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Welcome Message

From the Director of Student Life and Learning

Welcome to UNSW Australia, one of Australia’s leading research and academic universities. At UNSW, we take pride in the broad range and high quality of our teaching programs. Our teaching gains strength and currency from our research activities, strong industry links and our international nature with strong regional and global engagement.

The University is comprised of 50 000 students from over 120 countries. UNSW’s international make up is an asset to the culture on campus. With a vibrant student community and strong institutional focus on developing global citizenship, we hope that students from all parts of the world can contribute and benefit from this diversity on campus.

This document is intended to offer both local and international students information on support services available on campus, general information on living in Sydney as well as information relating to the Muslim community in Sydney and UNSW.

We hope that your time at UNSW is a fulfilling experience, allowing you to explore, develop and contribute to our wonderful community.

Sandra Norris,
Director of Student Life and Learning
Religion in Australia

The Australian Constitution guarantees freedom of religious expression and prohibits the government from mandating any form of religious practice. Legal protections are in place to promote respect and acceptance in the community. There are a number of laws, at the federal level and state/territory level that prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, age, gender and disability.


Muslims in Australia

Muslims in Australia make up approximately 2.3% of the general population. The large majority of whom (61.5 per cent) were born overseas. Almost 50% of Australian Muslims are aged 24 and under.

Forty five per cent of Australia’s total Muslim population resides in NSW. The 2011 census data indicates that there are 113,940 Muslims within NSW, which accounts for 3.3% of the NSW community.

With such a large Muslim community, NSW boasts a very dynamic and diverse range of community resources including places of worship, community organisations and a cosmopolitan lifestyle.
UNSW is committed to furthering the principles of equity, fairness and respect for social and cultural diversity.

There are a number of policies in place to protect the rights of staff and students to ensure the university is free from unlawful discrimination, harassment and vilification.

If you would like to learn more about UNSW’s policy statements you can find details in the table below and on the Current Students website https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints.

### Table 1. Summary of Equity Policy Statements at UNSW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Statement</th>
<th>Web Location</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: (02) 9385 8515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:studentcomplaints@student.unsw.edu.au">studentcomplaints@student.unsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Religious facilities on campus

The Religious Centre

The Religious Centre is provided for all UNSW students and staff and is located on the Kensington campus on the third floor of the Squarehouse. The Centre is attended by Anglican, Buddhist, Catholic, Coptic Orthodox, Islamic, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Pentecostal, Presbyterian and Uniting Church chaplains.

Mahmoud Jaame is the Muslim Chaplain who is in attendance of the meeting room and prayer rooms available for Muslim students. He oversees the operations and communications of the Islamic Society in collaboration with students. Send an email to Chaplain Mahmoud to be included on the mailing list for up to date information relating to the Muslim community at UNSW.

Chaplain Mahmoud Jaame
Telephone: (02) 9385 5957
E-mail: m.jaame@unsw.edu.au
Location: 3rd Floor Squarehouse, Lower Campus UNSW (E4)

Prayer and Washrooms

Prayer and washrooms are located in the Squarehouse, lower campus (see campus map at the back of this booklet). The prayer room facilities are capable of comfortably accommodating over 40 students at the one time. There are separate male and female sections. The space is well utilised for prayer, relaxation and socialising with peers.

There is an additional room allocated exclusively for females to pray at dedicated times on upper campus. Meeting room 2 in the Hub (Commerce Courtyard) has been booked as a prayer space every weekday to accommodate for the Zuhr and Asr prayers. Please check signs in the room or speak to the Hub reception staff to confirm the exact time of availability as this may vary during the year depending on the season and day light saving periods. Prayer mats are available in the room.

Friday Prayers

Details for the congregational Friday prayers are below. Please note that this information is subject to change. The prayer venue is open for both males and females.

Location: Multipurpose Complex, University Gym.
Call to prayer: 1:12pm
Sermon concludes: 1:35pm
Prayer service concludes: 1:45pm
UNSW provides a dynamic learning experience. The university has a lot of international students from many different cultural backgrounds. I enjoy my studies here and like living in Sydney. My experience so far has been positive and I would recommend UNSW to anyone who is considering to move to Sydney for studies. The university has been kind and caring enough to provide Muslim students prayer rooms with dedicated ablution area for both males and females, the university also facilitates the arrangements for, and secures prayer spaces during, Ramadan, Eid and Friday prayers. (Mohammad Rahman, Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering)
Academic and Support Services on Campus

There are a wide range of support services available for all students during their degree. Whether you are an Undergraduate or Postgraduate, local or international student, there are a wide range of programs, staff and services available to meet your needs.

Safety on Campus

UNSW’s security activities and 24/7 security presence on campus highlights the importance of student, staff and visitor security and safety. While there is a strong focus on prevention, UNSW’s round-the-clock security services also means that help is only moments away should it be required. With safety and security well taken care of, you can be free to concentrate on your studies and enjoy all that student life on campus at UNSW has to offer.

