

Australia 2023-24

.....

Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your
study abroad experience



OVERSEAS STUDY

*The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact overseas@iu.edu.
Copyright June 2023 Indiana University*

What's Inside?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar	0
Program Address.....	0
Pre-departure Checklist.....	4
Program Introduction	5

Preparing for Departure

COVID-19 Pandemic.....	6
Academic Advising	6
Fee Payment.....	6
Scholarships & Loans	6
Important Documents.....	7
Online Visa Application Instructions	7
Hints for Completing the Online Visa Application	8
Special Note Regarding Confirmation of Enrolment	8
Suggested Reading.....	8
Packing	9
Arrival	11
International Office.....	11
Host Institution.....	11

Academic Program in Australia

The Academic Program	13
Pacing Your Work	13
Class Types	13
Reading Lists.....	14
Essays	14
IU Academic Policies.....	14
Registering for Classes	15
Final Exams	15
Grading	15
Textbooks.....	15
Library.....	16
Computers.....	16
Host City.....	17

What's Inside?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Life in Australia

Housing.....	18
Meals	27
Medical Care	27
Social Life	28
Work & Employment	28
Telephone	29
Keeping in Touch While Abroad.....	29
Mailing Address.....	29
Vacation Travel	29
Climate.....	30
Money and Debit/Credit Cards	30

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

What to Do

When to Do It

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for a passport | <i>Immediately</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 2nd application (UOW, UWA, ANU, USYD, Adelaide) | <i>Immediately after acceptance</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for housing | <i>Immediately</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete other forms from host institution | <i>Immediately upon receipt of packet</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Logistics Orientation (Wollongong only) | <i>Shortly after acceptance to program</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Australia Cultural Orientation | <i>November or April</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Submit Medical History form to Overseas Study | <i>Shortly after acceptance to program</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend advising appointment | <i>After Logistics Orientation</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm your intent to participate and make your pre-payment to Overseas Study | <i>See date on acceptance packet</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for visa | <i>Upon receipt of Confirmation of Enrolment</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Register for study abroad place holder course through IU | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pay program fees to IU | <i>As billed by IU Bursar</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pay housing fees | <i>As billed by host institution</i> |

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the "Getting Started" handbook available online at overseas.iu.edu/docs/gettingstarted.html. While this contains specific program information, the "Getting Started" handbook contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both handbooks should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before contacting the Office of Overseas Study.

Indiana University has exchange partnerships with five institutions in Australia—University of Adelaide, Australian National University, University of Western Australia, University of Wollongong, and the University of Sydney. These exchanges permit a few IU students to study in Australia while an equal number of Australian students come to Bloomington. However, to accommodate the many additional IU students who wish to study in Australia, these institutions also accept IU students who pay full fees to the Australian university. IU refers to these students as co-sponsored to distinguish them from the exchange students who pay IU tuition rates. (Our partners in Australia use the term study abroad instead.) Whether you are an exchange student or a co-sponsored/study abroad student, you will be registered at IU during your stay in Australia, and you may apply most of your scholarships and loans to program costs. All IU students pay housing fees directly to the host institution in Australia.



Helpful Websites

Australian Embassy - usa.embassy.gov.au/
Tourism Australia - australia.com/en-us
Study in Australia - studyaustralia.gov.au/

ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



Student Advice

Suggestions from study abroad returnees



Savvy Traveler Tips

Traveling tips to get you where you're going

Preparing for Departure

COVID-19 Pandemic

The world continues to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent variants. Though Australia closed its borders to the world, they are open and welcoming international students. IU students should continue to pay particular attention to Australia’s immigration policies, which may vary state by state, as well as vaccination/booster requirements and local health ordinances. This handbook is designed to support students traveling “pre-COVID,” so common sense must be used when local conditions warrant modifications to behavior or program components.

Academic Advising

Prior to your departure from IU, meet with your departmental advisors to confirm your academic progress, according to the directions emailed to you by Overseas Study. Make an appointment at Overseas Study to make tentative plans regarding what courses you will take abroad. Sydney participants must follow the advising process outlined by the Kelley School of Business. You may wish to consult former participants about courses since the catalogue does not always give a full picture of what might be taught or expected. Australian university websites typically have a timetable, which is a schedule of classes, and a handbook or catalogue, which is more for course descriptions, pre-requisites, etc... Note that Semester I (autumn semester) runs from February through July while Semester II (spring semester) runs from July through November. Take courses appropriate to your previous preparation, normally second- and third-year courses in your major or minor. In disciplines that are new to you, restrict yourself to first-year classes.

Fee Payment

Program fees will be billed by the IU Bursar. Accommodation fees will be paid directly to the host institution. Credit card payment has been the easiest method for students for housing payments. If you do not currently have a credit card, you should consider obtaining one for this purpose.

If you pay your fees by credit card, please be aware that when someone charges a very large sum, the credit card company often contacts the cardholder to confirm the charge because they are concerned about fraudulent transactions. Save time by contacting your credit card company in advance instead of waiting for them to contact you. Explain that you are calling to authorize the transaction and ensure that your card does not have a daily limit, or that they can make an exception.

Scholarships & Loans

Financial Aid awards are distributed ten days before the start of the IU term or the program start date, whichever is later. Fall semester money is released in late August and spring

semester aid is released ten days before start of your Australia program. You may have to arrange short-term loans from family members to pay for housing in Australia on time, particularly if you are participating in the July-November term.

Important Documents

Visa

A visa gives you permission to travel or reside in another country for a stated period of time. It is issued by the country's consulate in the U.S., in this case the Australian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Australia issues electronic visas. Therefore, you won't receive a label or sticker to place in your passport. You shouldn't receive anything from the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship short of an e-mail either granting the visa or giving further instructions. We recommend printing your visa email and saving a copy on your phone or laptop.

In order to apply, go to the following URL for the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship website (immi.homeaffairs.gov.au) for information, instructions, and links to the online application.

Remember, you can't apply for your visa until you receive the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from the Australian institution. The CoE is an official document issued to international students by universities in Australia and is required by the Department of Home Affairs for the purpose of applying for a student visa. You won't receive the CoE until you've submitted your second application materials to the host university and been accepted. Be sure to print out your CoE before departure.

Note that your visa is connected to your passport number. If you lose your passport while abroad and have to replace it, you must contact the Australian Embassy and update your visa with the new passport number.

In general, the steps to obtain a visa include:

1. Complete your host institution's 2nd application
2. Receive their offer of admission
3. Accept and submit that offer back to the host institution (you'll need your passport number)
4. Receive Confirmation of Enrolment from them
5. Apply for your visa online

Online Visa Application Instructions

- Go to: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/
- On the Immigration and Citizenship page, select Visas. On the next page, select Getting a Visa, then List of All Visas. On the next page, select Studying and Training Visas. Finally, select Student Visa (Subclass 500).
- Remember that you will need to sign and send back to the Australian institution your acceptance document which is included in your offer letter.

Once you have done this, UOW will send a Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) to you. You will need in order to complete their online visa application.

- On the next page, click on the Apply button.
- Next, create an ImmiAccount.
- Enter your account details. Next, read and accept the Terms and Conditions and Submit.

