

# STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

# CONTENTS

## SECTION

# 01

## PRE-ARRIVAL

4/ Australia at a glance

---

6/ Checklist 1: Planning

---

7/ Checklist 2: Packing

---

8/ Public holidays

## SECTION

# 02

## ARRIVAL

10/ Settling in

---

17/ Dealing with culture shock

---

18/ Accommodation

---

19/ Work

---

20/ Support services

---

21/ Student perks

---

22/ Making friends

---

26/ Health and safety

## SECTION

# 03

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CITY

28/ Adelaide

---

30/ Brisbane

---

32/ Gold Coast

---

34/ Melbourne

---

36/ Perth

---

38/ Sydney

---

40/ Contact Us



# THINKING OF STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA?

The preparation involved in making such a move can seem a little daunting, but we've got you covered!

In this guide we'll take you through all the key information you need to be aware of when organising your trip to Australia, including pre-departure, arrival, and city-specific facts and information.

So, whether you envision your student life in a bustling metropolitan city like Melbourne or you're dreaming of a unique adventure in the great outdoors in Perth, the time to start planning your future adventure is now!

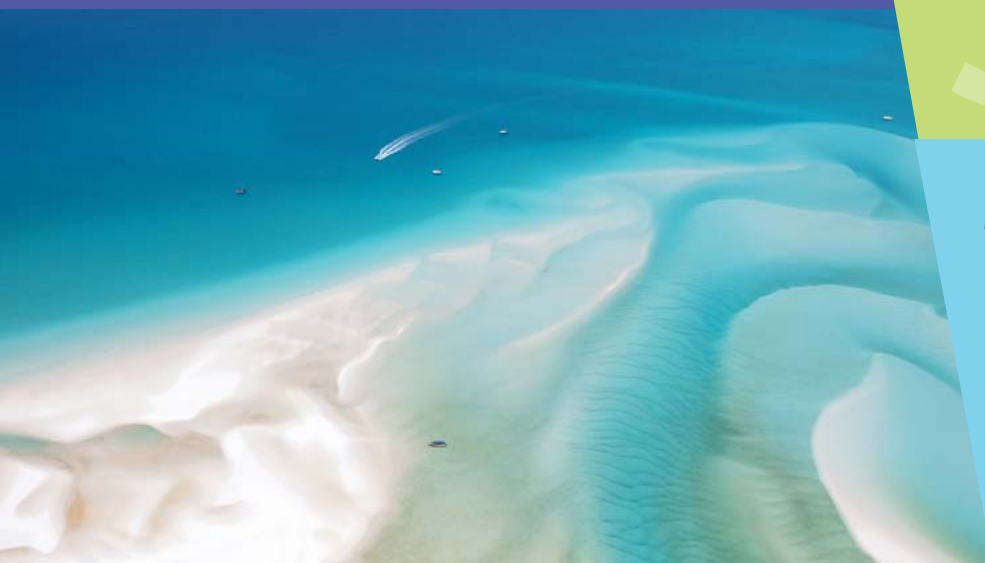


# AUSTRALIA AT A GLANCE

MOST OF THE COUNTRY RECEIVES **MORE THAN 3,000 HOURS OF SUNSHINE A YEAR!**



**50,000** kms OF COASTLINE



NATIONAL CURRENCY IS **AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS (AUD)**

**METRIC SYSTEM of MEASUREMENT**

metre (m)  
kilometre (km)  
gram (g)  
kilogram (kg)



**MORE THAN 10,000 BEACHES**

**HOME TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF**  
1 of the 7 *NATURAL WONDERS OF THE WORLD*



**+61**

**AUSTRALIAN DIALLING CODE**

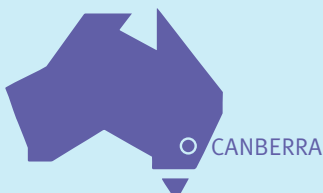
ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN CULTURE DATES BACK **MORE THAN 60,000 YEARS!**



**18**

**LEGAL DRINKING AGE**

**CAPITAL CITY: CANBERRA**



**1 IN 4 AUSTRALIANS WERE BORN OVERSEAS\***

\* abs.gov.au

**POPULATION: 26 MILLION+**





# SECTION 01 PRE-ARRIVAL

Getting organised before the big move can feel a little overwhelming, so to help you prepare, we've created some handy planning and packing checklists.

# PLANNING CHECKLIST

- Apply for a student visa via this [step-by-step guide](#)
- Organise your **Overseas Student Health Cover** which is a condition of the temporary student visa
- Make sure your passport is valid for the entire duration of your studies in Australia
- Accommodation – to avoid any stress, try organising at least a few weeks of accommodation (in a hostel or Air BnB) in Australia if you're not already booked into student accommodation or homestay
- Organise your finances – while you might be able to use your existing overseas account, having one in Australia will make things easier. You can open a bank account up to three months before arriving in Australia. If you choose to do it on arrival, it's a good idea to do it within the first six weeks as you usually only need to provide a passport for identification
- Start budgeting – make a list of expenses (accommodation, food, entertainment etc.) to figure out how much money you will have to live on each week
- Research phone options and make sure to unlock your phone so you can purchase a SIM card on arrival
- Research your new city's public transport system so that you know how to buy tickets when you arrive
- Book flights
- Start practising your English!

