

# The Ultimate Guide to Landing in Australia for Foreign Students

**BARRINGTON  
COLLEGE**  
—◆—  
AUSTRALIA



# Destination Australia!

You're probably exploding with excitement to finally land in Australia and start off your big and movie-like study-abroad adventure! You're dreaming of beaches, sun, surfing, campus walks making up your own movie plot.

But hey -- if you don't think about all rules, regulations, and complications that may happen on the road -- they are most likely to steal your thunder and hit you off with a less heroic plot the moment you find yourself on AUS airport Customs.

- Did you know that you may be charged a tax fee for your own computer if you don't have the necessary documentation?
- Is your phone eligible for Australian mobile networks?
- How and where to choose the best mobile option, and at what cost?
- How to get yourself internet subscription and how much will it cost you?
- What's the emergency phone number?
- How much will accommodation cost you?
- How to get past Customs Office without paying additional fees for some of your stuff?
- What to wear, what to pack, and what can be found and bought in Australia?
- What's the best way of commuting and how does public transport work?
- How to set yourself up with a banking account? How to transfer your funds overseas?
- And how about a visa?
- Health insurance???

The list goes on...

You **MUST** think of all this and get most stuff done before you take off, otherwise you are most likely to spend your orientation days filing your papers and wandering around trying to find everything you need.

No worries though! We care about your dream plot coming true, so we got you covered with this detailed guide to landing in Australia.



Find everything you need to know about living in Australia during your studies in this guide.

It will explain and simplify every process for you, and the good thing is you can always revisit if you need to find your way around something!

# Living in Australia



# Student Services

## Overseas Students Ombudsman

The Overseas Students Ombudsman (OSO) investigates complaints about problems that overseas students have with private education and training institutions in Australia. The Ombudsman's services are free, independent and impartial. You can find out more about this service on their website: [www.oso.gov.au](http://www.oso.gov.au) (opens in a new window) The OSO also produces an email newsletter for international students. You can subscribe to the newsletter on the OSO (opens in a new window) website. If you are studying at a public institution, such as TAFE colleges and many universities and schools, you should contact the Ombudsman in the state or territory in which you are studying to lodge a complaint. You can find details of what the Ombudsman can investigate on their website. Below is a list of the Ombudsman websites for all states and territories in Australia:

- Queensland Ombudsman - [www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au) (opens in a new window)
- Student support forms a large part of Australia's education system. Institutions provide specialist services to help international students adjust to life and study in Australia, and to achieve their goals. This includes student services such as:
  - Language and academic support.
  - Designated international student advisers.

On-arrival reception and orientation programs.

- Childcare, health and counseling.
- Student accommodation.
- Employment services.
- Prayer and worships rooms.
- Banking, shopping and food outlets.
- Clubs, societies, sport and fitness facilities.

## Student Associations

Australia has a number of student associations representing and assisting students from Australian institutions. National associations include

- Council of International Students Australia (CISA) ([opens in a new window](#)) - national peak student representative body for international students studying at the postgraduate, undergraduate, private college, TAFE, ELICOS and foundation level.
- Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS) ([opens in a new window](#)) - assisting international students in maximizing the scope and potential of their experience living and studying in Australia.

Most institutions in Australia also have their own student associations - you can visit your institution's website for more information.

# Day to Day

## Things You Might Need For Daily Use

- ✓ portable charger
- ✓ toiletries
- ✓ dictionary (bilingual)
- ✓ small sewing kit
- ✓ sporting equipment
- ✓ umbrella, bath towels
- ✓ camera
- ✓ micro recorder for lectures
- ✓ spare spectacles or contact lenses
- ✓ your optical prescription
- ✓ photos of friends and family
- ✓ calculators
- ✓ small gifts from home

## Weather

Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February.

If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive.

## Electrical

The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.



## What To Wear and When To Wear?

On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

Most primary and secondary school students will be required to wear a school uniform to classes and other school activities. You should check with your education provider what is included in the uniform package.





## Bringing Your Computer

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated.

Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free.

Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD\$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%.

Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

## Mobile Phones & Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be Austel Approved in order to function in Australia.

# Communications

## Mobile phones

It is best to purchase a SIM card or Australian mobile number when you arrive in Australia, as using your home phone number will incur high costs. There are two types of mobile phone accounts you can choose from:

### Prepaid

A prepaid service gives you flexibility because you control how much you spend and can stop using the service any time. Pre-paid SIM cards are sold in many shops and supermarkets, as well as by mobile phone providers. After an easy set-up process with the provider, you will have a working Australian mobile number which you can top up with credit as needed. You can usually top up your prepaid service online or at a range of retail outlets. Your mobile phone provider can provide details on how you can top up your service.

### Contract

If you will be using your mobile a lot, and will be in Australia for a fixed period of time for study, a contract might work out cheaper for you. There are numerous mobile phone operators in Australia, and you can choose from a range of phone plans where you can get the handset with little (if any) up-front cost; you then pay a fixed price per month for a certain amount of calls, text messages and data.

