

“My Sydney Experience”

By: Mark Nathan Vidamor Rondael (DLSZ 2027)



For the first time in my life I felt really nervous knowing that my family decided to give me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about “starting a business” and becoming an “entrepreneur.” To be honest I was not even sure if I was going to be interested in it. But someone told me that we should say yes to every opportunity to learn because we will never lose anything from doing so. So then it began with a small 1-week adventure with a group of amazing students who also wanted to learn.

Our first day was an amazing and breathtaking day! We were able to see the famous Opera House, cross the Sydney Harbour Bridge, look around the city, and most importantly, make new friends. This day was purely dedicated for us students to enjoy and take in the new view and atmosphere that was only found in Sydney. Here I was able to make new friends who share the same passion, interests, and uncertainty that I had. However, the following days were about to change everything.

Unlike the first day, the following days were mindblowing! I have never felt so happy and ready to learn in my life; it was as if I was having a really cool science teacher teach me everything I needed to know, but for business. We learned how to utilize AI like a professional, using it purely to add on to an already existing idea instead of starting something from scratch. This changed my view on AI as it really opened new possibilities that I would never have thought of. We were also taught on how to think, act, and speak like a confident leader. This lesson is a huge opportunity for anyone. After this lesson, we were given a chance to speak in front of the class, and we were given feedback on how we can improve more.

But what shocked me even more was that these professionals were speaking from their own experience. These professionals told us their journey from their victories to their losses and the lessons they had learned so that we could learn and avoid the same mistakes they did. This all happened in a span of 2-3

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days and I can see my own improvement in such a short amount of time. After this experience, I felt much more confident to speak to anyone and share my own ideas while still staying objective and respectful, and seeing my fellow teammates doing the same just made me more motivated to keep up with them.

We were able to visit University of New South Wales (UNSW) and University of Technology Sydney (UTS) which just made my jaw drop when we arrived. Compared to the Philippines these campuses had a really different energy. It was as if I just entered a really huge castle and was given a tour around it. Not only that, but it felt like an unbelievable dream; would you believe it if I said that UNSW had a race car team and it is managed by students.? During our visit, it felt as if I could reach for anything if I really chose to chase after it.

Now all that is left is just the preparation for the “Business pitch” we had on our second-to-final day. The day we finally showed everyone just how much we have learned and how much we choose to apply. This day was the most awaited day as everyone was scrambling to finish their ideas the night before, as it would also be broadcasted to our parents.

So came the final day, the day my group of newfound friends decided to give it our all and show to our potential investors the product we decided to make. Everyone had wonderful ideas; they were all original and all aimed to solve a problem. But when it was finally our turn to step up on stage, I really had this strong **fear**. It felt like I was going to slip up but my friends were there to calm me down and together we aced the presentation

. I learned that we cannot do things alone, we need friends, teachers, family, and more to be able to learn, improve and succeed in life. Sometimes we need to fail to be able to learn how to succeed, and that is why failure is a beautiful thing. Everyone sees it as something negative, but they fail to see how one can benefit from it.

So just keep going, keep making friends, keep taking every opportunity to learn, keep your loved ones close, and most of all keep succeeding.

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