# PACKING CHECKLIST

- Clothing and toiletries
- Type 1 Power Adapter or a Universal Multi Adapter (or buy one on arrival)
- Passport with valid visa
- Flight tickets
- Certified copies of academic documents
- Copy of your Offer of Admission
- Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)
- Copies of medical reports and history
- Any medications or prescriptions you might need
- Travel insurance documents
- AUD\$250 cash
- Check **guide** on what you can and can't bring into Australia
- Personal items like pictures of your family and friends
- Laptop, phone and chargers/power bank (if you have one)



Photo: Anson Smart

# PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

## National Public Holidays 2024:

**MONDAY, 1 JANUARY:** New Year's Day

**FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY:** Australia Day

**FRIDAY, 29 MARCH:** Good Friday

**SUNDAY, 31 MARCH:** Easter Sunday

**MONDAY, 1 APRIL:** Easter Monday

**THURSDAY, 25 APRIL:** Anzac Day

**MONDAY, 10 JUNE:** King's Birthday

(in ACT, NSW, VIC, SA & TAS. Celebrated in WA on 23 September and QLD on 7 October.)

**MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER:** Labour Day

(in ACT, NSW & SA. Celebrated in QLD & NT on 6 May, TAS & VIC on 11 March and WA on 4 March)

**WEDNESDAY, 25 DECEMBER:** Christmas Day

**THURSDAY, 26 DECEMBER:** Boxing Day

There are also other public holidays declared by individual state and territory governments which you can view [HERE](#)





**SECTION**

# 02 ARRIVAL

There's no doubt that beginnings are hard. Moving to a new country is one of the most rewarding but challenging experiences a person can go through. The first couple of weeks will test your patience, confidence and resilience, but knowing what to expect and making sure you're organised can go a long way in helping you to find your feet and settle in quickly.

# TOP 5 THINGS TO DO ON ARRIVAL

Here are five steps to navigating the first couple of weeks in your new city.



SETTLE INTO YOUR NEW HOME



EXPLORE YOUR AREA AND BUY SUPPLIES



SET UP YOUR MOBILE PHONE AND INTERNET



OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT



ATTEND ORIENTATION



# 1. SETTLE INTO YOUR NEW HOME



There are plenty of options to get to your accommodation from the airport:

- Use public transport such as bus, train or tram. This will be much cheaper than a taxi, but you need to buy tickets or cards that are used in the transport network in your city.
- Organise for an airport bus shuttle (check your city's airport website for more information).
- Organise for family or a friend to pick you up.
- Catch a taxi, which is a more expensive but convenient option if you have heavy baggage.
- Look into ride sharing apps like Uber or Ola which can be cheaper than taking a taxi (make sure you pre-download the app on your phone).
- Once you arrive, it's time to make yourself at home. If you're moving straight into your permanent accommodation, check that everything matches what you agreed to and, if you're living in private accommodation, make a condition report to show your landlord (within the first few days of moving in).
- Don't forget to update your permanent address with the student services team at your university or college campus.

# 2. EXPLORE YOUR AREA AND BUY SUPPLIES

Now that you're officially moved in, it's time to get out and explore your new surroundings.

You may want to include the following items on your to-do list:

- Stock up on groceries and toiletries at the supermarket – locate your closest Woolworths, Coles, Aldi or IGA which are some of the major grocery chains across capital cities in Australia.
- Start trying out local cafes – locating a favourite cafe can help create a sense of familiarity in your first week while everything might be feeling a little strange.
- Learn your way around – take note of the locations of any services you might need including public transport stations, shops, daycares, churches, gyms and post offices.
- Furnish your new place – if you're in an unfurnished room you may need to buy some staple furniture items. You can find affordable bedding and other household homewares and electronics at shops such as Kmart, Target, Big W or IKEA.
- Plan your route to campus – to avoid any stress on your first day of orientation, find the quickest route to campus via Google Maps or the trip planner app relevant to your city.



# 3. SET UP YOUR MOBILE PHONE AND INTERNET

It's best to purchase a SIM card or Australian mobile number when you arrive in Australia, as using your home phone number may incur high costs.

You can choose from:

## PREPAID

A prepaid service gives you flexibility because you control how much you spend and can stop using the service at any time. Pre-paid SIM cards are sold in many shops and supermarkets, as well as by mobile phone providers. Telstra, Optus and Vodafone are some of the most popular ones that allow for the most coverage across Australia. After an easy set-up process with the provider, you can simply top up credit as you need it either online or at a range of retail outlets.

## CONTRACT

If you will be using your mobile a lot and planning to be in Australia for a fixed period for study, a contract might be a cheaper option. You can choose from a range of phone plans where you can get the handset with little (if any) up-front cost and then pay a fixed price per month for a certain amount of calls, text messages and data. Before going in store, it's a good idea to call ahead and find out what documentation you will be required to provide to set up your service.

## INTERNET

Many internet providers in Australia are also mobile or fixed phone carriers, and they offer pre-paid or contract internet plans like the above. If you choose a contract service, you will receive a modem, and pay each month for a certain data allowance. To compare providers, visit [youcompare.com.au/broadband](https://www.youcompare.com.au/broadband).

If you live in a rental property, you may need to set up an internet connection by yourself. If you have housemates, it's normal to share the cost of the internet bills. If you live in student accommodation, check with your provider to see if internet is included in your rent.



