

# AUSTRALIA

## Fall Immersion



## 2012 Program Guide



# LINKS TO CONTENT

## Your UCEAP Network

- Local UCEAP Support ..... 1
- UCEAP Online..... 2
- Study Center Abroad ..... 2
- University Contacts in Australia ..... 3

## Academic Information

- Program Calendar ..... 4
- Academic Culture ..... 4
  - Academic Life ..... 5
  - Glossary of Academic Terms ..... 5
- Program Description..... 6
  - Course Information ..... 6
  - Independent Study, Research, & Internships ..... 7
  - Grades ..... 7

## Arrival & Orientation

- Travel Documents ..... 8
  - Student Visa ..... 8
  - Consular Health Requirement ..... 8
- Packing Tips ..... 9
  - Climate ..... 10
- Travel to Australia ..... 10
  - Financial Aid Students ..... 10

## Financial Information

- Understanding Your Finances ..... 11
- MyEAP Student Account ..... 11
- UCEAP Student Budget ..... 11
- Handling Money Abroad ..... 12
  - Financial Aid Students ..... 12
  - Banking ..... 12
  - Credit Cards..... 12
  - ATM Card ..... 12

## Communications Abroad

- Time Zones ..... 13
- Cell Phones..... 13
- Mail ..... 13
- E-mail ..... 13
- Computer & Internet Access..... 13
- Metric System ..... 13

## Housing & Meals

- Housing Options ..... 14
  - Important General Information: ..... 14
  - Residential Colleges..... 15
    - University-Owned or University-Affiliated
      - Apartments ..... 16
      - Off-Campus Apartments & Shared Houses ..... 17
- UCEAP Student Experiences ..... 19
  - The Australian National University ..... 19
  - The University of Adelaide ..... 19
  - The University of Melbourne ..... 19
  - Monash University ..... 19
  - The University of New South Wales ..... 20
  - The University of Queensland ..... 20
  - The University of Sydney ..... 20
  - The University of Western Australia ..... 20
  - University of Wollongong..... 20
- Meals ..... 21

## Extracurricular Activities

- Outdoor Activities ..... 22
- Activities at Each Host University..... 22
- Recreational Travel ..... 25
- Holidays..... 25
- Work in Australia ..... 26

## Health

- Medical Care..... 27
- Insurance ..... 27
- Sun Damage ..... 28
- Students with Disabilities..... 28

## Safety

- Crime & Prevention..... 29
- Police Response..... 29
- Civil Unrest ..... 29
- Criminal Penalties ..... 29
- Traffic & Transportation Safety..... 30
- Natural Disasters ..... 30
- Beach Safety ..... 30
- Australian Wildlife & Marine Life ..... 31
- Fire Safety..... 31
- Emergency Contacts..... 31
  - What Is an Emergency?..... 31
  - In an Emergency..... 31

The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,\* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University’s student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

\*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.



▶ Scan to get this guide on your Smartphone.

## YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

### Local UCEAP Support

#### Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientations, and academic advising; and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

#### UCEAP Systemwide Office

The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

**Program Advisors** provide academic and operational program information to you and your campus as well as administrative support for all aspects of your participation.

**Operations Specialists** manage the logistics of the program. They coordinate document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, acceptance and placement by host institutions, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements.

**Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies, review courses taken abroad for UC credit, and document your registration, grades, petitions and academic records.

**Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

### Contact Information

#### Program Advisor

Hugo Márquez

Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: [hmarquez@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:hmarquez@eap.ucop.edu)

#### Operations Specialist

Jeanie O'Connell

Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: [jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu)

#### Academic Specialist

Lisa Read

Phone: (805) 893-2810; E-mail: [lread@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:lread@eap.ucop.edu)

#### Student Finance Accountant

Annie Sikora

Phone: (805) 893-5928; E-mail: [asikora@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:asikora@eap.ucop.edu)

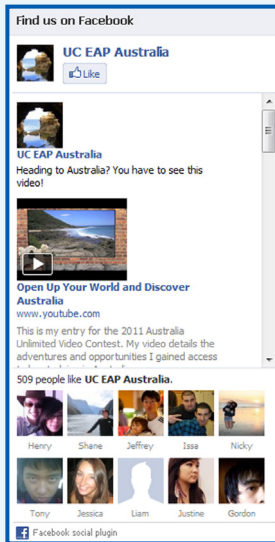
#### UCEAP Systemwide Office

6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200

Goleta, CA 93117-5823

Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583

► **Join the Conversation!**  
**Meet fellow UCEAP participants and alumni on Facebook.**



### UCEAP Online

Bookmark your **Participants** program page. This resource lists requirements and policies you need to know before you go abroad, including your Predeparture Checklist, *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets, and payment instructions.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the **UCEAP Australia page**.

### Study Center Abroad

Program Officer Kay Harnes administers programs in Australia from the UCEAP Study Center in Melbourne. Ms. Harnes routinely monitors local and international conditions and provides support, counseling, and safety advisories. Additional support is available at each host university. See **University Contacts in Australia** in this chapter for your primary host university contact.

UCEAP Study Centers are supported by UC, a network of UCEAP-affiliated offices at every UC campus, and the UCEAP Systemwide Office. The UCEAP network also includes U.S. embassies and consulates, the U.S. Department of State, and other international student exchange programs at each site.