### Internet

Many internet providers in Australia are also mobile or fixed phone carriers, and they offer pre-paid or contract internet plans similar to the above. If you choose a contract service, you will receive a modem, and just like a phone service, you pay a monthly rate to get a certain data allowance. Ask the providers you are considering for details of plans that might suit you.

## Making international calls

To make international telephone calls from Australia, dial 0011 followed by the country code, the area code (if required) and the telephone number. To call Australia from overseas, dial 61 followed by the area code and telephone number. To make calls from one location to another within Australia, dial the area code (if required) followed by the telephone number.

You can read more about telephone, internet and mobile phone services in Australia at: [www.communications.gov.au](http://www.communications.gov.au)

# Communication Details

## Mobile/Cell Phones

Before bringing your mobile phone to Australia check with the Australian Communications and Media Authority [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) to make sure it can operate here. Some countries, such as Japan and the USA, use mobile phone networks that are not available in Australia. If not, you can buy your mobile phone in Australia. Australian telecommunications providers offer a wide range of services which provide a mobile phone within the cost of using that service. There are many differences to the services provided. You should understand what deal you are accepting before signing a contract with a provider.

### Phone Plan Providers

[www.telstra.com](http://www.telstra.com)

[www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)

[www.mobile.woolworths.com.au](http://www.mobile.woolworths.com.au)

[www.vodafone.com.au](http://www.vodafone.com.au)

[www.boost.com.au](http://www.boost.com.au)

[www.dodo.com.au](http://www.dodo.com.au)

## Computer & Internet Access

Many of the above companies will also provide you with Internet access. In fact, you may be able to make arrangements with a company where you can get cheaper rates if you have Internet and mobile phone through the one service provider. In addition, with providers Telstra and Optus, you could get a packaged deal for your home phone, Internet and mobile phone.

Barrington College Australia provides free Internet access while studying on campus however students must organise Internet and email access after school hours.

## Telephones Services

### **If you are in an emergency DIAL 000!**

In Australia dial **000** from any phone for **fire, police or ambulance** services. 112 may also be dialled from mobile phones. Dialling **112** will override key locks on mobile phones and therefore save time. Emergency Services operators answer this number quickly and to save time will say, "Police, Fire, or Ambulance".

If you are unsure of what emergency service you need tell the operator what the emergency is. You will then be connected to the appropriate service to assist.

It is wise to think ahead with the most important information which will help them to respond. Where you are; (note street names and the closest intersection), what has happened and to whom; what their condition is.

The operator may then ask you to stay on the phone until the emergency services arrive. In life threatening situations the operator may also give you some instructions to assist until the emergency unit arrives. If you are concerned about your English, remain calm and work with the operators who are very experienced with all cultures. (See also: Health – Emergencies)


## Making Phone Calls Within Australia

To make international phone calls:

- 📞 Dial – international access code (0011) + the country code + the area code (if required) + phone number (when adding a country code to a number, any leading 0 (zero) on the area code following it is NOT dialled)

To make domestic phone calls:

- 📞 Dial – the area code + phone number

Area Code	States	
(02)	ACT, NSW	
(03)	VIC, TAS	
(07)	QLD	
(08)	SA, WA, NT	

## Calling Someone in Australia from Overseas

If you want to call someone in Australia, first dial the international access code from that country (this will vary in each country), then Australia's country code prefix (61) followed by the area code without the first zero (for instance for phone number in Sydney, it would be 2 instead of 02), and then dial the required number.

Example: International access number +61 2 9999 3662



## Australia Post

Australia Post is one of our nation's largest communications, logistics and distribution businesses; and is committed to providing high quality mail and parcel services to all people within Australia.

### Small Letters

The cost of posting a small letter for distribution in Australia is an AU\$0.50 postage stamp which you affix to the envelope.

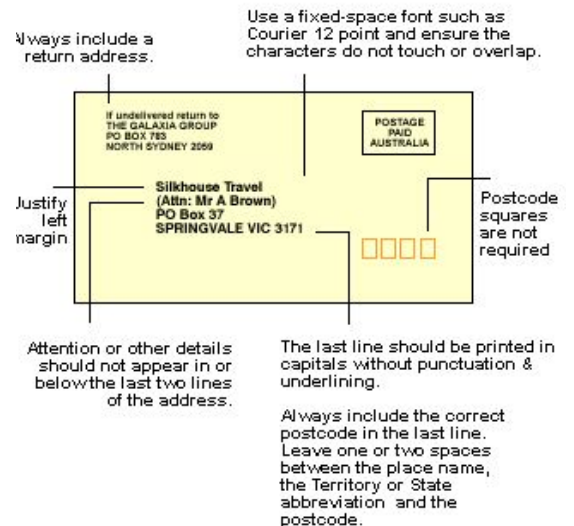
A small letter has the following characteristics:

- No larger than 130mm x 240mm
- No thicker than 5mm
- Maximum weight 250g.

# Envelope Layout

Australia Post uses advanced letter sorting technology to read the address on each envelope electronically. These machines work best when address formats are structured in a consistent manner. That is why it is necessary to address your mail clearly and correctly. The information below demonstrates how.

