

Suthawal Prasongdee

Phonruethai Techathattanont

*Exchange Student at ANU, Canberra, Australia*



Studying at the Australian National University for one year was such a great opportunity to become more like a grown-up person. I have faced many different situations that I could have not learned without staying abroad on my own. There were many things that I have experienced and learned, some were good and some were bad, but I can say that all of them are valuable lessons to me and have shaped me to be a stronger and more valuable person.

## *About ANU*



ANU is one of the most famous and best universities in Australia. It is located in Canberra, a capital city. It provides many different faculties for students to choose base on their preferences. Few most popular faculties of ANU are Asian Studies, which is one of the best in the world, Law and Commerce. Students usually choose to study double degree combining law and commerce. For a single degree program, students need to study for three years to graduate, with each course contains six credits, while students need to study five years to fulfill their double degrees.

Studying at ANU was pretty hard. Most students are well-responsible for their own task and always get their assigned work done before coming to classes. Students are allowed to take maximum of four courses per one semester. Each course usually requires three contact hours, with two hours of lecturing and another one hour of tutoring. Lecturing is a big class, which usually contains about three hundred up to about seven or eight hundred people. Tutorial classes are much smaller, which contain only about ten to fifteen people and tutor usually check for attendances, moreover, students are sometimes asked to write quizzes or even present presentations in front of their classes. Students are also allowed to ask any inquiries about lessons learned from the lecture.

For many classes, students are assigned to write essays or reports, which usually required very good quality work. Attaching references are very crucial in writing essays and reports. If students are found not to be correctly reference their sources of information, they could get zero for such paper or the worse case is to be expelled. Therefore, all students must be very cautious in doing their work because these assignments usually account for quite a lot of percentages.

Students here are very serious with their studies. When they play, they play hard, but when it comes to exam times or reports due date, they can also spend all night long doing their work.

### ***Accommodation***

Accommodations can be broadly distinguished into two major types- on and off campus. Each has advantages and disadvantages and students normally make their decisions base on their preferences.

Off-campus accommodations usually charge lower price than those located inside university area. But that seems to be the only positive thing about it. They typically located quite a distant from the university. Students take approximately at least half an hour to get to classes. Moreover, places are not as safe and friends cannot be easily made because one place usually has no more than five people living together.

On-campus accommodations in ANU are very convenient and there are up to seven different choices for students to choose. Staying on campus is almost always safer and students can always make friends within the hall where they live. One accommodation usually consists of not less than two-hundred and fifty up to five hundred residents. Students generally gather around and partake in some activities together, including sport games, cooking event, international events, studying in group and many more. There are also special events at each hall, such as a commencement dinner or a ball.



International Ball 08

On-campus accommodations are also further categorized into two major types, catered and self-catered hall.

Catered is where residents are provided with food for three meals every day. There are also fruits, salad, bread, side dishes that students can choose. Living as these places are very easy and convenient. Nevertheless, people can get bored of the food very easily and tastes are usually not as nice as self-cooked. Another drawback is the fixed time to eat. Each meal is fixed with an hour and a half time and this is quite troublesome if residents cannot make it during that time.



Christmas in July



Scribble Party

Self-catered halls do not provide any food but rather have shared kitchens for residents to prepare for their own food. Prices are for all time cheaper than the other type. The disadvantage for this one is that cooking is time-consuming thus students have less time to do other things, especially study.



Commencement Dinner 09

### ***Working in Australia***

Getting jobs in Australia are legal for students who hold student visas. Full time students are allowed to work up to twenty hours a week. Thai students usually have their part time jobs at Thai restaurant as waiters or waitresses. It is quite a tiring job, which requires working hour up to five hours a shift. The pay rate per one shift is ranging from fifty to sixty dollars. The rates are always less

than normal required rate but many Thai students still prefer to do it is quite easy to get the job and job roles are not very complicated.