### Contact Information

Ms. Kay Harnes, Program Officer  
 University of California  
 Education Abroad Program  
 Suite 1314, Level 3  
 530 Little Collins Street  
 Melbourne VIC 3000  
 AUSTRALIA

#### Phone

Calling from the U.S.: 011 61 3 9621 2718  
 Calling within Australia: 03 9621 2718

#### After-hours Emergency Cell Phone

Calling from the U.S.: 011 61 4 0831 7296  
 Calling within Australia: 04 0831 7296

#### Fax

From the U.S.: 011 61 3 9621 2728  
 From within Australia: 03 9621 2728  
 E-mail: [uceap1@gmail.com](mailto:uceap1@gmail.com)

### Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code ..... **011**  
*(dial this to call outside the U.S.)*  
 Australia country code..... **61**  
 Melbourne city code ..... **3**  
 Cell phone code..... **4**

### Approximate Time Difference

Add 17 hours April through October;  
 add 19 hours November through March

## University Contacts in Australia

Do not communicate directly with these representatives until you have been referred to a host university by the UCEAP Study Center.

### The Australian National University, Canberra

Claire Hughes  
Student Mobility Program  
Division of Registrar and Student Services  
Pauline Griffin Building 11  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
Phone: (02) 6125-0735; Fax: (02) 6125-5550  
E-mail: [studyabroad.info@anu.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad.info@anu.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00120C

### The University of Adelaide

Sarah Oakey  
Study Abroad and Exchange  
Adelaide Abroad, International Office  
The University of Adelaide  
Adelaide SA 5005  
Phone: (08) 8303-8220  
Fax: (08) 8303-3988  
E-mail: [sarah.oakey@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:sarah.oakey@adelaide.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00123M

### The University of Melbourne

Joel Wittwer  
Education Abroad Advisor  
Melbourne Global Mobility  
Level 1, Old Geology  
The University of Melbourne  
Victoria 3010  
Phone: (03) 8344-9787  
Fax: (03) 9348-2054  
E-mail: [jwittwer@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jwittwer@unimelb.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00116K

### Monash University

Sarah McNamara Argles  
International Education Coordinator  
Monash Abroad  
Monash University | Building 10, Level 1  
Clayton VIC 3800  
Phone: (03) 9905-8250  
Fax: (03) 9905-8334  
E-mail: [Sarah.McNamara.Argles@monash.edu](mailto:Sarah.McNamara.Argles@monash.edu)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00008C

### The University of New South Wales, Sydney

Elena Sinitsyna, Coordinator and Student Advisor  
Global Education Office and Student Exchange  
UNSW International  
Level 2, East Wing, Red Centre Building  
The University of New South Wales  
Sydney NSW 2052  
Phone: (02) 9385 5339; Fax: (02) 9385 5927  
E-mail: [elena.s@unsw.edu.au](mailto:elena.s@unsw.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00098G

### The University of Queensland, Brisbane

Karen Fisher, Study Abroad and Exchange Advisor  
International Marketing and Recruitment  
JD Story Building, Room 225  
University of Queensland  
Brisbane QLD 4072  
Phone: (07) 3365 1768; Fax: (07) 3365 1794  
E-mail: [k.fisher@admin.uq.edu.au](mailto:k.fisher@admin.uq.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00025B

### The University of Sydney

Chi Chi Huang, Study Abroad and Exchange Adviser  
International Office, Study Abroad & Exchange Unit  
Level 4, Jane Foss Russell Building (G02)  
The University of Sydney  
Sydney NSW 2006  
Phone: (02) 8627-8325  
Fax: (02) 8627-8390  
E-mail: [chichi.huang@sydney.edu.au](mailto:chichi.huang@sydney.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00026A

### The University of Western Australia, Perth

Carolyn Wood  
International Centre  
University of Western Australia  
Nedlands WA 6009  
Phone: (08) 6488-2298; Fax: (08) 9382-4071  
E-mail: [carolyn.wood@uwa.edu.au](mailto:carolyn.wood@uwa.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00126G

### University of Wollongong

Erin Buchanan  
Study Abroad and Exchange Office  
Student Central, Building 17  
University of Wollongong  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
Phone: (02) 4221-3170; Fax: (02) 4221-3499  
E-mail: [studyabroad@uow.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@uow.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No.: 00102E

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*It was an incredible year that opened my eyes to cultural diversity—even within another English-speaking country! With the importance today of global education, this was a phenomenal way to learn about career possibilities I never fathomed.*

*Most important is the opportunity to see the world from a different perspective. Small interactive tutorial groups provide detailed knowledge about the topic. It's different and useful to see the world from a non-American point of view.*

*The work-demands brought the quality of my writing and research skills to a new level, and interacting in tutorials shed a whole new light on Australians' views about controversial issues, politics, and life.*

”

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Please see the [Academic Information](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* for critical academic information and policies, including unit requirements, taking less than the program requirements, the MyEAP Study List registration process, changing courses, petitions, and grades. While abroad, direct all academic questions to the Australia Study Center Program Officer first, with one exception: direct any questions regarding satisfying home department degree or major requirements through UCEAP coursework to your home UC department or college advisor.

Australian faculty and staff can be helpful in understanding how your host university works. Remember, however, that they work with students from many North American colleges, and they are not responsible for knowing specific UCEAP academic requirements or exceptions. The person who can answer those questions is the Melbourne-based UCEAP Australia Study Center Program Officer, who is in close contact with all Australia UCEAP partner universities. Contact her to resolve any academic (or other) concerns, confusion, questions, or difficulties throughout your program. You should also let her know about any issues that may impact your academic performance (illness, housing problems, personal issues, anxiety, or similar concerns) throughout your time in Australia.

### Program Calendar

Review the **program calendar** often. Dates are posted online as they become available.

The academic year runs from February to late November or early December, depending on your host university. Fall program participants will begin the program in the second term of the Australian academic year.

