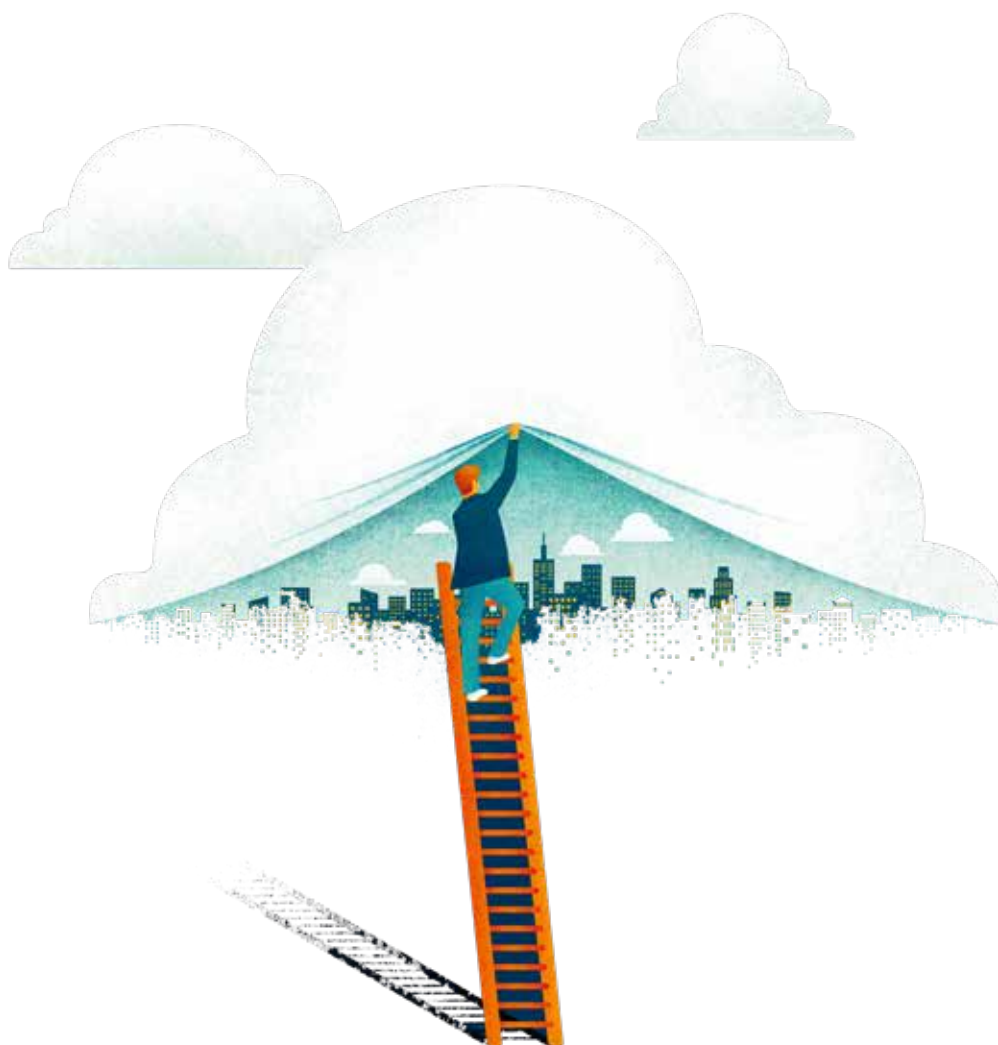


How to study in Australia





Are you about to complete your Pearson Edexcel International A level (IAL) or A level qualifications?

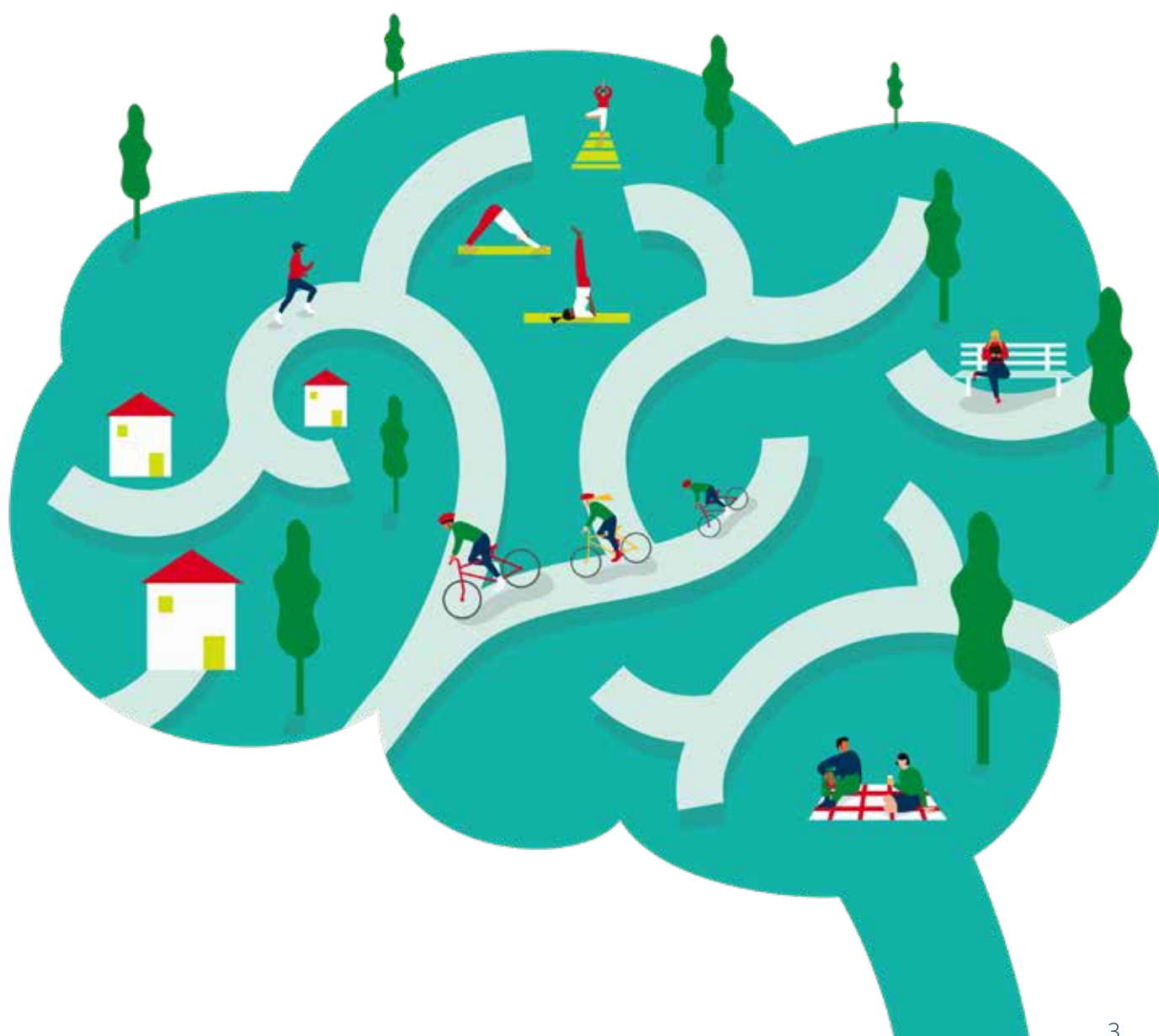
Are you now considering studying in Australia?