# 4. OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT



The main Australian banks (Westpac, ANZ, Commonwealth Bank and NAB) all offer account options that are tailored specifically to international students. There are a variety of other providers however so make sure you shop around for the best option.

This guide may help you: [www.finder.com.au/bank-accounts/student-bank-accounts](http://www.finder.com.au/bank-accounts/student-bank-accounts).

Setting up an account is a straightforward process and can be started online before you arrive or in person at a bank branch store.

## YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE WITH YOU:

- Photo identification (such as your passport)
- Proof of Australian address
- Proof of Enrolment



For more detailed information visit  
[www.finder.com.au/international-students-open-bank-account-australia](http://www.finder.com.au/international-students-open-bank-account-australia)

# 5. ATTEND ORIENTATION

Orientation is held the week prior to your first trimester and is a wonderful opportunity to meet key staff members and your new peers. You'll receive further information on your studies, facilities and support services, to ensure you have the best possible start to your educational adventure.

**Here's what you can expect during Orientation at KBS:**

- Course-relevant information
- Interactive sessions and activities on student experience, academic success and careers support
- Opportunities to meet KBS staff, classmates, and our current Student Ambassadors
- Receive a goodie bag with free KBS merchandise
- Enrol into your first subjects



‘Studying abroad helps with becoming well-rounded. We’re gaining improved communication skills, exposure to a multicultural environment, and experience in a competitive work environment with varying leadership styles. Not to mention, skills just by living, studying and working in a different country.’

**DIVINE JOY SANTUA SAMSON** /  
Filipino / Master of Accounting

# STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

‘I believe having a range of experiences is valuable and allows you to be more creative, confident and open to new perspectives. Leaving my country and job and coming to Australia represented an opportunity to grow in ways that I couldn’t back home and take my career to a global level.’

**LUIZA KLEIN** / Brazilian /  
Master of Business Administration





# DEALING WITH CULTURE SHOCK

Culture shock means more than that initial feeling of strangeness you get when you land in a different country for a short holiday. It's a set of powerful emotional and physical effects that result from moving to another country, longer term.

Some of the common symptoms include withdrawal (staying in your room, avoiding contact with others), sleeping a lot, or tiring easily, feeling overwhelmed, loneliness, and frustration with the local way of doing things.

**Here are some tips to help you navigate through culture shock:**

- When you first arrive try and go out, explore your city, and have fun as much as possible. It will help to create a positive worldview for yourself at the start of your journey. Memories of this time will make it easier for you to get through any harder times.
- Learn your new language as quickly as possible, which will also help in adjusting to cultural differences.
- Keep communicating and getting to know locals as much as possible, even if you feel like withdrawing.
- Put your energy into developing friendships that are supportive.
- Pursue interests and hobbies that you enjoy and that will help to expand your social circle.
- Connect with friends and family back home for support when you need it.
- Make the most of the support services offered by your education provider.  
*See more info on page 20.*



# ACCOMMODATION

There are a variety of accommodation options available across all major Australian cities, depending on your needs:

## MANAGED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Want to live in accommodation where you'll be able to socialise with other students? These are purpose-built accommodations where the entire block is dedicated to the housing of 100-400 students. There are single or twin rooms with a shared bathroom and kitchen.

The price includes all utilities, a furnished bedroom, 24-hour security and on-site staff support, social events and activities, communal laundry facilities as well as recreation areas like cinema rooms, gyms, table tennis, gaming, television, BBQs, etc.

**UniLodge** and **Scape** are two large providers of managed student accommodation in Australia.

## STUDENT HOSTELS

Student hostels offer you an affordable housing option where you'll be responsible for preparing your meals and sharing the cost of utilities such as gas, water and electricity.

Most hostels include a furnished bedroom (either private or shared) with access to communal facilities such as bathroom, laundry, kitchen and lounges.

## PRIVATE RENTALS

If you'd like to be more independent, you can rent a property either on your own or rent a room in a private property. Living here, you'll be responsible for all utility costs (or sharing them) and preparing all your meals.

Though you can find fully or partially furnished private rentals, usually you are responsible for providing your furniture.



Popular websites where you can search for private rentals in Australia include:

- Flatmates
- Gumtree
- Domain (choose rent or share)
- Realestate.com.au



# WORKING

## FIND A JOB

Australia offers strong employment opportunities, and the hospitality, finance, and construction industries, in particular, are always hiring. As an international student, you are eligible to work up to 24 hours a week on your student visa.

Websites such as **Seek**, **Gumtree** and **CareerOne** are very useful for job hunting, or you can enlist the help of a recruitment agency in your city. Your education provider's career service is also a great place to search out opportunities either via a job listing board or speaking to one of the career advisors.

It's important you're aware of your rights and responsibilities to work in Australia. As a worker you have rights around minimum pay, leave entitlements, and workplace health and safety.

You can visit the Fair Work Ombudsman website for more information and advice: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au).

## GET A TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN)

To be successfully registered to pay tax in Australia, you'll need a Tax File Number (TFN). Your employer can provide you with the paperwork for this once you commence employment. If you haven't started your job yet, you can apply for a TFN online at the **Australian Tax Office (ATO) website**.

To apply, you'll need your passport, address in Australia, a telephone number and a valid email address.



# SUPPORT SERVICES

Moving to a new country is exciting but it also means losing your close support system and having to adapt to a new education system, home, and culture.

