



AUSTRALIAN GUIDE



WEL COME.

WITH PACIFIC CENTER YOUR DREAM COME TRUE.

Pacific Center in cooperation with Migration Services provides migration and education placement services to Australia. We are a team of professionals with over 14 years experience with education and migration in Australia. We work with all nationalities and all types of visas. You can count on us if you wish to migration to Australia.

Living Overseas:

Experiencing living and studying abroad brings a lot of advantage to personal and professional development. Currently, it is one of the most valuable investments anyone can make.

It will come back in the form of experience and advantages on the job market when looking for a new job or starting your own. Australia is known for its beautiful nature, beaches, surfing, exotic animals and the friendly multi-cultural environment.

Relatively open immigration policy and job offers make Australia the best choice for overseas students to get an education, learn English and broaden their education level. Even more, being a student in Australia allows you to legally work up to 40 hours per fortnight so all costs of living can be covered by the part-time job. You can also save money for travelling around Australia, New Zealand or Oceania islands such as Fiji or Bali.

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An aerial photograph of a coastal road in Australia. The road is a two-lane highway with a white center line and white edge lines, curving along a rugged coastline. To the left of the road is a rocky beach with waves crashing against the shore. To the right of the road is a steep, forested cliff. The sky is clear and blue. In the top left corner, there is a green square with the number 3 in white.

3

ABOUT AUSTRALIA

- The only country that is also a continent, Australia is situated in the Southern Hemisphere in the south-west Pacific Ocean. Nearest neighbours to the north are Papua New Guinea and Indonesia (about an eight hour flight from Sydney). New Zealand lies to the east, about a three hour flight away.
- Almost one in four Australians were born overseas. You will meet people from all around the globe who have settled in Australia – from Europe and Asia, to Africa, the Middle East and the Americas.
- Australia is a country of innovation. Australian scientists have invented many world-changing technologies including: the black box flight recorder, the heart pacemaker, ultrasound, the influenza vaccine, the bionic ear, wireless internet, Google Maps and spray-on skin for burn victims.
- Population over 22.5 million.
- The six states are New South Wales (NSW), Victoria (Vic), South Australia (SA), Queensland (Qld), Western Australia (WA), and Tasmania (Tas).

New South Wales

Capital: Sydney

State population

About 7.2 million

Climate

Jan: 66–80 °F, 19–27 °C

July: 46–60 °F, 8–16 °C

Queensland

Capital Brisbane

State population

About 4.5 million

Climate

Jan: 70–87 °F, 21–31 °C

July: 50–70 °F, 10–21 °C

Victoria

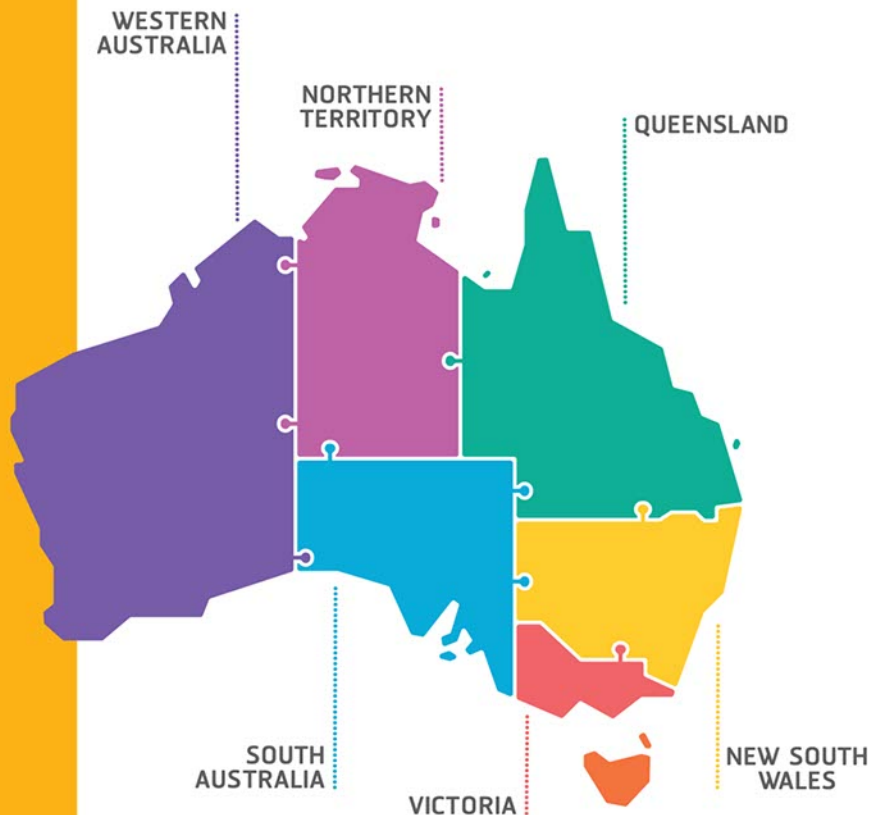
Capital Melbourne

State population

About 5.5 million

Climate Jan: 58–80 °F, 14–27 °C

July: 46–60 °F, 6–14 °C



UNIVERSITIES

The Australian university academic year begins in late February to early March. Orientation for new students usually takes place in mid to late February. The second semester typically begins in late July. Most universities have two semesters, with exams in June for semester one and in November for semester two. There is a four to six week break between semesters, with the long summer holiday held from December to February. With many academic programs, you have the choice of commencing your study during either the February or July intake. However, for programs such as medicine or dentistry, there is only one intake a year, which is in February. The start dates for Australian universities can be found by visiting www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au and navigating to the "Australia's Universities".