You may be a little apprehensive about the prospect of moving halfway across the world but rest assured, there is a reason why Australia is the third most popular destination in the world for overseas students. Over 390,000 international students choose to study at Australian universities every year because they want a globally recognised qualification with strong academic credentials. Australian laws specifically safeguard international student rights to ensure that all institutions meet rigorous quality standards and that you receive the education that you have paid for. You can take your pick from 22,000 courses across 1,100 institutions, secure in the knowledge that Australian higher education is ranked tenth in the world.

A safe, friendly and welcoming destination, with a healthy lifestyle, warm climate, unique wildlife and breathtaking scenery, Australia has four of the 25 best student cities worldwide. You may decide to study in Sydney while going for a surf at Bondi Beach or climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge in your spare time. Or Canberra (the nation's capital) may take your fancy where you can combine museum and gallery hopping, pop in to Parliament House for question time or drive down to the snowfields to go skiing.

Whatever you choose, you will have the option of working part time while you study and a plethora of post study work opportunities and visas to extend your time here in Australia should you wish to.

Choosing where to study is one of the most important decisions you will make. A good decision is an informed one. Use this guide to help you better understand the many opportunities open to you in Australia with your your Pearson Edexcel IAL and A levels.



Progress to University

Our dedicated Progress to University pages provide a range of free support to help Pearson Edexcel students access undergraduate study opportunities at global institutions. Alongside country study guides, case study blogs and interactive webinars we curate tailored information for universities, parents and schools, and demonstrate the acceptance of our qualifications at universities worldwide.

To find out more please visit ► <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/Services/progress-to-university.html>





FUN FACTS

The distance across Australia is 4,000 kilometres. This is roughly equal to the distance between Los Angeles and New York (4464 kilometres).

Australia's total population in 2018 is 25 million. This is almost a third smaller than the UK's 2018 population of over 66 million people.

1

Universities in Australia

University Grouping

There are 1100 higher education institutions in Australia with 1.5 million students, studying everything from accounting to veterinary science. Of these, 40 are public universities, and seven of these have been ranked in the top 100 universities in the world.

Australian tertiary institutions are modelled on the British system with both Colleges of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and universities that offer technical, undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. The TAFE or vocational education programs can be used for employment or as the entry level for further academic study. The major difference between TAFE courses and traditional university degrees is that TAFE adheres to the VET (Vocational Education and Training) approach, which means that learning is very practically oriented.

Universities in Australia offer general bachelor degrees of 3 years, with an option to do a fourth year called 'Honours' if sufficient academic merit has been attained. Students decide which subject they will major in and which will be their minor within this degree. A bachelor degree will help you develop problem-solving skills and discipline knowledge to the point where you can pursue postgraduate studies if you so choose. Meanwhile TAFE colleges offer courses ranging from building and construction to paramedical science that may be completed flexibly: on a semester basis, online or as short courses.

In Australia, there are two major groups of universities: the Go8 and the Australian Technology Network.



Is a Group of Eight university right for me?



Admission to Go8 universities is highly competitive and based on Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent entry scores depending on where you gained your qualifications. Pearson Edexcel IAL and A level qualifications are recognised across all Go8 institutions. If your entry score doesn't qualify you for entry to the course of your choice, you may also be able to complete a foundation programme (each university has their own version) that on completion will allow you to enrol in your preferred degree. Each degree program will also have its own specific assumed knowledge or prerequisites that you will need to research. Students considering admission to Go8 universities

should consult with admission representatives from respective universities.

The average cost of an undergraduate degree program at a Go8 university is from AUD \$30,000 (Bachelor of Arts degree) to AUD \$40,000 (Bachelor of Engineering or Bachelor of Laws) per annum depending on your choice of degree program. Each university posts a fee schedule or online fee calculator on their website which will explain how much you can expect to pay based on subjects or credit points (CPs). Rates for international students are different to those paid by domestic students so make sure you select this option when looking at fee schedules.

The following universities are members of Go8, all of which recognise Pearson Edexcel IAL and A levels:

- **Monash University**
▶ <https://www.monash.edu/international>
- **The Australian National University**
▶ <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/information-for/international-students>
- **The University of Adelaide**
▶ <https://international.adelaide.edu.au/>
- **The University of Melbourne**
▶ <https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/info/international>
- **The University of Queensland**
▶ <http://www.uq.edu.au/international/>
- **The University of Sydney**
▶ <https://sydney.edu.au/study.html>
- **The University of Western Australia**
▶ <http://www.international.uwa.edu.au/>
- **University of New South Wales Sydney**
▶ <http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/>

You can find more information here: ▶ <http://www.go8.edu.au/>

Australian Technology Network (ATN)

The Australian Technology Network is comprised of five innovative and enterprising universities: Queensland University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney, RMIT University, University of South Australia and Curtin University. These universities pride themselves on their industry connections, with two-thirds of their research funding drawn from industry. They are leading participants in Australia's Cooperative Research Centres linking government, industry and researchers and also offer Australia's only Industry Doctoral Training Centre (IDTC), a business focused initiative in research training. Programs at these universities are both groundbreaking and vocationally oriented, such as RMIT's Bachelor of Fashion (Merchandise Management) or their Bachelor of Design (Animation and Interactive Media), emphasizing business connections, industry placements and real world translation of skills as part of each degree.



University of Technology Sydney (UTS) “paper bag” building

In keeping with UTS' innovative profile is the choice of building architect Frank Gehry who has designed some of the world's most extraordinary buildings, including the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. The \$AUD 180 million building was designed to look like folds in cloth and was inspired by Renaissance sculptors but was quickly dubbed the 'paper bag' building by the student body as it more closely resembles a crumpled paper bag.

Is an Australian Technology Network university right for me?

Admission to ATN universities is also competitive and usually based on Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent entry scores depending on where you gained your qualifications. However some more practically oriented courses such as those at RMIT will require an associate degree or diploma for admission with a minimum Grade point Average (GPA) across the course, rather than an ATAR score so you will need to carefully research requirements for the courses you are interested in. Pearson Edexcel IAL, A level prepare students well for degree study at ATN institutions. As with the Go8, there are foundation programme options if you are unable to make the direct entry requirements based on your grades and equivalent admission score. ATN universities will also consider prior professional work and life experience for credit transfer where appropriate, with supporting documentation. Students considering admission to ATN universities should consult with admission representatives from respective universities.

The average cost of an undergraduate degree program at an ATN university is similar to the Go8 universities and more affected by a university's location than its reputation, e.g. Adelaide and Perth based universities are more affordably priced than ones in Sydney or Melbourne. Fees range from A\$26,000 (Bachelor of Education degree) to A\$31,000 (Bachelor of Business) to A\$40,000 (Bachelor of Engineering or Bachelor of Laws) per annum depending on your choice of degree program and which university you plan to attend. Just like Go8, each ATN university posts a fee schedule or online fee calculator on their website which will explain how much you can expect to pay based on subjects or credit points (CPs). Once again rates for international students are different to those paid by domestic students so make sure you select this option when looking at fee schedules.