### Academic Culture

► Visit the [Australia page](#) to learn more about your host university.

Studying at an Australian university will complement your UC studies in a number of challenging ways. Australian undergraduate education is run more like American graduate education. There is much more specialization at the undergraduate level and students at Australian universities are expected to work much more independently than are those in the U.S. Australian students often begin specializing in their major area (“course”) in high school, so they may be more advanced than UC students in the same grade level.

Students typically attend lectures and tutorials (usually small discussion groups). During tutorials, which are often led by the instructors rather than by TAs, you will take short tests, write and analyze papers, and discuss lectures and readings. Instructor office hours often immediately follow the tutorials. Advanced classes frequently follow a seminar format.

The normal undergraduate degree program is a three-year program; students generally study courses only in their major (known as their “course”) for all three years. Since third-year courses in Australia correspond to fourth-year advanced courses for UC majors, they generally require more previous knowledge and coursework than those at UC. Be careful about enrolling in “honours” courses; they are often intended for students entering graduate programs in that discipline.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

All my professors and tutors were very approachable, helpful, and understanding when I went to them, especially when I was clarifying what was expected on assignments.

The professors' friendliness and helpfulness made a significant impact on my ability to comprehend and succeed in my classes.

Taking environmental courses from Australia's viewpoint was amazing. It made me realize the importance of multi-national cooperation for global gain.

”

**Academic Life**

Australian upper-level courses tend to be highly specialized and designed for advanced students; such courses demand strong writing skills and greater academic independence than may be the case at UC. Most courses involve little or no evaluation until the end of the semester; in many cases, performance on exams or papers completed during the last two weeks of the semester determines all or most of your grade. The library at each host university may stock copies of previous exams, which will be useful in outlining what you are expected to learn.

Courses do not automatically provide specific reading assignments, midterm exams, detailed instructions on what is expected in written assignments, or advice and practice questions in preparation for the final exam. Textbooks are not assigned in many courses. Classes meet for relatively few hours except in the laboratory sciences. Instead, you may get a long reference list or reading list with little guidance about what items are most important or how to use it to study for exams and write papers.

Because your grade may be based on assignments or exams late in the term only, you will have to discipline yourself to manage your workload throughout the term. Students sometimes are happy to have nothing due for six or eight weeks, but mistakenly think that this means they do not need to work and study throughout this time. Instructors expect a level of work that reflects independent work throughout the semester, not a week or weekend of cramming at the end.

Keep in mind that your Australian classmates are culturally adapted to studying within this system, and they are used to successfully managing their time to balance studies with clubs, sports, and socializing. They may appear relaxed and may not seem stressed about their workload, but most are steadily working throughout the semester to prepare for their final exams.

In general, Australian faculty expect that students seeking top grades will go beyond what is required and take advantage of all the resources provided. They are generally quite friendly and helpful to students who seek guidance, but they expect students to take responsibility for their own education, rather than waiting until the last minute.

**Glossary of Academic Terms**

In America...	In Australia...
Major	Course
School/College (e.g., School of Engineering)	Faculty
Course (e.g., History 40a)	Unit/topic/subject/class
Professor/Faculty Member	Academic Staff, Lecturer
Grades	Marks
College/School/University	Uni

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*The Biomedical Science Department at the University of Wollongong is excellent and has a lot to offer that I don't think any UC could compare to. There is more emphasis on presentations and seminars than research papers or exams—this was a new experience.*

*Most grades are based on essays. Make sure you start relatively early and avoid a big headache. You really have to work for your grades. It's not easy.*

”

## Program Description

Each term, you will enroll in regular host university courses in your major or related fields, as well as special interest courses relating to Australia or other areas of interest.

## Course Information

You are required to take a full-time course of study and enroll in a minimum of 24 UC quarter units each term. The usual course load is four classes per semester (there are very few year-long courses), but this depends on the university and the courses selected (see chart below). First-year Australian courses will usually appear on the UC record as lower division, while second- and third-year courses will typically translate to upper-division courses at UC. Consult your department advisor regarding the background required for particular courses, especially those offered at the third-year or honours level.

UCEAP will give you considerable flexibility when it comes to planning an academic program, but be sure to inquire thoroughly about course prerequisites. Follow the advice of the host university International Office staff on course difficulty and course load. However, remember that they advise all visiting students and are not responsible for knowing specific UCEAP requirements. If you receive guidance that seems to contradict what you've heard from any UC or UCEAP staff, contact the UCEAP Study Center Program Officer. She will either clear up any confusion, or refer you to the correct person.

In addition to registering at your host university, you must also complete your MyEAP Registration Study List. The Program Officer will guide you through this process and advise you of deadlines for course changes and petitions. Be sure to read all e-mails from her during the registration process and review your final Study List carefully, as it determines how your Australian courses will appear on your UC transcript.

**Australian program requirements are 24 UC quarter units each term, which is equivalent to:**

Host	Points/Units	Usually...
La Trobe University	60 units	Four 15-unit courses
Monash University	24 points	Four 6-point courses
Australian National University	24 points	Four 6-point courses
University of Adelaide	12 points	Four 3-point courses
University of Melbourne	50 points	Four 12.5-point courses
University of New South Wales	24 points	Four 6-unit courses
University of Queensland	8 units	Four 2-unit courses
University of Sydney	24 units	Four 6-unit courses
University of Western Australia	24 points	Four 6-point courses
University of Wollongong	24 points	Four 6-point courses



## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*My UWA Arts Practicum exceeded my expectations. I've learned a lot about theater that I just couldn't learn in the classroom, no matter how much theory I studied. I recommend it to students interested in gaining real world experience with an academic slant. The one hundred hours required is a lot of work, but well worth it for the practical experience acquired.*

”

### Independent Study, Research, & Internships

You may consider an independent study or research course where you conduct research with a host university professor, or an internship for course credit. For example, UCEAP students in Australia have recently done research with faculty members in plant biology, computer science, and sociology, and have interned at public schools and arts museums. You will need to work out the academic details with the appropriate host university or internship institution individuals and then receive approval from the Study Center. While many Australian universities have their own courses in which you may register for independent study or research, you may be required to complete a Special Study Project form. The Program Officer will guide you through this process.