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

The academic year for most Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and Vocational and Education Training (VET) colleges is based on two semesters. The first usually commences in February and ends in June, while the second runs from July to November. Entry for most courses is available in both February and July. TAFE and VET colleges specialise in courses that provide you with skills for a particular industry or trade, or prepare you for further education. These range from Certificate courses across four levels (Certificate I, II, III and IV that take from 6 months to one year), Diploma courses (one to two years) and Advanced Diploma courses (two to three years). Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas are qualifications that can be accredited towards other higher education.

ELICOS COLLEGES

English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) are offered by a large number of government-regulated private schools, as well as VET colleges, TAFEs and university-affiliated schools. ELICOS has been developed to allow you to develop your skills in English as a second language as well as provide a foundation for further academic study. ELICOS courses are held throughout the year and range from 4 to 48 weeks of full-time study, depending on which program you choose. Entry to courses is available at frequent intervals (usually every five weeks) though this may vary from one school to another.





Visa conditions are the rules of your visa. They are set by Australian law and cannot be changed or disregarded to suit your circumstances. It is important that you understand these conditions, as the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) may cancel your visa if you break them. If your visa is cancelled, you will be sent a letter asking you to go to the DIBP office in person within 28 days. Your visa may then be cancelled and you will become an illegal resident. You can be imprisoned and deported if this happens. The main conditions are set out below:

NOTIFY THE COLLEGE OF YOUR ADDRESS (CONDITION 8533)

You must notify the college of your new address within 7 days of arriving in Australia or moving. If you move house during your stay, you must again, notify the college of your new address as soon as possible. If you do not do this, and there is a problem with your visa, you will not receive communication from DIBP and your visa may be cancelled without your knowledge. If this happens, you may be deported from Australia and prevented from completing your studies. Please see Reception or download the forms from the webpages so you can inform us about your new address as soon as you know.

WORK LIMITATIONS (CONDITION 8101)

These have already been discussed in an earlier section. Please note that student visa holders have to make their studies the top priority and not the work. Make sure that your work hours are organised around your study timetable, because working too much will not be accepted by DIBP as an excuse for non attendance/academic failure.



ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (CONDITION 8202)

You must study full-time, and attend at least 80% of your classes each term. You must also pass at least 50% of your subjects each term. If you do not comply, you be asked to see the Student Support Officer. It is the student's responsibility to contact the college regarding absences or issues. Once the student can no longer achieve 80% attendance for the term they will be reported to DIBP which may result in cancellation of the student visa.

REMAIN AT THE COLLEGE FOR 6 MONTHS (CONDITION 8206)

You must study with the College for 6 months of your principal course. If you have come to study several (packages) and courses, you must complete all courses up to 6 months of your principal course. If you decide to change to another university or college after 6 months of your principal course, you must inform administration immediately. You will also need to organise an appointment with DIBP and provide them with details such as the new offer of study and confirmation of enrolment and obtain permission from DIBP before you transfer. If you fail to inform the college of your transfer to another education provider, you may be reported for non-attendance and your visa may be cancelled.

MAINTAIN ACCEPTABLE OSHC COVER (CONDITION 8501)

This was discussed earlier in the booklet, but in short – you must have insurance during your whole stay in Australia on a student visa. This can also be arranged by the college on payment by you.



VISA RENEWAL AND EXTENSION

When the visa is about to expire, it is your responsibility to renew it. In order to renew your visa you will need to:

- Obtain a Confirmation of Enrollment from the college, at least two weeks before you wish to lodge your request for a visa renewal with DIBP.
- Have a medical examination as required by DIBP (forms are available on college's webpages).
- Complete visa application form 157A (available on college's webpages).
- Payment for the visa extension (see www.immi.gov.au for information on fees and charges).

You should apply for a visa extension at least two weeks before your visa expires, otherwise your visit becomes illegal. Your visa is normally issued for the duration of your course only.