Rankings

Universities in Australia are ranked, using a variety of criteria, to assist you in making an informed decision about your study destination. There are a range of local and international grading systems including QS Top Universities, Times, ARWU Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, and US News, along with the Australian Research Council's Excellent in Research for Australia (ERA) and 5 Star rankings. Australian university performance is also appraised in specialised rankings including the Global Science Index, Under 50 Years Old, and Times Reputation and Subject Rankings. Be aware that many university ranking lists focus on a number of variables which are not necessarily relevant to students, and are heavily biased towards universities with age-related reputations, research-intensive profiles and traditional degree programs. Vocationally-oriented institutions with more focus on innovation and job-readiness may thus be under-represented in such assessments.

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training's Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching website provides relevant and transparent information about Australian higher education institutions from the perspective of recent students and graduates. This student feedback is interactive and searchable containing data about student experience and graduate outcomes, to assist informed decisions about best study options:

► <https://www.qilt.edu.au/>

One brief report on Australian universities which is published annually looks at Australian and world rankings, graduate satisfaction as well as adjusted graduate salary:

► <https://universityreviews.com.au/australian-rankings/>

There is also the Good Education Group's independent annual Good Universities Guide that provides five-star performance ratings for every university in Australia, based on student-relevant criteria such as graduate salaries, teaching quality, learning resources, and graduate employment rates.

► <https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/university-ratings-rankings>

It's important for you to focus on your own requirements and how they can best be met by looking at:

- Quality of teaching, student engagement and learning resources
- Employability post graduation and typical graduate starting salary levels
- Student satisfaction and retention
- Research profile
- Quality of facilities
- Student support services
- International outlook
- Student to staff ratios
- Degree demand/relevance
- Value for money
- Social equity

If you wish to broaden your research to see how an Australian university ranks worldwide, look at:

- **Academic Ranking of World Universities**
 - ▶ <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU-Statistics-2014.html>
- **QS**
 - ▶ topuniversities.com/university-rankings
- **Times Higher Education**
 - ▶ <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-australia>

HIGHLIGHTS

Australian universities are very familiar with UK qualifications as their higher education is modelled on the British education system.

You can find a number of highly ranked and well respected universities in Australia offering a large range of choice around your academic interests.

FUN FACTS

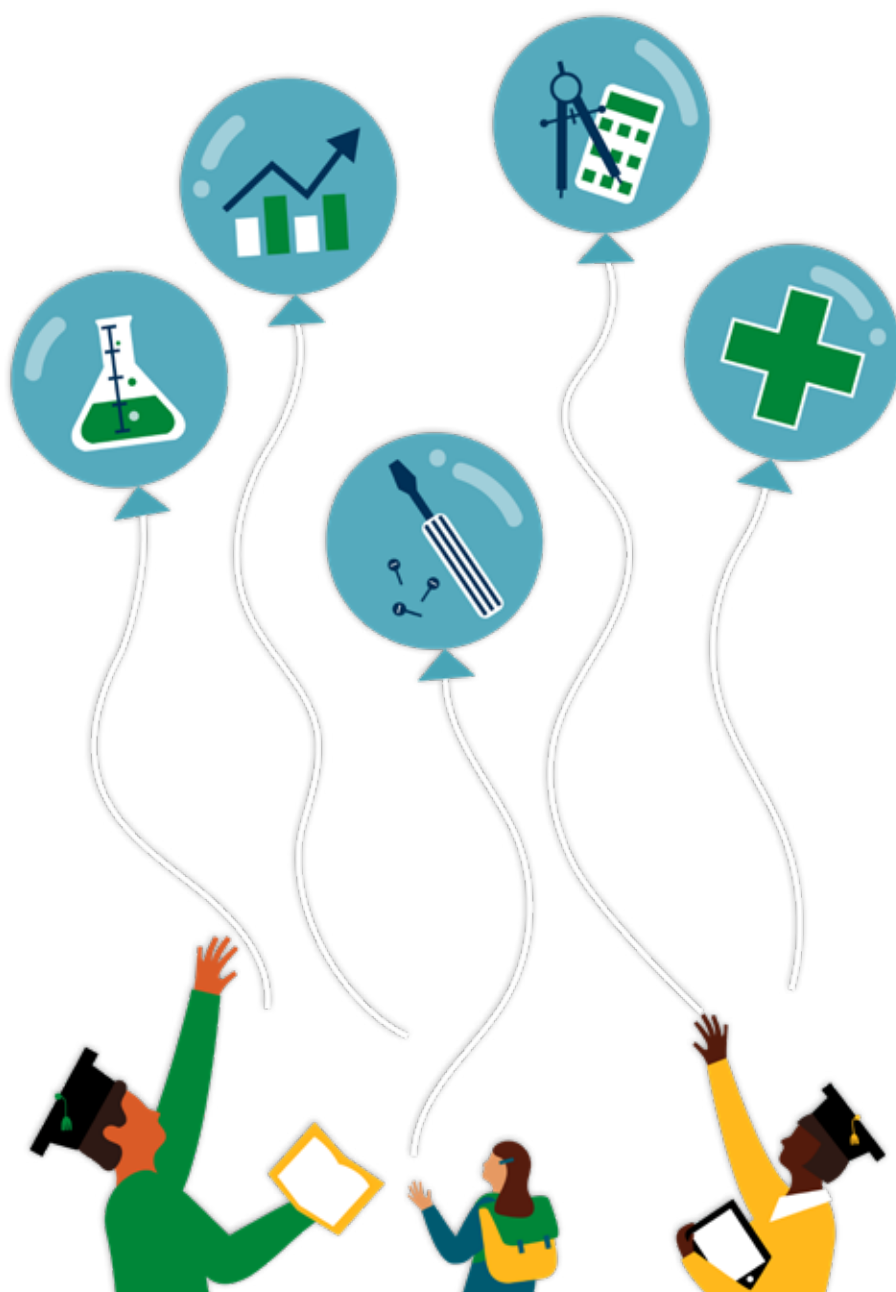
Melbourne is the country's most popular student city and attracts a third of Australia's entire international student population!

The education of international students is rated as Australia's third largest export behind iron ore and coal.

2

Choosing a subject

Choosing the subject you want to study at university is of utmost importance, both for the experience while you study and in preparing you for your future career. Pearson Edexcel has given you a solid grounding but now is the time to ask yourself some searching questions about your university field of study should be.



What would I like to study?

You have a lot to think about; such as the subject, type of degree, entry requirements, duration, type of assessment and the potential for travel and work placements during the course. Your choices include:

- Academic or more vocational, practically-based programmes
- Traditional subjects like history, geography, languages, mathematics
- More modern subjects like business, media studies, computing, psychology, sociology
- Very modern subjects like mechatronics and robotics
- Highly specialised subjects like speech therapy and journalism



What do you enjoy studying?

Choose a subject you love and have a genuine enthusiasm for – you will be studying it in great detail over the coming years.

If you have completed an IAL or A level qualification, this puts you at an advantage, as you have a deep knowledge of the subjects you have studied. Showcase your knowledge in your personal statement, as admissions departments will look for evidence of your interest in the subject, particularly if you are applying to a competitive course.

Australia's Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) database can assist you in finding a program at a college or university throughout the country that matches your interests and has met Australian quality standards. Using their advanced search engines will help you narrow down the degree and location that best suits your needs:

► <http://cricos.education.gov.au/>

Have you already decided on your career?