It's important to be aware and make use of support services offered by your education provider.

At KBS, here are a few **key services** available for free to all students:

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE TEAM

A **Student Experience Officer (SEO)** is your on-campus guide and first point of contact to help you settle into campus life.

They're there to help you make the most of all our facilities, organise your class schedule and sort out any logistical problems. Outside of the classroom, your SEO can help you with essential admin tasks such as setting up a bank account, sorting out accommodation and give insider tips on your bucket list of things to see, do and experience.



## ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTRE

Located in the library of each campus, our team of Learning Advisors can provide support with your studies via additional workshops, lectures and one-on-one sessions. They can also assist with your assignments, referencing, essay and report writing, presentation delivery, academic language skills, and more!

Students are also able to access a free network of over 500 online tutors who provide help on a range of study skills and subjects.

## CAREERS CENTRAL

Our globally-recognised **Careers Central** team can help you navigate the job search process, enhance your employability and build skills to future proof your career.

The Career Advisors can assist you in securing internships and regularly run campus and online workshops on topics such as crafting the perfect resume and job interview skills that will get you hired.

It's also a lifetime service meaning that you can access the service even after you graduate!

## STUDENT COUNSELLING

Student welfare is our number one priority at KBS. That's why we have dedicated student counsellors at all our campuses to ensure our students' mental health and wellbeing is proactively looked after.

# TOP RATED STUDENT PERKS



Here's a list of student discounts and offers that can help offset some of the bigger expenses that you'll need to cover when studying in Australia.

## UNIDAYS

Sign up for free and receive exclusive student discounts on fashion, tech, food and more! Simply download the app on your phone, verify that you're a student, and you'll get access to discounted prices on brands such as ASOS, the ICONIC, and even Apple.

## STUDENT BEANS

Like UNiDAYS, Student Beans also offers a range of exclusive student discounts for brands including Specsavers, Pandora, and Lorna Jane.

## STUDENT EDGE

This is another great free platform that partners with several brands to offer student discounts in Australia, from online bookstore Booktopia to air travel.

## ENTERTAINMENT

As a student, keep an eye out for special student discounts on a range of entertainment. At Event Cinemas you can enjoy student rate tickets on Mondays-Thursdays via a free Cinebuzz account. Gyms like Fitness First provide cheaper memberships for students, and Spotify offers one month free and cheaper subscription rates when you sign up for Spotify Premium as a student.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Major players in the telecoms space in Australia, such as Optus and Telstra, offer discounted SIM plans for students so make sure you ask about student discounts when speaking to any provider.

# MAKING FRIENDS

Follow these 7 simple tips, and you're sure to make some new friends in your new city in no time at all!

1. ATTEND ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES
2. BE PROACTIVE IN ORGANISING GROUP PLANS
3. JOIN A CLUB, SOCIETY OR SPORTS TEAM
4. FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS
5. FORM A STUDY GROUP
6. EXPLORE FACEBOOK AND WHATSAPP GROUPS
7. VOLUNTEER FOR A CAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT



# 1. ATTEND ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES



Attending orientation activities at your college or university is a must! Not only will it help you prepare for starting your study, it's also a unique chance to meet your new classmates.

It's also worth getting involved in orientation activities for new international students in your city. For example, in Adelaide, you can check out the **Welcome Dinner Project**, where you can meet locals over a delicious meal.

# 2. BE PROACTIVE IN ORGANISING GROUP PLANS



Taking the initiative to organise fun activities is a great way to bring people together. If you're having dinner at your apartment on a Friday night, you can invite people that you meet in class to come over. Or, if you're going to the beach or having a picnic, you can arrange a get-together and introduce your new friends to each other!

### 3. JOIN A CLUB, SOCIETY OR SPORTS TEAM

Every education provider has a range of different clubs, societies and sports teams that you can join so make sure you're putting yourself out there and getting involved.

For example, at KBS each trimester we hold several free internal and external events designed to be interactive and inspiring for all our students. They include guest speakers, expert panels, multicultural days and much more.



### 4. FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS

Are you really into indie music, yoga or dancing? Have a look online to find out where you can go to concerts, events or take classes in things that interest you. Facebook is often a good place to search for listings of local events, while **Weekend Notes** also has suggestions of things to do in each capital city. It's a great way to meet locals and make friends in a community where you already have something in common.





## 5. FORM A STUDY GROUP

Studying together not only helps you learn, but it's a great excuse to hang out. Why not form a study group with a few of your classmates? Arrange to meet once a week at a café or bar, and studying will become a whole lot more fun!

## 6. EXPLORE FACEBOOK AND WHATSAPP GROUPS

Social media platforms are another way to make connections in Australia. There are many diverse groups you can join and attend events organised by the group admins or members.



## 7. VOLUNTEER FOR A CAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT

Finding an organisation or cause to volunteer for is not only a worthy way of spending your time, it's also a great addition to your resume and a wonderful way to connect with like-minded people. For example, **Responsible Runners** is a not-for-profit organisation which runs weekly 30-minute beach and waterway cleanups in various locations around Australia.



# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## SONDER

**Sonder** is a multilingual safety and wellbeing service app that KBS offers to all students. The Sonder team consists of a network of professionals including registered nurses, emergency response specialists, mental health first aiders and psychologists.