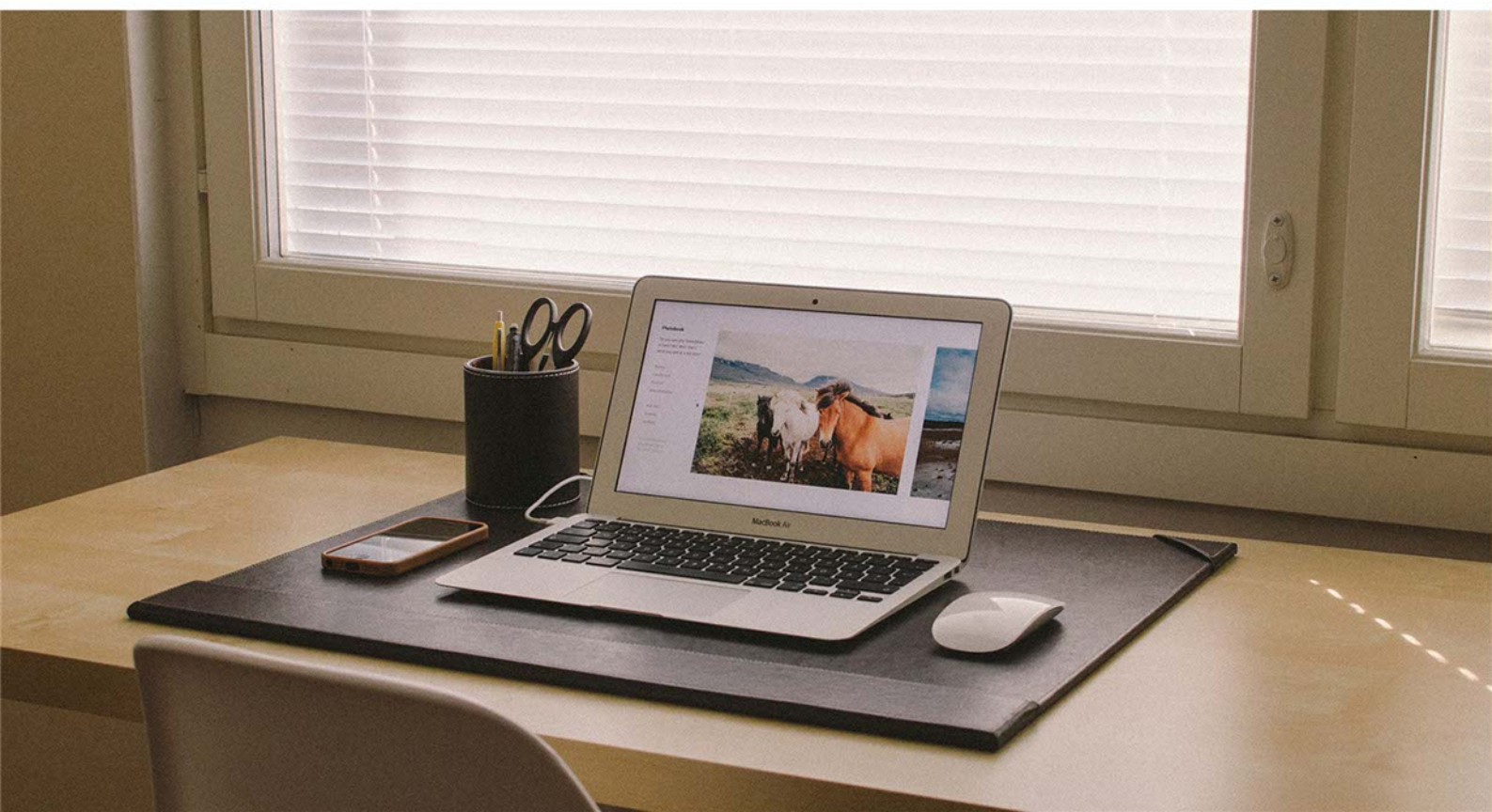
PASSPORT RENEWAL

Make sure that your passport remains current. If you need to extend or obtain a new passport, contact your embassy or consulate in Australia. Check with them to find out the documents they require for the application to be submitted. Refer to the section titled Consulates and Diplomatic Representatives, which contains a list of embassies and consulates and their contact details. Your passport should be valid for another 6 months when you applying for renewal of student visa.



HOMESTAY

Homestay is where an overseas student lives with an Australian family. This is a really good way to learn and practice English, meet new people and make friends. Homestay students are expected to participate in the host family's daily routines ranging from helping with household duties such as washing up, to joining their social activities. Your homestay may have some special family rules, which need to be followed. If there is something you do not understand, or don't like, please talk with your homestay family.





SHARE ACCOMMODATION

This accommodation is usually a single or shared room (often unfurnished) in a rented flat or house with other students, groups or individuals such as a family or elderly person. The rent and expenses such as bond, electricity, gas, telephone, etc, are shared equally among the people living in the household. Buying food and cooking is done either individually or on a group basis. Each person is expected to help clean and tidy the shared living space (eg kitchen, bathroom, living room). They are also responsible for cleaning their own room and washing their own clothes.

SECURITY DEPOSITS/BOND

The owner or agent of an owner who has the right to rent you a property is called the landlord. A landlord will ask you for money before you move into an apartment. This is called a security deposit or bond, and may amount to more than A\$1,000 dollars. The bond is usually set at four weeks' rent. A bond/"security deposit" is an amount of money that is supposed to guarantee that the tenant will care for the dwelling. If the tenant does not care for the property or clean it before leaving, the landlord has a legal right to keep the security deposit. Otherwise, the landlord must return the security deposit within a month after the tenant leaves.



SHOPPING

Most of the large department stores and shopping malls are located in most large suburbs and are accessible by public transport. There are several shops located in walking distance from the college. Large Supermarkets such as Coles and Woolworths are open from early morning till late night. Convenience stores such as 7Eleven may be open 24 hours.

Shops are generally open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday (with the exception of Thursday when most stores will open until 9pm), 9am - 4pm on Saturday and some stores are also open on Sundays. Almost all outlets accept the major credit cards like AMEX, Diners, MC, Visa and some city stores will accept JCB cards. You can also use Maestro or Cirrus electronic network debit cards in most stores.

ELECTRICAL GOODS

Domestic electricity in Australia is 240/250 volts/50Hz. The Australian three pin outlet is different from most other countries, so you will need to purchase an adapter plus for any electrical appliances you bring with you from your home country. Adaptors and transformers are easily obtained from electrical appliance or travel goods stores.