Don't worry if you do not know what you'd like to do after university; many professions do not require a degree in a specific subject. However, if you have researched your options and decided on a career, it would be wise to choose a course related to that area of work. This applies in particular to careers in medicine, dentistry, engineering or architecture, amongst others, as you will need to take a particular course at university.

What kind of degree do you want to study for?

Undergraduate degrees in Australia usually take three years and lead to a bachelor degree: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Bachelor of Science (BSc) etc. An additional fourth year of study will lead to a Bachelor degree (Honours) that is classified as First Class, Second Class Division 1 or 2 or Third Class. Students decide which subject they will major in and which will be their minor within this degree. Universities also offer double degrees in which two programs in different faculties or schools are studied concurrently.

Do you want to work in industry or study abroad as part of your degree?

Many courses include periods abroad, sometimes called study exchanges, which allow you to spend up to a year in another country. Students can select universities from around the world, including Europe, Asia, South America and the United States.

Many Australian universities have embedded internship programs to enable vocational experience within an Australian undergraduate degree to enhance employability when students graduate. Such programs allow you to gain valuable experience and perspective away from your studies before returning to complete your degree. You will find information about them on university websites, often under the specific degree information page. These include programs such as Macquarie University's Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) whereby students undertake a PACE unit activity within the local Sydney area or further afield: PACE has partner organisations across Australia and in over 25 countries around the world.

► <https://students.mq.edu.au/experience/practical-experience/pace-experience>

What Pearson Edexcel results did you achieve?

Each course has its own entry requirements, which you can find on individual university websites. Look at your mock assessment results, previous qualification grades (IAS, AS, International GCSEs, GCSEs etc.), and speak to your teachers and careers advisers to help you decide which courses have entry requirements at the right level for you. Speaking with a university's admissions department is always a good idea.

These are some of the questions you should be asking yourself when choosing the course that will suit you best. If you need more help, you may find the following websites helpful:

► <https://www.studyoptions.com/what-can-i-study>

Study Options is the official representative of Australian and New Zealand universities in the UK, offering free and independent application support for UK-based students wanting to apply to university in Australia and New Zealand. They offer advice and counselling to help choose the right course and university, assist with the application process from writing an application to accepting an offer, through to organizing your accommodation and student visas.

► <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/>

The Australian government's official site for international students allows you to search for courses, institutions and scholarships, read about studying and living in Australia, watch stories from other students, and learn about Australian education.

HIGHLIGHTS

When choosing your degree you must think about what you enjoy studying, how you learn best, and what career you want to pursue. You should also consider the grades you achieved during your Pearson Edexcel IAL and A levels, as this will determine which degree programmes you are eligible to apply for.

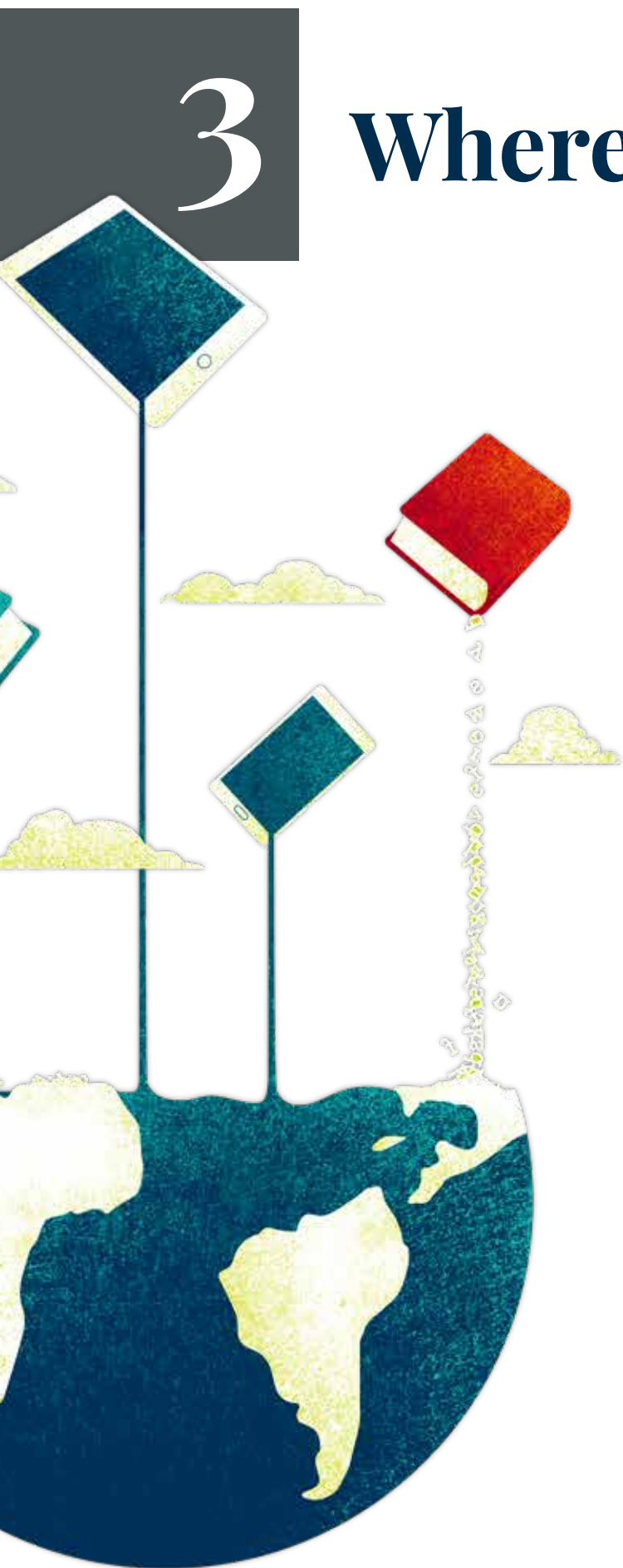
Most universities offer educational or social exchanges in other countries to both home and international students.

3

Where to study

Once you've decided what you would like to study, you need to decide where you will do so. This will require some research – ranking and reputation are of course important factors in choosing a university but so is the location and setting (urban or rural). When choosing a university, consider the following:

- Does the university offer the subject or course that you want?
- Is the university located in an urban or more rural setting, on a traditional campus or spread throughout a city?
- Is the prestige or ranking of the institution important to you?
- Does it offer a traditional or a more applied learning experience?
- Do you meet the overall entry requirements?
- What is the size of the university?
- What fees does the university charge?
- What will the cost of living be for this university location?



Lifestyle

Australia offers a wide choice of lifestyle options – if you're looking for the fast pace and cultural diversity of big cities there are excellent study options in places like Australia's best student city Melbourne, or in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth or Canberra. For someone who wants to enjoy Australia's natural beauty, rural and coastal universities like Charles Darwin University, Sunshine Coast University, the University of Tasmania, Charles Sturt University or Murdoch University offer breathtakingly beautiful scenery and a wide range of outdoor activities. When you're considering study options, consider where you can see yourself living and how you like to spend your leisure time.

This is your big opportunity to take in some iconic Australian sights and experiences that will be the envy of your friends and family - see a play at the Sydney Opera House, swim the Great Barrier Reef or in Katherine Gorge, meet cute quokkas on Rottnest Island or fairy penguins on Phillip Island.