Hints for Completing the Online Visa Application

- Have your Confirmation of Enrollment code handy (located in the top right corner of your CoE).
- Have the Provider (Australian institution) Number handy (located next to the Provider name on the CoE).
- Insure that all the info on your CoE is correct; if it isn't, contact the Australian institution immediately.
- Make sure you enter all dates using this format: Day/Month/Year. (This is very important and is the format students will have to use throughout their stay in Australia.)
- On page 14 of the application, Genuine Temporary Entrant, enter the following:

I am a student at Indiana University who has been accepted to study abroad at the [enter the Australian University] for six months. At the end of the program, I'll return to the U.S. to complete my degree. I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

- On page 16, Overseas Health Cover, enter the following:
 - Does the applicant have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)? YES
 - Will the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) organized by the applicant's education provider? YES
 - Name of Health Insurer: Leave blank
 - Insurance Policy Number: Leave blank
 - Date From: day/month/year
 - Date To: day/month/year

Special Note Regarding Confirmation of Enrollment

You will not receive your Confirmation of Enrollment until you have returned your "Offer of Admission" to the Australian university. See steps above.

Suggested Reading

Since most students have not had the advantage of learning about Australia in classes, it is particularly important that you do some background reading before embarking on your voyage 'down under.' Look at Culture Shock! Australia: A Guide to Customs and Etiquette. Buy a good guidebook to Australia; Lonely Planet is a popular resource.

Former participants also recommend Bill Bryson's *In a Sunburned Country*, which provides a humorous look at Australian history and culture.

Locate some of the following, especially if you intend to take a course in Australian Studies in Australia:

Working Australia, C. Fox, Allen and Union, Sydney, 1991.

Mistaken Identity: Multiculturalism and the Demise of Nationalism in Australia, S. Castlers, Pluto Press, Sydney, 1990.

Australian Studies, J. Walter, Editor, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1989.

Images of Australia, G. Whitlock and D. Carter, editors, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia, 1992.

A Change of Skies, Y. Gooneratne, Picador Australia, Sydney, 1991.

The Swan Book, A. Wright, Constable, 2015

That Deadman Dance, K. Scott, Bloomsbury, 2012

Sovereign Subjects, A. Moreton-Robinson, Allen & Unwin, 2008

Because a White Man'll Never Do It, K. Gilbert, Angus & Robertson, 2013

Growing up Aboriginal in Australia, A. Heiss, Editor, Black Inc., 2018 (anthology of short stories)

Dark Emu: Aboriginal Australia and the birth of agriculture, B. Pascoe, Scribe Publications, 2018

Packing

.....

Australian students wear more or less what American students wear on campus; however, they tend to dress nicer when going out and attending class. It is uncommon to wear sweatpants to class. **PACK LIGHT**, and bring what is most comfortable. Try using vacuum bags to condense clothing.

Pack the following:

- rain gear (poncho, waterproof shoes, umbrella)
- warm sweaters and windbreaker (it does get cool!)
- hiking boots
- swimwear
- sunglasses
- hat to protect you from the sun
- heavy coat (spring semester)
- sun block (expensive in Australia!) - take note of sunblock or cosmetics that are environmentally safe, especially if you plan to swim)
- towel, sheets, and toiletries (see note below)
- phone
- pictures of your friends and family or other things to decorate your room
- cosmetics (Items like makeup, gels and hair products can be very expensive in Australia. Research prices for the items that you use and pack extra or budget

accordingly.)

- adapter plugs and power converter

Print/save the following:

- Academic Advising Plan
- Confirmation of Enrolment
- E-visa

Electronic devices

You can buy converters and adapters while in Australia, but most U.S. electronics stores (Best Buy, Target) will sell international power adapters that can be used in multiple countries for a low price.

Unless your electronic devices (such as hair dryers, hair straighteners/curling irons, electric shavers, speakers, etc.) are explicitly 110/220 compatible, they are likely to break using Australia power. You can generally purchase these devices at low prices once you have arrived in Australia.

Clothing

Australia's weather can vary greatly and it is important to pack the right clothes. You should:

- Research the average temperature for the location and the months you will be abroad
- Contact a returnee for advice on what to pack
- Check to see if the university you are attending offers a travel packing list
- Keep in mind that Australia uses the metric system so temperatures are in Celsius

Additional notes from former participants

- Towels, sheets, and toiletries are easy to purchase after you arrive by taking the bus to the mall. Prices can vary widely, but these can be inexpensive in stores like K-Mart, which is big in Australia. If you have room in your suitcase, some returnees recommend bringing these items. After a 24-hour flight, you might not want to go shopping for a bath towel!
- If you stay at a residential college, there might be a formal event. To save room in your suitcase, consider borrowing formal wear from a friend or purchasing locally.

Academic Program in Australia

Arrival

As soon as you book your transpacific flight (but at least ten business days before your arrival), notify the international office at your host institution per their arrival instructions. If you arrive before the recommended arrival date, you will be charged for extra housing. Some schools and residential colleges may offer pick-up services.

International or Study Abroad Office

Your first stop in Australia will be the international or study abroad office (see the "Supplement" tile on your program's Overseas Study web flyer for program address but follow the arrival/orientation information provided to you by the host institution). The staff will orient you to the campus and answer your questions or refer you to someone who can. They will help with your registration and maintain contact with Overseas Study about your academic progress. Never add or drop a course without consulting them first, as well as Overseas Study (or the Kelley School of Business if you are going to Sydney). They are familiar with IU and understand the issues involved with your stay in Australia. If you have problems adjusting to life in Australia, contact any of the staff in the international office.

Host Institution

The host institutions have been carefully selected for their quality of education and campus life. All have consistently ranked among the top universities in the country.

Australian National University (Canberra)

Like IU, Australian National University (ANU) is particularly noted for its research reputation. The student population of 25,000 includes 9,000 international students of which about 225 are from the U.S. The university has seven colleges including: College of Health & Medicine; College of Engineering and Computer Science; College of Business and Economics; College of Asia and the Pacific; College of Arts and Social Sciences; and College of Law. The campus is set in extensive parkland and hosts a number of Australian and exotic trees, attractive gardens, open space and green lawns. Students at ANU enjoy all the conveniences that come from being within close proximity to the city center – just a few minutes' walk away.

Extensive information about ANU can be found at anu.edu.au. For information specifically about the university's international programs see anu.edu.au/study.

University of Adelaide

With over 140 years of excellence in education, the University of Adelaide is one of

Australia's oldest and most prestigious tertiary institutions. Since its establishment in 1874, the University has developed a reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research. It is consistently ranked in the top 1% in the world and has produced five Nobel Prize winners. With more than 27,000 students from more than 90 countries and over 3,000 staff, the University is small enough to provide personal interaction with teaching staff, yet large enough to offer a broad range of programs and student support services.

For more information on the University of Adelaide, visit: adelaide.edu.au. For information on Study Abroad and Exchange programs see:

adelaide.edu.au/inbound-study-abroad.