The app connects you with the Sonder Support Team for any issues such as safety, health issues, medical needs, mental health issues, worries or concerns. You can access the service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

It's important to know what to do if you experience or see an emergency. In Australia, you can call 000 for free and be connected to police, fire, and ambulance services. If you're not sure which one you need, just tell the operator the situation and they will help guide you. If you don't feel confident explaining in English, tell the operator your language and you will be connected to a translator who can help.

## STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

Australia offers so many beautiful natural landscapes to explore, but to ensure you have an enjoyable time, it's important to follow a few critical safety rules:

- Only swim at beaches patrolled by surf life savers, and in patrolled areas marked by red and yellow flags. If you need help, stay calm and wave your arm to attract attention.
- Before entering rivers, lakes or the ocean, take note of any warning signs and watch out for obstacles, strong currents and dangerous animals such as jellyfish, sharks or crocodiles.
- Before going hiking or bushwalking, let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return and take the correct equipment. Research the area you are travelling to and check for dangerous conditions expected, such as potential fires or slippery tracks.





SECTION

03

# GET TO KNOW YOUR CITY

Whether you're still trying to decide which city is the right fit for you or want to find out what life might be like in your new city, this section covers some key stats and perks for the capital cities of Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.









# ADELAIDE

Adelaide strikes a perfect balance between big city culture and easy-going lifestyle that makes it an ideal destination for international students.

The open parklands, packed festival calendar, famous wine regions, proximity to beaches and happy locals are all part of the vibrant Adelaide lifestyle.



## AVERAGE WEEKLY COST (AUD)

	Accommodation (shared)	\$218
	Transport (public)	\$26
	Food	\$150
	Personal	\$35
	Clothing	\$31
	Entertainment	\$114

*Study Australia 2023*

## LIVE

Adelaide is one of the world's most liveable cities. It has an extremely efficient transport network, and the city offers free Wi-Fi, tram, and bus services in the CBD.

Adelaide is a planned city; the centre is compact, easy to navigate and surrounded by spacious, green parklands and an extensive system of purpose-built bicycle pathways. It's often referred to as the '20-minute city' because of its proximity to so many diverse attractions.



## TOP 15 MOST LIVEABLE CITY IN THE WORLD\*

\*Economist Intelligence Unit Global Liveability Index, 2023

# TOP 5 CITY PERKS



## 1. ENJOY OVER 400 FESTIVALS AND EVENTS EACH YEAR

Adelaide is known as the 'festival city' because of its incredible calendar of international events.

Adelaide Fringe Festival, WOMAdelaide and the Garden of Unearthly Delights are three of the biggest events of the year, so don't miss out! With the inner city, small bar revival and a growing number of venues, there's never a shortage of fun things to do.

## 2. THE BEACHES ARE AMAZING (AND ACCESSIBLE!)

Although Sydney and Brisbane might first come to mind when you picture Australian beaches, Adelaide's sandy shores will pleasantly surprise you.

From Semaphore to Port Noalunga, Adelaide has a range of beaches you can visit on your days off from study. Best of all for students, it's easy to reach Adelaide's beaches by public transport. For example, it's only a short tram ride from the city to the famous Glenelg beach.

## 3. BENEFIT FROM AFFORDABLE LIVING

Adelaide is consistently ranked as one of Australia's most affordable cities, with transport and accommodation options up to 14% cheaper than other major cities\*. That means more money to spend on the fun stuff!

## 4. LIVE IN A MULTICULTURAL CITY

When a city is multicultural, you know that locals are used to interacting with people from other cultures. With almost 30% of 'Adelaideans' originating in other countries, the city is full of people of diverse cultures. There are cultural festivals, vibrant communities, a local Chinatown, and restaurants serving food from all over the globe.

## 5. FOOD AND WINE HAVEN

South Australia is known as a wine and food centre with 13 wine regions and a higher ratio of cafes and restaurants to residents than any other state in Australia. The state produces almost 50% of Australia's wine and is renowned for its food and wine events as well as National Wine Centre.

\* The Economist Intelligence Unit's annual World Wide Cost of Living Survey











# BRISBANE

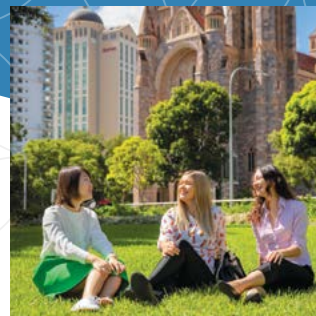


Known as the Sunshine State of Australia, Brisbane is a warm and welcoming city, and the perfect destination for sun and adventure seekers. Strong economic growth has made it one of the world’s fastest-growing capital cities, offering students exciting career opportunities. Brisbane will be the host of the 2032 Olympic Games. With a subtropical climate, Brisbane enjoys year-round warm weather with hot summers and dry, moderate winters.

## AVERAGE WEEKLY COST (AUD)

	Accommodation (shared)	\$233
	Transport (public)	\$50
	Food	\$150
	Personal	\$44
	Clothing	\$31
	Entertainment	\$122

*Study Australia 2023*



## LIVE

The city is popular for its outdoor lifestyle with a variety of incredible sporting activities and events held throughout the year. The cost of living in Brisbane is lower compared to other larger capital cities and it’s easy to get around, with perks such as a free city ferry and discounted public transport.

