

# DU Study Abroad Guide to Australia



*Please use this booklet in conjunction with the DU Study Abroad Handbook*

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## Introduction

This handbook will provide you with a general overview of issues involved in traveling to Australia. Please use this in conjunction with our general Study Abroad Handbook.

We hope this information will assist you and your family in preparing for your time abroad. It is important that you review all the information, as well as the information sent by the Australian university before you leave the U.S. and that you take it with you to Australia.

Studying abroad is an exciting opportunity. Nothing during your college years is likely to change you more. You will learn about another country and another culture. You will also learn to look at your own country from a different perspective and most important, you will learn more about yourself. So, we encourage you to invest yourself fully into this experience.

How much you gain from this opportunity will depend on your preparedness, flexibility and responsibility. Review the general pre-departure information we provide you. Complete the administrative and academic matters that need to be taken care of before you leave. Research the country and city you will be visiting. Review some of the suggested readings in our Pre-Departure Guide about what it means to go abroad. Be respectful of other cultures; things are not better, they are not worse, they are just different – learn to accept, not expect. Remember, you are there to complete an academic program successfully, just as if you were at DU. Good time management and goal setting are keys to handling a challenging academic program and becoming familiar with life outside the classroom.

Most of all, we want you to have a great experience and to make the most out of this opportunity. And when you return, be ready to share your stories with other students. Your personal experience will be the best source of inspiration for others.

Safe Travels,  
*The DU Office of International Education*

## Preparing for your Program

### Passport

You must have a valid passport for traveling to Australia and to obtain a student visa. If you do not already have a passport, apply for one immediately. New passport processing can take several weeks. If your passport will expire while you are abroad, renew your passport right away. Your passport must be valid for the duration of your time abroad and up to six (6) months after your program ends. Make photocopies of your passport before going abroad. In case your passport is lost, a copy can help to replace it:

- Leave one with a relative in the U.S.
- Give one to the *Office of International Education* for your file.
- Keep one copy with you in a separate place from your original passport.

Local Passport Office (for emergency passports **only**):  
 (877)487-2778 to schedule an appointment  
 3151 S. Vaughn Way, Suite 600  
 Aurora, CO 80014

### Student Visa

In order to participate in a study abroad program in Australia, you must apply for a student visa through the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) of the Australian Government. The student visa allows you to stay in Australia for the duration of your academic program and possibly for a few weeks after your program ends. You **must** depart Australia before the student visa's expiration date.

**U.S. citizens** going on a study abroad program for a semester are considered Assessment Level 1, Subclass 575 and thus, can apply for the student visa **online** (instructions provided below).

In order to apply for the student visa online, you first need a copy of your Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) from the Australian university. You will receive your CoE once you have officially accepted your Australian University's offer to study there. The CoE is an official immigration form issued by the Australian university you will be attending and states the program start and end dates.

Non-U.S. citizens and students studying abroad in Australia for two semesters should consult the DIMIA website (<http://www.immi.gov.au/>) to verify their country assessment level and application requirements.

#### WHEN TO APPLY FOR YOUR STUDENT VISA

The Australian immigration requires that you wait **THREE** months prior to the start of your program before you apply for a student visa. Once you are within the three months timeframe and you have received a copy of the CoE, we recommend that you apply for a student visa **as soon as possible and no less than FIVE WEEKS prior to your departure**. Issuance of a student visa is dependent upon the satisfactory health and character clearance conducted by the Australian government. Please note that if you have lived outside of the U.S. in the past few years, if you have been in the military, or if you have a criminal record, your application will take longer to process. If your application needs to be revised, it may take up to 4 weeks to finalize the process. Delaying your student visa application until the last moment could interfere with your travel plans.

HOW TO APPLY ONLINE FOR YOUR STUDENT VISA

If you are eligible to apply for your Australian Student visa online, visit:

[http://www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visa/students.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/students.htm) for the application and instructions. If you are a Cherrington Global Scholar, your visa fee will be covered. To have your visa paid, please just remember to SAVE your application when you get to the payment page (do NOT pay). Then send your log-in and password to [levi.lindsey@du.edu](mailto:levi.lindsey@du.edu), and Levi will pay the visa fee for you.

After you submit your application you will receive an automatic email within 24 – 48 hours stating that your application has been received and providing you with an **application transaction number**. **Do not** misplace this transaction number (keep the email!) for this is how you will be able to go back online to check the status of your application. After you have submitted the form to check on the status of your application, go to <https://www.ecom.immi.gov.au/inquiry/query/query.do?action=eVisa>, enter your transaction number, date of birth and passport number and then click on “Next.”

After approximately **one working week**, you will receive an email notifying you on the status of your application. If you were granted the electronic student visa, print out several copies of the email. Give one to the Office of International Education, one to your parents, and keep one with your passport while traveling. When you check in for your flight, the airline will already know you have been granted an electronic student visa; the copy you carry will serve as a back-up.