University of Western Australia (Perth)

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is ideally located on the banks of the Swan River. The student population is over 25,000, which includes close to 5,200 international students. UWA is widely known for the beauty of its traditional Romanesque architecture and lush gardens. State-of-the-art research facilities, well-equipped lecture theatres and laboratories, a wealth of sporting facilities, and a range of art venues accommodate some of the city's most celebrated cultural events, providing a learning environment that stimulates both creativity and innovation.

Extensive information about UWA can be found at uwa.edu.au. More information on study abroad and exchange at UWA can be found at <https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/Courses-and-Careers/Study-Abroad-and-Student-Exchange>.

For information specifically about the university's international programs see <https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/International-students>

University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is located between the lower slopes of a temperate rainforest and the sea, just north of the city center. The university was established as a college of the University of New South Wales in 1961 and achieved independent status in 1975. It now has more than 28,000 students (more than 12,000 of which are international students) on its campus and 1,700 faculty and administrative staff.

In contrast to the much larger urban universities in Sydney and Melbourne, the Wollongong campus provides an excellent environment for getting to know fellow students. Its location on the coast gives you the advantages of beautiful natural surroundings and easy train access to Sydney. From some campus locations you can see the Pacific Ocean to the east and Mount Keira to the west. The campus itself, with its gardens, ponds and grassy meadows blending with modern architecture, was designed to provide an environment conducive to tranquil contemplation and study. In recent national surveys of higher education in Australia, Wollongong was ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world because of its innovative, dynamic approach to education.

Extensive information about UOW can be found at uow.edu.au. For information specifically about the university's international programs see uow.edu.au/study.

University of Sydney

The University of Sydney, founded in 1850, is the first university established in Australia. Over the past 150 years, the university has built an international reputation for its outstanding teaching and research. USYD is a member of the elite Group of Eight universities in Australia, which dominate Australia's university system in terms of research, funding and publications.

USYD is an urban campus located in downtown Sydney, yet not far from the coast. Sydney is a sprawling, multicultural and dynamic city known for its famous Opera House, "coathanger bridge" and waterways. USYD has a total enrollment of 54,000, of which about 12,200 are international students.

Additional details about University of Sydney's programs, staff, course offerings, housing, as well as other information, can be found at: usyd.edu.au.

The Academic Program

The Australian undergraduate program is based on the British higher education system, and is concentrated in three years instead of the four-year American pattern. Students seriously apply themselves to their concentration shortly after beginning their studies. Consequently, American students find that Australians have a deep interest and a commitment to the subject material—they are not taking courses just to fulfill electives or distributional requirements.

Pacing Your Work

The Australian academic system emphasizes individual work and research. Instead of short daily or weekly assignments, you will be required to produce carefully thought out, well-argued term papers, called essays in Australia.* Australian students may give the impression of being casual about their courses, but when Americans are traveling on weekends, Australians are at home (many are commuters), working on their class preparation and essays.

Because of the seemingly relaxed academic atmosphere, American students tend to leave major assignments until the very end of the semester. You will have one week without classes before exams start, but do not leave all your studying until this time. It is also tempting to plan a vacation during this week, referred to as "Swot Vac," but you will probably find the time valuable and necessary for your studies.

*The universities are more self-driven and independent. Teachers expect your undivided attention when in class. Rather than busy work, your grade is based mostly on a few major assignments. For example, your final exam may count upwards of 40% of your course grade.

Class Types

Seminar-style courses enroll 20 to 25 students, while lecture courses enroll as many as 200. Lecture classes include a discussion section or tutorial of fewer students, which is an important component of the course. Most Australian faculty find that Americans are strongest in their contributions to the tutorials. As a result of the small discussion

groups, student interaction with professors is more informal than at IU. This interaction not only helps you master course work, but also provides you with a source of valuable information regarding Australia's cultural and educational system.

- Almost all lectures are recorded and posted online, so if traveling you can access them on the internet (no attendance).
- Discussion - attend once a week. Don't miss!

Reading Lists

For each class, expect a syllabus that includes both required and recommended readings from many different sources (books, journals, etc.). Keep in mind that although these lists might seem overwhelmingly long, they are simply recommendations. You will learn during the semester which readings are most important for your particular assignments. Course packets or course materials are available through the universities' online student learning portals.

Essays

It is common for classes to require a number of essays, one that is a written version of the oral presentation required in the tutorial, and an essay-style final exam. Few disciplines use multiple choice exams. Americans encounter some difficulty writing essays because they tend to think of essays as opinion pieces, not the formal papers with footnotes and references that Australian faculty expect.

Faculty make themselves available for conferences, and it is strongly recommended that you meet with them prior to attempting the first essay. Individual departments should have essay-writing guidelines and instructions for submitting your essays that you should consult. Students should expect to lead a tutorial, either alone or as part of a group, especially in liberal arts courses.

IU Academic Policies

Overseas Study requires that IU students carry a minimum of 12 points or 24 units, the equivalent of 12 IU credit hours. This normally entails enrolling in four classes, each worth the equivalent of 3-4 IU credit hours. **Sydney students must take 4 courses for a total of 16 IU credit hours.**

Avoid taking all upper-level courses that are heavily weighted in Australia since most IU departments equate courses to comparable course units here rather than by the number of points or contact hours there (i.e. a history course here is typically worth 3 credits so the department may see your work there more in terms of a 3-credit accomplishment even if it is listed as a more heavily weighted course there).

If you adjust your schedule during the semester, you must maintain the 12-credit minimum load and verify any changes with Overseas Study.

You are not permitted to drop a course late in the term, or to take any course on a pass/fail basis.

Failure to complete a course will result in a grade of 'F'. Since you will be abroad with students from all over the U.S., you will probably attend classes with other American students whose institutions have different rules and guidelines regarding course loads, grades, etc.

If you have questions about your academic situation, contact Overseas Study (overseas@iu.edu).

Bring home course materials since you will have to share evidence of your work with faculty in your major and/or minor departments before course equivalencies and credits can be finalized.

Registering for Classes

Registering (enrolling) in courses is completed online and can be done prior to leaving for Australia. You can make changes to your enrollment once you arrive, but it's important to bear in mind the critical dates of the host university. Report any change in your original schedule to the Overseas Study to verify that you can get credit for the courses. Your university may give a specific time and date for enrollment. This enrollment period may be before or during orientation and it is important to register as soon as the enrollment opens for best selection of class times.

Final Exams

Do not make travel plans to leave the program before the completion of the official university examination period. The universities do not permit students to take their final exams early. Unlike at IU, exam schedules are not posted until late in the semester, so do not make travel plans until you see your finals schedule. Exams are generally conducted at an external facility, which may require special transportation arrangements to get there.

Keep in mind that if you fail a final exam, you may receive a "Technical Fail" (TF) in the course. It is important to do well on your final exams.

Grading

A lower proportion of high school students attend university in Australia than is the case in the United States. Consequently, you will find Australian students bright, serious and, despite their laid back attitude, competitive.

Likewise, professors are demanding in class and rigorous in their grading. You must be diligent to achieve good grades in Australia. Some professors consider "credit" a good grade and give almost nothing higher. However, IU students have achieved grades of "distinction" and even "high distinction" in a number of courses. See the "Supplement" tile on your program's Overseas Study web flyer for IU grade conversions.