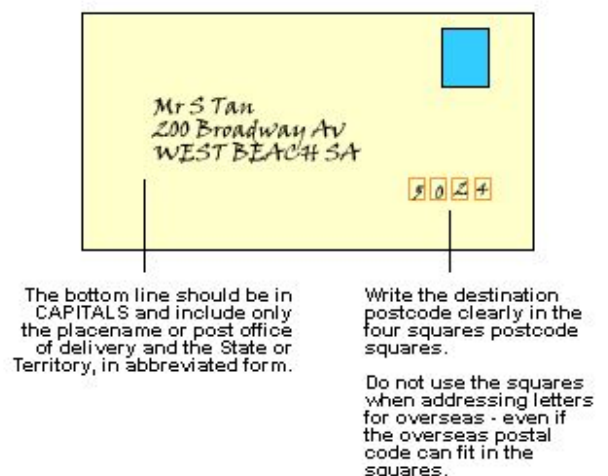
## Typical Machine Addressed Envelope



## Envelope Face Format - Allocation of Zones



## Typical Hand Addressed Envelope



[www.auspost.com.au](http://www.auspost.com.au) (Source Australia Post)

# Transport

The transport options available in Australia include buses, trains, trams and ferries. Your access to these transport services will vary depending on where you live. You will also be able to access private and public car services from taxis, Ubers to hired limousines, available to take you from door to door.

Some larger education providers will also have their own in-house transport system, especially useful if you have to leave your campus late at night or live in a hard-to-reach area.

Public transport costs vary depending on where in Australia you live and the type of transport you are using. You have to buy travel card regardless which state you stay and you will have to ensure that there is enough fund in the card before taking public transport.

For more information, please visit here <https://translink.com.au/tickets-and-fares/fares-and-zones>





# Money

## Australian currency

The basic unit of Australian currency is the dollar (AUD). There are 100 cents in one dollar (\$1). Australian dollar notes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coins are issued in denominations of 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 and \$2.

Prices are rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cents in shops and supermarkets. For example, you would pay \$1.95 for an item priced \$1.97, but \$2 for an item priced \$1.99.

## Banking (for local bank names refer section 3)

Australia has a range of choices when it comes to managing your money, from banks that cover the whole country to local credit unions and building societies. Here are some quick tips on setting up your bank accounts.

- You can set up a bank account before or after you arrive.
- To open an account you will need to have your Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE), passport, Letter of Offer and other forms of identification
- You may also need an Australian Tax File Number (TFN). You can find information about getting a TFN at the Australian Tax Office website.
- Financial or student support officers at your university or college will be able to give you information on how to set up a bank account.
- You can also read advice from the Australian Government's Moneysmart website.

## How Do I Withdraw Money?

You can withdraw your money at automatic teller machines (ATMs) which can be found all over Australia. It is generally free to withdraw money from an ATM that is associated with your financial provider.

Be aware that if you use another provider's ATM they will usually charge you a fee. The ATM will advise you of the fee at the point of withdrawal.

Even if you haven't set up a bank account before you get here, most ATMs recognise international cards, so you will be able to use your credit or debit card from your home country.

Just remember that there are fees associated with withdrawing money from your home account including transaction fees and the currency exchange rate. These vary by provider so check with your home financial provider before you arrive in Australia.

## Sending money to Australia

Australian banks offer various services for sending money to Australia. For all these services, fees and charges will apply. These can be found on financial provider websites.

You can have funds electronically transferred into your Australian bank account from overseas banks. To send money to another country you will need to provide the banking details of the person you wish to send money to. Your financial provider will then electronically transfer the funds from your account to their account.

## Banking Ombudsman

The Australian Banking and Financial Services Ombudsman assists individuals and small businesses to resolve complaints concerning all financial services provided by banks.

For example, there may be an instance where you see that money has been withdrawn from your bank account without your consent. In this case, it may be necessary to talk to the banking ombudsman to resolve the issue.

Free interpreter services are available. For more information on the banking ombudsman visit: <https://www.afca.org.au> or call 1300 780 808.

## How Much Money Should I Bring?

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately AU\$1500 to AU\$2000 available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money as either Traveller's Cheques or on an international credit card. Traveller's cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

Please note that it is not safe to bring large sums of money with you! Lost credit cards or traveller's cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.

## Currency Exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Gold Coast Queensland, you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at the airport or at Southport or Surfers Paradise.



## Electronic Transfer

You can transfer money into Australia by electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately 48 hours, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

# Living Costs in Australia

Knowing the average living costs in Australia is an important part of your financial preparation. For your reference, here are some of the costs associated with living and studying in Australia. (All costs are in Australian dollars and linked to the consumer price index.)

