.

The school staff is very nice and very accessible you have the private email to each professor and also can approach the Student Experience office for any kind of assistance.

In the first 1 week you can "shop" between courses and switch as much as you like (with the approval of Tel-Aviv University) - so for any change you should do it quite fast.

I think that bringing a laptop is a must, part of the courses are teaches from the university system and it will just be easier to have one. There is good and free wireless network at AGSM.

The exam week takes place right after the semester ends but there are final projects that can be a week before the end of semester. Throughout the semester, there are assignments to submit and readings to do. Class participation and discussions are part of your grad and the professor are expected from you to do your reading and participate in class.

I think that AGSM had professional professors and a high level of education. I really loved the courses I took and felt there are more practical here than theoretical (courses such as "Strategic Consulting Project" and "Entrepreneurship from the inside" – which I will elaborate next). You do not have to wear business clothes to all classes, but much of the time there are networking events or presentations days.

### **Courses:**

#### **I took 3 courses:**

- 1) Entrepreneurship from the inside with the professor Jeffery Tubias – Excellent course but needed to invest one full day every week. At the beginning the professor give a list of startups and each of the students pick 5 options. After the professor allocation you visit the startup once a week and need to write 3 reports during the semester 2 shorts and at

the end of the semester you need to present your work to the professor, students and the startup CEO that you work for them. We had few meetings during the sessions with a venture capital partner and we visit one of the startups – I think this is great experience for exchange students to also experience the Australian work life.

- 2) Strategies for growth with the professor Patrick – this course including many cases that you need to read and be prepared for the class. During the class the professor ask the students many questions and discussion are essential part of the study and eventually this what makes the course so fascinating. Most cases were related to Asian countries and were quite old but also interesting. The course tasks included one individual writing report – to build strategy for growth for a company and at the end of session there is a group project that including building a business strategy for Australian company –or write a report and present it to the class and the company chosen. – I recommend this course.
- 3) Venture Capital Finance with the professor Stephan -It was a good course especially because the professor brings lots of is own experiences and stories. But, if you are not interested in venture capital/ private equity I won't recommend this course. This is a weekly course. The level of the course is not high and there are not many calculation and math problems which I loved. During the session there is one group project which including analysis of a case and there is one individual case which including more calculations. At the end of the session there is an exam which including the material learned during the session.

There are also incentive courses such as modeling business and Management business model which I heard was very good.

### **Transportation:**

They are working on a train inside the city and near the university now so there are many constructor work. It supposed to be ready by 2020 and then I believe it will be much easier to get to University and the city. But right now, the transportation system is convenient but slow 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:**

The university does not assist in finding accommodation and you should do it by yourself. You can look for apartments through [Flatmatefinders.com.au](http://Flatmatefinders.com.au) or [Gumtree.com.au](http://Gumtree.com.au). or in the university Facebook groups. The best one is flatmatefinders because it is specific to accommodation, whereas Gumtree is equivalent to Craigslist.

I think the best places to stay are either Bondi or Coogee – close to the beach and have good transportation to University and the CBD ( the city) but on the other hand very expensive. Other nice areas are Randwick and Paddington (which are close to University and cheaper than Bondi and Coogee) Surry Hills, Darlinghurst, Potts Point, Glebe, Newtown and in the city.

You can live on campus if you prefer, but I do not know too much about it just that most of the students will be relatively young. 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.

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

I lived in Bondi (in the middle of Bondi Beach and Bondi Junction) which is very convenient for public transportation, gyms, malls etc. but again – very expensive.

## **Visa:**

The university gave me 2 options – to do Student visa or tourist visa. The student visa (Class 500) cost around 500AUD – the application is through the Australia government website: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au>

The second option is to do tourist visa which cost less money (I think around 30 AUD) but you need to leave the country during the 3 months in order to stay longer. I knew 2 students who left for few days to NZ and then came back to Australia and got another 3 months visa.

## **Places to go:**

Places that I went and really enjoy it:

Malborne which is less than 1.5 hour flight from Sydney. Really nice and hipster atmosphere, the bars and clubs closing later than Sydney. I also recommend doing a road trip in the great ocean road. I recommend renting a car to Jervis Bay which is around 3 hours Souter to Sydney and has the whitest sand and amazing view.

The Blue Mountains can be a good option for one day or even two days trip. It is a one hour drive from Sydney or around 2 hours with trains and has beautiful waterfalls and amazing green and blue view.

Pitt to Manly hike – a really nice 3 hours hike to Manly beach.

I also took a surfing course in Bondi with a great company called “let’s go surfing” which you can surf also in Maroubra beach, Byron bay, Gold Coast and more!!

And if you have the option don’t miss the AMAZING New Zealand!! I went only for the South Island but it’s still worth it!

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

The bucket list (bar in Bondi)

Bondi 34 (live shows)

The Establishment (Tuesdays are salsa dancing nights and Thursday great parties)

The Seaf (in double bay- great parties)

IVE (a very famous club, with salsa dancing on Wednesday)

And many more...

However, most bars close between midnight and 1 am because of a law called “lockout laws” so the nightlife culture here is different – which I liked that. People start going out after work till midnight usually – also during the weekend parties, bars start early and close by 1 am – so start early to party!!!

Please find below my email address for further information and questions if you have 😊

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