Two exciting internship opportunities include the Australian National Internship Program (ANIP), offered through the Australia National University (ANU), and the University of Western Australia's (UWA) Arts Practicum.

Students participating in [ANIP](#) are placed in internships within the Federal Parliament, Australian Public Service, the Australian Capital Legislative Assembly or Public Service, or with non-governmental organizations. Most recently, a UCEAP student participating in ANIP was placed with the ACT Legislative Assembly, a state-level parliament in Australia.

As part of UWA's [Arts Practicum](#) (an internship open to all majors), you complete a minimum of 100 hours of work on a project with an organization, attend two workshops and a debriefing session, and write a report on your placement. If you want to participate in this opportunity, contact the Arts Practicum Coordinator.

A variety of organizations have hosted students in the past, ranging from *The West Australian* to the WA Industrial Relations Commission. Check out the [gallery](#) of previous practicum placements or list of host organizations for more information. The Arts Practicum requires a Special Study Project form and is only offered on a P/NP basis.

### Grades

The Study Center adjusts Australian marks to UC grades because instructors in Australia do not grade on a curve. Thus, a passing grade is a mark of 50 percent. However, the lack of curve also means that it can be difficult to get the very highest grades.

For more information about grades, see the [Academic Information](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

► Additional information about passports, visas, or other required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and in the [UCEAP Predeparture Checklist](#).

## ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

### Travel Documents

#### Student Visa

To enter Australia and study there, you must obtain a student visa. The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship offers online visa applications for U.S. citizens participating in a one-or two-semester program abroad. The online process is available only to citizens of the U.S., Norway, and Sweden.

Non-U.S. citizens should contact the Australian embassy in Washington, D.C. to learn about special entry requirements related to their citizenship. The application process for non-U.S. citizens can take much longer than it does for U.S. citizens.

After you have been selected as a UCEAP applicant and referred to a host university by the UCEAP Study Center in Australia, your completed application will be forwarded to your host university for consideration. The host university will process your application and, if approved, will issue you an acceptance letter. You must verify that you accept the offer by returning the university's acceptance form per their specific instructions. Once the host university receives your signed acceptance form, their international admissions office will issue you an electronic Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) number. With this electronic CoE number you can apply online for your student visa.

Consult the Australian [Department of Immigration and Citizenship](#) for detailed information and instructions about the student visa application process.

#### Consular Health Requirement

During the e-visa application process, you may be notified by the online system that you must complete a consular health clearance requirement. This is unrelated to the UCEAP Health Clearance and forms, which are not accepted for this purpose. If you are told to complete this health requirement, you must comply. If you are notified that you must get the health exam and chest X-ray, take action quickly, get the exam done, and send the required medical forms to the embassy without delay. If you have a serious medical condition or suspect that you have been exposed to TB, you may want to use the "long form" of the student visa application from the start, completing the consular health clearance right away. If you choose this longer paper application process (not available as an online process), UCEAP can give you more information about the forms needed for the medical exam and required chest X-ray.

You can contact the Embassy of Australia at the address below:

The Embassy of Australia  
1601 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036-2273

**Phone:** (202) 797-3000

**Visa information:** (905) 280 1437

**Fax:** (202) 797-3168

**Web:** [www.usa.embassy.gov.au](http://www.usa.embassy.gov.au)

## Packing Tips

### Recommended

- Outerwear for wet and cold weather
- Sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and swimwear
- Clothing that can be layered
- Equipment, shoes, and clothing for sports or recreational activities
- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, tampons, etc.) for the first several weeks
- Cosmetics (as many of your favorites as you can pack; they are expensive in Australia)
- Towels
- A sleeping bag is highly recommended for travel and for use as a comforter during cold weather
- Laptop

### Do Not Pack

- Small electrical appliances such as hair dryers and electric toothbrushes (these cannot be used in Australia)
- Meat, vegetable, or nut products; Australia has very strict quarantine laws

### Miscellaneous

When traveling always keep your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money with you. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Leave extra credit cards at home and carry only what is necessary. Luggage and weight restrictions vary by airline.

Although your [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) offers coverage on lost or destroyed property, you should assess the Personal Property Benefit provided in the policy and verify that it is adequate for your needs.

Identify each item of luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. To avoid theft, never leave luggage unattended. Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them and customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.

Travel light and pack your belongings in suitcases and backpacks that are small enough to lift and carry; you may have to lug them up and down narrow stairways for the first several days after arrival.

Neat, casual dress is generally adequate for all but the most formal occasions. The universities hold various balls during the year. Formal wear is required for these events, but it can be borrowed or purchased at secondhand shops.

The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad. Australian clothing costs are very high and selection is much more limited than in the U.S. Hair and toiletry items are also significantly more expensive in Australia.

## Climate

Australia's climate ranges from tropical to cool temperate. Seasons are reversed: summer begins in December and winter begins in June. The long Australian summers range from warm to hot over the entire continent. Winters are generally mild, although Canberra, Melbourne, and Adelaide are among the colder areas.