## Accommodation (refer to Section 3)

Hostels and Guesthouses	\$90 to \$150 per week
Shared Rental	\$85 to \$215 per week
On campus	\$90 to \$280 per week
Homestay	\$235 to \$325 per week
Rental	\$165 to \$440 per week
Boarding schools	\$11,000 to \$22,000 a year

## Other living expenses

Groceries and eating out	\$80 to \$280 per week
Gas, electricity	\$35 to \$140 per week
Phone and Internet	\$20 to \$55 per week
Public transport	\$15 to \$55 per week
Car (after purchase) -	\$150 to \$260 per week
Entertainment	\$80 to \$150 per week

## Minimum cost of living

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has financial requirements you must meet in order to receive a student visa for Australia. From 1 July 2016 the 12 month living cost is:

- You - \$19,830
- Partner or spouse - \$6,940
- Child - \$2,970

All costs are per year in Australian dollars. To convert to your own currency, visit <http://www.xe.com/>

The Australian Government provides information and guidance on managing your finances. You can read more at [www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au)

If you experience financial trouble while in Australia, talk to your institution's international student support staff for assistance.

## ATMs

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.

## Credit Cards

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that repayments to many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

# Visas

## Student visa (subclass 500)

There are various visas that you can apply for depending on your plans in Australia. Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a student visa. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia.

Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may be better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due to their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your country.

In order to apply for a visa you will need a valid passport, an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) and any other documentation required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application.

You must ensure to allow enough time for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

If you intend to study in Australia, you will need to apply for the Student visa (subclass 500). You can apply for the following types of study on this visa:

- English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS)
- school – primary or secondary
- secondary school exchange program
- vocational Education and Training (VET) courses – a registered VET course or a registered course for the award of an advanced diploma
- higher education courses – a bachelor or associate degree, a graduate certificate or graduate diploma, a masters degree by coursework or a higher education diploma or advanced diploma
- postgraduate Research degrees – a masters degree by research or a doctoral degree
- non-award courses – non-award foundation studies courses or components of a course that do not lead to an award
- students sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs or Trade or the Department of Defence.

You may be able to package your courses if you would like to study more than one course. This is known as course packaging.

# Additional Visas

## Student Guardian visa (Subclass 590)

If you plan to come to Australia to provide care to a student under 18 years, you can apply for the Student Guardian visa (subclass 590).

## Temporary Graduate visa (Subclass 485)

If you have finished your studies and wish to work in Australia temporarily, you may be eligible for the post-study work visa, the Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485).

## Visiting and Studying

If you would like to come to Australia for a visit and short-term study, you may be eligible for a visitor visa. To learn more about this option, see our information on Visiting Australia.

## Post study work arrangements

If you have finished your studies and wish to work in Australia temporarily, please see Post-study work arrangements or our Working visas.

## More Information For Students

In some cases you can apply for family members to join you in Australia. As a student, it is important to check what you can bring into Australia before you enter.

# Visa compliance

Once you have received your visa, there are requirements you must meet in order for it to remain valid, including;

- You must remain enrolled and maintain satisfactory course progress and attendance.
- If you wish to change your qualification level you will need to apply for a new student visa.
- Provide your Australian address to your institution so they can contact you, and let them know if you change address.
- You must continue to be able to support yourself financially while you're in Australia.
- Do not breach the working conditions applicable to your visa.

## Visa help and assistance

- The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (opens in a new window) website provides all information in relation to visa requirements, responsibilities and compliance.
- Your institution's international student support staff can provide you with assistance about the visa you'll need for your course
- Education agents can also help with your visa application and paperwork (as well as your course application). We have built long-term relationship with education agents in Queensland and around Australia which can assist you with student visa application. Please email us at [reception@barringtoncollege.edu.au](mailto:reception@barringtoncollege.edu.au) for more information.

## Visa Conditions

If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):

- Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions please visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=500>



# Navigating Customs and Border Control

## Arriving in Australia

When you arrive at an Australian airport, you will first need to go through immigration and customs clearance. If you need help finding your way around, just ask the airline staff or one of the border officials in the arrivals area. A clearance officer will check your travel document and visa, and once cleared you will be able to collect your luggage to go through customs and quarantine clearance processes.

More information on what to expect when you arrive at the airport is available at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website (<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au>) or Australian Customs and Border Protection (<https://www.abf.gov.au>) website.

## BIO-Security - Incoming Passengers

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for managing Australia's bio-security system and reducing the risk of pests and diseases arriving in the country. A strong bio-security system helps to protect Australia's unique environment, agricultural sector and reputation as a safe and reliable trading nation. Before leaving home please check Australian bio-security import conditions and identify any items you cannot bring or send or which you will need to declare at the airport on arrival, for example, certain types of food. Visit the DAFF website for advice on what can be brought in or sent to Australia.

During your flight you will be required to complete an Incoming Passenger Card that asks questions about what you are bringing to Australia and the places you have visited. It is a legal document and a false statement may result in a penalty. Avoid, at all costs, drugs, weapons, explosives and other illegal imports, and do not carry other people's goods or parcels unless you are sure of their contents.



## Arriving Passengers

All arriving passengers must have a valid travel document and complete an Incoming Passenger Card.

SmartGate allows you to self-process through passport control using ePassport data and facial recognition technology.