Textbooks

Most Australian classes do not have a single assigned textbook. Instead, much of the reading comes from research and reference books in the library or through uploaded documents on the student learning portal; classes that require textbooks keep several

copies on reserve in the library.

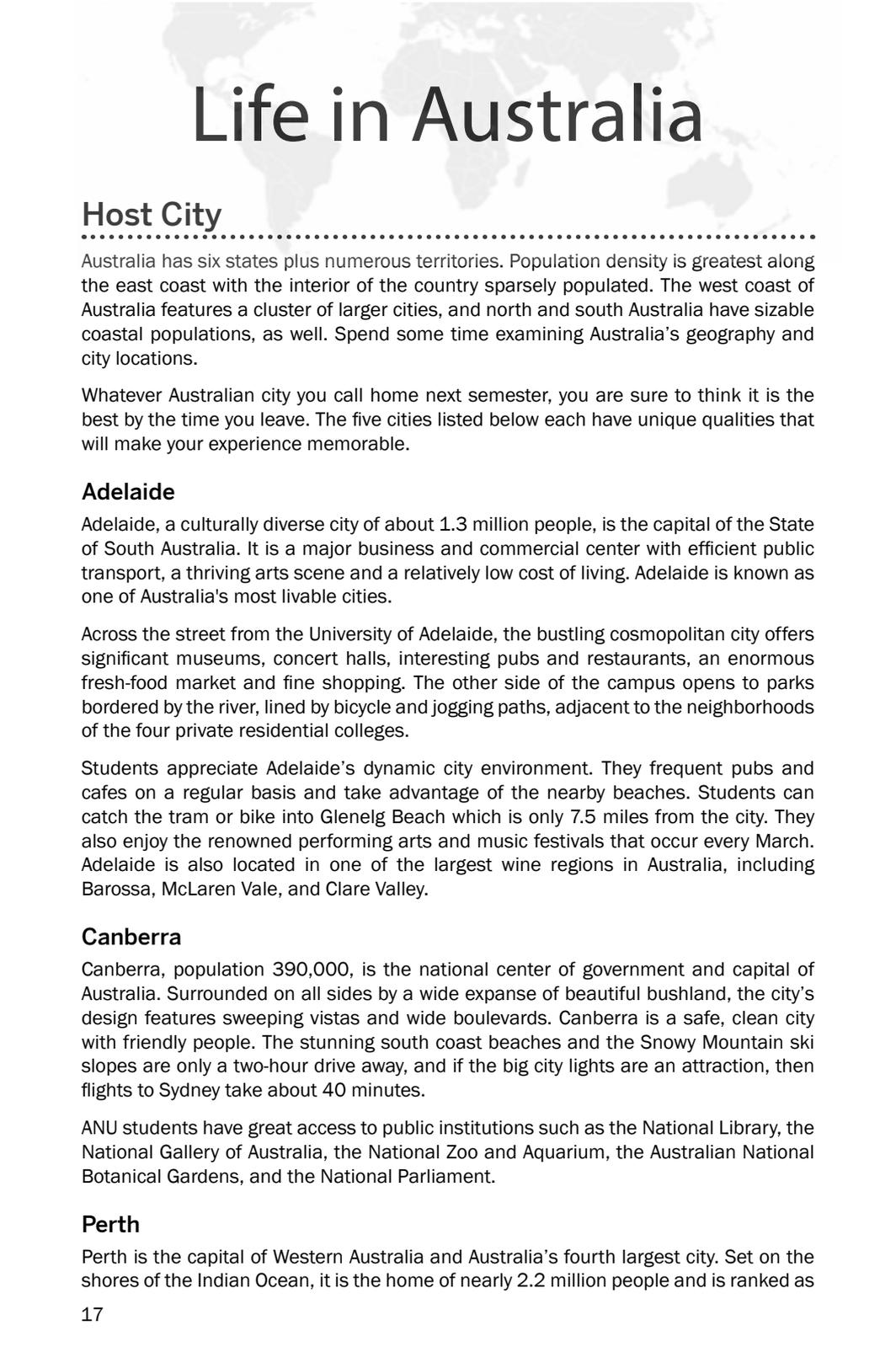
extbooks are also available in the bookstore, but they are expensive and cannot be sold back (you may try to find a book co-op or search for "Buy & Sell" pages). If you are lucky, you might be able to purchase used books from other students and sell your used texts before departing. Before you purchase the books, be sure you actually need them. You may spend less to purchase texts in Australia than at IU, but be prepared to pay for photocopies! Course packets or course materials are left on reserve in the library or available online through the student learning portal, and students are expected to make copies for their use or to buy packets assembled by the professor.

Library

Because assigned textbooks are not commonly used, students rely heavily on shared library resources; as a result, students in large classes sometimes have difficulty obtaining reference materials. Plan ahead for assignments. The books you need may be checked out if you wait until the last minute. The library also has an extensive movie collection.

Computers

All students have full access to university computer facilities. There are fewer computers than you are used to at IU so labs are often crowded at peak hours. Like IU, you will have a printing quota. All university campuses and residential colleges have WiFi access. Many residential colleges offer computer areas with printing capabilities.



Life in Australia

Host City

Australia has six states plus numerous territories. Population density is greatest along the east coast with the interior of the country sparsely populated. The west coast of Australia features a cluster of larger cities, and north and south Australia have sizable coastal populations, as well. Spend some time examining Australia's geography and city locations.

Whatever Australian city you call home next semester, you are sure to think it is the best by the time you leave. The five cities listed below each have unique qualities that will make your experience memorable.

Adelaide

Adelaide, a culturally diverse city of about 1.3 million people, is the capital of the State of South Australia. It is a major business and commercial center with efficient public transport, a thriving arts scene and a relatively low cost of living. Adelaide is known as one of Australia's most livable cities.

Across the street from the University of Adelaide, the bustling cosmopolitan city offers significant museums, concert halls, interesting pubs and restaurants, an enormous fresh-food market and fine shopping. The other side of the campus opens to parks bordered by the river, lined by bicycle and jogging paths, adjacent to the neighborhoods of the four private residential colleges.

Students appreciate Adelaide's dynamic city environment. They frequent pubs and cafes on a regular basis and take advantage of the nearby beaches. Students can catch the tram or bike into Glenelg Beach which is only 7.5 miles from the city. They also enjoy the renowned performing arts and music festivals that occur every March. Adelaide is also located in one of the largest wine regions in Australia, including Barossa, McLaren Vale, and Clare Valley.

Canberra

Canberra, population 390,000, is the national center of government and capital of Australia. Surrounded on all sides by a wide expanse of beautiful bushland, the city's design features sweeping vistas and wide boulevards. Canberra is a safe, clean city with friendly people. The stunning south coast beaches and the Snowy Mountain ski slopes are only a two-hour drive away, and if the big city lights are an attraction, then flights to Sydney take about 40 minutes.

ANU students have great access to public institutions such as the National Library, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Zoo and Aquarium, the Australian National Botanical Gardens, and the National Parliament.