If there are questions about your application, you will be notified by an official and instructed on what to do next. It may be necessary to complete additional forms and have a medical review.

Embassy of Australia in Washington, DC  
 Tel: (202) 797-3000 Fax: (202) 797-3168  
 General Office Hours: M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm  
 Visa Office Hours M-F 9:00am to 11:00am  
**TOLL FREE VISA ASSISTANCE: 1 (888) 990-8888**  
 For more information: <http://www.austemb.org/govaddr.htm>

## Travel Arrangements

Refer to the DUSA email for instructions on booking your flights.

### STOPOVERS

When you make your travel arrangements, you may want to ask the travel agent about “stopovers.” Stopovers are different from layovers in that they are over 24 hours long and are a ‘perk.’ Stopovers have restrictions and their prices vary on length of stay and how many you wish to have. Some common stopovers include Fiji, Hawaii, or New Zealand. **If you are a Cherrington Global Scholar and you choose to include a stopover in your plans, you will be responsible for any costs above and beyond the basic fare to and from Australia.**

### FLIGHT TIME

When you look at your ticket it may seem as if your flight takes two days. In actuality your trans-Pacific flight should take approximately 14 hours (LA to Brisbane or Sydney) plus the final leg to your destination. The reason it looks so long is because when traveling to Australia, you will cross the International Dateline. This crossing results in the loss of a day. Don't worry, you will "get the day back" on your return flight.

### **Customs Regulations**

Australian Customs is very strict about what you can bring into the country. Because it is an island-country, Australia wants to keep out many of the diseases that affect humans, animals and plants in other parts of the world. In general, it is not possible to bring fresh food, plants or plant products; animal products; wildlife or wildlife products; drugs; firearms or other weapons into the country.

If you plan to bring used camping gear, including hiking boots, into Australia, please make sure the items are as clean as possible (i.e. not caked in mud). You must declare these items when you arrive in Australia because they may need to be treated/fumigated before you can use them in Australia's protected ecosystem. If you try to bring in these items without declaring them, you will be prosecuted and fined.

### **Prescription Medicines**

If you are taking regular medication, you should contact an Australian Consulate well before departure to confirm that the medicine and the quantities you will be carrying are permitted into the country. You should also find out what documentation you need to provide to the customs agents. **In order to purchase controlled medications while in Australia, you are required to bring a current (less than one year old) specialist report which includes a letter from your doctor, on letterhead, that describes the qualifications of the specialist, diagnosis, medication and dose.** Bring this letter in your carry-on. Just a written prescription will not suffice in Australia for controlled medications. The maximum allowable amount is usually a three-month supply. **Keep all medications in the container in which they were dispensed.** Alternatively, you may also secure controlled medications by being referred to a local Australian psychiatrist or medical doctor.

To find out more details about Australian Customs regulations, please visit the Customs website at <http://www.customs.gov.au/>

## The Australian Academic System

### Academic Culture

As a former British colony and a member of the British Commonwealth, Australia's higher education system is based on the British model. There is no educational institution equivalent to the American liberal arts college. The first Australian university was established in 1850, and today there are 40 universities in Australia.

The typical undergraduate program lasts three years (except for some technical degrees or those which require additional certification like nursing, medicine, education, or law) and includes much more academic specialization than is usual in American colleges and universities. Australian students generally concentrate on their major in the first year since there is not a "general studies" requirement as found at most U.S. four-year institutions. Therefore, introductory subjects may be more difficult than at your home university. In general, you should be prepared for some differences between the Australian and the U.S. academic systems and be aware that you will experience a period of adjustment.

### Teaching Style

In Australia, a student's academic schedule fluctuates between lectures, tutorials (small group sessions), laboratory work, seminars, and library study. You may find that you have fewer class hours than in the U.S. but you are expected to do a lot more private study and spend a lot more time in the library.

The core material of the subject is nearly always given in lectures. In popular subjects, a hundred or more students may attend a lecture. In less popular subjects the lecture may have only a small number of students present. In a lecture there is little, if any, interaction between student and lecturer. The material is usually presented in the form of a monologue from the lecturer, perhaps supported by slides and videos.

Your opportunity for discussion will occur during the tutorial, which has a smaller number of students, and where the tutor and the students engage in a dialogue relating to the content of the course. Whereas you are not expected to speak in lectures, you are expected to speak in tutorials. Your participation is very important. Science, psychology and technology subjects also have lab sessions. Language subjects usually require time in the language lab.