If you hold an eligible ePassport and are aged 16 years or over, you are eligible to use SmartGate when arriving at Australian airports. Airline crew who meet these criteria can choose to use SmartGate instead of going through the crew lane.

Australian and New Zealand ePassport holders travelling on military orders are not eligible to use SmartGate.

All other travellers must present their passport and completed Incoming Passenger Card to one of our officers on arrival before collecting their baggage.

If you are not an Australian citizen, you must hold a valid visa to enter Australia which must be presented at the Australian border along with a valid travel document . Your visa should be arranged before travelling to Australia. Special provisions apply to most New Zealand citizens, and to people eligible to transit Australia without a visa. For more information on checking in please see Air Travel.

# Using Agents

## Migration Agents

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIBP on your behalf, but please note that you do not need to use a migration agent to lodge any kind of visa application.

## Education Agents

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas.

Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents.

Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend.

*Please Note: Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are NOT licensed to provide migration advice.*

# Be Prepared

## Documents

You should prepare a folder of official documents to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from Barrington College Australia
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by Barrington College Australia
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver's licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.

If you are travelling with your family you will need to include their documents as well. Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage. In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

## What to Bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, declare it anyway on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service homepage [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (35kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia.

This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.



## Important Documents

(Make sure you bring all these documents)

- Passport
- e-Visa
- Airport pickup form
- Current academic transcripts of tertiary studies
- Letter offer and Confirmation of Enrolment (COA) from college
- Prescriptions for any regular medication
- Medical history
- Driver's licence
- Credit or debit card

If you are bringing school-age children, make sure you have their:

- Birth certificates
- Immunisation records
- Education records

# Flying and Arriving

## On Your Flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be very HOT so wear light weight clothing underneath and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an Incoming Passenger Card to fill in.

This is a legal document. You must tick ✓ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products. This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don't be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than AU\$10,000 in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is strongly recommended however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.

## Arriving in Australia - Australian Immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

## Baggage Claim

Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged go to the Baggage Counter and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

# At the Airport

## Detector Dogs

You may see a Quarantine Detector Dog at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

## Australian Customs and Quarantine

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn't have. You must declare ALL food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has strict quarantine laws and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU\$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require treatment to make them safe. Items that are restricted because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives, <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy>

## Arrivals Hall

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

## Bringing My Family

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants (check your individual circumstances with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection See: Arranging Visas). Family members include your spouse, and you and your spouse's dependent children. Before bringing your spouse or children to Australia, you will have to prove that you can support them financially. The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high. You may have to consider and discuss many issues with your family.

## Issues to Consider

Rather than bringing your family together with you to Australia, some students may find it useful to arrive first, settle into studies, find appropriate accommodation, adjust to living in Australia and then arrange for their family to join them. Before making a decision to bring your family to Australia it is important to consider the following issues:

- The cost of airfares for your family to and from Australia;
- Possible higher rent for a larger home;
- Limited employment opportunities for your spouse;
- Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities;
- The effect on you and your studies if your family is not happy in Australia;
- Whether your children will adjust to school in Australia;
- Waiting lists for child care centres; and
- Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family, or to all come at the same time.

For more information visit: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au>



# Accommodation in Australia



# Arranging Accommodation

## Temporary Accommodation: Hotels, Motels & Backpackers

Generally, the price you pay for accommodation will determine its quality. However, it can be expensive to stay in a good quality motel or hotel for a long period of time. Backpacker accommodation is relatively inexpensive but you may need to bring your own pillow and sleeping bag if you choose this option.

## Staying With Friends or Family

If you know someone in Australia, this is a great way to settle-in to life here. Your friends or family can provide advice, support and encouragement in your first days in Australia. However, if you are under the age of 18 you must obtain approval from your education provider first.

## Where to Look for Accommodation

When you first arrive, it may be a good idea to spend a month at either a homestay, in student accommodation or even at a hostel. This gives you time to settle in and look for permanent accommodation that is right for you. You will be able to visit different areas of the Gold Coast and use the public transport system before making your final decision. Here are some of the most popular accommodation options on the Gold Coast, followed by information on how to make your accommodation arrangement.

## Sharing

Share accommodation is a popular option for students as it can sometimes offer more flexibility and less responsibility than renting. Information about share accommodation can be found either on campus or online.

Below are some popular websites in which you can search for share accommodation options on the Gold Coast:

- Flatmates
- Realestate
- Gumtree

## Renting

Renting a property is when you enter into an Agreement with a 'Landlord' to reside in a property – usually a house or an apartment. You can either live in the property alone or share with other flatmates (perhaps other students). There are several websites you can look at for choosing a rental property including:

- Realestate website (<https://www.realestate.com.au>)
- Domain website (<https://www.domain.com.au>)

You will need to check with the Residential Tenancies Authority regarding your rights and responsibilities as tenants.

## Home-stay

A home-stay is a cultural exchange between a local individual or family (called a Host) and a visiting International student. The student lives as a guest in the home.