Perth

Perth is the capital of Western Australia and Australia's fourth largest city. Set on the shores of the Indian Ocean, it is the home of nearly 2.2 million people and is ranked as

one of the world's most livable cities. The cosmopolitan city offers students a relaxed outdoor lifestyle and a great home base for exploring both the Red Center outback and excellent nearby beaches (19 within the metro area!).

The absence of heavy industry means a virtually pollution free environment, and this coupled with warm dry summers, mild wet winters and more hours of sunshine than any other capital city in Australia, creates the perfect setting for an active, outdoors lifestyle. Surfing, hiking, climbing, biking, rafting—there is no limit to the outdoor activities available within easy distance of the university. Kings Park and Botanic Garden is close to campus and offers beautiful views of Swan River and is a popular spot for picnics, walks and cultural events.

The vibrant port city of Freemantle is just a 30-minute bus ride from campus and offers maritime, convict and colonial history. You can also hop on a ferry to Rottnest Island from Freemantle to explore their beautiful beaches and wildlife.

Wollongong

Wollongong, informally known as the "Gong," is a culturally diverse city of 300,000 and as the ninth largest city in Australia, is the gateway to the miles of white and silver beaches of Australia's Leisure Coast. It is 90 minutes south of Sydney by car, bus or train. Although Wollongong was once known as an industrial city, tourism is fast replacing steel as the area's major industry. The city's smoke stacks and mills are located some distance down the coast from both the university and the suburb where students are housed. Wollongong's natural environment includes some of the most pristine beaches in Australia.

Some of the top sites in Wollongong include the Nan Tien Temple, 17 beaches in the area, and beautiful Mt. Keira. The city centre also includes a wide variety of shops, restaurants and attractions. Attractions are easily accessible by free busses.

Sydney

Sydney is the capital of New South Wales province and the largest city in Australia with more than 5.5 million inhabitants. As Australia's oldest city, Sydney plays an important commercial and service role and is also the busiest port in Australia. Sydney is known for its beaches, shopping, nightlife, restaurants and 300 days of sunshine a year. The city is also Australia's most culturally diverse city. Sydney was recently ranked the most livable city in the world. As Anne O'Donoghue and Timothy McDonald of Immigration Solutions note, that is because "Sydney is a thoroughly modern city that sits next to a visually stunning harbour and world-class beaches. The climate is pleasant, the education system is good, public transport is extensive, crime rates are relatively low, and the economy is strong."

Housing

.....

Note that the fees you pay Indiana University **do not include housing**. All housing costs are paid to the residential college or accommodation services office you apply through. Keep in mind that there is typically a housing application fee and then there are multiple fees that you may need to pay when you accept your housing offer: refundable

deposit, registration fee, two weeks rent and resident fees. It is a good idea to have funds saved up to cover these housing costs if you are on full financial aid.

When researching housing options, bear in mind that fees usually are listed “per week” and they always are listed in Australian dollars. Calculate the amount of time you will be abroad (to come up with a semester cost), and convert the Australian dollars into U.S. dollars. Much like in the U.S., accommodation inclusions will vary, so carefully compare costs and amenities.

In terms of payment for your full housing contract, it depends on the university that you’re attending, but you can generally pay the full amount in one lump sum upon arrival, or set up a bi-weekly or monthly debit from an Australian bank account.

Most Australians do not travel to go to college like U.S. students. Students usually attend the university closest to their home and rarely go to university in another state in Australia. Most Australians will continue to live with their families and commute if the university is in the same city. Most Australians that live in university accommodation are not from the local area or are from the Australian “country” (colloquially, “the bush”), or the Jem’s Bay area.

University accommodation options typically include apartments, residence halls or residential colleges.

It’s important that you apply for housing as soon as possible as space on campus is limited and does fill up. Students attending the Australian National University, University of Adelaide, University of Western Australia and the University of Wollongong will receive instructions from their respective universities on how to apply for housing. Students are responsible for applying for housing and confirming their housing offers directly with the university accommodations office.

If housing is not immediately available when you arrive, you will be temporarily housed near the campus until you can find housing. If you arrive before the official arrival dates and vacant rooms are available, you will pay a supplemental fee for the extra days’ residence and may be placed temporarily in a dorm other than your permanent assignment.

Students going to Sydney will need to find their own apartments, with some help from the international office, after the initial orientation period.

Apartments

Private rental accommodation is usually an option in most program locations. Rentals usually entail payment of a damage deposit (often two months’ rent) that is refundable upon departure. Some universities in Australia offer apartment-style living as a part of their university accommodations, though they can be expensive.

Residential Colleges

The residential colleges, typically located a short distance from the campus, are not administratively part of the university. They tend to be independently managed.

The colleges tend to have single furnished rooms for all students, a library, a common room and music room, access to computers and academic counseling. They often provide blankets and bedspreads, but you will need to bring or buy sheets and a pillow.

Each of the colleges is smaller than a typical IU residence hall and has more of a social atmosphere, with many well-attended events throughout the semester such as dances and movie nights. In addition to basic room and board, colleges charge various fees for social events and “club dues,” which can be substantial.

The colleges were originally designed based on the British university system, hence English tradition is still visible in many aspects of college life. Students take part in the communal world of the college, often participating in sports and other social events with their fellow residents. The colleges all have distinctive characters.

Each residence hall/college also has its own application and payment policies. Specific instructions will be sent by the host institution. See the next few pages for housing information specific to your host institution.

Adelaide

Adelaide features several accommodation options, some managed through the University and others as residential colleges. More information about Adelaide's accommodation can be found at [adelaide.edu.au/accommodation](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/accommodation) and at the websites listed below for each individual college.

Scape Adelaide Central

<https://www.unilodgers.com/au/adelaide/scape-adelaide-central>

Scape Adelaide Central is the University's preferred accommodation provider for visiting students. It is located along the vibrant North Terrace, in a perfect location just across the road from the main University of Adelaide campus. There is a bus stop two minutes away and train station about 10 minutes away. SAC offers a variety of room types ranging from private studios to single rooms in an eight-person apartment. This complex is very social and offers many opportunities to meet other students. Air-conditioning, heating, a gym, BBQ area, laundry room, bike storage, cinema room, study spaces, game rooms, and rooftop terrace are all included amenities.



I had an amazing time in Australia and was very fortunate to get to travel around the country. I would encourage everyone to take part in this experience.

STUDENT ADVICE

The University of Adelaide Village

[adelaide.edu.au/accommodation/university-managed-student-accommodation/the-university-of-adelaide-village](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/accommodation/university-managed-student-accommodation/the-university-of-adelaide-village)

The Village is managed by the University of Adelaide and features four-bedroom apartments or five-bedroom townhouses, with options for private bedroom and bath or private bedroom with shared bath. It is a 15-minute walk to campus (through the main mall, Rundle Mall), and the free city bus goes right in front of The Village. It is a five-minute walk to Central Market and Chinatown. Student engagement is a priority, and The Village features programs and sport and social activities. Students will need to purchase sundry items, including pots, pans, dishware, etc.

