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Welcome to UNSW Sydney, 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 Muslim 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.
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 disability¹.


**MUSLIMS IN AUSTRALIA**

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.

Almost 46% of Australian Muslims are aged 24 and under².

44.3% of Australia’s total Muslim population resides in NSW³.

Muslims in Australia make up approximately 2.6% of the general population. The majority of whom (64%) were born overseas⁴.
As a Muslim student who always needs to go to the Squarehouse to pray, and who is a part of SPREE (School of Photovoltaics and Renewable Energy Engineering), I find my commute around UNSW very simple as both buildings (Tyree and Squarehouse) are at the bottom of campus.

With a very open community and surprisingly chill environment, my time at UNSW has and will be the most memorable in my educational career.

Zubair Abdullah-Vetter
2nd Year Photovoltaics Engineering student
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 student.unsw.edu.au/complaint.

The policy list can be found here: gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/findapolicy/policylist.html

Or each policy can be found below:

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<th>Policy Statement</th>
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<td>Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy</td>
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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.

The Muslim Chaplain is Mahmoud Jaame. He is in attendance of the meeting 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 in the mailing list for up to date information relating to the Muslim community at UNSW.

Chaplain Mahmoud Jaame

📞 (02) 9385 5957
✉️ m.jaame@unsw.edu.au
📍 3rd Floor Squarehouse, Lower Campus UNSW (E4)

PRAYER AND ABLUTION FACILITIES

Prayer and ablution facilities are located in the Squarehouse, lower campus (see campus map at the back of this booklet). The prayer room facilities are divided into separate male and female sections accommodating 25 to 30 males and 10 to 15 females at the one time. The space is well utilised for prayer and relaxation, and there is a communal foyer area to socialise with peers.

FRIDAY PRAYERS

Details for the congregational Friday prayers are below. Please note that this information is subject to change especially during exam times. To keep up to date, email m.jaame@unsw.edu.au to join the mailing list. The prayer venue is open for both males and females.

📍 Multipurpose Complex, University Gym.
Call to prayer: 1:12pm
Sermon concludes: 1:35pm
Prayer service concludes: 1:45pm
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.

Student Life: Student Hub

Student Life: Student Hub is comprised of several units including Student Central, Student Development, Student Development International, The Learning Centre, Careers and Employment, Counselling and Psychological Services, Disabilities Services, Educational Support Service, UNSW Community Development - Diversity, The Religious Centre and the Student Conduct and Appeals Office.

To learn more about these services including academic support, counselling, international student support, volunteering, career advice, personal and professional development opportunities, please visit the Current Students website: Support and Development https://student.unsw.edu.au/support.
Estate Management

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Estate Management is one of the largest non-academic units at UNSW. Campus Services is one of the departments under Estate Management, and manages a diverse range of services supporting campus operations, with the aim of creating a safe, attractive and productive environment for members of the University community and visitors.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

UNSW Security Services has a comprehensive 24 hour security presence on campus and maintains security monitoring services for the University. This 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, and the highly visible NEW Campus Security office located at Gate 2 is staffed by Campus Security and open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Security Services also operate a 24 hour patrol and an emergency response service. Security Officers wear distinctive uniforms to make them readily identifiable, and use high visibility patrolling techniques to deter and respond to crime.

Security Services is ALWAYS your FIRST contact point for ANY incident or emergency on campus. Contact them on 9385 6666.

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.

For more information about UNSW Security Services
estate.unsw.edu.au/security-safety/about-unsw-security-services

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 6.30pm and 11.30pm. Please note, it does not operate on public holidays or during the University shut down period (from late December to early January).

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 unsww.doublemap.com or you can track the night shuttle bus with the StaySafe@UNSW Security App.

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.

Help Point Locations on campus:
facilities.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/page_file_attachment/KENC%20-%20Help%20Points%201.pdf

STAYSAFE@UNSW SECURITY APP

StaySafe@UNSW is the UNSW Security app. Download it to your smart phone for direct access to:

- Emergency contacts
- Request a security escort
- Track the night security bus
- and more!

The app also features a flashlight and alarm, security tips and a newsfeed.

Download the app for free from the App Store or Google Play.

