

Erfahrungsbericht Direktaustausch, USYD 2025/26

Going abroad was one of the best decisions I have made. Studying at the University of Sydney (USYD) has so far been an academically challenging and personally enriching experience. Living and studying in Australia offers unique opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom, and encourages strong personal growth.

Preparing for an exchange semester in Australia can be demanding. Alongside regular studies at the home university, students must complete administrative tasks such as enrolment, visa applications, health insurance, accommodation arrangements, and credit recognition. The semester schedule between German universities and USYD overlaps closely, which can add additional pressure. However, USYD provides clear guidance throughout the enrolment process. Despite the bureaucratic effort, arriving in Sydney and experiencing the city firsthand makes the preparation worthwhile.

Studying at USYD is generally more workload-intensive than at many German universities, as assessment is spread across the semester through assignments, presentations, and exams. The academic experience can be challenging, particularly due to language barriers and different teaching styles, but it is also highly rewarding. Active participation, asking questions, and engaging with peers greatly enhance the learning experience. Student societies play an important role in social integration and provide opportunities to meet people from all over the world.

Sydney itself offers an exceptional quality of life. Public transport is efficient, and the city combines urban life with easy access to beaches and nature. Activities such as running, surfing, and ferry trips through Sydney Harbour are popular and affordable ways to explore the city.

Travelling within Australia is highly recommended. Northern Australia, including the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest, stands out for its biodiversity, while the South has a lot beautiful drives and vine régions. Long travel distances and occasional safety concerns require careful planning, but the experiences are unique and memorable.

Studying abroad in Australia also raises questions about sustainability due to the high carbon footprint of long-haul flights. However, the personal, academic, and social benefits can outweigh these drawbacks if the experience is used consciously and responsibly.

Overall, going on exchange was a life-changing experience. While it involves challenges such as homesickness and personal sacrifices, it fosters independence, self-reflection, and international networks. For students who are willing to step out of their comfort zone, an exchange semester at the University of Sydney is highly recommended.