St. Mark's

stmarkscollege.com.au

St. Mark's College has grown over time (currently 200 co-ed students, including around 10 international students), and a number of distinct buildings now make up the St. Mark's complex, which includes TV rooms and an outdoor terrace. All students live in single student bedrooms with shared bathrooms and kitchens on co-ed floors. Fees include three cooked meals a day. Recent building projects have added a fully equipped gym, , additional housing, and a parking garage for students. St. Mark's has an Anglican affiliation with an optional chapel. The students don black robes (over their casual dress) for dinner four nights a week. There is a strong team spirit in the college, and it has a reputation for being a fun place to live. Students may feel pressured to participate in social activities; students seeking a more low-key environment should consider another option.

St. Marks's will supply linens, towels, blankets, pillows, and a bed cover for an additional fee or you can bring or buy your own.



Aquinas

aquinas.edu

Ninety percent of Aquinas's 180 students are Australian and 75 percent are Catholic. The college offers optional masses, but participation in religious activity is not required. Residential tutors (like RAs in the U.S.) monitor students' academic progress. The dorm has fully-furnished, single bedrooms and offers common recreation areas and a computer room. There is a student committee of eight that meets weekly with the principal. This rival college to St. Mark's also has a strong spirit with many activities. Twenty-one meals per week are included and free laundry facilities are on-site.

Lincoln College

www.lincoln.edu.au

Lincoln has 200 students and has a culturally diverse population. It was founded by Methodists in the 1950s and today provides a multi-cultural and multi-faith community to students attending universities in Adelaide. Lincoln has fully-furnished private rooms, 21 meals per week, weekly in-room cleaning, and onsite amenities such as a gym, laundry facilities, and secure bike storage. Lincoln students develop a certain bond by socializing together and use their friendships later in the business or educational world.

Canberra

Students should apply for accommodation as soon as possible and should not wait until an offer of admission to ANU is made. All accommodation applications are assessed following the application deadline, and offers are then made on a rolling basis.

Each residence offers single fully-furnished study/bedrooms. All residences are centrally heated and carpeted, and each study/bedroom has its own telephone with voice mail. For more details, please see anu.edu.au/study/accommodation or the

websites listed below for each individual college or Unilodge residence.

Bruce Hall

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/bruce-hall-daley-road

The co-ed floors accommodate 240 students. Bruce Hall's weekly rate includes breakfast and dinner Monday to Friday. Lunch and weekend meals are also available and can be charged to your account or paid in cash. They are a small, close-knit community that shares in various theme nights, as well as other social activities. They are also involved in many sporting teams.

Burgmann College

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/burgmann-college

This co-ed college has a strong spirit and high academic standards. It accommodates 240 students at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Twenty-one meals are available per week. Burgmann is an especially diverse community and one of the highlights of the year is the international students' dinner.

Burton and Garran Hall

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/burton-garran-hall

This option allows for the most independence. The hall stresses personal autonomy and responsibility but continues to offer personal and academic support. It is a self-catering option that accommodates 500 undergraduate and graduate students. Students share a large kitchen area but have a personal kitchen locker.

Fenner Hall

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/fenner-hall-0

Fenner Hall is one of ANU's newest residential halls, which opened its doors in February 2019. Fenner Hall is located in the heart of campus, and is home to 450 residents from all over Australia and across the world, lending itself to a truly blended community.

John XXIII College

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/john-xxiii-college

They provide housing for 317 students. Twenty meals per week are included in the standard weekly fee. They have the largest bedrooms on campus.

Ursula Hall

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/ursula-hall-main-wing

Twenty-one meals are included in the standard weekly fee. Approximately 200 students are accommodated, and there are single-sex bathrooms. Cultural activities play an important role in life at Ursula College.

Wamburun Hall

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/wamburun-hall

Wamburun Hall is one of the university's newest residences and welcomed its first cohort of students in 2019. Named after the local Indigenous word for large black cockatoo, the striking glass building located at the foot of Black Mountain, houses 500 self-catered students.

Wright Hall

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/wright-hall

Wright Hall's rooftop pavilion is well-known among the ANU community for the panoramic views of Canberra, making it a great space for study and relaxation. Its well-designed common spaces including study rooms offer a live-in learning environment.

Unilodge Residences

Unilodge offers apartment-style student residences that range from single studio apartments to five-person multi-share apartments.

Davey Lodge

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/davey-lodge#--2

Davey Lodge provides modern well-equipped accommodation on the campus. Each floor features common spaces to foster intellectual and social interaction.

Kinloch Lodge

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/kinloch-lodge

Kinloch Lodge is a UniLodge residence, which strives to cater to the multicultural needs of all residing students.

Lena Karmel Lodge

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/lena-karmel-lodge

Lena Karmel Lodge features a gym, rooftop garden, large common area, and an atrium that helps reduce the building's carbon footprint. There are retail outlets on the ground floor and a food court providing affordable healthy meal options.

Warrumbul Lodge

anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/student-residences/warrumbul-lodge

This property features a vast range of facilities including a BBQ, indoor and outdoor recreation areas, common kitchen area, library, computer lab, laundries, and onsite management.

Perth

Residential colleges at UWA

Students should apply for accommodation as soon as possible and should not wait until an offer of admission to UWA is made. If university accommodation fills, students will have to find off-campus housing.

The five colleges, commonly called College Row, are located adjacent to the University campus and welcome students of every faith and nationality. Each college has a single study-bedroom with shared bathroom facilities. Dining rooms serve three meals a day.

and meet all dietary needs and tastes. Kitchenettes often are available for students to prepare snacks and drinks. College facilities include WiFi, media rooms, libraries, pianos, chapels, laundry rooms and billiard tables. Students should not expect "school spirit" at UWA; rather, the residential colleges provide that spirit and community feel. Enjoy a busy social calendar when staying at one of these five colleges.

University Hall

unihall.uwa.edu.au

University Hall is UWA's own residential college where over 750 students of all ages, interests and cultural backgrounds live together in a community of mutual support. It is set in spacious grounds with a predominance of native plants and trees in harmony with neighboring King's Park, one of Perth's favorite landmarks with great views of the city. Just a few minutes' walk away is Matilda Bay, a popular area along the Swan River that surrounds part of the UWA campus. Rooms range from standard to studio to one-bedroom apartments; all options include gym membership, WiFi, and utilities. Meals are included in most room packages and the dining hall serves a buffet selection of food that caters to the diverse community's needs. Students can choose from catered or self-catered options.

St. Catherine's

stcatherines.uwa.edu.au

St Catherine's (St Cat's) was founded in 1928 to provide women with the same higher educational opportunities as men. Today, it is a co-ed, secular residential college welcoming 400 students from Australia and abroad. They provide a community dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, a tight-knit, highly interactive college community with the finest scholarship and service to the wider community. Fees include three meals a day, gym membership, weekly room cleaning and college-wide amenities. Rooms are fully furnished; students bring or buy their linens.