Living with a home-stay family during your studies is a great way to learn about your new community and culture. Students under 18 years are usually required to live with a local family.

You can contact your education institution directly to learn more about their preferred home-stay providers.

## Short Term Accommodation / Backpackers

The Gold Coast has many hostels and hotels that offer cheap, short-term accommodation. Short-term accommodation is best planned in advance to make sure you get the best possible place at the best price.

The following websites let you compare hostels by price and location:

[www.trivago.com.au](http://www.trivago.com.au)

[www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com)

[www.goldcoastaustralia.com](http://www.goldcoastaustralia.com)

[www.agoda.com](http://www.agoda.com)

# Things to Keep in Mind When Renting

## 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.

## Signing a Lease

In most cases, the landlord will require the tenant to sign a lease. A lease is a written agreement between a tenant and a landlord that describes the responsibilities of each party. This is a binding legal document that commits the student to a specific period of residency in the unit.

## Inspection of Property

Most landlords will inspect the property with you on commencement of your tenancy. This is done with a list of furniture and fittings in each room of the property so that the two of you can agree on the condition of the property at the commencement of the tenancy. You should note on this document anything you notice during the inspection that is not already listed, and keep a copy that has been signed by both of you.

Once you are the tenant, the condition of these things will be your responsibility. This will be done again at the end of your tenancy and the final condition of the property may determine the return of your full security deposit. If this inspection is not suggested, you might suggest it yourself as a means of ensuring fair treatment for all parties involved.

## Restrictions

The lease may contain restrictions, such as not permitting animals or children in the dwelling. Ask the landlord about his/her particular requirements. Make sure that you know and understand these restrictions before signing the lease. If you do not obey the restrictions on the lease, the landlord can ask you to leave.

## Housekeeping

Some international students who come to Australia have never had the need to do their own shopping, cooking, and housecleaning. If these activities are new to you, you will need to understand that in Australia unless you choose to hire someone from a home services company to do some of these things for you; these are the responsibility of each individual and are a sign of personal independence and becoming an adult.

Most Australians, especially landlords and rental agencies, believe it is very important for one's living environment to be kept clean. Our concern for cleanliness is evident when you visit the supermarket, where many varieties of cleaning products are sold.

## Utilities

Unless someone is already living in the dwelling, the new tenant must start utility services, such as telephone, electricity, and gas. This requires contacting each individual company and arranging for the services to be connected from a specified date. The companies providing these utilities also require a small security deposit. In some cities instead of making numerous calls to different companies, there may be a utility provider company. If someone has vacated the property before you, contacting these utility companies for connection of services will ensure all previous accounts have been finalised and paid for by the previous tenant.

# Going Shopping

## Bargaining/Haggling

When shopping in Australia, you generally don't bargain or barter (also called haggling) for the price of an item. The displayed price for items is fixed and if Australian GST (Goods & Services Tax) is applicable it will already be included in the displayed price. However, there are exceptions to this rule. There are places and circumstances in which it is perfectly acceptable to barter for the best price possible. These may include: at garage sales, community markets, second hand dealerships, or at electrical goods' stores, furniture shops, or when purchasing a motor vehicle if you are offering to pay in cash, or have seen the item at a competitor store for a better price.

If you are paying by CASH and, if you are buying more than one item, you may have more bargaining power. Begin the bargaining process by asking:

***"What's the best price you can give me?"***

Or at a garage sale, you might pick up several items whose combined total is \$50 and say:

***"I'll offer you \$30 for all of these."***

## Purchasing An Item

The most common methods of purchasing items are by cash or *EFTPOS*. EFTPOS (Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale) allows you to use the card attached to your Australian bank account to make purchases and withdraw cash at the same time (at the retailer's discretion from more than 103,000 merchants across Australia). Just swipe your keycard through the EFTPOS card reader, select your account type and enter your PIN number.

EFTPOS is available at most supermarkets, petrol stations and retail outlets. Just look for the EFTPOS sign. You can choose to make the EFTPOS transaction from your savings account, cheque account or credit card. You receive a printed receipt after each purchase and the transaction appears on your statement.

# Health and Medical

## Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Overseas student health cover (OSHC) is insurance that provides cover for the costs of medical and hospital care which international students may need while in Australia and is mandatory for international student visa holders. OSHC will also cover the cost of emergency ambulance transport and most prescription drugs.

## How Do I Get OSHC?

You may be or have been asked for an OSHC payment in the education offer package you receive from your chosen education provider, if they have a preferred provider agreement and don't need to complete a formal application form. If not, you may need to complete an Application for OSHC which is available from registered OSHC providers and most educational institutions. Barrington College Australia can lodge your OSHC form and payment at time of processing your enrolment to study in Australia.

Only Australian health funds that have signed an agreement with the Australian Government can provide OSHC. Most Australian education institutions have a preferred OSHC provider. Depending on the institution you will be attending you will be required to join one of these four registered health funds. You may choose to change your health fund at anytime, but will need to abide by the conditions of change of the health fund provider you are leaving.