The months of June through September are generally colder, with the temperature dropping into the 30s (Fahrenheit) fairly often at night in Melbourne and Canberra. Frost and snow are rare. During winter, overcast conditions and frequent brief rains are common. In mid-winter, Canberra experiences the most sunshine, Melbourne and Adelaide the most rain, and Sydney the cloudiest days. Brisbane and Sydney are humid. Melbourne is known for having all four seasons in a day. October and November have variable weather, but the temperatures are generally mild and pleasant.

## Travel to Australia

Arrange to arrive at your host university by the "Last Date to Arrive" listed in the [UCEAP program calendar](#). You must make your own flight and travel arrangements to arrive at your host university for their mandatory orientation program. Many universities recommend arriving early to acclimate, find housing, etc. If departing from the West Coast, be sure to allow two calendar days for the flight.

You are responsible for reserving and purchasing your own airline ticket (even if you are on full financial aid; the Financial Aid Office will not provide this service). Be sure to make round-trip arrangements; the visa application requires a return date. You are strongly urged to purchase a changeable airline ticket. Standby tickets are not appropriate.

Because flights are sometimes changed or canceled, you are urged to confirm your flight schedule online or with the airline about two weeks before departure.

The start date of your program can change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred if you make an adjustment to your travel arrangements.

## Financial Aid Students

Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Australia. If your travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

► It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after your program is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
- UCEAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while abroad (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid?)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

### MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your UC campus financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. You can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). The fees that you owe UCEAP will be applied to your account after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP. For the amount due to UCEAP prior to fees being posted on your account, refer to the UCEAP Student Budget Payment Vouchers. Program fees are subject to change.

### UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your [UCEAP Student Budget](#).

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. Review your UCEAP Student Budget frequently. The Payment Vouchers are on the second page of the UCEAP Student Budget.

#### Instructions

- **Download** and **print** your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign this person up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you will be receiving financial aid, see also the [UCEAP Financial Assistance](#) web page.

## Handling Money Abroad

You can exchange \$50 to \$100 into Australian currency at a U.S. bank before you leave, or you can plan to access an ATM at the airport when you land. International airports offer money exchange services, but ATMs are the most convenient and economical way to obtain Australian dollars.

Australian currency is made of colorful plastic; bills of different denominations are different sizes. There are no pennies; amounts are rounded up or down automatically to the nearest 5 or 10 cents.

## Financial Aid Students

You should be knowledgeable about your program fees and understand how your financial aid will be applied toward these fees. Disbursements are issued only after you accept and approve the financial aid package and pay the required fees. If you are in the year program, it is your responsibility to contact the UC Financial Aid Office to apply for financial aid for the upcoming academic year or fall semester.

## Banking

You can open a savings or checking account in Australia. Banks are located on or near all university campuses.

Australian checking accounts are more costly than those in the U.S. and are based largely around online bill paying. Paper checks are not widely used. To open an Australian bank account, you need “100 points” of ID documents, a prescribed point system of valid identification.

## Credit Cards

Many stores and restaurants honor major credit cards, particularly Visa and MasterCard, but small stores and restaurants only accept cash. Australians often use a PIN on credit cards, rather than signing. U.S. credit and debit cards usually charge a 1–3 percent exchange fee for international purchases, so check with your bank for details.

## ATM Card

UCEAP returnees report that the most convenient way to obtain cash is through an ATM. Check on the fees imposed by your bank for using the card internationally as well as the fees imposed by the Australian ATM.

- Approximate time difference: add 17 hours April through October; add 19 hours November through March.
- Most students get cell (mobile) phones, and there are many different carriers in Australia.

## COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

### Time Zones

Australia is almost one day ahead of California. When Australia is on daylight saving time and California is on standard time (November through March), Australia is 19 hours ahead of California. The time differential becomes 17 hours when California goes on daylight saving time and Australia goes on standard time. There are three time zones in Australia (eastern, central, and western) during the winter months. Eastern standard time (EST) is used in Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, and Wollongong. Adelaide, which is in the central standard time zone, is one half hour behind EST. Perth, which is in the western standard time zone, is two hours behind EST. There are five time zones in Australia during the summer months since Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory do not observe daylight saving time.

### Cell Phones

Most students get cell phones, and there are many different carriers in Australia. It may be cheapest to buy a SIM card in Australia rather than getting set up for global roaming. Check that your phone is not locked, preventing it from accepting a different SIM card

### Mail

Mail service within Australia is comparable to other world postal operations, and airmail service to the U.S. is good. Airmail letters to the U.S. arrive in about one to two weeks, while air parcels can take longer. There is no Saturday mail service in Australia.

### E-mail

You can apply for an e-mail account when you enroll at your host university, but not in advance. Some universities may charge for access. You will be responsible for checking both your UC and host university e-mail accounts. Many students use an independent e-mail provider (e.g., Gmail) and have their university e-mails forwarded to that account.

Take with you or know how to access the fax and e-mail addresses of your UC academic advisors, Financial Aid Office, and Campus EAP Office.

### Computer & Internet Access

Although many students bring laptops, most campuses have computers for student use. Internet access is more limited in Australia. Students pay for the amount of broadband they use (rather than unlimited access once broadband is purchased in the U.S.). Some students find that a USB wireless broadband card is the most efficient way to get Internet access, especially if they live off campus.

### Metric System

Measurements are metric in Australia. Highway signs (distance, speed control, etc.) are expressed in kilometers, weather forecasts predict temperatures in degrees Celsius, weights are expressed in kilograms or tons, and liquid volume is measured in liters.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“  
Making Australian friends and having Australian roommates will have a major impact on your experience.