St. George's

stgc.uwa.edu.au/

St. George's College is the senior residential college where 270 undergraduate and graduate students live. It is affiliated with the Anglican Diocese of Perth. Members of the college are welcomed into the life of the community and find themselves part of a rich heritage with unique traditions. As a part of this community, they are expected to live in such a way that the educational and social needs of the whole community are upheld. The college aims to provide an environment that is conducive to study and the education of the whole person. As this is the most prestigious college, it is also difficult to be admitted. Founded in the 1930s with multiple additions since, the majority of rooms have been renovated. All rooms are fully furnished and have AC and WiFi. Students have access to shared bathroom, laundry, and kitchen facilities, and 21 meals per week are included in the fees. Rooms are cleaned once a week.

St Thomas More

stmc.uwa.edu.au

St Thomas More College (Tommy), offers 400 single rooms and prides itself on providing

a diverse and inclusive community with exceptional facilities, academic support, as well as a strong career development program including Alumni Mentoring Leadership Development. Students at Tommy More are committed to making the world a better place, engaging in outreach programs that span as far as Cambodia, but also including local volunteer activities at Eddie Rice Camps and Ronald McDonald House. The campus is ideally located between the Swan River, UWA campus, and picturesque Kings Park. It is only six miles from the famous Cottesloe Beach, and less than two miles from the heart of Perth City. Visiting students typically stay in fully-furnished standard rooms; meals plans of 14 or 21 meals per week are options. Studio apartments may be available but usually are assigned to senior domestic students.

Trinity

trc.uwa.edu.au/

Trinity is home to 370 students, including a large number of international students. The community is made up of a vibrant group of young people from all parts of Australia and all over the world. The proximity of Trinity to Perth's major attractions provides all residents with a lifestyle to be envied. Trinity offers a wide variety of social, sporting and community-related activities. Previous students have really enjoyed Trinity's strong community feel and global population. Fully-furnished private rooms have AC, WiFi, and weekly cleaning, and gym and free laundry facilities are available. Trinity provides full catering.

Off-campus housing

uwa.edu.au/study/student-life/accommodation/uwa-off-campus-accommodation

There is a high demand for university accommodations at UWA, and therefore, students may be required to find off-campus housing for their semester in Perth if they don't apply for housing straightaway. The UWA housing office provides information about how to find off-campus housing and maintains a database of available off-campus options (with distances from the university noted). Students in this situation should wait until they arrive in Perth to secure off-campus housing. However, students are encouraged to sign up for temporary accommodation for when they initially arrive in Perth (see housing.uwa.edu.au/off-campus/temporary).

Sydney

There is no university accommodation option in Sydney.

Wollongong

Although you submit an accommodation application early, Wollongong cannot notify you of your housing assignment until shortly before the semester begins. Do not despair. You will be assigned to one of the residences below based on your accommodation request and space availability. University housing is located throughout the city of Wollongong, not on the campus itself. At most, you will take a 15-minute bus ride to the university.

You will pay the whole semester's housing fee in a lump sum in Wollongong in your first few days there. Credit cards are accepted for a fee.

Carefully review the Schedule of Fees (available on UOW's Accommodations site) to determine housing options and amenities that best suit your budget.

Campus East

uow.edu.au/study/accommodation/live-on-campus/campus-east/

Campus East is a co-ed residential complex that accommodates 615 students in catered and self-catered buildings right across from the beach. Catered means a meal plan of 14 meals per week; accommodations do not include kitchen facilities. Self-catered units do have kitchen facilities so students can cook on their own. Self-catered students have the option to purchase weekly meal plans. Carefully review the Campus East dining options to ensure you select the option that best serves your needs. Previous students have found both catered and self-catered to be reasonable options, depending on lifestyle and budget.

Single rooms (shared bathrooms) are available in shared two-, three-, or five-bedroom units. Roommates are a mix of Australian and international students.

Campus East has laundry facilities, a large dining hall, kitchen, rec room, TV room, computer lab, and movie theater. (Students can access a gym for an extra charge.) The housing manager lives on the premises and is available 24 hours a day. They guide students through programs like conflict resolution, self-defense and first-aid certificate training.

Campus East is located in the suburb of Fairy Meadow, a 15-minute bike ride from campus or a 30-minute brisk walk - but most people don't walk. Residents use social media to post the time of their class and offer rides to the university. Most of the time, you can get a ride to the university; if the driver has three or more people in their car they are able to get free parking on campus.

A university shuttle operates frequently between Campus East and the campus. Fairy Meadow features a main street that has a grocery store and a number of popular eateries, including many U.S.-based chain restaurants.

Kooloobong Apartments

uow.edu.au/study/accommodation/live-on-campus/kooloobong-village

Kooloobong offers 38 apartments accommodating up to 190 people. Kooloobong Apartments are located on the University campus amidst a bushland setting on the edge of Mt. Keira.

Units have four or five single bedrooms, and students share a bathroom, kitchen and lounge/dining areas.

During the housing application phase, students can request four- or five-bedroom units; single studios are available for a higher price. One of the most popular features of the units are the outdoor balconies overlooking the picturesque university grounds. Kooloobong caters to residents who wish to live independently - doing their own cooking and cleaning. Units are fully furnished, managed and maintained by University staff.

Previous students love the amenities that Kooloobong offers: cinemas; yoga, basket-

ball, and e-sport space; BBQ facilities; heated swimming pool; and quick access to campus.

Kooloobong has a diverse population with the majority of residents finishing their undergraduate qualifications and a number of the population continuing their post-graduate qualifications. Students at Kooloobong organise many events including 25 international food festivals and sporting events, while also participating in the many combined residence events.

Savvy Traveler Tips

"I went to every major city and state, and each trip was fulfilling. I suggest taking the Indian-Pacific Railroad. It's like a serene cruise through the Outback."

Additional Information

All Wollongong residence halls provide pillow, sheets and blankets for a linen hire fee, which can be expensive. Purchasing alarm clocks and other household goods is possible at low cost at outlets such as Cash Converters in downtown Wollongong.

Items such as radios and surfboards can be bought cheaply and then sold back for at least half of the purchase cost. Likewise, you may purchase such used goods from the International Residents Association, and local thrift stores may sell high-quality goods like room decor, blow dryers, and kitchen supplies. Periodic swap meets in town are another good source of inexpensive items for your room. You may wish to invest in a used bicycle for about \$100 and sell it at the end of the semester.

Meals

Meals and mealtimes in Australia are similar to those in the U.S. The dormitory breakfast consists of a choice of items: cereal, toast, Vegemite, yogurt, and some heartier items like beans and spaghetti. Cordial (like Kool-Aid but less sweet) and hot tea are the beverages of choice, but coffee is available.

Lunch is served in the dorms, but you may pack your own sandwich and fruit in the morning. Many students congregate on the campus lawns to eat lunch, and there is often some kind of organized activity during this time. Dorm dinners (also called tea) usually include a meat dish, a vegetarian entree and an Asian dish, in addition to vegetables, salad, fruit, bread, hummus, and dessert.

Medical Care

While in Australia all students must be covered by an insurance plan called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). IU students selected for a reduced-fee exchange spot will purchase their OSHC on their own (this must be done before a student can obtain their visa); all other (study abroad) students will pay the OSHC fee through the IU Bursar. See medibank.com.au/overseas-health-insurance/oshc for more information about OSHC.