### Basic Academic Terminology

As you discovered while filling out your study abroad application, the academic terminology used in Australia differs from that used in the U.S. Below are some general terms used in Australia. To find out about other Australian terminology used by your overseas university, refer to your university-specific guide:

<u>Australia</u>	<u>United States</u>
Unit or Subject	Course or class
Course	Degree program or Major
Weighting	Credits
College	Student residence on or near campus
Faculty	Department or Academic Division
Mark	Grade

## Assessment (Grading)

For your class grade, you may be expected to concentrate your academic efforts in library research and writing. It is not uncommon to have a large percentage of your grade based upon only one or two exams. The tutorials may require you to prepare material, present a paper, read articles or participate in group discussions. Though many subjects are assessed by written assignments only (essays, papers, presentations), some also require you to pass final exams. Exams can last up to three hours in length. Some may be “open book” exams. In other cases, you may be given a topic or questions beforehand. For the most part, however, the exam will be closed book. In Australia the final exam may count for a larger proportion of your grade than in the U.S.

The credits and grades earned on this DU program will appear on your DU transcript. They will not count as “pass/fail.” In order for the credit to apply to your general degree, you must pass with a “D” or better. However, in order for the credit to apply to your major or minor, you must generally pass with a “C-“ or better. While the credit earned is considered DU credit and the grades you receive will appear on your DU transcript, these grades will not be figured into your DU cumulative GPA.

<b>Adelaide, Bond, Monash, QUT, UNSW, UTAS, UWA, Wollongong</b>	
High Distinction	A+
Distinction	A
Credit	B
Pass	C
Conceded, Conditional or Compensatory Pass	D
Failure	F

<b>Uni. Of Queensland</b>	
7	A
6	A
5	B
4	C
1,2,3	F

## Course Load & Credits

You will take 3 - 5 classes per semester. The number of credits you register for must be above the minimum required to maintain your student visa status (full-time student). The number required at your university will be discussed at the overseas orientation.

<u>Credit Equivalencies*</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Credit Points (1 course)</u>	<u>DU quarter hours</u>
Bond University	.6	10	6
Monash University	1	6	6
Queensland University of Technology	.5	12	6
University of Adelaide	n/a	3 / 4	6 / 7.5
University of New South Wales	1	6	6
University of Queensland	3	2	6
University of Tasmania	n/a	12.5%	6
University of Western Australia	1	6	6
University of Wollongong	1	6	6

*\*The equivalency noted here is not always exact for each course; rather this should serve as a general estimate of the number of credits that you will receive at DU. The credit points indicated above are illustrative of a typical course, however course values will vary. Last updated 11/11.*

## **Learning Disabilities**

If you have special needs regarding assessment, such as reading assistance, or note taking assistance, please inform your study abroad coordinator and DU's Disabilities Services Program. You should also indicate this information on the Information Regarding Medical and Other Needs sheet you complete after your DU study abroad acceptance.

Disability services are available in Australia; however, you must give your documentation to the Australian university's disabilities services office so it may determine for which accommodations you are eligible in Australia. If you plan to request accommodation for a disability, you must do so now because waiting until after your program starts to disclose may result in you not receiving the accommodations you requested.

## Living in Australia

### **Housing (called “Accommodation” in Australia)**

As a participant on a DU program, you must live in DU-arranged student housing during your program. If you decide against living in DU-arranged housing, or if you choose to leave, you will assume the additional cost of your new housing.

DU will pay for you to move into your student housing up to two nights prior to your orientation, *only if available*. For example, if your host university’s housing opens one day prior to orientation, you will need to move in on that day. Please check with your host university to be sure you understand your move-in date.

Please note that, in most cases, students are responsible for paying for their refundable security/damage deposit directly to their housing in Australia.

### **Flatting**

Many of you will be living independently for the first time when you go abroad. This means you will have to deal with issues you’ve never had to deal with when you lived at home or on campus at DU as well as the issues arising from living in an entirely different country.

If you are living in an off-campus flat, you will be responsible for making your own meals, purchasing household necessities, and, sometimes, handling shared bills with your flatmates.

During your first week with your new flatmates you should meet as a group and discuss preferences, responsibilities, and arrangements for paying any shared expenses. Some questions to ask each other are the following:

1. Will there be quiet hours in the flat?
2. What are the meal arrangements for the flat? Who will cook group meals? Who will pay for group meals? Who will shop for group meals or shared flat food?
3. What is the level of cleanliness acceptable to all flatmates? How will you handle cleaning the flat? Which are group chores and which are individual chores?
4. Will there be a policy on visitors to the flat (duration of stay, extra costs incurred)?
5. How will you handle flat bills, such as telephone, cable, electricity, and internet? (if applicable)
6. How will you sort out flat disputes? If the flat cannot sort out a dispute, to whom will you turn to help resolve it?

### BILL PAYING

Your flat may have shared bills or expenses. If you are expected to contribute to any flat expenses, you should review the invoices or bills before paying. If your flatmate(s) ask you to pay but do not automatically give you the invoice or bill, just ask to see it before paying. This is simply a matter of good financial management. If you are unsure about the fairness of what you are asked to pay or if your flatmate(s) won’t show you the invoice or bill, talk to the International Office at your host university for guidance on how to proceed.