### OSHC PROVIDERS

**Medibank Private**

[www.medibank.com.au](http://www.medibank.com.au)

**OSHC Worldcare**

[www.oshcworldcare.com.au](http://www.oshcworldcare.com.au)

**BUPA OSHC**

[www.overseasstudenthealth.com](http://www.overseasstudenthealth.com)

**Australian Health Management**

[www.ahm.com.au](http://www.ahm.com.au)

**Allianz Care**

[www.allianzcare.com.au](http://www.allianzcare.com.au)



# OSHC Card continued

Students may also take out additional cover in the form of Extra OSHC and students who could not previously access OSHC may now be able to access Optional OSHC. Some students may be exempt from enrolling in the OSHC such as students from countries whose Governments may have Reciprocal Health Agreements for students in Australia. Note: only some reciprocal health agreements cover students in Australia, some will only cover visitors. You should determine if you are eligible before you apply for your visa to come to Australia.

Further information on OSHC can be found [here](#).

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If you come to Australia on a visa other than a student visa and undertake a short course of study of three months duration or less you will not be eligible for OSHC. It is wise to purchase travel or private medical insurance in this case.

## What Am I Covered For?

OSHC provides a safety net for medical expenses for international students, similar to that provided to Australians through Medicare. Additionally, OSHC includes access to some private hospitals and day surgeries, ambulance cover and benefits for pharmaceuticals.

## How Do I Use My OSHC Card?

If you need to visit a doctor or medical centre, show your card at the end of the visit. You will be charged the doctor's fee and the government fee component of that may be processed by the medical centre. If the medical centre is not able to process the government fee, pay the total amount, keep the receipt and you can claim the government fee back from your OSHC provider.

# Types of Health Care in Australia

The Australian healthcare system is mixed. Responsibilities for healthcare are divided between the Federal and State governments, and both the public and the private sectors play a role. Government programs underpin the key aspects of healthcare. Medicare, which is funded out of general tax revenue, pays for hospital and medical services. Medicare covers all Australian citizens, pays the entire cost of treatment in a public hospital, and reimburses for visits to doctors.

## Public System

The major provider of healthcare services in Australia is the Public Health System (Medicare). The Public Health System provides a comprehensive free-of-charge healthcare service for all Australian citizens covering both hospital-based and community-based medical services. Public hospitals are owned by the State. One of the problems with such a system is that waiting times in public hospitals can be extensive due to a shortage of healthcare professionals and facilities.

*See also: Attending an Australian hospital.*



## Private Healthcare System

Private hospitals provide about a quarter of all hospital beds in Australia. Private medical practitioners provide most non-bed medical services and perform a large proportion of hospital services alongside salaried doctors. Most dental services are provided by private practitioners. For Australians who take out private health insurance a range of services can be covered, such as access to your own Doctor in a private hospital, and extra services such as dental, optical and physiotherapy.

## Attending an Australian Hospital

Few private hospitals have emergency departments, so, in an emergency, most Australians rely on the public hospital system. If you attend an Emergency Department in a hospital you will be attended to immediately by a triage nurse for information about you, your cover, and your current health condition. The triage nurse will determine the urgency of your condition in comparison to others in need in the emergency room and it is likely that you will remain at the emergency room for several hours. Whether you are seen immediately by a Doctor, or have to wait, it is customary to keep you in the emergency room for several hours to monitor your condition before releasing you to go home, or admitting you to hospital in more severe cases. There are extensive waiting times for elective surgeries at public hospitals, e.g. for orthopedic surgery.

One of the attractions of health insurance is the ability to bypass public hospital waiting lists and go through the private system.

Private hospitals are very expensive for treatment and hospitalisation. Your OSHC will cover some of the cost of some private hospitals but you will have to pay the difference. Your health insurance (OSHC) covers the total cost of accommodation in a shared ward of a public hospital. It also pays for the 'schedule fee' for the doctor but you will have to pay the difference if the doctor's fee is higher than the 'schedule fee'.

*See also: Public hospital waiting times.*

## General Practitioners (GPs)

In Australia you do not have to go to a hospital to see a doctor. You can see a doctor (also known as a GP – General Practitioner) in their private practice or medical center, with part or the entire doctor's fee being covered by Medicare or OSHC. You must make an appointment to see a GP. It is important to note that some GP surgeries will request full payment from you at the time of consultation and you will need to present the receipt to claim the rebate back from your health cover provider.

# Pharmacies and Medicine

## Pharmacies

GP surgeries do not have medications to dispense to you. You must take the prescription given to you by the doctor to a Pharmacy or Chemist to obtain the medication. You will need to provide the pharmacy with your OSHC card, your full name and address. You are able to walk in off the street to any pharmacy/chemist/drug store in Australia and will only have to wait a short while for your prescription medicine to be prepared.

## Prescription Medication

Medication prescribed by your doctor is not free. You must pay the pharmacy. If the cost is more than \*AU\$30.70 you can claim the difference back from your OSHC provider. Many pharmacists will offer you the option of having a “generic” brand of medicine. If the prescription medicine the Doctor has prescribed is also made available by a company which produces generic brands at cheaper prices, this option will be offered to you. This is ONLY offered if the content of the medicine is exactly the same as that prescribed by your Doctor. It will, however, assist you to pay less for your medicine.