Safety escorts

Security Services are available to accompany students on campus at any time all year round. Safety escorts are free and can be used from any particular location on campus to car parks, bus stops, taxi ranks or limited locations surrounding campus. A request can be made by calling the Security Services on 9385 6000, from any lift phone or any Help Point.

Night shuttle bus

Security Services provide a free night shuttle bus for staff and students. The bus route covers Kensington Campus (car parks, colleges, libraries, State Transit bus interchanges) and Randwick Campus. There are seven bus stops on campus and five bus stops off campus.

The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 7pm and 11.30pm. Please note, it does not operate on public holidays or during the University shutdown period (from late December to early January).

UNSW Australia Muslim Student Guide page 9
To see exactly where the free night shuttle bus is while you are waiting, simply download the DoubleMap Bus Tracker app (from iTunes or Google Play) and select University of New South Wales. You can also download it to your computer by visiting http://unsw.doublemap.com


Help Points on campus

‘Help Points’ have been strategically placed across UNSW campuses to help ensure your safety. Help Points provide a direct link to the Security Services Control Room.

To activate a response from security staff, hold your finger down on the red button until you are connected to Security Services.


Safety awareness presentations

Security Services staff provide regular 30 minute safety awareness presentations on safety and security to staff and students. Presentations provide information on:

- how to stay safe whilst on and off campus
- how to get help during an emergency
- support programs in place for victims of crime.

For comprehensive information on all the services provided by FM Assist, please visit their web site. http://www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/

Library

The UNSW Library provides contemporary study spaces, group study rooms, computer and internet access and a world class collection of electronic and physical resources. Library staff also provide specialised consultations for postgraduate students to connect them with the skills and information they need in their given field. Students can learn how to improve research skills and utilise the library facilities efficiently. For more information on the wide range of support available in the library visit their website. http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/servicesfor/academic/rescon.html

Graduate Research School

Central administration and support for all higher degree research candidates at UNSW are provided by the Graduate Research School (GRS).

Postgraduate researchers receive support from GRS, including funding for conference travel, opportunities to acquire enhanced skills and training through coursework options, research management seminars, and opportunities to obtain teaching experience.

http://research.unsw.edu.au/units/graduate-research-school

Faculties

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Phone: +61 2 9385 2289 Location: Morven Brown Building, Room G1 (C20)
Web: http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/

The Australian School of Business
Phone: +61 2 9385 3189 Location: The ASB Building, West Lobby Map (E12)
Web: http://www.asb.unsw.edu.au
Accommodation

Living on campus while studying at UNSW brings many opportunities and conveniences that will add value to the university experience. UNSW provides quality on-campus accommodation options for students. There are a number of residential colleges to cater for the diverse range of student needs.
Of particular note is Fig Tree Hall which is one of the five new UNSW Colleges. Fig Tree Hall is fully catered, has 158 single occupancy ensuite rooms with gender segregated floors and laundries on each level. Catering across the Colleges accommodates all dietary requirements including Halal food options. Fig Tree Hall is also unique in that it offers prayer spaces and is an alcohol-free building.

For more detailed information including how to apply for residency whilst you study on campus at UNSW, we encourage you to visit the Residential Communities website http://rc.unsw.edu.au/

UNSW Health Services

The University Health Service provides a quality and confidential health service to the students, staff & visitors of UNSW. All doctors, nurses and administration staff are non-judgemental and understanding of cultural diversity. Both male and female doctors work at the practice and are available upon request.

For more information or to make an appointment:
Location: Ground Floor East, Quadrangle Building, UNSW (E15)
Telephone: (61 2) 9385 5425
Email: unihealth@unsw.edu.au
Web: http://www.healthservices.unsw.edu.au/

Parents Facilities on Campus

There are a number of changing facilities for parents to use on campus, usually adjoining the toilet facilities. There are also two rooms dedicated for parents with children on campus. The room on upper campus is for the use of both mothers and fathers and the room on lower campus is for women only.

Morven Brown Building (upper campus) - Room LG52

The parent room is accessible from the north eastern side of the Morven Brown courtyard. The room offers a quiet space for breastfeeding, it contains a lounge, microwave, sink and fridge. For short term access a visitor card can be picked up from the Student Equity and Disability Unit (Ground floor, John Goodsell building). For long term access, a form should be completed and submitted to the Workplace Diversity Unit.

For more information contact: Workplace Diversity Team (workplace.diversity@unsw.edu.au)

Women’s Room, Blockhouse (lower campus) - Level 1 East

The room has a computer, printer and tv, as well as nearby access to microwave and changing room. The room is available to women only.

Food on Campus

UNSW offers a diverse range of food outlets on campus. There are a range of vegetarian options throughout campus, however if you were particularly interested to know which outlets are Halal certified please see the options below.

Please note it is the student’s responsibility to check the validity of the Halal certification displayed at each outlet.

