

Living in Sydney Tips for UDI Visiting Fellows

Living in Sydney:

We look forward to welcoming you to our UTS International Community. Each year, we welcome around 3,500 new international students and hundreds of distinguished visiting scholars from around the world.

With around 44,887 students from 120 different countries, including Australia, UTS is a reflection of Sydney's multicultural diversity.

The UDI team hopes that your experience at UTS will be both enjoyable and successful. Our staff are available to advise and support you at any time while you engage in research collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Sydney is a global city, full of exciting festivals and entertainment that celebrates its diversity. Check out our [Sydney event calendar](#) to get a feel for some of our biggest annual events.

ACCOMMODATION

Useful accommodation links

- www.airbnb.com.au
- <http://www.expedia.com.au/Hotels>
- <http://www.booking.com>
- [Urbanest \(Sydney Central\)](#)
- <http://www.jays-apartments.com/>

The hotels and serviced apartment listed below are all located within a ten-minute walk of the UTS campus. Please contact UDI team, we may offer you some accommodation options if such are available.

- [Mercure Hotel – CBD](#)
- [Novotel Sydney Central](#)
- [Adina Apartments – Sydney Central](#)
- [Ibis World Square](#)
- [Holiday Inn Old Sydney – The Rocks](#)

GETTING AROUND

Public Transport

Although you will be living very close to our campus, you might want to explore the city by using public transport. For general information on public transport in Sydney, call 131500 or go to: www.transportnsw.info

All forms of public transport in Sydney are operated via the Opal Ticketing System. The Opal Card is a smart card that is designed to be used on all modes of public transport and can either be topped-up online or at an Opal card top up machine. These machines can be found at most train stations. The card can either be purchased online or at most convenience shops. For more general information on the Opal card please visit: www.opal.com.au

Bus 555 is a free Sydney CBD shuttle that runs on a continuous loop between Central Station and Circular Quay via George Street. It runs every 10 minutes between 9am and 3.30pm on weekdays (until 9pm on Thursday nights) and between 9am and 6pm on weekends.

To drive in Sydney you need a valid and compatible driver's license. You will also need to learn the road rules for New South Wales. The Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) website provides further information.
www.rms.nsw.gov.au

MONEY AND BANKING

Accessing your money

You can withdraw your money at automatic teller machines (ATMs) which can be found all over Sydney. It is generally free to withdraw money from an ATM that is associated with your financial provider. Be aware that if you use another provider's ATM they will usually charge you a fee. The ATM will advise you of the fee at the point of withdrawal.

Most ATMs recognise international cards, so you will be able to use your credit or debit card from your home country. Just remember that there are fees associated with withdrawing money from your home account including transaction fees and the currency exchange rate. These vary by provider so check with your home financial provider before you arrive in Australia.

Opening a bank account might only be worth it if you are staying longer than one month.

Credit Cards

If you are bringing your credit card to pay for your living expenses while you claim for the reimbursement of expenses at the end of your stay, it is advisable that you bring either MasterCard or Visa, which are widely accepted in Australia. Previous visiting fellows have experienced more limitations when using American Express.

FEEL AT HOME

Supermarkets and Eating Out

There are lots of different supermarkets where you can buy groceries. Many supermarkets in Sydney are open seven days a week and stay open late. The nearest supermarkets to UTS include Woolworths at Central Park and Haymarket, Coles and ALDI at Broadway, and IGA at Market City.

ALDI: www.aldi.com.au

Coles: www.coles.com.au

IGA: www.iga.com

Woolworths: www.woolworths.com.au

Sydney is a very multicultural city and you can find food to suit your religious and cultural requirements, as well as any kind of food you like. UTS has its own food court on level 3 of the Tower Building, with food from different regions of the world. There are several websites that list restaurants by locality and specialty:

www.yourrestaurants.com.au

www.bestrestaurants.com.au

UTS is located within walking distance to Chinatown which has a variety of shops and restaurants offering Asian cuisine. Central Park, a shopping centre located opposite UTS Tower also offers a range of shops and eateries.

Sydney also has many restaurants and supermarkets which cater to a halal diet.

For a useful guide, see: <https://www.australia.com/en-my/places/sydney-and-surrounds/the-best-halal-restaurants.html>

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Australia is generally a very safe place to live. The 2011 OECD Better Life Index rated Australia 9.3 out of 10 for safety, one of the highest ratings awarded to any country. However, it is still important to look after yourself and be aware of the risks that exist - and ways to minimise them.

Off Campus Safety Tips

At the beach, make sure you swim on patrolled beaches and only between the flags. Do not swim at night, and remember always to wear sunscreen during the day. <https://sls.com.au/coastal-safety/>

Bushwalking is a great way to explore Sydney's beautiful surrounds. When you set off on a bushwalk make sure you take a map, plenty of water, wet weather gear, warm clothes and a phone. It is preferable to walk with someone you know and take an emergency beacon, available from camping stores. Always inform someone of where you are going and when you intend to be back.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety>

In Australia, it's illegal to have more than a small amount of alcohol before driving. Don't drink and drive or get into a car with a driver who has been drinking. Take a taxi home instead. To learn more about blood alcohol limits for drivers, visit: www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Contact Information

ON CAMPUS

Security – dial 6 from a campus phone or 1800 249 559

General UTS Security Enquiries – security patrols the UTS Campus at all times.

Dial 9514 4422 if you need general assistance.

Report accidents, incidents and hazards by calling 1800 249 559 (security), or report to a staff member.

www.safetyandwellbeing.uts.edu.au

OFF CAMPUS

Dial 000 for Police / Ambulance / Fire Brigade

Community Mental Health Team

1800 636 825 – free call for your nearest team

24 hour telephone counseling: Lifeline 13 11 14 / Salvo Crisis Line 1300 363 622

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE SAFE@UTS WEBSITE:

www.uts.edu.au/about/maps-and-facilities/safety-and-security

Other websites

- Art Galleries and Australian Culture
<http://www.visitnsw.com/things-to-do/arts-culture-and-heritage>
- Shopping
<http://www.sydney.com/things-to-do/fashion-and-shopping>
- Sydney's Chinatown
<http://www.discoverysydney.com.au/things/chinatown.html>