MONEY

You should be aware of the cost of studying and living in Australia and organise adequate funds before departing. You will need to bring about \$1500 - \$2000 Australian Dollars to cover expenses in Australia for the first few weeks. You should also organise other funds to be drawn when required from an Australian bank, such as an electronic transfer to your bank account or Credit Card.

CURRENCY

One Australian Dollar (AUD\$) is the basic unit of exchange and is divided into unit values of 100 cents to each dollar. Both paper notes and coins are used.

Notes:

Notes are different in colour and denominations are as followed:

- \$5 (purple/lilac)
- \$10 (blue)
- \$20 (red)
- \$50 (yellow)
- \$100 (green).

Coins:

Coins are either silver or gold and denominations are as followed:

- \$2 (small gold)
- \$1 (larger gold)
- 50c (large 12 sided silver coin)
- 20c, 10c, 5c (all silver coins which increase in size as they increase in value)

Provided below is an approximate price guide for typical daily items. This is only a guide so prices may vary depending on the brand, type of store and its location. The list below outlines some of the costs you will incur when living in Australia (all the prices are indicative and should ONLY be used as a guide):

 SHARE ACCOMMODATION	1 person in 1 room	\$170 - \$350 per week
	2 people in 1 room	\$150 - \$250 per week
 FOOD AND BEVERAGES SUPERMARKET	Bread	\$2.50 - \$4.50
	Milk	\$2.00 - \$4.50
	Sugar	\$2.50
	Butter	\$2.00 - \$4.00
	Chicken Breast	from \$10.00 per kg
 FOOD AND BEVERAGES EATING OUT	Cup of Coffee	from \$3.50
	Fast Food	from \$10.00 per single meal
	Take Away (Chinese, Thai)	from \$10.00 per single meal
	Coffee Shop	from \$12.00 per meal
	Restaurant	from \$20.00 per meal
OTHER	Movies	from \$15.00 - \$30.00
	Haircut men	from \$15.00
	Haircut ladies	from \$20.00
	Petrol	from \$1.20 per litre
	Taxi (Airport to Sydney City)	from \$35.00
	Bus (Airport to Sydney City)	from \$12.00
	Train (Airport to Sydney City)	from \$10.40

*Approximate cost are valid at the date of printing, but may be subject to change.

REMEMBER:

When thinking about your budget, remember that you are responsible for paying:

- Tuition fees
- Overseas Student Health Cover (Overseas Students)
- Accommodation costs
- Living expenses including food, power, telephone, transport and entertainment
- Stationary
- Clothes
- Emergency expenses.

As a guide, allow at least \$400 per week for these living expenses. For a single student you will need around \$19,000 per year excluding tuition fees. This amount depends on your living arrangements, the type of food you buy and the amount of money you spend on entertainment. Married students should budget for an additional 35%. Owning a car, a mobile phone and having a computer linked to the Internet will see your living costs increase considerably.

OPAL CARD

Tap on and tap off, everytime

Whether you're travelling with an Opal card or an Opal single trip ticket, always tap on and tap off. If you don't you're not travelling with a valid ticket and you could be fined.

To tap on or tap off hold your Opal card or single trip ticket against an Opal reader until it turns green and makes a sound that confirms you've tapped correctly.



TAP ON AT THE START OF YOUR TRIP

TAP OFF AT THE END OF YOUR TRIP

● Green light
+ 1 ding



Tap on successful.

● Flashing amber
light + 3 dings



Tap on successful
but you need to top
up soon.



Tap on unsuccessful.
You need to top up
to travel.

● Green light
+ 1 ding



Tap off successful.
Your fare has been
deducted.

Fare deducted

● Flashing amber
light + 3 dings



Tap off successful.
Your fare has been
deducted but you
need to top up soon.


● Flashing red light
+ two-tone ding



Tap off unsuccessful.
See staff for assistance
or call 13 67 25 (13 OPAL).

MINIMUM TAP ON BALANCES

To tap on, you need enough value on your Opal card to cover the shortest journey for that mode of transport. If you have less than the minimum balance you are not travelling with a valid ticket and fines could apply.

Mode	 Train	 Bus	 Ferry	 Light rail
Adult	\$3.46 (\$2.42 off-peak)	\$2.15	\$5.88	\$2.15
Child/Youth	\$1.73 (\$1.21 off-peak)	\$1.07	\$2.94	\$1.07
Concession	\$1.73 (\$1.21 off-peak)	\$1.07	\$2.94	\$1.07
Gold Senior/Pensioner	\$1.73 (\$1.21 off-peak)	\$1.07	\$2.50	\$1.07



SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT

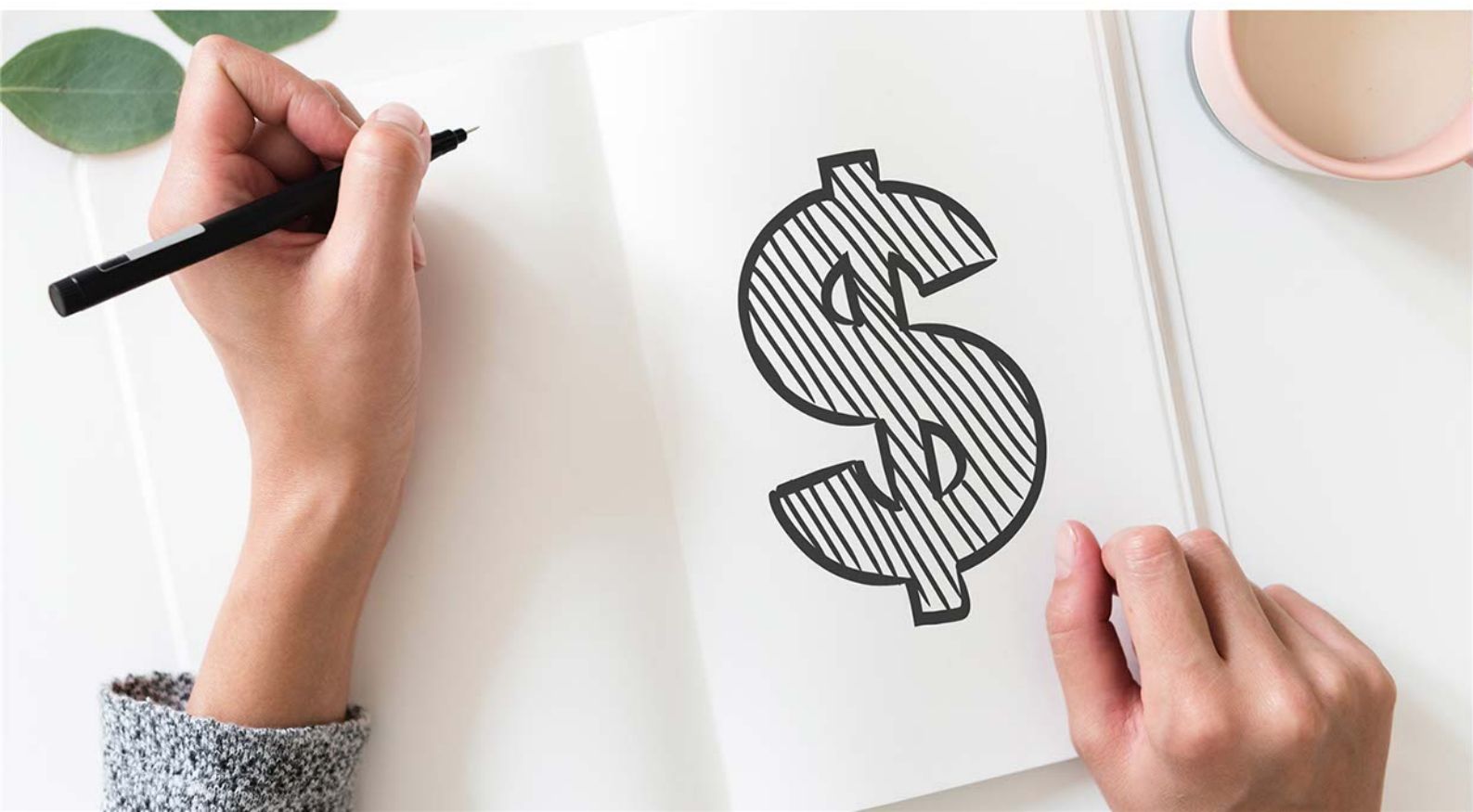
To open a bank account in Australia, you must show several pieces of personal identification, each of which is allotted a certain number of 'points'. You will need 100 points of identification to establish your identity as the person who will be named on the account. Your passport and proof of your arrival date in Australia will be acceptable as 100 points if you open an account within six weeks of arrival in Australia. After this time, you will need additional documentation. To open an account you'll also need a minimum deposit (this can be as little as A\$10, depending on the bank or financial institution).

COMMOWEALTH BANK ACCOUNTS

Opening a bank account before you arrive will mean that you're ready to hit the ground running as soon as you get off the plane. It's easy enough to do, you can open a Student Smart Access account instantly in the three months leading up to your trip. This means you can start transferring money across and monitor your balance all before your first day of classes.

What should you bring to your local branch?

- Your passport
- Proof of enrolment (including start and end dates for your course).



TELEPHONE

Student, save big this semester with up to 20% off our SIM Only plans when you bring your own phone. Or score 10% off plan fees when you sign up to a Red Plan with a new phone. All to use in Oz. In Oz, additional data is automatically added at \$10/GB (\$0.01/MB).

Major telephone service providers in Australia are:

- Optus: www.optus.com.au
- Telstra: www.telstra.com.au
- Virgin Mobile: www.virginmobile.com.au
- Vodafone: www.vodafone.com.au



INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Keep in touch with your friends and family overseas with our great international call inclusions. Many of our plans and selected Talk Combo recharges are loaded with plenty of included standard international minutes from Australia to selected countries.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS

Wi-fi is increasingly the norm in urban Australian accommodation (often free for guests). Cafes, bars and even some public gardens and town squares also provide wi-fi access. Local tourist offices should have details of public wi-fi hot spots. Even so, there remain a surprising number of black spots without mobile or internet coverage. Most of these are in rural or outback areas. In such areas, hotel wi-fi may be your saviour.

POSTAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA

Post is reliable and efficient with next-day delivery within the same city. Australia Post delivers mail once a day from Monday through Friday. For more information, visit www.austpost.com.au

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are many transport options in Australia that will get you around town or across the country. Australia's public transport system is comparably safe and affordable – and, in some cases, it's even free. Depending on where you live it can include trains, buses, trams and ferries.