Another popular job for Asian students is working at McDonald. McDonald recruits a lot of people to work each day and there are many branches in the city, moreover, the pay rate is at least at the minimum rate. Therefore, many students prefer to work there. At McDonald, employees need to understand all the names of the food there and must be able to get the correct item to serve customers.

One more job that some Thai students experience when they are in Canberra is working at Asian grocery stores. Girls are assigned to be cashiers and guys will be working as stocking staffs. Being a cashier is quite an easy job because everything is in the computer system already. However, employees need to be very careful with the money all the time. If there is any mistake to the money you are accounted for, then you are the only one that has to be responsible to the shortage.

No matter what kind of job it is, as long as it is legal, working always be beneficial to one who does it. Working is a very good experience to learn to know how to do things in order. it also shapes the person to be a more hard working person because he needs to go to work on time and cannot finish it until four or five hours later depending on the contact. Moreover, one will automatically learn to be much more responsible since being late for work is not as acceptable as being late to class. In addition, time spent on working will not be wasted on other unnecessary or non value-added activities. Furthermore, students can collect money earned from work and at some point they will be very proud of themselves to get such a lot of money.

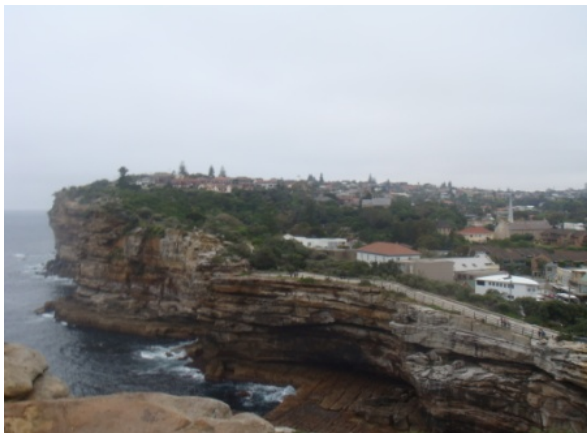
## *Travelling in Australia*

**Australia** is a big continent that consists of many cities, including Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Perth, Tasmania and Darwin. These different cities are quite unique from one another.

**Canberra** is a capital city of Australia and many government offices are located here, including the parliament house. Though, it is such a quiet city and is distinguished into only up to five main suburbs and each suburb usually consists of only one major area to hang out. Therefore, it is a very good place to go to university because there are not as many distractions as other places. However, cost of living here is slightly higher compared to other cities because most of the goods have been sent from bigger cities, mostly Sydney.



**Sydney** is always the city that most people misunderstand to be the capital city. It is not a big but busy city. If treated Australia as Thailand, Sydney would be the city that can most likely be matched with Bangkok. The only difference is that it is much less polluted than Bangkok. There are many well-known places to visit such as the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Darling Harbour, Bondi Beach, China Town, Watson Bay and many others. Sydney is a city that is worth visiting.



[Melbourne](#) is another big and beautiful city. Buildings and housing in Melbourne are very antique and attractive. Train station called Flinder station is very gorgeous at night time. Nearby is the Federation Square which is another good place to see. The biggest casino in Australia, named Crown casino, is located in Melbourne as well. However, the city of Melbourne itself is not very big, one can take a one day trip to finish all the area. There are also other interesting places outside the city, including the Great Ocean Road that takes about eight hours of driving from the city and Phillip Islands, where there are penguins' parade at night time. Melbourne is a very romantic and loving city, especially at the evening time, where the sun gradually sets and the weather is a bit chilly. It is another city that one should not miss when travelling in Australia.





Gold Coast is also a fun place to visit because it has very nice coast all along the city, and when the sun shines, the color of the coast is gold and that is how it gets its name- Gold Coast. Not only nice shore and beach, but Gold Coast also has the biggest theme parks and water parks in Australia, including Movie World, Dream World, Water World, Sea World, etc. These make Gold Coast another wonderful place to visit.



Surfer Paradise, Gold Coast



Movie World, Gold Coast

From travelling around Australia, there is not only fun and enjoyment that one can get but also good knowledge and information about each place and thus makes him a broader person.