Cost of living

Budget can be a big deciding factor in where you choose to go to university and where you live while you are studying. The cost of living in Australia is typically higher in cities than in smaller towns, so if you are on a tight budget consider studying in rural universities such as Central Queensland University, Wollongong University or Charles Sturt University. In broad terms the cost of living for an international student averages \$AUD30,000 a year, but this is dependent on where you choose to live and study. The link to a cost of living calculator below gives you an approximate comparison of the likely costs based on choice of city, accommodation, transport, social activities etc. For example, if you choose to live in a suburb of Melbourne in a flat, travel on public transport, eat out 5 times a week you could expect to pay \$41,313 a year. However if you live in a homestay in Sydney, eat out twice a week and avoid public transport, you would expect to pay \$27,446 a year. See: <http://insiderguides.com.au/cost-of-living-calculator/>

Note that in order to qualify for a student visa the Australian government requires you to demonstrate that you have the funds available for a 12 month minimum cost of living estimated at \$AUD20,290 for you, with \$AUD7,100 for a partner or spouse and \$AUD3040 per child. See <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs>

International community

With a long history of immigration, Australia is a multicultural society with communities from all over the world so it is not difficult to find a taste of home or people who speak your language. Connecting with community, cultural and/or religious centres or on campus groups will help you adjust to your new surroundings in no time.

FUN FACTS

The largest university in Australia is Monash University in Melbourne, Victoria with over 64,500 students!

The oldest university in Australia is the University of Sydney in New South Wales which was founded in 1850.

Studying in...

There are 6 states and 2 territories in Australia: Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. The Australian Capital Territory is home to Australia's capital city Canberra. It is one of the cleanest, safest and least congested cities in the world. New South Wales with its harbour capital, Sydney, is the international gateway to the Asia Pacific region and has the largest research sector in the country. The Northern Territory offers a tropical lifestyle with its harbour based city of Darwin and world-class attractions such as Uluru and the Olgas. Queensland offers 5 world heritage areas and on average 8 hours of sunshine every day, with a geographical area seven times that of Great Britain. South Australia is known as the "Nobel Prize Capital" of Australia, having produced five Nobel Prize Laureates and over one hundred Rhodes and Fulbright scholars. Tasmania is Australia's island state, also called the "apple isle" and Hobart is the southernmost city on the continent. Victoria is home to Melbourne which is renowned for its liveability due to its cosmopolitan, multicultural communities and excellent food, fashion and entertainment. Western Australia is the most remote of the states, with Perth as its capital city, and known for its export earnings due to its natural resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

Lifestyle is an important consideration when choosing where you want to study in Australia so think about whether city, country or seaside-based institutions will best suit you.

The cost of living in Australia is significantly affected by where you live, the type of accommodation you select and your lifestyle.

Cheers!! South Australia produces 50% of all Australian wine and its capital Adelaide is considered the food and wine centre of Australia so it's a great place to study if you consider yourself a wine connoisseur.

4

Writing your application

Once you've selected a programme and you know which universities and colleges interest you, the next step is applying!

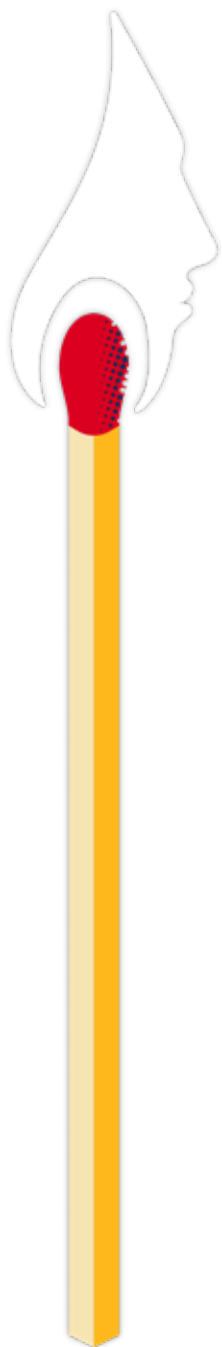
When should I apply?

The first step is to apply for the course you want. There are two ways to apply: directly through the institution of your choice, or through an Australian education agent. All institutions publish a list of their specific appointed agents on their website. Please visit your intended university's website to view a list of their agents near you.

The key dates for the Australian academic year are generally autumn session (late February – early March) spring session (late July) and summer session (late November – early January) but it's best to check with your particular institution as every university is slightly different. Similarly, application cut off dates for international undergraduate students will differ but are generally around November for autumn session and May for spring session, and you can expect an admission result within 2 – 4 weeks. Please note that for some courses and institutions applications can be up to a year in advance.

There are generally two admissions cycles – for the beginning of the academic year (Feb-March) and for mid-year intake (July).

This might mean that you'll apply to a college/university before you have your final IAL or A level results. This is completely okay. The college/university will ask for your qualifications and grades to date (e.g. International AS, International GCSEs, GCEs) and any predicted grades. Admissions departments throughout are used to receiving applications from Pearson Edexcel and BTEC students, so they will tell you exactly what they require and can answer any questions you might have.



What is the university admission process across Australia?

International students must address the following entry requirements in their application to a university:

- Academic requirements.
- English language requirements.
- Evidence of funds to support your study.
- Overseas student health cover (OSHC).

The minimum requirements for admission to a bachelor program in Australia is an Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (Year 12), or the overseas equivalent: Pearson Edexcel IALs and A levels are accepted as the equivalent to the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) with minimum performance requirements as stipulated by the institution, for example for admission to an undergraduate program Western Sydney University requires an ATAR of 60 or GCE A levels with a score of 6 in 3 core subjects. There may also be course prerequisites, grade point averages and prerequisite tests, interviews or auditions required by particular universities for admission into your chosen subject area/degree.

If you require verification of your eligibility based on your Pearson or other qualifications you can request a Qualifications Assessment Service from the University Admissions Centre (UAC) which will cost \$AUD125 (GST incl.) and usually take one to two weeks:

- <https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/qualifications-assessment-service>

Australian universities accept applications through institution specific education agents or through direct online applications to the university itself. Domestic students may also apply through their state specific university admission centre (UACs) but unless you are an international student already in Australia studying for your Pearson qualification, you must apply through an agent or directly to the university. Most universities offer online applications, but a few still offer a paper-based option.

An education agent will advise you about your options for studying and living in Australia and assist with your visa and institution applications. Many agents have had experience studying in Australia and can give you the benefit of their personal experience as well as their professional expertise dealing with numerous international applications. Some education agents may charge fees in addition to the University's application fee for some of their services. Ensure that you ask your education agent about all of their associated fees and charges before making a commitment to using their services.

Australian universities assess applications continually, that is, they are always 'open for business' for international students. There is no limit in the numbers they accept: acceptance is solely based upon meeting the entry requirements, including visa risk assessments.

What information do I need to provide as part of my application?

Your application form will require information such as your family name, given name, permanent address and phone number in your home country, address where you can be contacted currently and/or your education agent's address details, email, telephone, date of birth, if you hold a current Australian visa,, whether you have a medical, psychological condition or disability that may affect your studies (and supporting documentation), your citizenship, the country you are submitting the form from, whether you want the university to organise your compulsory Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), your preferred course, evidence of your English proficiency, your educational qualifications, whether you are intending to apply for credit for previous study, and a visa declaration to the effect that you are a Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) for a student visa. Note that you will need original or certified original copies of documentation to accompany your application and in some cases certified translations of these documents if they appear in a language other than English. If you are having any problems completing the forms, each university has an international admissions department with staff who will be more than happy to answer any queries, so don't hesitate to contact them.