### MAINTAINING YOUR FLAT

On the day you move into your flat, you will complete an Entry Condition Report, which reports on the general state of the flat. Take care when completing this form, noting any damages or items missing prior to you moving in (such as glassware and furniture items). At any time during your tenancy, the flat management may enter, with notice, the common areas of your flat or your bedroom. Generally the flat management will run another Condition Report partway through your tenancy to report on the state in

which you keep your flat. Use that report to prepare for your Exit Condition Report, through which you may be assessed damage charges. To avoid paying damage charges, you should thoroughly clean your flat before moving out.

*Hint: You cannot wait until the end of your tenancy to tell the management about items that were already damaged or missing when you moved in.*

If any damage is made to your premises either by you or your visitors, whether it is accidental or not, make sure you tell the flat management about it. Remember, you are required to leave the place in the same state it was when you moved in. You will have to pay for any damage that is not considered to be reasonable 'fair wear and tear'.

For more information about being a tenant in Australia, please refer to your study abroad coordinator.

#### DAMAGE & UNPAID BILLS

The University of Denver has contracted on your behalf for your Australian flat. Should there be any damage to your flat, the cost for that damage is taken from the bond money DU gave to the flat management. You will then owe that money to DU plus the cost of wiring and at the current exchange rate (i.e. it will cost you more if you leave behind unpaid damage costs than if you paid for the damage on site). Similarly, if you leave behind unpaid bills, you will then owe that money to the University of Denver. Failure to pay will result in a hold on your DU account and your inability to register for classes at DU.

#### FALSE FIRE ALARMS

False fire alarms are a serious matter in Australia. Even if you accidentally set off the alarm by burning a piece of toast, you will be charged upwards of AUS\$400 for each false alarm. Trying to dismantle your fire alarm will also set it off and result in the AUS\$400 fine plus damage costs to the fire alarm.

#### BEHAVIOR

If you're old enough and mature enough to live independently, you should act accordingly. You need to respect quiet hours, guest policies, and other rules of the flat complex. Your mature behavior ensures that DU can continue housing its study abroad students in those flats.

Have respect for the flat management team. They are not RA's, which means they will not "write you up" for violations; instead, they will ask you to move out if your behavior is not suitable. If you do not agree with the flat management about certain issues, please let DU's Study Abroad Office know the details of the disagreement so it may intercede.

*HINT: If you do not agree with the stated charges for certain services provided by the flat complex, do not use those services. Please do not use those services and then refuse to pay saying the cost is too high.*

### **Fitness Center Membership**

The Australian government heavily subsidizes university education for its citizens. This means that some on-campus facilities, such as the fitness center, charge for student usage. Therefore, when budgeting for study abroad, consider whether you plan to use the fitness center. You can generally find usage rates on the overseas university's website by searching for "sport" or "fitness."

### **Internet**

As with the fitness center, you may have to pay for internet usage at your program location. Some universities have unlimited internet usage when you are in the university computer lab; some universities give you up to a certain amount of downloads on your account for free.

If there is internet available in your housing, you will most likely pay for your internet usage. Because many other DU study abroad students will be in homestay or other accommodation situations without internet access, DU decided it would not be fair to foot the internet bill for some students, but not others.

*HINT: While email is a great way to keep in touch with family and friends back here, too much time spent on IM or email will prevent you from having a full study abroad experience.*

## Meeting Aussies

A major goal of study abroad is to develop cross-cultural understanding. In addition to achieving academic success, you should strive to meet Australians and get to know their culture. Successful strategies for meeting the locals include the following:

1. **Make an effort.** Because the universities host new study abroad students each semester (some of who promise to keep in touch with the locals but never do), the Australian students may not immediately try to befriend you. As the “outsider” you must show that you want to meet the locals and get to know their culture. Be friendly and genuine.
2. **Join an organization.** Each of the universities has a student union or student guild which oversees clubs and societies on campus. The university’s sport center should also have a listing of social sport clubs which you can join.
3. **Stick around.** While you may be tempted to head out every weekend to travel around the country, doing so will greatly impede your chances of making friendships with local students. Constantly talking about your travel, particularly about expensive excursions, will also turn off the local students, who typically will not have much spending money as an American study abroad student.
4. **Be respectful.** Compare and contrast gets old fast. Talking non-stop about your personal belongings, including cars and other expensive items in the U.S., will merely reinforce stereotypes about Americans and prevent you from getting to know Australians.
5. **Know your politics.** Most likely you will be asked by Australians about your political stance. Questions about your political views generally will be well-intentioned and made by people genuinely interested in hearing your perspective. Be careful not to get offended or defensive when these questions arise. Also, try not to compare and contrast governments. Your best move is to remain open-minded in political discussions.

Keep in mind that you are only there for a short time so you want to make the most of your time in Australia.

## Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Australia and service charges are not added to hotel or restaurant bills. However, tipping in restaurants is becoming more common, especially in high-end restaurants and bars, where you may want to tip up to 10% for good service. You are not required to tip taxi drivers although they accept rounded-up tips.

## Water

Australia is a very dry country and water is a precious commodity. Many Australian cities and towns experience droughts and may enforce water use restrictions. Do not waste water unnecessarily. Tap water in Australia is clean and safe to drink.

## Weather

Approximate temperatures (Fahrenheit) for your study abroad city are listed below:

	<u>Autumn</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
<u>Adelaide</u>				
Max	72	60	69	81
Min	53	45	50	59
<u>Brisbane</u>				
Max	79	70	78	84
Min	62	50	60	69
<u>Hobart</u>				
Max	65	54	62	68
Min	47	39	45	51
<u>Melbourne</u>				
Max	66	54	68	93
Min	52	30	50	70
<u>Perth</u>				
Max	78	65	73	88
Min	56	47	51	62
<u>Sydney</u>				
Max	73	63	72	79
Min	57	45	55	64
<u>Wollongong</u>				
Max	72	64	71	78
Min	58	48	56	64

For further information about weather conditions, refer to the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology's website: <http://www.bom.gov.au>. To convert from Fahrenheit to Celcius, subtract 32 then multiply by 5/9. To convert from Celcius to Fahrenheit, multiply by 9/5 then add 32.

## Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 220-240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. This means that if you plug your 110 hair dryer directly into an Australian plug it will BURN OUT. Transformers are therefore required and these are probably best bought in the U.S. Make sure however, that your transformer is configured for the three pin Australian plug. If you cannot get one of these in the U.S., consider buying one upon arrival to Australia. However, some hairdryers and curling irons will get dangerously hot, even when using adaptors. Consider purchasing these items upon arrival. If you buy appliances in Australia, you will almost certainly have trouble running them when you get back to the U.S.

## Religion

As one of the most multicultural countries in the world, Australia is accepting of all religions and your right to practice your faith without persecution or discrimination is protected by law. To find out where you can practice your faith in your community and/or on your campus, talk to your Australian international office or your institution's chaplain.

## Aussie Slang

Even though Australia is an English-speaking country, when you first arrive, you may have to listen carefully to understand the Australian accent. Below you'll find a helpful list of Aussie slang.

ACE: Great, the best	AMBER FLUID: beer
BANANA-BENDER: someone from Queensland	BANGER: a sausage
BEAUT/BEAUTY: expression of approval	BEG YOURS?: could you please repeat that
BERKO: crazy or extremely angry	BICKIE/BISCUIT: cookie
BITE YOUR BUM: go away or be quiet	BLIND: extremely intoxicated
BLOKE: average fellow	BLOODY: known as the great Australian adjective
BOTTLE SHOP: liquor store	BONZA: great
BREKKIE: breakfast	BRING A PLATE: instruction to bring food
BUCKLEY'S: no chance	C'ARN: abbreviation of come on
CAR PARK: a parking lot	CHIPS: French fries
CHOCK-A-BLOCK/CHOCKERS: completely full	CIGI: cigarette
CLICK: kilometer	CLUEY: intelligent, smart
COBBER: friend	COLDIE: a beer
COP SHOP: police station	CRACK ONTO SOMEONE: to hit on someone
CRISPS: potato chips	CUPPA: cup of tea or coffee
DAG: a tacky or clueless person	DAKS: trousers
DODGY: of questionable character, shady	DRONGO: idiot
DUNNY: toilet (usually outside)	EARBASHER: someone who talks too much
FLAT: apartment	FLATMATES: roommates
FOOTPATH: sidewalk	FOOTY: football/rugby game
FULL ON: intense	GALAH: fool, silly person
GOB: mouth	GOOD-OH!: expression of satisfaction
GOOD ON YOU: expression of congratulations	GROG: booze
GROUSE: great, fantastic	HARD YAKKA: hard work
HEAPS: a lot, many	HOOROO: goodbye
I'LL BE BLOWED!: expression of surprise	JUMPER: sweater or jacket
KIWI: New Zealander	LOLLIES: sweets, candy
MATE: common form of address, usually males	MILK BAR: convenience store
NICK OFF: leave, depart	NICKED: stolen
ON YA!: expression of encouragement	PASH: a long passionate kiss
POSTIE: postman, mailman	RIPPER: terrific! Great!
ROCK UP: to show up, to arrive	ROPEABLE: angry
SANGER: sandwich	SERVO: gas station
SHEILA: chick, woman	SKIVVY: a turtleneck
SPUNK: sexy or good-looking person	SUNNIES: sunglasses
TA: thank you	THONGS: flip flops
TRACKIES/ TRACKIE DAKS: sweat pants	UNI: university
WACKER: crazy or funny person	WALKABOUT: to describe something that's lost
ZONKED: extremely tired	

## Travel within Australia

Traveling is always a highlight of many students' study abroad experiences. It is important to know how to get around using public transportation and travel transportation in Australia. The capital cities all have good public transport facilities. Trains service the suburbs of the larger cities and buses are available in most locations. Melbourne is unique with its large network of trams (trolleys) and there are trams in other cities such as Adelaide and Bendigo. Some states offer transport concession cards which reduce the cost of public transportation. Check with your international office on how to get a transport concession card.