Top  
20

**TOP 20 MOST LIVEABLE CITY IN THE WORLD\***

\*Economist Intelligence Unit Global Liveability Index, 2023

# TOP 5 CITY PERKS

## 1. WELCOME TO THE SUNSHINE CITY!

Looking to have some fun in the sun? Brisbane receives more than 300 days of sunshine per year! The city's summers are famous for subtropical heat cooled by beautiful afternoon storms. Winter days rarely dip below 20°C.

## 2. AMAZING AUSTRALIAN ATTRACTIONS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

The city is perfectly placed for you to explore some of Australia's biggest attractions, including Fraser Island and Surfers Paradise. A short drive north will take you to the Sunshine Coast, home to beautiful Noosa, or head south to the funky beachside town of Byron Bay.



## 3. LOW COST OF LIVING

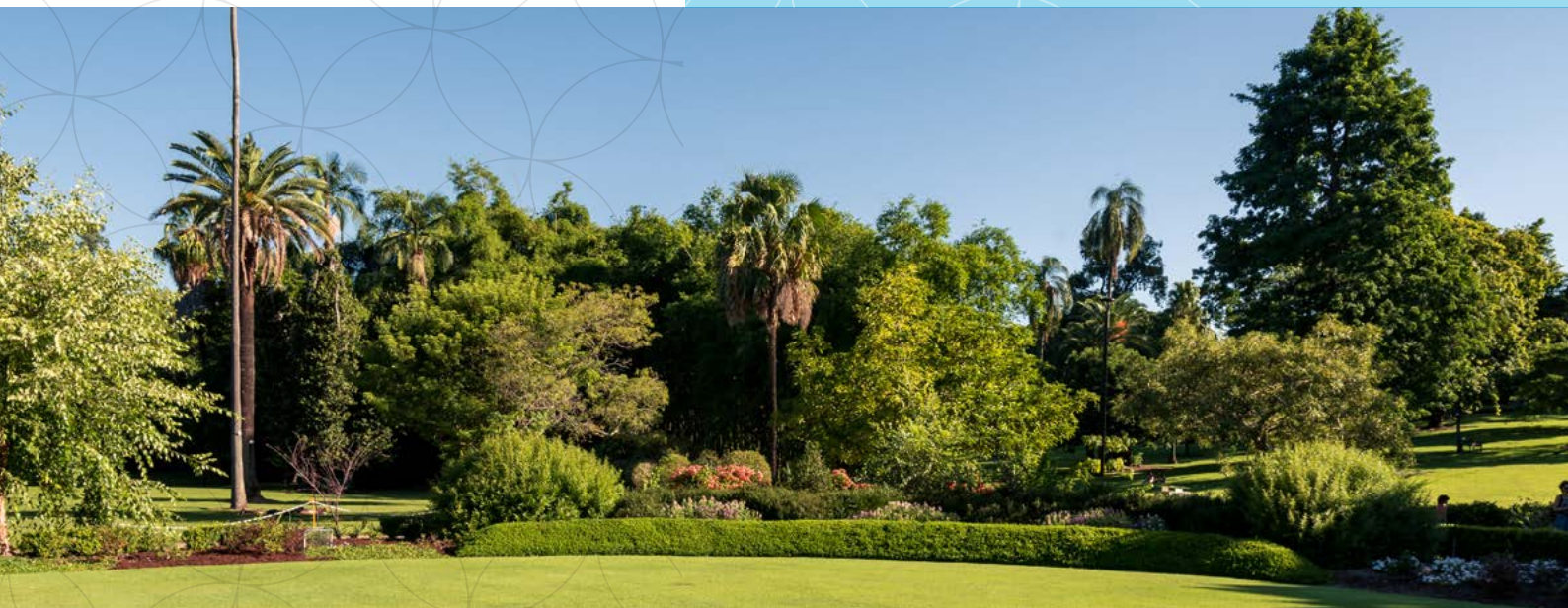
Brisbane has one of the lowest costs of living in comparison with other Australian cities – from transport to accommodation and meals, which means that your dollar will go a lot further living in Brisbane than in other capital cities.

## 4. LOTS OF GREEN SPACE

Picnic by the water anyone? Brisbane has 2,100 parks so you'll have plenty of choice when you're looking to get some fresh air and open space. The City Botanic Gardens, Roma Street Parklands, South Bank Parklands and New Farm Park are close to the CBD.

## 5. FRIENDLY AND LAID-BACK CULTURE

The city's relaxed vibe extends to its locals who are incredibly friendly, easygoing, and open-minded. In fact, the city of Brisbane hosts the free City Welcome Festival each year, Australia's largest orientation festival for international students.





# GOLD COAST









The Gold Coast, just one hour south of Brisbane, is renowned for its warm climate throughout the year and beautiful white sandy beaches.

The Gold Coast has a vibrant dining scene and nightlife, friendly and relaxing neighbourhoods, and is the ‘theme park capital of Australia’.

The Gold Coast is Australia’s sixth-largest city with strong economic growth, world-class educational institutions, and career opportunities.

## AVERAGE WEEKLY COST (AUD)

	Accommodation (shared)	\$200
	Transport (public)	\$18
	Food	\$135
	Personal	\$38
	Clothing	\$140
	Entertainment	\$54

*Insider Guides 2023*



## LIVE

With many days of sunshine throughout the year, you will enjoy spending most of your time outdoors. Being a regional city, the cost of living in the Gold Coast is lower compared to capital cities and it’s easy to get around with a great network of buses, trains, and trams that is convenient and reliable.