Sydney: For transport information including trip planning on buses, ferries and trains, visit www.131500.com.au

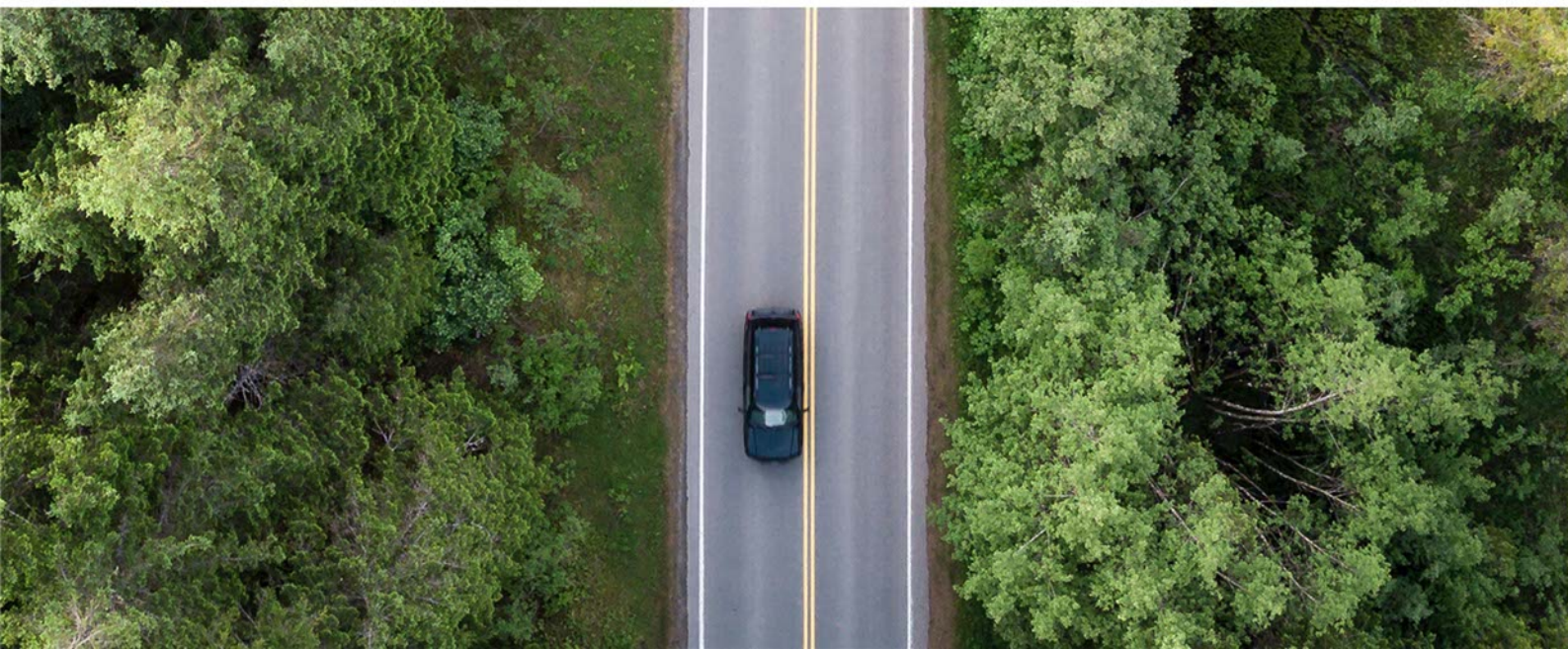
Melbourne: For bus, train and tram timetables, maps and fares, visit www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Brisbane: For information on Brisbane's bus, train and ferry routes and connections, visit www.translink.com.au

YOUR OWN TRANSPORT

If you plan to be in Australia for a period of no more than three months, you can drive with an international driver's licence or a valid overseas driver's licence. You must carry a translation if the document is not in English. Important things to keep in mind while driving:

- Australians drive on the left side of the road.
- Wearing a seat belt is mandatory in Australia. This applies to the back seat too. If a seat belt is fitted, you must wear it.
- The driving age in Australia is 18, though in some states you can drive unaccompanied at 17. Check with the roads and traffic authority in your state to learn more.
- All states have strict blood alcohol limit laws of 0.05% and there are serious penalties including jail time. If you drink, don't drive!
- The maximum speed limit in residential areas is 50 km per hour and 110 km per hour on highways, unless signs indicate otherwise. Police use radar speed cameras, and fines are steep.
- You must have a licence to ride a motorcycle and you must be over 18. Helmets are mandatory.
- The use of mobile (cell) phones while driving is against the law in Australia, unless you use handsfree technology. Fines are costly.





OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER

Australia has a special system of health cover for international students called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC.) You will need to buy OSHC before you come to Australia to cover you from the date you arrive. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship requires you to maintain OSHC for the duration of your time on a student visa in Australia. You might find that your institution has an agreement with a specific OSHC provider. You can choose to take out OSHC with this provider, or with the Australian OSHC provider of your choice. The websites listed below provide detailed information on what they cover:

- Australian Health Management www.ahm.com.au
- BUPA Australia www.overseasstudenthealth.com
- Medibank Private www.medibank.com.au
- OSHC Worldcare www.oshcworldcare.com.au
- Westfund www.westfund.com.au

Your OSHC will help you pay for any medical or hospital care you may need while you're studying in Australia, and it will contribute towards the cost of most prescription medicines, and an ambulance in an emergency. OSHC does not cover dental, optical or physiotherapy. If you want to be covered for these treatments you will need to buy additional private health insurance, such as:

- Extra OSHC provided by some OSHC providers.