For comprehensive information on all the services provided by Facilities Management, please visit their web site. 
estate.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. library.unsw.edu.au/study

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. research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research

[Experiment, engage, and experience]

My experience of UNSW has been great: it has broadened my understanding of the world, and been significantly developmental. I feel comfortable being on campus: there are places to pray, congregate for the Friday sermon, and engage in fun, food-filled events. The UNSW Muslim community is large, and it’s rewarding to engage with them. A hadith I reflect on sometimes is to take 5 before 5: youth before old age, health before sickness, wealth before poverty, free time before preoccupation, and life before death. These years at university are a golden time, and UNSW is an amazing place to seize these blessings; Experiment, engage, and experience them fully!

Muhammad Azaan Khan
Medicine, local student
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 rc.unsw.edu.au

UNSW Health Services

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

For more information or to make an appointment:

- Ground Floor, East Quadrangle Building, UNSW (Map Ref. E15)
- +61 2 9385 5425
- unihealth@unsw.edu.au
- healthservices.unsw.edu.au

Note: In November 2017 The UNSW Health Services temporarily relocated to Level 1, University Terraces (B8) due to building renovations in the Quadrangle that are scheduled for completion in 2018. Please check the website to confirm the exact location of the University Health Service.

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 dedicated rooms for parents with children on campus.

There is a Parents Room, located at LG52 Morven Brown Building, which provides a place on the upper Kensington campus for staff and students to attend to the needs of their children. There is also a Parents Room located at 1Q09 of the Ainsworth Building. These rooms are fully equipped to support breastfeeding/expressing staff and students.

The location of rooms designated for breastfeeding and changing babies/infants can be found at: estate.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/KENC%20Parent%20Facilities_1.pdf

Financial Assistance

Students requiring financial assistance can visit student.unsw.edu.au/financial-assistance for information about available options, or make an appointment to see an Educational Support Advisor or for international students an International Student Advisor at SDI.

Food and Retail on campus

UNSW’s Kensington Campus has a large variety of food and retail services, including banks, cafes and convenience stores.

With a diverse range of food outlets on campus catering for both vegetarian and Halal options, it is recommended that an individual checks the validity of the Halal certification displayed at each outlet.

For more information view the UNSW Food & Retail brochure estate.unsw.edu.au/food-retail/food-and-retail-campus
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.

muslimsaustralia.com.au

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.

Arncliffe Mosque
1 Wollongong Rd,
Arncliffe 2205
Phone: 02 9567 0912

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 9591 1593
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 at 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**
701/90 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000
Phone: 1300 307 337
Email: info@halalhelpline.org
Fast Facts for Living in Sydney

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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 newly arriving international students commencing their programs in both February and September. For more information and to make a booking, please go to 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: transportnsw.info.

An Opal card is a smartcard ticket that you keep, reload and reuse to pay for travel on public transport. As many of the buses servicing UNSW are prepay, it is important to have an Opal card. To find out more visit: opal.com.au/en/about-opal

Sun Smart

The sun is very intense. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended even on cloudy days to prevent sunburn and skin cancer.

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°C and a maximum of 17°C, to a peak summer maximum average of 26°C. In hot conditions summer temperatures can reach mid-high 30°C and sometimes even up to 45°C. Sydney’s rainfall averages 1213 millimeters a year, with an average of 11 wet days per month. More than 40% 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.

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.
Being at UNSW has been an amazing journey so far. Studying here has given me the opportunity to meet people from all around the world and learn about different cultures. I have only been here since a year but have already enhanced my social and academic skills. Being a Muslim student, the first thing you worry about while on campus is Halal food. However, UNSW has plenty of restaurants on campus and nearby that are Halal, so finding Halal and tasty food is easy. Also, the facility of having a prayer room and Jumu’ah prayer right on campus is very convenient when you have classes all around the day. I would recommend you to make the most out of your time at UNSW, and participate in as much activities as you can. So far I have enjoyed my time here, and hope you would too.

Muhammad Abubakar
Bachelor of Chemical Engineering
I am very happy to share a few words with you all. 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. I met with student from around the globe, experienced different cultures and benefitted from each other. The Muslim community in UNSW is very big and consists of various nationalities. So, 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. I am at a point in life where I am very satisfied with my professional and personal life, and most of this credit goes to UNSW for its unique and outstanding education.

Fathalla Ali, PhD candidate
School of Women’s & Children’s Health
Endnotes

abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20TableBuilder