Top  
100

# TOP 100 BEST STUDENT CITY IN THE WORLD\*

\*QS Best Student Cities, 2024



# TOP 5 CITY PERKS

## 1. ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

The Gold Coast has more than 300 days of sunshine every year with hot summers and mild winters, so you have plenty of opportunities to swim, surf, and play outdoors. You can enjoy alfresco dining at a great range of coastal restaurants and cafes. The city is the perfect playground for water sports, seaside strolls, and hiking through nature.

## 2. CALM AND RELAXING ENVIRONMENT

You can relax on the Gold Coast's white sandy beaches which stretch along 57km of Australia's coastline. There are plenty of parklands where you can gather with friends. The neighbourhoods surrounding the city are friendly and laid-back.



## 3. FRIENDLY AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY

You will meet people from all over the world. Almost 1 in 3 residents are born overseas and 14% of residents speak a language other than English at home. The Gold Coast has an extensive list of cultural events and festivals every year such as Multicultural Queensland Month in August. You will also find a range of international cuisine and produce.

## 4. HINTERLAND

Just a short drive from the city centre is Gold's Coast's green hinterland - 'the green behind the gold' - where you will find rainforests, mountains, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. There are stretches of hiking trails with varying levels of difficulty you can take to admire its natural beauty. Get up to close to Australian wildlife at the **Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary** (home to Australia's largest living collection of native animals). The Gold Coast is the most biologically diverse city in Australia, home to more than 1,300 animal species and 1,730 species of native plants.

## 5. SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL

The Gold Coast is also Australia's Small Business Capital with 1 in 5 professionals\* owning and operating their own business. The Gold Coast has plenty of support services to help entrepreneurs build their business such as the Gold Coast Innovation Hub and YP Gold Coast.

\*[gchkp.com.au/home/about/australias-gold-coast/](http://gchkp.com.au/home/about/australias-gold-coast/)





# MELBOURNE









Melbourne consistently ranks as one of the best student-friendly cities and most liveable cities in the world. The city has a distinctive, edgy, and modern vibe, and is revered for its culture, unique architecture, fashion, food and drink.

Each year, the city also plays host to major sporting events like the Australian Open, the Formula One Grand Prix and the Melbourne Cup.



## AVERAGE WEEKLY COST (AUD)

	Accommodation (shared)	\$243
	Transport (public)	\$40
	Food	\$138
	Personal	\$41
	Clothing	\$31
	Entertainment	\$101

*Study Australia 2023*

## LIVE

Melbourne offers multiple public transport and accommodation options, a high standard of living and plenty of job opportunities. Melbourne's public transport system is one of the best in Australia, with 250km of tram lines passing through the CBD and surrounding area. The city has a Free Tram Zone that runs from Queen Victoria Market to Docklands, which lets you hop on and off as you like – completely free! The city also has an extensive network of trains and buses.

4th

## 4TH BEST STUDENT CITY IN THE WORLD\*

\*QS Best Student Cities, 2024

# TOP 5 CITY PERKS



## 1. RANKED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP STUDENT CITIES

Melbourne has been recognised as Australia's best student city and one of the best student cities globally in the QS Best Student Cities Ranking for 2023. Home to world-class education and research, it's a safe and vibrant city that offers a wide range of student support services, as well as things to see and do.

## 2. UNBEATABLE CAFÉ CULTURE

Considered the coffee capital of Australia, Melbourne is a cosmopolitan city with a passion for espresso culture. Wandering down its iconic inner-city laneways, you can discover world-famous street art and hidden cafes pioneering new coffee styles.

## 3. THRIVING ARTS SCENE

You'll find the music scene is thriving; Melbourne has more live music venues per resident than anywhere else in the world. Melbourne's dynamic arts and culture scene is world-famous, and each year the city enjoys a packed calendar of events and festivals that span film, fashion, music, art, food and much more! Some highlights include the Melbourne Fashion Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, and Melbourne Comedy Festival.

## 4. IT'S A CITY MADE FOR SPORTS FANS

Melbourne doesn't just stop at the arts; it boasts a full sporting calendar. From the Australian Grand Prix to the Australian Open and Melbourne Cup, there's no shortage of exciting sporting events to experience year-round.

## 5. EXCITING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Melbourne is widely considered the tech capital of Australia and is home to more than half of Australia's top 20 technology companies. The start-up scene is booming and a strong draw card for entrepreneurial students – there are now over 3,200 start-ups in Victoria.











# PERTH



Located in the resource-rich state of Western Australia, Perth has a strong economy and provides a fantastic lifestyle opportunity for students looking to experience the city's natural scenery and laidback vibe.



## AVERAGE WEEKLY COST (AUD)

	Accommodation (shared)	\$205
	Transport (public)	\$29
	Food	\$154
	Personal	\$40
	Clothing	\$31
	Entertainment	\$133

*Study Australia 2023*

## LIVE

Perth is known for being one of the safest Australian cities and for its relatively low living costs and friendly and inclusive communities. Getting around the city centre is convenient and easy! There's an excellent network of free buses within the CBD.

