

Shelley Tang Economics and Statistics Stage 3 Semester 2

What an eventful year I had, from experiencing Hong Kong protests to COVID-19 restrictions in Perth. I wanted to make the most of this semester as my exchange in Hong Kong was disrupted by protests. However, my plans were disrupted as COVID-19 spread rapidly around Perth. Most of my friends started to leave Perth and there were a limited number of places I could go to. I could only study at home which was hard to adjust to because I always studied in the library. All my assessments were online which was quite a challenge as I am used to doing exams with pen and paper. However, I looked on the bright side of things and went on walks to the beach as much as I could.



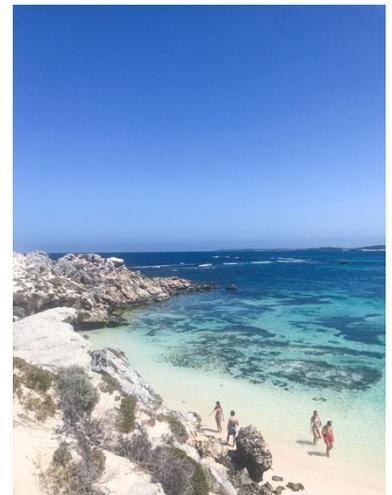
University of Western Australia

In UWA, I noticed that the majority of students watched lecture videos online and only attended tutorials. As a result of this, I spent most of my time studying in the library. In UCD, I attend my lectures as most lecturers do not upload lecture recordings. I prefer the style of learning in UWA as I tend to focus more on the material. The lecture recordings enhance my understanding of my study notes. However, I would still attend lectures as this allows me to understand the basic concepts of the study material.



Acai Bowl and the view of Elizabeth Quay

The culture in Perth is quite similar to the Irish culture with a few differences. For example, Australians start socialising at 6pm which is quite early compared to the Irish. I found that quite interesting as in Ireland, I am usually still in the library studying at that time. The shopping hours in Australia are short as the shops open at 9am and close at 5pm, whereas in Dublin, they usually close at 8pm. In Perth, I spent more time outdoors as I enjoyed spending time at the beach and exploring wildlife. I had not been doing this in Ireland because the climate is not as conducive to outdoor pursuits.



Rottneest Island

What I have learnt this year is that life does not always go as planned. There will be challenges in life that I have to overcome, and this will be beneficial in developing my life skills. Studying abroad has made me more flexible and open minded. These are important attributes for business technology consulting roles which I am aspiring to pursue a career in after I graduate.



Golden hour in Swanbourne Beach

I am extremely grateful for Ad Astra Academy for contacting me regularly and providing me with tremendous support. I really enjoyed the mindfulness webinars the academy hosted. UCD School of Arts and Humanities have been very supportive especially when I was stressed with my online assessments and provided me with an alternative to complete my international year. The staff at UCD Global have been invaluable to me as they have enhanced my study abroad experience.



Quokka in Rottneest Island