OSHC provides coverage for off-campus emergency services and for on-campus non-emergency health care. When you visit an on-campus doctor you will be charged a 'scheduled fee' of 15 percent of the regular doctor's visit fee. The regular fee is usually about \$30.

Note that the OSHC insurance plan does NOT cover clinical psychology, dental

work, optical services, treatment for pre-existing medical conditions, or repatriation. Additionally, the OSHC plan does NOT provide any coverage outside of Australia. Therefore, students are strongly advised to check their current insurance plans to see if they transfer, or to consider enrollment in additional insurance plans.

Prescription Medication

It's important that you take a full supply of your prescription medications with you to Australia. You'll need to keep them in their original containers and carry them in your carry-on bag in case your checked luggage is lost or delayed.

Please note that Australia does have restrictions on certain types of medication if the medication includes a prohibited substance. You can find a listing of prohibited substances here: tga.gov.au/importing-therapeutic-goods

Since Adderall contains the substance amphetamine, it is considered a prohibited substance. Keep in mind that Adderall is not available in Australia so it's important that if you take Adderall, that you bring a full supply of your prescription with you.

Adderall is subject to Australian import controls and you'll be bringing more than a three-month supply so you're required to apply for an import permit. More information on how to apply for the import permit can be found here: odc.gov.au/application-forms

If you need further assistance with applying for the import permit, you can talk with your study abroad advisor or contact the Drug Control Section of the Therapeutic Goods Administration: odc.gov.au/importers-exporters-travellers

Social Life

.....

The universities sponsor evening and daytime events, especially at the beginning of the semester, that provide a great opportunity to meet other students. You should also have access to intramural clubs and sports.

It is also easy to get involved in sports through the residential colleges, which host tournaments throughout the semester. The residential colleges also sponsor evening social events, so expect at least one semi-formal or formal dance sometime in the semester.

Students attend student organization fairs or get involved in local civic, volunteer, religious, or recreational organizations. Previous students repeatedly share how they found their "niche," such as sport or volunteering opportunities, at one of these events.

Work & Employment

.....

Your student visa permits you to work 20 hours per week during the school year and 40 hours per week during vacations. Do not count on part-time employment to supplement your income in any significant way, because jobs are often difficult to find.

Telephone

.....

It is wise to figure out your phone plan before leaving the United States.

Many students purchase inexpensive cellular telephones in Australia and use them

in conjunction with prepaid telephone cards (available at post offices and grocery stores), which offer attractive rates and are widely available in Australia in various denominations. Landline telephones typically charge for incoming and outgoing calls.

If you plan on using your American cell phone in Australia, call your phone company and ask about their international plans. You will need to purchase a SIM card at the airport or a local mall.

You can also ask to unlock your phone prior to your arrival in Australia so that you can use it with an Australian phone company, like Telstra or Vodaphone. If you plan to bring your phone to Australia and use it solely with WiFi, ask your phone company to deactivate cellular data so that you can avoid expensive international fees.

A third option is to buy a cheap cell phone and set up a "pay-as-you-go" cellular plan once you arrive in Australia. Returning students have identified Optus, Telstra, Vodafone and Virgin as the best Australian phone companies (cost and reliability).

Keeping in Touch While Abroad

Skype, Facebook, and Apple's FaceTime are popular options for free video chatting over WiFi. Skype and Google Voice both offer cheap rates for making international calls using your computer or mobile device using WiFi.

WhatsApp, GroupMe, and Viber are services that allow you to send free text messages, and voice or video calls. Viber is a free app or desktop download that lets you send texts or make phone calls to anywhere in the world.

Mailing Address

Before your arrival in Australia all of your mail should be addressed to you c/o the international office. Once you have learned your local address, mail should be sent to you there.

Proof of address will be necessary for setting up a bank account or settling other logistics. Mail received or a note from a residential college administrator will count as

proof of address.

Vacation Travel

Before you leave home, inquire about the special reduced rate air passes that may be purchased only in the U.S. These air travel options are highly recommended by former program participants since Australia is large, and travel by car, bus or train can require days on the road.

Don't be discouraged from land travel. There are often long stretches between destinations, but the country is beautiful and those who travel at a slower pace often get to see more of Australia.

Purchase a reloadable student pass (Opal card) when traveling by train and pay roughly half-price. Cheaper flight options in Australia include Jetstar (though you must pre-pay

for luggage when you buy your ticket to avoid hefty baggage fees).

Greyhound Australia bus lines cover much of Australia and they offer many weekend travel tours to nearby destinations. Prices are reasonable, and you can frequently get substantial discounts with an International Student ID card or Youth Hostel Association (YHA) membership. Bus companies offer flex-passes that allow you to get on and off the bus as many times as you like along a given route. Once you are enrolled, you can also get a student rail pass that entitles you to half price train fares on some interstate train lines. Student or YHA discounts are much more prevalent in Australia than in the United States. Take advantage of them, and if in doubt, ask!

While Overseas Study does not recommend study abroad students to drive when they are abroad, it is possible to rent a car from a reputable agency to explore remote spots. Bear in mind that many Australian roads are one-way and some wind through mountain ranges where the roads are poorly lit, and constant turns cause driver fatigue. Especially at night in the outback, be on guard for kangaroos and other animals. Check a map before embarking on any journey. Australia is equal in size to the continental United States, so be realistic about the distance you plan to cover. Learn more about road safety abroad at the Association for Safe International Road Travel: asirt.org/resources/country-reports

The temptation to travel in Australia is great, and we encourage you to see as much as possible during your stay. You will have to determine the balance of study and travel that is right for you. Keep in mind, however, that you have joined a study abroad program, not a travel program. Do not expect a professor to accommodate your travel plans. It is inappropriate for you to petition faculty to permit you to take final exams earlier than others so that you can travel or return home.

Climate

.....

Summer temperatures can be hot and dry. Winter is mild, and it rarely drops below freezing. However, you must remember that since Australia is in the southern hemisphere, seasons are the reverse of what they are in the United States; that is, summer occurs between December and February and the cooler months are June through August. Wildfires may affect the air quality, particularly for those with respiratory issues.

Money and Debit/Credit Cards

.....

It is a good idea to bring Australian money with you when you first arrive in country (AAA members receive great conversion packages). You can get Australian dollars from currency exchanges or banks before leaving the U.S. or you can visit an ATM upon arrival in Australia to withdraw local currency. You should always keep some cash on you as some places may have a minimum purchase amount, as well as markets or outdoor vendors that do not accept credit cards.

Check with your current bank about their policies on foreign exchange rates, fees for using international ATMs, and fees for international withdrawals. Be sure to let your bank know when and where you will be traveling so that they don't put a hold on your account for suspected fraudulent activity.

If your bank is not internationally-friendly, consider opening an account at another American bank, like Charles Schwab, which does not charge international fees or fees for using non-Schwab ATMs. Citibank (a U.S. bank) can help you set up an account in one of their Australian branches from a branch in the U.S.

Some of the Australian universities will invite Australian banks to campus for a day to help international students set up a temporary bank account. Check with the university you are attending to find out more information.

Some popular Australian banks: Westpac, Commonwealth, ANZ, and Bankwest.