If you are under 18 years of age you will need to provide evidence of welfare arrangements, that is be able to show that you will have a parent or suitable nominated relative/guardian living with you in Australia who can take responsibility for your welfare. This nominated guardian must be approved by the Department of Home Affairs.

How much does it cost to apply?

Most Australian universities do not charge an application fee but it is worth checking this with your particular institution as some may charge a nominal fee of around \$100. However if you use an education agent they may charge a fee to submit an application on your behalf.

English Language proficiency

Students from countries where English isn't the main language, may be required by Australian universities to pass a test before applying for their programme of choice. The Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), the world's leading computer-based test of English for study abroad and immigration, is ideal for this purpose.

Tests are available globally over 360 days of the year, in over 250 test centers around the world. Results are typically available within five business days.

PTE Academic is accepted by every Australian university and by most professional associations.

In most cases, Australian universities require that applicants have a test score of:

- PTE Academic 58
- IELTS 6.5
- TOEFL iBT 92

Please note requirements can differ by university and course so always check with your preferred institution before applying.

PTE Academic	30	36	42	50	58	65	73	79	83	86
IELTS	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0

PTE Academic	38	42	46	50	53	59	64	68	72	78	84
TOEFL iBT	40-44	54-56	65-66	74-75	79-80	87-88	94	99-100	105	113	120

Further information on the tests is available on these websites:

- **Pearson Test of English Academic** ► <https://pearsonpte.com/>
- **TOEFL (iBT)** ► <https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about>
- **IELTS (Academic)** ► <https://www.ielts.org/>





FUN FACTS

Conversion from application to offer rates in Australia are around 75% in 2018 so you can feel confident that you will likely succeed in your ambition to study here.

Numbers of overseas students studying here has increased by 7% since 2014.

What types of offers do universities make?

Australian colleges and universities will make one of the following offers:

- **Offer of Admission.** This indicates that you have been successful in your application and may now proceed to accepting your offer.
- **Conditional Offer of Admission.** This indicates that you have not met the academic or English language requirements for the course you have chosen but advises what you need to do to convert the conditional offer into a full offer. You may need to provide further documentation and/or complete a course of study before a final offer can be made.
- **Packaged Offer.** Some institutions will offer a pathways program and a conditional offer to study a formal course at the university once you have successfully completed the pathway program.

Most applications at Australian universities have a fairly quick turnaround – 2 – 4 weeks is the average. However if you are applying for credit transfer you may need to wait up to 7 weeks at some institutions.



How do I respond to offers?

The first thing you will need to do is decide whether you would like to accept the offer. Acceptance will require you to sign the letter of offer and send it back to the international admissions office. The letter of offer details the course you will be enrolled in, enrolment conditions, the fees you need to pay, and the refund payable if you don't complete your study. This letter is your contract with the university and is very important – if you don't start your or finish your course, this agreement will be used to determine if you will receive a refund.

The next step is to pay your fees according to the instructions set out in your letter of offer – these will include the semester tuition fee as well as the overseas student health cover (OSHC). You will then receive an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE), which can be used to apply for your student visa. You may also need to upload any outstanding documents required at this stage.

Accepting a conditional offer follows the same process above.

You may decide to defer your offer to the next course commencement date – this must be done by the census date in the session that the offer was made or you may be liable for tuition fees. Deferment is not possible for all courses of study and the length of deferment will also vary according to the course of study and the intended session for commencement. Deferments expire at the end of a specified period and do not guarantee that the course will be available the following year. If a course is cancelled, most institutions will offer deferred students a place in an alternative unit of study.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Australian academic year begins with the autumn session (Feb/ March) – you will need to apply in November of the year before your intended start date.

Universities require more than your academic qualifications to assess your application to study with them.

If you are required to prove your English language proficiency, PTE Academic offers a faster solution compared to other test providers

5

Preparing to come to Australia

Once you have decided to study in Australia after completing your Pearson Edexcel qualifications and have been accepted into a degree program, you will face the exciting but challenging experience of moving to a new country.

Visas

Once you have a confirmed offer from an Australian university, you must now apply for a visa to live and study in Australia. The visa application process is a national one which will allow you to live in any of Australia's states or territories during your studies. The admissions department at your college/university can guide you through the process, as can your education agent, so never hesitate to ask for assistance.

Note that you may not require a student visa to study in Australia if you hold another visa (other temporary visas) that allows you to enter and stay in Australia with no restrictions on study.



How do I obtain a visa to study in Australia?

Once you have accepted your offer and paid the tuition fees you will receive a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) as evidence of your payment. This will enable you to apply for a Student visa (subclass 500) which will allow you to stay in Australia for up to five years, costing a minimum of \$AUD 560. To be eligible for this Visa you must be at least six years of age, have been accepted to study at an educational institution in Australia, and have health insurance.

Applications for the Student Visa are made online through the Department of Home Affairs by creating an ImmiAccount at:

► <https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>

Student visa processing can take up to 40 - 50 days.

If you are under 18 years of age you must show evidence of welfare arrangements by including a Form 157N Nomination of a student guardian in your Visa application. You must then organise for your university to approve these arrangements. The institution will issue a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) letter notifying the Department of Home Affairs.

Most applicants for visas to Australia are required to complete medical screening examinations in order to show that they meet the health requirement. To avoid delays, you can complete your health examinations before lodging your visa application by using My Health Declarations (MHD). It is available via your ImmiAccount.

The genuine temporary entrant (GTE) requirement is an integrity measure to ensure the student visa program is used as a temporary measure to facilitate study and applies to all student visa applicants. An applicant must provide a personal statement in English addressing the GTE requirement and describing their personal circumstances in choosing to study in Australia. It may be written in a language other than English as long as a certified translated copy is also submitted. An applicant can provide details within the application form or attach a written

statement along with supporting documents. For a checklist of information that must be covered in this statement please see:

► <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/500-?modal=/trav/stud/more/genuine-temporary-entrant>

Everyone who wants to enter Australia will be assessed against strict character requirements. As part of your visa application, you might be required to provide a police clearance certificate or other evidence to satisfy these criteria.

English language competence is necessary to be eligible for a student visa. You may need to provide the results of an English language test as part of your application, this test must have been taken no more than two years before applying for your student visa and must demonstrate a minimum acceptable score.

Visa timeline: after you have lodged your application, any additional documentation you need to submit should be uploaded into ImmiAccount. You will be assigned a Transaction Reference Number (TRN) which you must keep so you can track and manage your application and check your visa entitlements. After you have applied you may be asked to attend an interview, have a health check and/or provide further information or documentation. The usual processing time is four weeks.

If the visa is granted, you will be notified of the visa number and any conditions attached to the visa. If your visa is not successful however you will be told why it was not granted and your review rights and the time limit (if any) for applying for a review.

The visa application process is complex and may be daunting at times, but there is help. Registered migration agents can assist you and are listed on the Register of Migration Agents, held by the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA). Be wary of unlawful operators by checking the MARA website before using an agent:

► <https://www.mara.gov.au/>

Accommodation (apartment, homestay, on-campus)

Most Australian universities offer on-campus residences called “residential colleges” or “villages” that feature private rooms with shared facilities. These make it easy to get to classes without needing a car, and enable you to participate in campus social activities.