### TRAVEL BY AIR

There are frequent air connections between the major capital cities. Qantas is the main airline, but you may find yourself on one of several smaller airlines for domestic flights such as Virgin Blue and JetStar. Your Australian campus may have a travel office such as STA Travel to help you organize your travel.

Virgin Blue: <http://www.virginblue.com.au>

JetStar: <http://www.jetstar.com>

Qantas: <http://www.qantas.com.au>

STA Travel: <http://www.statravel.com.au>

Expedia: <http://www.expedia.com.au>

Zuji: <http://www.zuji.com.au>

### TRAVEL BY TRAIN

There are fast train connections between all of the capitals (except between Hobart and the mainland!). Train tickets are more affordable than air tickets, but you need to have the time for the trip. For instance, Melbourne to Sydney is an overnight trip by train, whereas by air, you can cover the distance in little over an hour. For the adventurous and the frugal, the train can be a good option.

For fares and schedules, visit <http://www.railaustralia.com.au>

### TRAVEL BY BUS

Many students travel between the capitals by bus. The interstate bus lines are cheaper than the train, but a bit less comfortable. Note that some bus lines, like Oz Experience, offer long distance tickets with allowances for frequent breaks in travel. This allows you to travel almost the full length of the east coast, stopping off wherever you like and for as long as you want. The advantage is that you are in control of where you stay, and you can see much more of the country and meet many more people.

Oz Experience: <http://www.ozexperience.com>

Greyhound: <http://www.greyhound.com.au>

### FINDING HOSTELS

Hostels have become an increasingly popular and inexpensive choice of accommodation among study abroad students while traveling.

YHA Australia: <http://www.yha.com.au>

STA Travel: <http://www.statravel.com>

Hostel Australia: <http://www.hostelaustralia.com>

## Health & Safety

### **Mandatory Australian Health Insurance: Overseas Health Cover (OSHC)**

DU has purchased mandatory Australian health insurance for you called Overseas Health Cover (Non-Cherrington students will see this amount on your DU bill). The OSHC helps you pay for any medical and/or hospital care you may need while in Australia and most prescription drugs and emergency ambulance transportation. The OSHC also entitles you to use the on-campus health facilities at your university and other general practitioners. Each of the Australian universities uses different OSHC providers; the specific information is provided with the Offer of Admission to the program. The OSHC **does not begin until** you arrive in Australia and **does not apply to travel outside of Australia**. You will receive more detailed information on OSHC during your on-site orientation upon arrival to your host university.

#### ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

Even though you will have insurance in Australia through your study abroad program, we require that you **DO NOT** cancel your U.S. insurance policy while away from school because if you have to come home mid-term for any health reasons, you will need U.S. insurance to continue your coverage.

If you waived DU health insurance in the past, we recommend that you contact your current health policy provider to find out what type of coverage it offers while abroad (especially if you plan to travel outside of Australia). If your current policy does not cover you while abroad, you should consider additional insurance options. For specific details about DU's health insurance and its international coverage, please check with DU Health Services.

### **Vaccinations**

No vaccinations are currently required for travel to Australia; however, travelers can check the latest health information with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. A hotline at 877-FYI-TRIP (877-394-8747) and a web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.html> give the most recent health advisories, immunization recommendations or requirements, and advice on food and drinking water safety for regions and countries.

If you plan to visit other countries while you are abroad, check with the CDC to find out what vaccinations may be required. If you require a vaccination, you can contact the following to make an appointment:

- DU Health Services—303-871-2205
- City and County of Denver Public Immunization Clinic—303-436-7230

### **Emergency Number**

“911” is the emergency number for police, fire, and ambulance in the U.S.; however, it is not a valid number overseas. ***The standard emergency phone number in Australia is 000.***

### **U.S. Embassy & Consulate General in Australia**

Americans living in or visiting Australia are encouraged to register at the nearest U.S. Consulate to obtain updated information on travel and security within the country. By registering with the consulate you also make it easier for your family to contact you in case of emergency. Please visit:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

The U.S. Embassy is located at Moonah Place, Yarralumla ACT 2600; the telephone number for American Citizen Services is (02) 6214-5970 and the fax is (02) 6214-5970. The main switchboard number is (02)-6214-5600 (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri).