- International travel insurance.
- General treatment cover with any Australian private health insurer.

You can find a list of these providers and search for the one that suits you best at www.privatehealth.gov.au or www.iselect.com.au



MEDICAL

MEDICAL CARE
AMBULANCE
FIRST AID
NURSE
DOCTOR
HEALTH



MEDICAL CARE
AMBULANCE
FIRST AID
NURSE
DOCTOR
HEALTH



HEART
DOCTOR
HEALTH
PULSE

GOING TO THE DOCTOR

Australian doctors are highly skilled and well educated, and you'll receive excellent care in a clean and sanitary environment. Unless you are in a lifethreatening situation, you should always first consult a medical practitioner at either a medical centre or private surgery. Hospital emergency rooms are solely for life threatening and emergency situations. You can visit most medical centres without an appointment, however private medical general practitioners (GPs) usually require an appointment. A search for Medical Practitioners or Medical Centres in the Yellow Pages – www.yellowpages.com.au – will help you locate those in your local area. The cost of visiting a doctor will usually be partly covered by OSHC. However, you may have to pay the fee at the time of your doctor's appointment and later seek reimbursement from your OSHC provider. The table below shows the differences between services at a private surgery and at a medical centre.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

The Australian Government has put strict rules and regulations in place on medical treatment in order to protect health and make it difficult for people to abuse prescription medication. In Australia, doctors write prescriptions, chemists dispense prescription medicines, and the patient has to sign for the medication when it is bought from the chemist.

MEDICAL CENTER

No appointment is necessary. You can walk into a medical centre at any time, put your name on the list and you will be called when a doctor is ready for you. This may be a few hours.

PERMISSION TO WORK

If you have a student visa, you will be eligible to work while in Australia. Please remember your right to work is tied to several conditions. Some of these include:

- Not starting to work until you have commenced your course of study.
- Working a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight during the term and unlimited hours when your course is not in session.
- You may only work if the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) considers your course to be 'in session' – that means, for the duration of the advertised semesters (including periods when exams are being held). For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions, visit www.immi.gov.au/students

FINDING WORK

There are many different ways to find a job in Australia. The majority of jobs vacant in Australia are advertised online. Visit:

- www.seek.com.au
- www.mycareer.com.au
- www.careerone.com.au
- www.studyandwork.com.au

In addition, the International Office of your institution may have more suggestions. Newspapers: Visit www.newspapers.com.au to see a listing of the major Australian newspapers. You can select your state or territory to browse a database of Australian regional newspapers. Local newspapers have a 'help wanted' or jobs section. University job boards: Most Australian universities have a careers service office with a job board listing local employment opportunities. The Australian Government also has a listing of job boards in Australia at www.jobsearch.gov.au/findajob

TYPES OF WORK

International students often find work in retail, hospitality and administration. The wage you receive will depend on the kind of work you do and your age. You may be paid more for working on Sundays or public holidays.



COURSES TO HELP TO FIND A JOB

International students can also study short courses which can extend their knowledge and help them when applying for a job.



Responsible Service of Alcohol: This course is compulsory for anyone who is seeking a job in the Hospitality industry and where alcohol is being sold.



Responsible Conduct of Gaming: This course is compulsory for anyone who is seeking a job in the Hospitality industry and who will be operating gaming machines.



Green Card (OSH Workcover): This course is compulsory for anyone who is seeking a job in the building industry.



Traffic Control: This course is compulsory for anyone who is seeking a job in the building industry.



Hospitality Courses: Courses such for a barista (coffee maker), bartending, waiting can help to increase your knowledge and chances to find a job.



Senior First Aid: This course may be compulsory for any job, please ask your employer if you need to undertake this course

TAXES

Anyone who works in Australia has to pay taxes and the amount of tax you pay depends on how much you earn. The Australian tax system is administered through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). You are obliged to obtain a Tax File Number (TFN) to be able to work in Australia. A TFN is your unique reference number to the Australian tax system. When you start work, your employer will ask you to complete a TFN declaration form. If you do not provide a TFN, your employment will be taxed at the highest personal income tax rate, which means less money in your net wages each week. For more information, go to www.ato.gov.au

TAXATION RETURNS

If you pay too much in taxes you are entitled to a refund. To get a refund you will need to lodge a tax return. You can lodge online using e-tax (free); by mailing a paper tax return; or by paying a registered tax agent to complete and lodge the return for you. If you lodge by e-tax, your refund will normally be issued within 14 days. Tax returns are lodged at the end of the Australian tax year, which runs from 1 July to 30 June. Lodge online using e-tax at www.ato.gov.au

To look for part time or casual jobs visit www.seek.com.au or www.mycareer.com.au.
If you wish to find out the average rates of pay for working in Australia, refer to www.dir.nsw.gov.au.

TAX RETURN - WHAT DO I NEED TO PROVIDE FOR THE TAX RETURN?