## Over-the-Counter Medication

Pharmacies/chemists also provide a variety of over-the-counter medications useful for treating colds, headaches, allergies and the like which do not require a prescription. Ask the pharmacist on duty for advice regarding the best medication for your symptoms. Ensure that you advise the pharmacist of any other medications that you are taking.

## Dental and Optical

Dental and optical health services are not covered by your OSHC unless you take out extra cover. If you need to see a dentist or optometrist you will need to make an appointment and pay the full fee of this service.

## General Health

### **Maintaining good health is of vital importance when studying abroad.**

While living in another environment is a good way to change a daily routine, it is important for students who are experiencing difficulties in their own country (relationship, health, emotional, substance abuse, etc.) not to expect a vacation from their problems.

Going abroad is not a “geographic cure” for concerns and problems at home (that is, thinking that you can solve your personal dilemmas by moving from one place to another).

Sometimes students feel that a change of venue will help them to move past their current problems. However, living and studying in a foreign environment frequently creates unexpected physical and emotional stress, which can exacerbate otherwise mild disorders.

It is important that all students are able to adjust to potentially dramatic changes in climate, diet, living, and study conditions that may seriously disrupt accustomed patterns of behavior.

In particular, if students are concerned about their use of alcohol and other controlled drugs or if they have an emotional or physical health concern, they should address it honestly before making plans to travel and study abroad.

(Source: Education Abroad Program, UCLA)

## Child Care

Finding suitable childcare in Australia requires patience and planning. Waiting lists for places in most childcare centres are long. Many schools offer before and after-school care programs (usually 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM and 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM). Children who need these programs must be registered with the school.

Please visit the link below to find local childcare for your little ones:

[www.childcarefinder.gov.au](http://www.childcarefinder.gov.au)

# Schools

If you would like to bring your children to Australia with you, you must be aware of the following schooling issues:

1. It is an immigration policy that school-age dependants of international students undertake formal schooling while they are in Australia.
2. Children who have their fifth birthday before 1st April of that calendar year are eligible to start school.
3. You will need to provisionally enrol your child in a school before you leave your home country and you will normally have to pay the school fees one semester in advance. The school will issue an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment Form (eCoE) stating the program and its duration, so that you can obtain the appropriate visa for your child.
4. The Diplomatic Mission in your country can tell you which State schools are registered to take international students. Fees are payable by international students at all State schools unless you:
  - Are in receipt of sponsorship or scholarships from the Australian Government (e.g. the Australian Development Scholarship, IPRS);
  - Hold a higher institution or approved non-government scholarship. These scholarships must be approved by the State government for the dependants to be exempt from school fees.
5. You will be responsible for school fees and other costs including school uniforms, books, excursions and stationery.
6. When choosing the most appropriate school for your child, it is best to ask questions about the school's curriculum, size, extra-curricular activities and the size of individual classes.
7. You should also take into consideration the distance from the school to your education institution, the suburb in which you intend to live and the method of transport you plan to use.

For further information, please visit <https://www.qld.gov.au>

# Useful Information

## Translation Services

We are lucky in Australia to have a variety of healthcare professionals from many different cultural backgrounds, so you may be able to see a doctor who speaks your first language. However, if you are having difficulties communicating with your doctor, the Translation and Interpreter Service (TIS) can be used. For more information visit [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) or phone 131 450

\*2008 Applicable limit

## Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

As well as links from the DIBP website the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au) embassies has a comprehensive list of Australian embassies, high commissions, consulates and representative offices around the world.

# About Barrington College Australia







# About Barrington College Australia

Barrington College is a boutique vocational education provider specialising in Hospitality, Culinary Management and Business Management with direct pathways to university. Our campuses are modern and vibrant with central Gold Coast and Brisbane locations.

## Student-centered teaching approach

We have a student-centered teaching approach, encouraging students to be self-directed critical thinkers. We deliver a personalised study experience to every student by providing a unique learning experience based on small classes and one-on-one training sessions.

## Purpose-built campuses

On-campus facilities include purpose-built commercial cookery kitchens, barista stations, bars, bistro, front office, housekeeping and concierge training areas to maximise the student learning experience. Our campuses provide student lounge areas, libraries and kitchen spaces.

## Industry and university partnerships

We have established articulation agreements with a number of universities, which provide our students with direct pathways into undergraduate courses and the potential for academic credit.

[Explore our courses](#)





## Take the next step into your dream career!

Our industry training specialists have a wealth of knowledge, built up through years of working and training in the Hospitality and Business industries.

Not only do we know how to provide the greatest training you can get, we also know exactly what the industries want to see from graduates.

Contact us for a FREE career design session, and find out what you COULD be doing with your life!

Scan the QR code to book a campus tour at our Gold Coast campus and receive personalised career design by our industry experts!



**Book a campus tour**

# Contact Us

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