*In New South Wales, Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and Queensland:* For registration, passport, and other consular services for American citizens, please contact the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney located on Level 59, MLC Centre, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000, telephone (61)(2) 9373-9200, fax (61)(2) 9373-9184, web site <http://sydney.usconsulate.gov>. Hours open to the public: 8:00 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday (except American and Australian holidays). For emergency services (i.e. the arrest, death or serious injury of American citizens) after 4:30 p.m. weekdays or on holidays and weekends please call (61)(2) 4422-2201.

*In Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory:* For registration, passport and other consular services for American citizens, please contact the U.S. Consulate General in Melbourne located at 553 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004, telephone (61)(3) 9526-5900, fax (61)(3) 9525-0769, website <http://melbourne.usconsulate.gov>. Hours open to the public: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except American and Australian holidays and the last Wednesday of each month). For emergency services (i.e. the arrest, death or serious injury of American citizens) after 4:30 p.m. or on holidays and weekends, please call (61)(3) 9389-3601.

*In Western Australia:* For registration, passport, and other consular services for American citizens, please contact the U.S. Consulate General in Perth located on Level 13, 16 St. Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000, telephone: (61)(8) 9202-1224, fax (61)(8) 9231-9444; web site <http://perth.usconsulate.gov>. Hours open to the public for American Citizen Services: 8:30-11:30 a.m. daily. For emergency services (i.e. the arrest, death, or serious injury of American citizens), please call: (61)(8) 9476-0081.

## Crime

Visitors should be aware that street crime, burglaries, and car thefts are a daily occurrence in the larger cities. Weapons are increasingly used in such crimes, which also may be associated with drug trafficking and usage. Foreign visitors are sometimes targets for pickpockets, purse-snatchers and petty thieves. Appropriate, common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

## Medical Facilities

Excellent medical care is available in Australia. Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost thousands of dollars. Most doctors and hospitals expect immediate cash/credit card payment for health services.

## Traffic Safety & Road Conditions

Visitors are reminded that all traffic operates on the left side of the road, and that all vehicles use right-hand drive. Visitors should use caution when crossing streets and when driving. When crossing roads, pedestrians are reminded to look carefully in all directions. Seat belts are mandatory. Speed limits and laws regarding driving while intoxicated are rigorously enforced. Roads and streets are frequently narrower and less graded than U.S. highways. Outside the major metropolitan areas, most highways are two-lane roads with significant distances between destinations.

For specific information concerning Australian driving permits, vehicle inspection, road tax, mandatory insurance and the rental and operation of motor vehicles in Australia, contact the Australian Tourist Commission via the Internet at <http://www.australia.com/index.aspx>.

As a reminder, according to the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT), the single greatest cause of death and serious injury abroad is road accidents. These far exceed deaths resulting from disease, violence or terrorism- so use your best judgment if you choose to drive and know the risk you are taking. **DU does not encourage students to drive while abroad because driving abroad can be difficult and dangerous.**

### **Criminal Penalties**

While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offences. Persons violating Australian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs in Australia are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

### **Other Safety Issues in Australia**

#### AUSTRALIAN FAUNA

Visitors are cautioned that Australian fauna can be as dangerous as they are inspiring. From jellyfish off the Great Barrier Reef to crocodiles and sharks, poisonous insects and snakes, the continent and its waters host wildlife that merit awe and respect in equal doses.

Further information on Australian wildlife may be obtained from:

- Australian Institute of Marine Science – <http://www.aims.gov.au>
- Wet Tropics Management Authority Information on Marine Life – [http://www.wettropics.gov.au/vi/vi\\_marine.html](http://www.wettropics.gov.au/vi/vi_marine.html)
- Wet Tropics Management Authority information on animals – [http://www.wettropics.gov.au/vi/vi\\_animals.html](http://www.wettropics.gov.au/vi/vi_animals.html)

#### BEACH

Swimmers should use safety precautions, swim between the flags only where a lifeguard is present, and never swim alone. Scuba diving can be a treacherous sport. Over the past few years there have been numerous deaths related to diving incidents. Divers are urged to follow recommended precautions and never dive alone.

#### SUN

With virtually no ozone layer, the sun can have harmful effects. Take particular care between 10am and 3pm, when UV levels are at their highest. Be sure to wear sunscreen, cover exposed skin when possible, wear close-fitting sunglasses to protect your eyes, and seek shade whenever possible.

#### LEARNING TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN PEDESTRIAN

Though it seems simple and silly, you must re-train yourself to look FIRST RIGHT, THEN LEFT when crossing the street; since traffic drives on the left side of the road in Australia. Every year DU students come home with stories of getting hit by bicycles or even cars when crossing the street.

## Communication

### How To Call Home

First things first, call home as soon as you can after arrival because your family is anxious to hear from you. Give your family your abroad phone number, email address and mailing address so they know how to reach you in the event of an emergency.

To make a direct call to the U.S. using a phone that provides the direct dialing option, dial: 0011+ 1 + area code + phone number

### CALLING CARDS

Pre-paid calling cards in Australia are inexpensive, while calling rates with cards from the U.S. are much higher. Therefore, we recommend you get a calling card when you arrive in Australia. Cards can be purchased almost anywhere: at the airport, newspaper shops and markets.

