Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
The instructors in Australia were very similar to UCSB instructors; very approachable and involved in current research in their fields of study.

- Could you call them by their first names?
Yes, my professors encouraged their students to refer to them by first names, something I would never presume to do here at UCSB.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
No, the relationship was less formal due to the first-name basis between student and professor, although there is still a definite etiquette one would follow when speaking to an Australian instructor.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
The instructors all had office hours and were available for appointments as well.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
I found the courses much more difficult than UCSB courses, and the course load is much more intense. I had more labs and assignments than I usually have here at UCSB, although only one examination, usually a final, for each course.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
The grading system in Australia is much different; a “Pass” is considered satisfactory, followed by a “Credit” (which most students prefer as the minimum grade to earn), “Distinction,” and a “High Distinction.” High distinctions are extremely difficult to earn and only a few students in each course are slotted to earn one. These grades are all based on a percentage system, which is somewhat similar to American grading.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
The courses had many individual assignments, field studies, and labs, with only one final exam at the end of the semester.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
My exams were all written exams.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
My finals were already scheduled for me, and I had no conflicts with them so I would say it was flexible.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
I went to office hours a few times and also worked in a group with Australians on my individual assignments.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
Yes, I needed to take the time to go all the way to campus to get my work done as well as figure out how to do an assignment even when instructions were clear.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
The lectures were not participatory, although the field studies were a mandatory component.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
The classes at Sydney Uni were all recorded, both audio and visual; so many students simply don’t come to lecture and participate in their own homes.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
My classes were all MWF and TR, and for about 50 minutes to an hour long.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
All teachers encouraged punctuality, no cell phones, and eating/drinking was allowed if you were discrete and tidy.

**Language**

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
Australian courses were all offered in English.

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
I took all my courses in English.

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
N/A

**Host University**

- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
The University of Sydney is close to 50,000 students, which is much larger than UCSB. This is because most students commute. It’s an urban campus, minutes from the Sydney CBD.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
Local students live at home, with a few living in on-campus accommodation.

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - **How far or close is it to the city?**
    It is within the Sydney city limits, within minutes of the CDB.
  - **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
    I took the bus, train, and then walked to uni everyday, and this cost me probably close to $4AUD each day.

    - **Could students take cabs -cost?**
      N/A

    - **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
It would take less than 10 minutes to get to the city center; the Sydney skyline was visible all over campus.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  There are club sports, intramurals, and other clubs and organizations.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  I didn’t have any textbooks required for class; everything was online or in course readers.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  There are many labs on campus, although I sometimes brought my laptop to do work somewhere else.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  There are lots of bars, restaraunts, cafes, stores, and entertainment places adjacent to campus.

### Housing

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  There is some on-campus housing, although it is EXTREMELY difficult for UC students to get.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  Some are on-campus or in adjacent areas.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  I didn’t get on-campus housing, so I lived in an apartment in a nearby suburb of Sydney.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived at Bondi Beach in the Eastern Suburbs, with two Americans and a Canadian. We lived in a building full of young internationals working and studying in the Sydney area.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  No, my roommates were in my program, so we all searched together. Roommates can be found on sites like Gumtree, which is similar to CraigsList.

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  My apartment was very shabby, sort of similar to an Isla Vista apartment.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  My rent was about $600AUD per month, similar to renting here in I.V.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  We payed our rent with a special “rent card” at the Post Office around the corner, and the rent goes directly into the account of the managing company.

### Food

- **What was the food like?**
  The food was similar to American food, same sort of international cuisine.
- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I ate most of my meals at home, with food from the local grocery store.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  The average meal probably cost anywhere from $10-20.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  The eating schedule was the same as in the U.S., although “tea” was often served around 11am.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  No, there are plenty of vegetarian options in Australia.

**Travel/Safety**

- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
  See above

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  Sydney was an extremely safe, friendly, and open city; I felt safer in the city there than I ever have in an American city, even at night.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  In Sydney, there is an extensive bus, rail, air, ferry, and cab system that most people find easy to use.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  It’s very easy to travel within Australia; I only visited New Zealand, which was a short 3-hour flight from Australia.

**Host City/Country**

- What was the weather like?
  In Sydney, the weather was hot and humid in the summer, cool and dry in the winter. There are many climates in Australia, similar to those of the U.S.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  Sydney is very glitzy at nighttime, but laid-back, casual, open, and friendly in the day. It reminded me of San Francisco or San Diego.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  I visited all the beaches, Royal National Park, and other major city attractions like the Harbour Bridge and Opera House.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  Sydney is the international city of Australia, with international business and culture permeating everyday life.

**Culture**
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - **Time & punctuality**
    Similar to the U.S., it is preferred to be on time.
  - **Eye contact & staring**
    Similar to the U.S.
  - **Relationships**
    The boyfriend-girlfriend relationship seemed very similar to those here in the U.S.
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    Pre-university public school kids wear uniforms, and uni students all get fairly dressed up for daily class.
  - **Alcohol consumption**
    Australians enjoy a party!
  - **What culture shock did you go through?**
    Just being away from home, and in a much more formal academic setting than I enjoy at UCSB made the first weeks difficult.
  - **Other?**

**Banking**

- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
  Yes, credit cards are accepted everywhere.

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
  N/A

- **If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM?**
  - **Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?**
    I use Bank of America in the U.S., which has a relationship with WestPac, an Australia/New Zealand bank. This allowed me to withdraw from WestPac ATMS free of charge. Otherwise, ATMs charged $3 per transaction.

- **Were there ATMs on campus?**
  There are at least 5 ATMs I remember seeing on the Sydney Uni campus, representing several different banks.