



Flags, Galleries and Reflection Groups

5–9 August, 2019

Sibyl Centre, Women's College
The University of Sydney

Information for Participants

On behalf of the organizers, welcome to the University of Sydney! We are excited to host this conference, and hope that you will have a very enjoyable and enlightening week of great mathematics in the Harbour City.

If you have questions which are not covered here¹ or on the web page <https://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/yusra/FGRConf/> please ask one of the local organisers, Anne Thomas or Yusra Naqvi.

Travel around Sydney. The main (Camperdown/Darlington) campus of The University of Sydney is roughly 1km west of Central railway station and bus interchange. In particular, the campus is on the southern side of Sydney Harbour, the same side as the airport.

The University and nearby accommodation are well connected to public transport: Redfern train station is a 10-15-minute walk away, and buses run along both major roads adjacent to campus, Parramatta Rd/Broadway and City Rd. Timetables and trip planners can be found on the Transport NSW web site <https://transportnsw.info/>

¹Throughout this document all amounts are in Australian dollars. The Australian 10% goods and services tax is always included in quoted prices, not additional.

To use Sydney's buses, trains, light rail and ferries, you will need an Opal card, a reusable tap-on/tap-off transport card. Opal cards can be bought at major train stations including the Domestic and International Airport stations, and many convenience stores and newsagents displaying the Opal logo. The card itself is free, so the cost is just what you choose to put on as initial value: we would recommend at least \$50 if you plan to use the airport train line in both directions (see below), at least \$20 otherwise. You can top up the amount on your card with cash at the same stores or train stations, or using the web-site <https://www.opal.com.au> . Some notes:

- Journeys are priced by distance and time of day; a typical fare within the inner city might be around \$2.50 for a bus or \$3.50 for a train.
- Buses have Opal machines at both doors for tapping on and off. You have to enter by the front door and should usually leave by the back door.
- Student concession fares are restricted to New South Wales residents, so visiting students will have to get full-fare Opal cards.
- The airport train line linking the Domestic and International Airport terminals with Central station is significantly more expensive: a one-way trip from International Airport to Central, although only 4 stops and about 15 minutes, would cost a bit over \$17. For comparison, a taxi from the airport to the vicinity of the University should take about 30 minutes and cost about \$35 including the airport surcharge², and assuming light traffic; time and cost could increase significantly in weekday peak hour. Uber may be a cheaper option.

Pedestrian Information. In Australia, cars drive on the left side of the road; visitors from right-side countries, please be particularly careful! Sydney drivers are not known for politeness, and it is best to cross the road only at marked pedestrian crossings, and use the buttons at traffic lights.

Broadly speaking, Australian pedestrians walk on the left and overtake on the right.

²Taxis often charge an additional fee for payment by credit card. Tips are not expected.

Campus Facilities. See <http://sydney.edu.au/maps/campuses/> for a searchable campus map.

The conference venue is in the new Sibyl Centre at the Women's College. This is in the Camperdown half of the campus, on the north side of City Rd. Talks, the initial registration, and morning and afternoon teas will all be held within the centre.

We assume that participants will bring their own devices on which to access the internet during the conference. In Australia the power sockets are of type I (standard voltage 220-240V, frequency 50Hz). Visitors from most other countries will need adapters, readily available at airports.

Wifi at the conference venue will be arranged through the Women's College Guest network. The best wifi network to use in other areas of campus is probably eduroam, which may require set-up at the participant's home university before travel. For those unable to use eduroam, we will arrange for a university conference account.

Mathematical books and some journals are to be found in the SciTech Library in the Jane Foss Russell Building on City Rd. It is open Mon-Thu from 8am to 10pm and Fri from 8am to 8pm. Most of the computer terminals in the library are password-restricted to University of Sydney staff and students, but there are some at the front door that are unrestricted. You can buy a SydPay printing card in the library for \$5 (which includes a \$2 new card fee and minimum \$3 top-up) to allow printing at a rate of \$0.10 per page.

The nearest student union building is the Wentworth building on City Rd, which contains a food court, pharmacy, other shops and ATMs. The nearest major shopping centre is the Broadway Shopping Centre at the end of City Rd.

In case of medical emergencies, the campus includes Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) hospital on Missenden Rd. There is also a medical centre in the Wentworth building, which is nominally restricted to University of Sydney staff and students.

Food Options. For lunch, there are numerous food outlets on campus, but they generally close before 6pm. Fortunately the surrounding streets include some of Sydney's best restaurant strips, particularly on King St (Newtown) and Glebe Point Rd. Below are some recommendations. In Australia, restaurants are generally more expensive than in other countries. Note that tipping is not required (except for unusually good service), and not all restaurants will split bills.

- Ahgora (5.30–11pm, closed Mondays), 94 Glebe Point Rd
- Atom Thai (11.30am–3pm, 5.30–10:30pm), 130 King St
- Bloodwood (5pm–late), 416 King St
- Bombay Street Kitchen (5.30–10pm), corner Glebe Pt Rd & Parramatta Rd
- Cafe Ella (7am–4pm), 274 Abercrombie St
- Deus Cafe (7am–4pm), 98-104 Parramatta Rd
- Gelato Messina (12pm–10:30pm), 262 King St
- Mulan Temple (11.30am–9.30pm), 121 King St
- Nawaz Flavour of India (5.30–10.30pm), 142a Glebe Point Rd
- Ombretta (6–10pm), 355 Glebe Point Rd
- Open Korea (12–3pm, 5–11pm), 154 Parramatta Rd
- Shenkin Glebe (7am–2:30pm), 23 Glebe Point Rd
- Spicy Sichuan (11.30am–2.30pm, 5.30–10.30pm), 1–9 Glebe Point Rd
- Thai La Ong (11:30am–10pm), 89–91 King St
- Thai Pothong (12–3pm, 6–10.30pm), 294 King St
- Urban Bites (7am–10pm), 70-72 King St

Conference Dinner. The conference dinner on Thursday 8 August will be held at Bodhi Restaurant at 2–4 College Street in the city centre, near Hyde Park and St. Mary's Cathedral. Dinner will be canapé style with a bar tab.

Tourism. Below are some suggestions. More information is available at <https://www.sydney.com/>

- The postcard tourist sites (Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House, Botanic Gardens) surround Circular Quay, the site of the original British settlement in Sydney. To get there from the University, the quickest way is to walk to Redfern or Central station and take a train to Circular Quay station. You can also take a bus the whole way; alternatively, it would take about 50-60 minutes to walk the whole way along Broadway and George St.
- A classic Sydney experience is a ferry ride on the harbour: popular destinations, all about 20-30 minutes ride from Circular Quay, include Manly (a pleasant beach suburb on the north side of the harbour), Watsons Bay (near the ocean on the south side), and Taronga Zoo (the best place in Sydney to see native Australian fauna).
- Darling Harbour, to the north of the University, features gardens, restaurants, a wildlife park and Sydney Aquarium.
- The easiest beaches to get to from the University are probably Coogee via a 50-minute ride on the 370 bus (caught from City Rd in the direction away from the city), and Bondi via a 15-minute train ride from Redfern to Bondi Junction followed by a 20-minute walk or short bus trip. The coastal walk between these two beaches is justly famous.
- Three major national parks are on the borders of Sydney, all accessible by train from Central: the Royal National Park to the south (50 minutes), Kuring-Gai Chase National Park to the north (50 minutes), and the Blue Mountains National Park to the west (2 hours). Please remember the risks of bushfire and dehydration, and take appropriate precautions before walking in these national parks.

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