

Rebecca - University of Sydney, Australia

My year in Sydney has given me the opportunity to work out what kind of person I am, accept it and make the most of it. It's made me more willing to try new things and now I can have a chat with anyone I meet. It's crazy to think that when I arrived I was so anxious about the whole year and I missed home and my friends terribly and now I've got plenty of people to miss here too.

I've been lucky to have travelled for over 3 months in the time I've been here, with friends and on my own, I hope to translate that passion for travel for when I'm back home. At the University of Sydney I've been lucky to study some fantastic units which have helped me think about the future. I've done a unit on computation, botany, a Physics research project, geosciences and an industry group project with an Australian insurance company. This extra year has allowed me to try these new things and I'm so grateful I got this opportunity.



Making friends

I met my best friend out here by coincidence on the university orientation day, but I consider that quite lucky! I would say I've made most of my other friends through people on my courses. Not many people do societies here in the way they do at UK universities, as a lot of people live with their parents and commute to university, but that is still a good opportunity to meet people that are around on campus.

Managing money

Australia and particularly Sydney are very expensive, so it's been interesting. My accommodation was by far my biggest cost. Groceries are also much more expensive, but surprising things like eating out and public transport are cheaper. I used an Australian bank called Commonwealth Bank. With them you could set up an online account before you arrived then just visit a branch and do the final set ups. There are other good banks for students though such as ANZ, which you can use for free in New Zealand too.