”

## HOUSING & MEALS

First, please be well aware that you are responsible for selecting, securing, and paying for your semester housing, even if you are on financial aid. Semester housing for the Australia program is not prearranged and it is not included in your UCEAP fees (see your budget under the Money Matters tab, which can be found on the Participants web page).

Each university has a housing office where you can obtain information about on- and off-campus housing. While it can be very practical to live in the university halls of residence or other university-managed facilities, past UCEAP students have also rented private flats (apartments) and shared rental houses. These vary in quality and cost and are at a premium near the universities, but most students have reported good experiences with private rentals.

University-specific housing information is usually included with the acceptance letter/packet that is sent to you by your host university (most send these electronically). If housing information is not included, you can 1) contact the host university directly to request the information, and 2) see the host university's web page on housing and accommodations for international students (links provided in following sections).

In the next sections you will find some general information about university-managed accommodation and private rentals in Australian university towns and cities, including a comparison of on- and -off campus housing features. Most of the notes addressing the specific host universities' housing options are based on direct input from past and recent UCEAP students.

### Housing Options

You have three broad housing options: 1) residential colleges, 2) university-affiliated apartments, and 3) off-campus housing (flats or shared houses). Each option has advantages and disadvantages, and all are discussed on each university's housing website. Look for detailed housing information in the acceptance letter you receive from your host university. At many of the universities you can apply for housing *before* acceptance. If this is an option at your host university, you should go ahead and apply as soon as possible to increase your chances of getting campus housing. Offerings and circumstances change, so be sure to check all information online or with your host university.

### Important General Information:

- Know that most Australian students live at home while attending university. Students do not travel away to attend university unless they live in rural areas where there aren't any universities. This means that there isn't an American-style dorm life. Many of the students who live on campus are from other countries (Australia has a large proportion of non-Australians enrolled in degree programs).
- Be careful about how far away a rental may be from university. Distances often take much longer to travel than in most of California. There are few highways and a lot of traffic. For instance, a 5-mile commute in Melbourne can easily take 45 minutes or more on public transport.
- It makes more sense to live on campus in some locations than others. Students at The Australian National University, La Trobe University, The University of Western Australia, and University of Wollongong often prefer on-campus housing for a variety of reasons, including location and a difficult housing market.



## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*Residential colleges are convenient because they're on campus and often provide food and cleaning, and you don't have to deal with roommates. Everyone is friendly and the students range in age.*

”

For general off-campus rentals and shared housing, you can reference the following websites, however, local housing offices and bulletin boards are usually a better option for students.

- [Gumtree.com](#) (similar to Craigslist)
- [Realestate.com.au](#) (select **Rent** or **Share**)
- [Domain.com.au](#) (select **Rent** or **Share**)
- [Quokka.com](#) (browse by **House and Home/Real Estate**, then by **Houses/Flats to Let**, or **Flatmates and Board**)
- [SabbaticalHomes.com](#) (aimed at faculty, but sometimes useful)
- [EasyRoommate.com](#) (need to register, may need to pay)

For on- and off-campus housing, see your host university housing website:

[The Australian National University](#)

[The University of New South Wales](#)

[La Trobe University](#)

[The University of Queensland](#)

[Monash University](#)

[The University of Sydney](#)

[The University of Adelaide](#)

[The University of Western Australia](#)

[The University of Melbourne](#)

[University of Wollongong](#)

## Residential Colleges

### Advantages

- You can set up housing in a residential college before you leave the U.S. and likely move straight in when you arrive.
- Most residential colleges are on campus or in close proximity to it.
- Almost all residential colleges have one student per room.
- Most provide academic facilities, like computing, support, tutoring, and general help learning about available facilities (library, gym, banks, etc.), public transport, places to go, and special deals.
- Nearly all have social, cultural, and sporting programs, which are usually good to outstanding.
- The friends you make may have cars, which can introduce opportunities like camping and excursions; some may be from rural areas and invite you home for the break.

### Disadvantages

- Residential colleges are usually the most expensive option.
- Often, the residents are also international students, which makes meeting Aussies challenging.
- Many students may be first-year students living away from home for the first time.
- There may be rules or restrictions you don't like.
- You may not like the food; it may be inferior to UC dorm food and there may be only one main dish option per meal.
- Eating hours tend to be more restricted than at UC. A few colleges, however, are self-catering (each floor or suite has a kitchen, you can buy your own food, and cook individually or in groups).

**UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...**

“

*I stayed at a residential college on campus for the first semester. When I moved off campus I was much happier. Looking back, I don't regret my time on campus and would recommend doing it for one semester and moving off campus for the second semester.*

”

You may encounter “Fresher” initiation during O-Week. Although new student initiations are something that universities in Australia do not endorse, they exist in varying degrees at different residential colleges. While some UC students find these activities harmless, others may be disturbed by the rituals that take place at the beginning of the school year and/or semester at some residences and may see these as hazing. Keep the following in mind:

- 1) Participation is not required; you can freely choose to opt out of such practices.
- 2) If you feel threatened at any time, contact Kay Harmes at the UCEAP Study Center, the College Dean of Students, and/or the International Office of your host university.

**University-Owned or University-Affiliated Apartments****Advantages**

- You can set up housing before you leave the U.S. and likely move straight in when you arrive.
- Almost all university-owned/affiliated apartments are close to campus.
- They are cheaper than colleges, but still more expensive than off-campus housing.
- Some provide extra facilities, like computing or Internet connections.
- It can make social life easier, since your neighbors will also be students.
- You will have more freedom and fewer required or expected activities than in the residential colleges.