If you would like the opportunity to live with an Australian family, Homestay placements are arranged by the Australian Homestay Network, they cost approximately AU\$35-\$40 per night and include accommodation, some meals, access to laundry facilities, 24/7 phone support and AHN insurance. This is a great way to get to know Australians and experience their way of life firsthand. See

► <https://www.homestaynetwork.org/>

Renting private accommodation is fairly easy. If you prefer to live alone or off-campus with a group of friends, you will find a range of apartments to suit your budget. To find one, search on “apartment”, “unit” or “flat” on realestate.com.au and domain.com.au. If you decide that you would like to rent an apartment of your own, you must be ready to provide proof of identity: the 100 point check is a personal identification system adopted by the Australian Government; proof of ability to pay (income or bank statement), previous rental history and references from a previous Property Manager. You must also be ready to pay a security deposit or “bond” and 2 – 4 weeks rent in advance. Your rent will not normally include the cost of food, electricity, internet, phone and other bills, and most apartments will be unfurnished.

If you would prefer to sublet you can look up share houses or apartments at:

► <https://www.realestate.com.au/share>

► <https://flatmates.com.au/>

All insurance companies offer rental or tenants insurance cover through their Contents or Home and Contents insurance packages. You can get a quick quote from most insurance company websites within minutes. The Insurance Council of Australia offers advice for tenants at:

► <http://understandinsurance.com.au/types-of-insurance/landlord-and-renters-insurance#tab-1>

Healthcare

International students in Australia are required to obtain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)/medical and hospital insurance to cover themselves during their stay. You must not arrive in Australia before your health insurance starts.

If your university arranges your OSHC coverage, you will need to know the name of your health insurance provider, the date that your policy starts and finishes and the terms and conditions of your policy. If you arrange OSHC coverage yourself you will also need to know the policy number to include in the visa application.

If you decide to organise your own Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) provider you can find a policy at a competitive price by comparing all Australian Government-approved providers in one place, buy your policy and have it in minutes while receiving your OSHC certificate within 24 hours at: <https://oshcaustralia.com.au/en>

FAQs on OSHC can be found at:

- ▶ <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud/more/health-insurance-for-students>

It is your responsibility to ensure that your health insurance is current at all times. Expired health cover is a violation of your Student Visa and might mean you have to pay expensive medical bills.

It's a good idea to have your eyes and teeth checked before you leave home. Dental work and eyewear are not covered under Overseas Student

Health Cover and are relatively expensive in Australia. You can purchase cover for these extra services for an additional cost.

In Australia, the universal number for emergency services is 000. In the event that you are sick, you can go to a General Practice surgery (your local GP), medical centre or emergency department of your local hospital but make sure you bring your OSHC policy details and photo ID with you. Most universities have an on-campus health services that offers staff and students a wide variety of medical assistance that will bill your OSHC provider directly if you are using the campus preferred insurance company. Otherwise you will need to pay for consultations, vaccines and equipment as you go.

Do not hesitate to ask Student Welfare Services on your campus for help finding the uni health service or your local doctor!



Some companies offering health insurance in Australia are:

Allianz

- ▶ <https://www.oshcallianzassistance.com.au/>

Medibank

- ▶ <https://www.medibank.com.au/overseas-health-insurance/oshc/>

AHM

- ▶ <https://www.ahmoshc.com.au/>

NIB

- ▶ <https://www.nib.com.au/overseas-students>

Australian way of Life

Life in Australia may not be what you're used to and you may experience some degree of culture shock as you adjust to different food, weather and social norms. When people think of Australia, they often think of Crocodile Dundee and the outback, but most people here actually live on the coast in urban environments. Australia has wonderful beaches but also snow-capped mountain ranges, rainforests and deserts.

Australians are generally very warm and friendly. Australia is among the happiest countries in the world (World Happiness Report 2017) and one of the safest countries in the world. And, Australians come from all over the world! Australia is very multicultural, with 1 in 4 people born overseas.

Summer in Australia can be a bit of an adjustment as temperatures reach mid 30s with 90% humidity and people wait anxiously for a thunderstorm or southerly wind to bring a cool change. Be sure to bring a wide brimmed hat, sunscreen and plenty of water with you when you go out on a hot summer's day. Wearing light linen and cotton clothing will also help.

To learn more about the experience of settling into Australian life, Danny Ong's The International Students' Handbook: Living and Studying in Australia is a great resource.

- ▶ https://www.newsouthbooks.com.au/books/the-international-students-handbook_living-and-studying-in-australia/
- ▶ <https://www.booktopia.com.au/the-international-students-handbook-danny-ong/prod9781921410758.html>

Employment

One of the most common questions that international students want to know is whether they can work while studying in Australia. The answer is a resounding yes!

Most student visas allow you to work for up to 40 hours a fortnight during the university semester, and unrestricted hours during the semester break. You can work in any sector including retail, hospitality, administration. Australian Fair Work legislation protects your rights as an employee to ensure that you are paid fairly and work in a safe environment.

- ▶ <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/visa-holders-and-migrants>

Many universities will also offer a careers service for students that can assist you in finding work while you are studying, as well as after graduation.

It's very important to find a job that won't interfere with your studies. In general finding part-time work that allows you to work around your on campus commitments is not too difficult, and is worth the effort as a way of generating some income, learning new skills and making new friends.

Arriving in Australia

When you first arrive in Australia it will probably be through one of the international airports. Many universities will offer a free airport pick up service to commencing students as long as you notify them 5 days prior. Otherwise you will need to take a taxi, shuttle bus, or train/public bus.

Your first week of university is called Orientation Week and is generally compulsory for international students. Orientation takes place two weeks before the teaching session starts and is designed to assist you in settling in to Australian university life. You will meet other students, teachers (academics), collect your student ID card and diary, take a campus tour and be introduced to a range of support services and facilities including information on enrolment and planning your timetable, setting up a university email address, accessing wi-fi and library resources.

Keeping in Contact with home

Moving to Australia likely means you are leaving family and friends behind with whom you will want to maintain regular contact. However in the age of smartphones this has never been easier! Texting, facetimeing and sending photos and emails from your phone means that you can stay in constant touch as if you had never left. There are a range of providers with budget conscious options for international students that also include international call options. See

► <https://www.finder.com.au/best-mobile-plans-for-students>

HIGHLIGHTS

If you want to double check how much your student visa is going to cost, there is a handy estimator online at: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1/500-?modal=pricing-estimator>.

Take a look at the student visa document checklist tool to ensure that you have all the information necessary to lodge a student Visa application: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/500-?modal=wet>

You need to organise student health insurance before you arrive in Australia.

You can work for up to 40 hours a fortnight while university is in session.

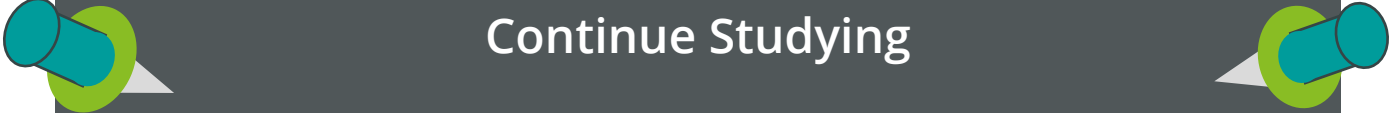
6

Completing your Studies

Right now, the last thing on your mind is what you're going to be doing after you graduate, but it is wise to begin thinking about it now.