Top  
15

# TOP 15 MOST LIVEABLE CITY IN THE WORLD\*

\*Economist Intelligence Unit Global Liveability Index, 2023

# TOP 5 CITY PERKS



## 1. MAKE THE MOST OF THE CITY'S OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE

Of course, there are all the incredible beaches for swimming, outdoor barbecues, and surfing before class. But did you know that Perth is also a cycling-friendly city? With its flat terrain and many cycle paths, the city is a great place to get around on a bike. Perth is also home to Kings Park – one of the world's largest and most beautiful inner-city parks. It's even bigger than Central Park in New York!

## 2. EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

From scaling some of the world's oldest rocks, to visiting pristine beaches across 12,000 kilometres of coastline and trekking through the 400-million-year-old river gorges of Kalbarri National Park, you can be sure your study abroad experience will be a unique one. Just south of Perth, there is a whole island of some of the world's smallest penguins. You can also go swimming with wild dolphins and meet the world's largest population of native quokkas on Rottnest Island.

## 3. LIVE AND WORK IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ASIA, AFRICA, AND OTHER CONTINENTS

Perth shares a time zone with 60% of the world's population, which for some international students, will mean a shorter flight back home or for friends and family to visit. It's located in the same time-zone as many Asian regions and a direct flight away from several capital cities in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

## 4. THRIVING START-UP ENVIRONMENT

As a result of Perth's high-tech infrastructure, proximity to Asia, and world-class institutions, there's now a thriving start-up economy and a significant growth in shared working spaces in the CBD. At present, there are now more start-up businesses in WA than ever before. StartupWA is just one new initiative helping innovators to find funding and develop their business projects.

## 5. NETWORK AND BUILD CONNECTIONS

According to the state's Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Perth's 650-plus firm headquarters are among the most globally connected in the nation. Perth not only has the largest concentration of global resources companies in the country, including the likes of BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, but has also attracted some of the world's highest-profile finance, banking and consultancy firms, including Sachs, KPMG and Deloitte.





# SYDNEY









Sydney is arguably Australia's most vibrant and cosmopolitan city packed with history, nature, beaches, culture, art, fashion, food, and design.

During your time off you can enjoy an iconic beach walk from Bondi to Coogee or make friends with some of Australia's wildlife at Taronga Zoo, which boasts panoramic views of the harbour and CBD.



## AVERAGE WEEKLY COST (AUD)

	Accommodation (shared)	\$283
	Transport (public)	\$54
	Food	\$158
	Personal	\$40
	Clothing	\$31
	Entertainment	\$136

*Study Australia 2023*

## LIVE

In Sydney, you'll be studying among famous landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. There are many restaurants and shopping precincts in the CBD and you can access stunning beachside suburbs including Bondi Beach and Manly.

Sydney is very well-connected. You'll find buses, trains and ferries that take you through the city, and to mountain getaways, the countryside and beyond.



## TOP 11 GLOBAL CITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL HUB FOR BUSINESS AND CULTURE

\* Schroders Global Cities Index, 2023

# TOP 5 CITY PERKS



## 1. LIVE AMONG ICONIC AUSTRALIAN LANDMARKS

Sydney is by far the most celebrated city in Australia and home to many world-famous attractions. This includes the Sydney Opera House, Bondi Beach, The Rocks, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Taronga Zoo, Sydney Harbour, Darling Harbour, and so much more, right on your doorstep.

## 2. STRONG EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sydney is considered Australia's financial and business capital, so studying here provides students with first-class professional opportunities. More than 40% of Australia's top 500 companies, 90% of international banks, 60% of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) companies, and 50% of professional service firms have their global or regional headquarters in Sydney.

## 3. VIBRANT CULTURE AND PACKED EVENTS CALENDAR

When you choose to live and study in Sydney, you'll never run out of fun things to do. Take a wander around the thriving city parks, bars, cafes and new Barangaroo precinct. Each month, there's a wide variety of exciting and free cultural events going on such as markets, art exhibitions or fireworks displays.

Major festivals throughout the year include The Sydney Festival, Vivid Sydney Festival, Sydney Mardi Gras, the Royal Easter Show and Sculpture by the Sea.

## 4. MIX OF CITY AND BEACH LIFESTYLES

While Sydney offers all the employment benefits of living in a thriving metropolitan city, you're also close to gorgeous beaches with great surfing conditions (and that's not to mention the amazing Sydney weather!). The scenic Coojee to Bondi Beach Walk is a must, or you can stop for a scuba-dive at Clovelly Beach, or visit the more secluded Gordons Bay.

## 5. YOU CAN FEEL SAFE HERE!

Moving to a new country can be scary but you can enjoy peace of mind that living in Sydney, you're staying in one of the safest places in Australia. In fact, Sydney was ranked the fifth safest city in the world in 2023!\*

\*Safe Cities Index 2023, The Economist Intelligence Unit



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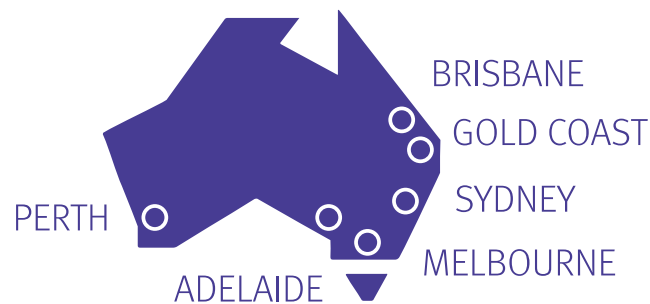
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