**Disadvantages**

- Some (not all) are a poor value for the cost, with small rooms, maybe two in a room, cumbersome and unresponsive management, inadequate cooking facilities (e.g., a hotplate), extra charges for phone, Internet, and laundry, etc.
- There may be rules you don't like (curfew, noise, guests) imposed by management without consultation.
- The social life may be minimal, with no programs, rooms too small for guests, and no common areas. Again, many students will likely be international and first-year students, as well as some graduate students.
- The duration of the housing contract may be a full year. Before signing, ask questions and be fully informed about the cancellation policy.

► Rental rates in Australia are usually listed by the week, not by the month.

## Off-Campus Apartments & Shared Houses

### Advantages

- Usually, this is the cheapest option with the most freedom and your own room.
- Kitchen/cooking facilities and common areas are adequate and there are no restrictions with guests.
- Good roommates can become close friends and introduce you to their friends. If they are Australians, they may know good places to go and can generally ease you into the local life.
- Many students felt that getting the housing they really wanted was worth the inconvenience of not knowing where they would live in advance.

### Disadvantages

- It's challenging to set up off-campus housing before arriving in Australia; it's usually best to see the place and meet your roommates before committing to a living arrangement (a bad roommate can dominate your life).
- Australia has some shoddy apartments and gouging landlords, just like the U.S.
- Apartments are often unfurnished, although student flats and shared houses will be furnished.
- If you are arranging this type of housing in advance, be sure to check with the host university about the actual distance from campus.
- Prices can be high the closer you get to the university.
- You need to be very careful with the lease, which may cover a period of time longer than you need. Read the contract thoroughly before signing, especially with regard to any penalties involved in canceling or shortening the length of the lease.
- You may need to get utilities (phone, water, electricity, gas) turned on.

### How to Get Off-Campus Housing

You can prearrange to stay in a hostel or an inexpensive place for a week or two while searching. University housing services are very helpful, and some provide places to stay or leads to them (e.g., youth hostels). They also have bulletin boards (and the locations of others), regular meetings where you can get tips or meet potential roommates, and plenty of good advice.

Most students find acceptable-to-excellent places and roommates in about a week or two. Public transport is better in most Australian cities than in the U.S., so you can easily live a mile or two from campus. Many students move into a shared place that already has furniture. If you do not select a furnished apartment, you may find roommates that already have furniture or buy it from secondhand stores.

Some UC students stay together. This can be a great option, but know that if you travel in a group of Americans, you may be more immediately comfortable but you are less likely to make friends with Aussies.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*My flatmates definitely added to my stay in Australia. They taught me so much about real Aussie culture. They also helped me find furniture and a job. They proved to be great travel companions and a capable support system.*

”

Your best resource once abroad will be your host university housing services. Housing services can give you advice about housing options, leases, and your rights as a tenant. They'll provide maps, recommended suburbs, and estimates on what things should cost and good deals. The people in those offices are often local tenants themselves, so they are sympathetic and informed. (A few universities will block you from some parts of their housing website unless you have a student ID, but you should still be able to find enough information without the blocked sections.)

Ideas for finding off-campus housing:

- Take the search seriously and plan 1–2 weeks of serious research to find the best, not the first, option.
- Before you come, arrange to stay for a few nights in a college, youth hostel, or other inexpensive place. Some universities offer short-term housing as well. Resources:

[YHA Australia](#) (youth hostels)

[The Backpack Group](#) (Australian hostels)

[Wotif.com](#) (Australian accommodation, often at discount rates)

[Stayz Holiday Accommodation](#) (holiday/short-term rentals)

- Talk to your host university housing office.
- Don't insist on being a short walk from the university. A 15–30 minute trip by bike or public transport might get you something cheaper and better. What you save on rent may be much higher than the transport cost, but don't go so far that you rarely see your friends and spend too much time commuting.
- Find out about the safety of suburbs. Ask locals or Kay Harmes at the UCEAP Study Center in Melbourne.
- Make sure public transport will get you safely to your home at whatever hours of the day or night you may be using it. Note that trains and trams don't run around the clock.
- Usually, the best deal will involve roommates. If at all possible, meet them before signing an agreement. Good housemates are as important as good housing.
- The more research you do, the better your chances. Apartment rentals often come up only 15–30 days in advance, so it can be hard to arrange something ahead of time.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*I was surprised that most Australian students lived at home while attending university.*

”

## UCEAP Student Experiences

These notes are based on recent student experiences. Take them with a grain of salt, because student experiences are subjective and vary greatly. Some students love the same housing that others hate, and situations and options change each year (e.g., new chefs, new management, etc.).

### The Australian National University

Nearly all students have lived in residential colleges or privately owned student accommodations such as the Uni Lodge. ANU exchange students are guaranteed accommodation. ANU's colleges have more out-of-town Australians than others, which students usually like. Good things are said about Johns (private) and Burgmann (ANU-owned), which have very strong extracurricular programs (sports and non-sporting activities), as well as Bruce Hall and Burton and Garran (ANU), which is self-catering. All four of these housing options are on campus. Uni Lodge is right on the edge of campus and very close to Civic (downtown Canberra).

### The University of Adelaide

Most of our recent students have lived off-campus, in shared houses. A few have lived in a university-affiliated apartment.

**Shared Housing:** Cheap, easy to get. The university has a housing bulletin online for finding rooms and roommates. There are also poster boards all over campus, especially in Union House.

**University Apartments:** It has a good location with big rooms.

### The University of Melbourne

Many students live in a university-affiliated apartment complex. Students report favorably about RMIT Village, but still note that the rooms are small and not deluxe by any means.