1. Group Certificate (issued by your employer)
2. Tax File Number
3. Copy of passport and visas
4. Account Details
5. Address
6. Phone Number
7. What occupation did you work as
8. What course do/did you study
9. Keep receipts for work related expenses
10. Previous year tax return receipt (tax deductible expense).



SUPERANNUATION

Superannuation is the pension/retirement scheme in Australia. If your monthly wage is more than A\$450, your employer must contribute an additional sum equal to 9% of your wage into a superannuation account for you. In most cases, you can access your contributions when you leave Australia permanently, although the contributions will be taxed. To check your eligibility to claim superannuation, and to apply for your payment, visit www.ato.gov.au You will need to provide the details of your superannuation fund.



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

It may take some time for new arrivals to get used to the Australian pronunciation. Even people who have studied English for some years may feel that Australian English is a completely different language. We tend to speak very quickly and run our words together. Many Australians also use a lot of slang/ colloquialisms (common words that often don't make it into the dictionary, but everyone knows). If you are unsure what something means, don't be afraid to ask. You will learn some interesting expressions.

We have provided you with some common examples of Australian slang below:

Aveagoodweegend	Have a good weekend	Hang on	Wait a moment
Arvo	Afternoon	I dunno	I don't know
Barbie	Barbecue/BBQ	Jumper	Pullover/sweater
Beut	Fantastic	Lollies	Sweets/Candy
Bloke	Man	Sweet	Good
Brekkie	Breakfast	Ta	Thank you
Brunch	Between breakfast and lunch (around 11.00)	Mate	Friend
BYO	Bring your own (drink)	Buddy	Friend
Fair Dinkum	Really?	Na/nuh/nope	No
G'day	Good Day/Hello	No worries	No problem
Good on ya	Well done	See ya	Good bye



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

She/He'll be right, mate	Everything will be ok	Yeah/Yep	Yes
You reckon?	Do you think so?	You right?	Do you need any help?
Your shout	Your turn to pay for the next round of drinks/dinner	Aussie/Ozzy	Australian
Oz	Australia	Bush	Forest

A number of people have tried to compile lists of these kinds of colloquialisms, and some of the best places to start tracking down these colloquialisms are via books or on-line resources. Here are some great starting points for you:

<http://goaustralia.about.com/od/language/>

<http://home.st.net.au/~dunn/ozatwar/aussieslang.htm>

<http://www.travel-library.com/pacific/australia/stybrlanguage.html>

AUSTRALIAN CULTURE

Australia is a clean and safe country that welcomes overseas visitors. There are certain behaviours in Australia that may seem strange to you. The same way, there are also certain behaviours in your country that most Australian would find unusual. If you try to understand a little bit about the Australian lifestyle, you will find it easier to meet Australians and more comfortable living here. Below are some points which you may want to be aware of:



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- Most Australians are relaxed and friendly and relate to all levels of staff with respect and politeness, whether they are receptionists, trainers or managers.
- Men in Australia treat all women respectfully, with both men and women being considered equal in all aspects of life. In fact, it is against the law to mistreat someone on the basis of their gender.
- Australians do not have servants.
- Most Australians do their own housework, with men and women sharing the jobs around the house.
- It is considered good manners to say “excuse me” “please” and “thank you” when you ask for something, and once you get it.
- If you need to speak to someone, knock on their door and wait. Do not try to push the door in before or after knocking. Once the door is open, say “Hello and wait to be invited in. Do not just walk in uninvited.
- Australians are “outdoors people”. They like going to the beach, the park, to picnics, having barbeques and camping in the bush.
- Australians love playing and watching sport, and sport is often the topic of conversation. (It might be a good idea to familiarise yourself with the basics of the main national sports – Rugby, Australian Rules football and Cricket).
- In every city you will find many forms of entertainment. Australians enjoy going to cinemas, nightclubs, bars/pubs and restaurants.
- Punctuality is very important. Australians may think it rude if you don’t keep an appointment. It is polite to telephone and let the person know if you are going to be late.
- People stand in queues when waiting for a bank teller, to get on the train, to get into a lift or toilet or to buy tickets. It is very rude to push ahead of someone else waiting in the queue.
- When travelling on an escalator, if you wish to stand keep to the left hand side, if you wish to walk up walk on the right hand side.
- If you get a seat on public transport it is considered rude to not give up that seat if an elderly/disabled person or a pregnant woman/woman with a small child is standing near.
- All cultures are seen as equal in Australia and racial discrimination and vilification of any kind is not accepted at college, in the workplace or anywhere else.



AUSTRALIAN CULTURE

- Most Australians are Christian, but there are also Buddhists, Muslims and Jews. Australians are free to follow a religion they choose. Churches, mosques, synagogues and temples are located in most major cities.
- Smoking is not permitted in all public places such as restaurants, airports, shopping centres and undercover areas in train stations.
- Eating with your fingers at an informal meal such as a BBQ or a picnic is fine. Meals served at home or in a restaurant are eaten with a knife, fork and spoon. If you are not sure what to do, watch other people and follow their lead.
- It is essential that hands are washed thoroughly with soap and hot water after going to the toilet.
- Generally you can call an Australian at home up until 9pm. It is not usual to call after this time, and may be considered rude.

The longer you live here the more aware you will become of different acceptable ways of behaving. In the first few months, be mindful of your surroundings and you'll be surprised just how much you can learn.





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