Upper Campus - Mathews Arcade
Classic Kebab (E24)
Jewel of India (E24)

Lower Campus - University Terraces
Mamak Village (B8)
Yummba (B8) (Vegetarian)
Mosques and Prayer Centres in Sydney

There are approximately 70 mosques and mussallahs throughout New South Wales. For a comprehensive listing you can check the Muslims Australia – Australian Federation of Islamic Councils website.


Some places of worship in the Sydney metropolitan area (those closest to UNSW) are listed here for your convenience. Please ensure you check details prior to visiting any of the listed places of worship.

**Redfern Mosque**
328 Cleveland St Surry Hills 2010
Phone: 02 9698 4149

**Surry Hills Mosque**
175-177 Commonwealth Street Surry Hills 2010
Phone: 02 9281 0440

**Tempe Mosque**
45 Station Street Tempe
Phone: 02-95588533

**Zetland Mosque**
938 Bourke Street Zetland
Ph: 9319 6733
Halal Food in Sydney

The Sydney food scene is dynamic with cuisines from all over the world. It is very easy to find Halal restaurants at affordable prices near UNSW, within Sydney city and outer metropolitan areas. For a comprehensive directory which can be searched by cuisine or location visit the Halal Square website (www.halalsquare.com.au).

There are many Halal butchers throughout the Sydney metropolitan areas. For those living close to campus the listings below are in the local area.

Brothers Halal Meat and Groceries
Shop 22b Eastlakes Shopping Centre, Eastlakes
Ph. (02) 8338 1400

Vatan Butchery
1221 Botany Road, Mascot
Ph. (02) 9667 0007

For comprehensive information about Halal products, businesses and services in NSW, contact the Halal Helpline, which is a well-regarded authority in NSW. They can email relevant information to you in response to most queries pertaining to Halal requirements.

Halal Helpline
G.P.O. Box 3906, Sydney NSW 2001 Tel +61 2 9232 6731 – Fax + 61 2 9223 8596 – Email: info@halalhelpline.org

My experience in UNSW has been great, especially being able to meet students from different backgrounds and walks of life. I feel privileged to be a UNSW student, given the competitive environment and the amount of opportunities available to students to explore their dreams and aspirations. The competitive environment is definitely a challenge. For new Muslim students, I’d say make the most of your opportunities whilst at universities as it would help build your future. The Muslim chaplaincy provides excellent services so being a practicing Muslim isn’t too tough. Also, the Muslim community in UNSW is very big and consists of various nationalities like Malaysians, Bruneians, Omanis, Saudis, etc. and it’s rewarding being able to engage with them. (Naser Saleh, Bachelor of Commerce).
Fast Facts for Living in Sydney

Airport

Sydney International Airport is 9 to 14 kilometres from UNSW, depending on the route taken. The journey by car should take up to 20 minutes.

Student Development International have an airport pick up service available for international students before the start of every semester. For more information and to make a booking, please go to https://student.unsw.edu.au/airport-pickup.

Public Transport

UNSW is very accessible by public transport and a range of options are available no matter where you live. Transport for NSW provides detailed timetable information, maps and a journey planner on their website. For more information visit: www.transportnsw.info.

Climate

Sydney has a comfortable, temperate climate with warm summers and mild winters. On average, Sydney has 7 hours of sunshine per day. Its temperature ranges from an average winter minimum of 9 and a maximum of 17 degrees Celsius, to a peak summer maximum average of 26 degrees. In hot conditions summer temperatures can reach mid- high 30 degrees Celsius and sometimes even up to 45 degrees Celsius. Sydney’s rainfall averages 1213 millimeters a year, with an average of 11 wet days per month. More than 40 per cent of this rain falls between March and June.

For more information on weather conditions in Sydney, visit the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.
Time Zone

The standard time in Sydney is referred to as the Eastern Standard Time (EST) which is ten hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+10). Daylight saving is observed in Sydney which is referred to as Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDST).

Daylight saving in New South Wales begins at 2:00 am on the first Sunday in October and ends at 3:00 am on the first Sunday in April. Daylight saving will end on 6 April in 2014.

The same period of daylight saving is observed in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. Daylight saving is not observed in Queensland, Western Australia or the Northern Territory.

Electricity

The normal current is 220-240 volts AC; 50Hz. The three pin power outlet is different from many countries including Asia. It is recommended to look for an Australian adaptor socket.

Business Hours

Standard business hours in Australia are Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Business hours for many services on the UNSW campus can vary and you will need to check with the relevant service.

Sun Smart

The sun is very intense. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended even on cloudy days to prevent sunburn and skin cancer.
The University is a multicultural place with numerous opportunities available to every student. I do not feel any different from others, we are all students seeking one goal, “knowledge”. I have experienced different cultures from different countries. The university provides guidance, especially for international students from the beginning to tackle any obstacles. They also help students be involved in different activities. On campus, liberty and practising religions are taken into account. Most facilities you may think of are available and I highly recommend any student to come to my university.

(Khalid Alsuti, Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering).
Endnotes