### TIME DIFFERENCES

Whatever calling method you use, consider the time difference before you call home. During *Mountain Standard Time (MST)*, which goes from last Sunday of October to first Sunday in April, time differences are:

- Adelaide: 17.5 hours ahead
- Brisbane: 17 hours ahead
- Melbourne: 18 hours ahead
- Perth: 15 hours ahead
- Sydney: 18 hours ahead
- Tasmania: 18 hours ahead
- Wollongong: 18 hours ahead

During *Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)*, which goes from first Sunday in April to last Sunday in October, time differences are:

- Adelaide: 15.5 hours ahead
- Brisbane: 16 hours ahead
- Melbourne: 16 hours ahead
- Perth: 14 hours ahead
- Sydney: 16 hours ahead
- Tasmania: 16 hours ahead
- Wollongong: 16 hours ahead

For other cities, check out <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock>.

### Mobile Phones

If you have a quad band or GSM phone, it will likely work in Australia. To avoid roaming charges, you may want to buy a SIM card from an Australian mobile phone company. However, most students decide to buy an Australian mobile phone upon arrival, as they are relatively inexpensive (normally starting at \$50). Some Australian mobile service providers offer really great rates for calls to the U.S. and Canada, so it pays to shop around! Here are some Australian providers:

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

You may want to wait to make a decision on cell phones until you arrive, as many students suggest signing up with the same company as your friends to take advantage of mobile-to-mobile calls and texting. Many Australian universities are now including information on mobile phones during Orientation week.

**Email**

You will have access to your DU account while abroad. The Australian university may also provide you with a local email account. Please make sure that you continue to check your DU email account regularly (or forward it), as this is how the study abroad office will most likely maintain communication with you. Keep in mind, however, that you may or may not have internet access in your housing, and you may have to pay for internet use both on- and off-campus. Check your housing and host university's websites to find out about internet access where you'll be studying.

## Money

### Bank Account

You have the option of opening a bank account while in Australia. A bank account will allow you to keep your money in a safe place and also avoid ATM charge fees. Information about how to open an account at a local bank will be provided by your host university upon arrival during Orientation Week.

### ATM Cards & Credit Cards

Make sure you know how to contact your bank from overseas. Find out if they offer a 24-hour customer service help line and what their emergency phone number is for calls from outside of the U.S. If your bankcard is lost or stolen, you should notify your bank immediately. Also be sure to confirm with your bank that your card has an international 4-digit pin (this is usually the case, unless you have a small hometown bank).

Most credit cards, such as MasterCard, VISA or American Express, can be used in Australia, as well as worldwide.

If your credit card is lost or stolen, you must contact the financial institution that issued your card immediately and report it lost or stolen. You should keep a copy of your financial institution's name, its customer service phone number and your card account number in a convenient place -- separate from your card. Within Australia, contact the global customer service toll free phone numbers below:

- American Express    00 6129 27 11461
- MasterCard            1-800-120-113
- VISA                      1-800-450-346

### Travelers' Checks

Another safe way of carrying the bulk of your money is the secure form of travelers' checks. Please be aware of the charges involved when buying or cashing either U.S. or host country travelers' checks. Make sure you keep track of the traveler's check numbers in a location separate from your travelers' checks and also keep a back up copy at your Australian residence so you have the necessary information if they are lost or stolen. Many students will take Travelers' Checks as an emergency "back-up," in the event that their ATM or credit card is lost or stolen.

### Cashier's Checks, Money Orders & Personal Checks

We do not recommend taking cashier checks, money orders or personal checks. Although banks will accept your checks, they will not give you cash for them until they have cleared through the whole banking network, which usually takes 6-8 weeks or longer.

We recommend that you keep a copy of your travelers' check numbers, passport, credit card numbers, insurance contact numbers, and airline tickets in a separate place from the originals. You should also leave a set of copies at home with your family.

## Australian Currency

The Australian currency follows a decimal system. The Australian Dollar (AUD\$) is divided into 100 cents. Notes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 and differ in color and size. Coins come in \$1 and \$2 dollars and 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c and differ in color and size. Start to familiarize yourself with the currency, both notes and coins, as well as exchange rates. Check out <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> to figure out conversion rates.

You may want to carry a small amount of local currency before you leave, \$50 to \$100 Australian dollars, for the first few days, and especially if you plan to arrive on a weekend. You can exchange money at a U.S. bank or airport before departure or at an Australian airport upon arrival. ATMs are also widely available.

### AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY: THE AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR



One dollar coin

Two dollar coin



*Exchange rates change daily.*

Please continue to check exchange rates while you travel.

## **For Background Notes on Australia**

Visit: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2698.htm>

Safe Travels!  
DU Office of International Education