What could I do after completing my degree?





Continue Studying

After completing your degree, you may decide to continue studying, such as an MBA, a medical degree or a law degree. If you do decide to continue studying you will need to extend your visa or apply for a new visa.

Applying for an MBA in Australia

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) is one of the most popular graduate level degrees in Australia. Many MBA candidates are successful professionals in their field, using the degree to gain advanced training in corporate leadership and management roles and/or to develop as an entrepreneur. Graduates of MBA programs can expect to earn significantly higher salaries than their counterparts without one, and gain valuable networking, career opportunities, professional credibility and global recognition.

Australian MBA programs are recognised internationally and are highly competitive. Most programs offer flexible study options whereby you complete the program part time over three to seven years or accelerate your study to finish in as little as one year. Some will even allow distance or online study.

To see a comprehensive ranking of Australian MBA programs, please see the following:

- <https://www.mbanews.com.au/mba-rankings/>

For direct entry into most MBA programs, you'll need an undergraduate degree or higher, be able to demonstrate English proficiency, and have a minimum of three years relevant work experience at a managerial or professional level. However there are some alternate entry pathways for students who don't have the qualifications or experience required, see

- <http://www.mbaguide.com.au/mba-alternative-entry-requirements/>

While MBA programs are offered throughout Australia, most programs are offered in major cities in close proximity to major financial centres as many academics teaching into this program have strong industry connections.

Worldwide demand for MBAs is growing at 12% a year, while an increasing number of jobs in Australia require the MBA.

Applying For A Medical Or Dental Degree In Australia

Many students like the idea of a career in medicine or dentistry, and Australia offers some very prestigious medical and dentistry schools.

Australia has 21 programs leading to the Doctor of Medicine leading to the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Medical Science (BmedSc), 11 programs leading to the doctor of medicine (MD or MChD); and 7 programs leading to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S), Bachelor of Dentistry (B.Dent), Bachelor of Dental Science (B.D. Sc), or Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science (B.O.H.D.Sc). Undergraduate medical degrees are usually five to six year programs, graduate entry medical degrees are four years, while the Bachelor of Dental Surgery takes five years.

Students wishing to see which programs are right for them can consult the following websites:

► <https://ama.com.au/careers>

► <https://www.ada.org.au/Careers>

Admission to Australian medical or dental schools is incredibly competitive. Before applying, students need to have completed Year 12 or an undergraduate degree, have medical volunteering experience, have the required University Admissions Index mark (UAI), completed pre-requisite science subjects at either high school or undergraduate level, taken the

Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) or Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admission Test (GAMSAT), and have attended a structured interview. Some universities will also require you to sit the International student admission test, see <https://isat.acer.org>. On average the MBBS program costs \$AUD75,000 per year of study.

When most medical students graduate, they receive provisional registration and enter the workforce as an intern for 12 months' training in a public hospital. However International student graduates are eligible to apply for the Commonwealth Medical Internship (CMI) program which trains medical interns in alternative settings, such as private hospitals, and in rural and regional Australia. Graduates of Australian medical and dental programs are highly sought-after professionals with an employment rate of almost 100%.

Applying For A Law Degree In Australia

Whether you would like to be a judge, barrister or solicitor, you must first obtain a law degree. Australian law is based on the English Common Law Code, and the courts are conducted on the English adversarial model. Australia has 37 law schools which offer a Bachelor of Law (LLB) which takes 3 – 4 years, a Bachelor of Law combined degree which takes 5 years, a postgraduate Master of Law (LLM) or Juris Doctor or Doctor of Jurisprudence degree (JD) which takes three years. Due to recent developments in undergraduate degrees, some universities will only permit law to be studied at postgraduate level, with the JD completely replacing the LLB. Law degrees are normally studied between March and October, full-time, for each year of the course. When you've completed your studies you will also need to undertake a period of practical legal training, rather like an apprenticeship for between three months to a year.

Law schools in Australia have highly competitive admission criteria, which may include a high ATAR or an undergraduate degree with minimum WAM (Weighted Average Mark) and/or an entry test. However as well as potentially being admitted to legal practice in Australia, your Australian law degree may be used as a basis for seeking admission in many overseas jurisdictions, and open doors for you in law firms, management consulting companies, banks, NGOs and government departments. To see a full list of Australian law schools and further information on admission, see

► <https://www.australianuniversities.com.au/courses/australia/study/law/campus/c/d/all-law/>

For advice on studying law and what to do when you graduate, see:

► <http://youveenteredlawland.com>



Progress to Employment in Australia

A lot of students enjoy studying in Australia so much that they are interested in staying on after graduation. In fact the plentiful post-study work opportunities are probably the main reason many students are attracted to studying in Australia in the first place. Depending on your qualifications and ambitions, it is likely that you will have some opportunity to stay on after you finish your studies. There are numerous resources including websites to help new graduates find employment, such as:

► <http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/>

Universities in Australia work closely with employers to help identify opportunities for their graduates. Most universities offer career counselling through their Career Services Offices and will help you connect with local employers. As you approach graduation, make an appointment with your on-campus career services team to receive specific information and advice on your situation.

► <http://www.graduateopportunities.com/university-profiles/>

Returning to your home country

Some students may wish to return home, bringing their Australian qualifications with them. Studies have shown that Australian graduates can expect to earn high starting salaries and are sought-after in many fields ranging from business to engineering to medicine.

Quick Links:

- <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud/post>
- <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/work/work/2018-changes-of-eligible-skilled-occupations>
- <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Work/Skil#tab-content-0>



Visas

If you are considering staying in Australia and working after your current visa expires, must obtain a new visa that will allow you to do this. You must therefore start planning at least six months before you graduate as you will need to either leave Australia before your visa expires, or lodge a new visa application.

If you completed a Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degree, you may be eligible for the Post-Study Work stream of the Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa. It has two streams: the Graduate Work stream and the Post-Study Work stream. The Graduate Work stream is for international students who graduate with skills and qualifications correlating to an in demand occupation listed on the government directory of eligible skilled occupations. This kind of visa is generally granted for 18 months. The Post-Study Work stream offers extended options for work in Australia to eligible graduates with a tertiary degree. Under this stream, successful applicants are granted a visa with a visa period from two to four years, depending on which educational qualification they have graduated with.

If you wanted to stay in Australia independently of employer sponsorship for a longer term or professional career, you can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) through SkillSelect which, if successful will lead to your being given an invitation to lodge a visa application or a state or territory government might contact you to discuss nomination opportunities. You will then have 60 days from the date of invitation to make a valid visa application online before the invitation expires.

HIGHLIGHTS

After graduation you have three options available to you: continue studying, return home or look for a job in Australia. Australia has a number of options for students wishing to remain in Australia post graduation which you can research on the Home Affairs website.

If you decide to apply for a medical or dental school in Australia you may need to sit the International Student Admission test, UMAT or GAMSAT. Many MBA programs offer alternate pathways so if you don't have the pre-requisites consider applying to one of these business schools instead.

If you decide to study law in Australia you can choose from a LLB, LLM or JD qualification depending on which university you apply to study with. It's worth doing your research well in advance of graduation so you are not limited in your post-study options.