Students who lived in residential colleges liked them, though it took a while for some to make friends, and some hazing practices were reported. Some thought that the expense of College Square or on-campus housing wasn't worth it. Students who chose off-campus housing were usually very happy with it, though some dealt with anxiety while still searching.

### Monash University

Nearly all UCEAP students live in colleges on or very near the Clayton campus. It takes about an hour to get to downtown Melbourne by public transport. An alternative is to live near the Monash University Caulfield campus, about halfway to Melbourne and linked to Clayton by a free bus or a train and bus trip. There is no university housing there.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

UNSW: Tell people that they WILL find housing!

At Queensland I lived in the International House residential college. This was a great place to meet Australians as well as people from all over the world.

”

**The University of New South Wales**

**Residence Halls:** Students usually liked the experience, although many didn't like the dorm food. Many of the students are first-year students, and UC students sometimes didn't enjoy being surrounded by 18-year-olds looking to party all the time.

**University-Owned Apartments:** These can be full of exchange students. It can be easy or hard to meet people, depending on your roommates.

**Study Abroad Office Rentals:** Has a system for renting apartments in nearby Coogee. Varied quality. You end up with other study abroad students.

**Off-Campus Housing:** Arrive with time to look for places because Sydney has a tight housing market. The International Center is very helpful, as are bulletin boards (e.g., in grocery stores).

**The University of Queensland**

Most of the recent students have lived in shared houses off campus. Some have stayed in university apartments, which are convenient and close to campus. It isn't uncommon to commute for 30+ minutes to get to the UQ campus. There have been some concerns about hazing issues at UQ colleges.

**The University of Sydney**

UC students largely live off campus (on-campus housing can be tough to get), but sometimes in residential colleges or university-affiliated housing. Students report relatively favorably about International House and Sydney University village, but they can be expensive.

**The University of Western Australia**

Nearly all students live in UWA residential colleges. The housing market is exceptionally tight in Perth.

**University of Wollongong**

Nearly all students live in residential colleges. Students report that the university apartments are occupied mostly by Australians, and they have more of an apartment feel than that of a residential college.

## Meals

Restaurants and cafés are plentiful and widely varied in cuisine, ambience, and price range. Many are closed on Mondays. Reservations (bookings) are essential on weekends at popular establishments. It is easy to find vegetarian meals.

Inexpensive food is usually available in “milk bars” or takeaways. Sandwiches are available at many small shops during lunch. Most cities also have covered markets several days a week where you can purchase fresh produce, meats, and specialty foods.

Guides to dining out, which are updated frequently, are sold at newsstands and bookshops. The Cheap Eats guide series is a useful reference.

## Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Australia. Australians tip only for exceptionally good service and not as a general rule. In a good restaurant, one might tip 10 percent of the bill. Taxi drivers may be tipped, but it is not expected. Tipping barbers or hairdressers is entirely up to the customer. Rounding up to the next dollar is often an adequate tip.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Don’t make judgments about the cultural differences you’ll encounter. The most difficult thing to adjust to was the slang they use. My advice is to just ask if you don’t understand.”

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as [Lonely Planet](#), are excellent resources. You can keep up with current events by reading Australian newspapers online as well.

Once you are abroad, participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while abroad is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community. Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Residential colleges typically offer more opportunities for organized activities than you might find if you live off campus.

Student discounts are available for most commercial films, performances, and exhibitions with a university ID card. Student discounts are also available on public transit through concession fares. Your host university will provide information about concession cards during the international student orientation.

### Outdoor Activities

You’ll find lots of opportunities in Australia for hiking (called bushwalking), mountain climbing, nature walks, orienteering, sailing, bird watching, beach activities, and water sports. Every university has a variety of sports and outdoor clubs. Joining one or more clubs provides an opportunity to make new friends as well as participate in affordable outings and rent sports equipment, which is often expensive to buy in Australia. Expect to pay sports union membership fees and user fees for facilities such as gyms and swimming pools, unlike at UC campuses.

### Activities at Your Host University

#### The Australian National University, Canberra

Located in the Australian capital city of Canberra, ANU is home to an eclectic mix of natural and manmade beauty. Canberra’s capital city status makes it a hub of multicultural activity and political action. The campus is surrounded on all sides by a variety of natural landscapes such as Lake Burley Griffin, Black Mountain, native bushland, and the garden-themed suburb of Turner. With all these exciting areas to explore it may be easy to overlook the wide range of specified and engaging extracurricular activities provided by ANU’s Sport & Rec Association and the ANU Students’ Association. From rowing and cricket to theatre and the choral society, ANU provides many opportunities to meet and connect with other students.

#### La Trobe University

Located in the Melbourne suburb of Bundoora and adjacent to The Melbourne Wildlife Sanctuary, La Trobe University provides a variety of extracurricular activities for students to enjoy. Life in Melbourne provides many cultural activities, with a particularly vibrant performing arts scene. The campus puts on art exhibitions in each of its three art museums, hosts formal balls, and even puts on free BBQs and breakfasts. In addition to that, more specified social activities can be found by joining one of the many clubs on campus, from the academic and artistic to the political and economical, La Trobe certainly has something to interest everyone.



## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Expect everything to be different—even the utility bills.

*I experienced some derogatory remarks about being American as well as some sexual harassment from men. You must be able to stand your ground and be strong.*

”

**Monash University, Melbourne**

Monash University’s location in Melbourne allows you to enjoy the buzz of city life and all it offers, as well as the tranquility of its many gardens and parks which has earned it the title of “Australia’s garden city.” Due to its prolific cinema history and as the birthplace of Australian television, Melbourne is host to many film festivals and is also famous for its street art. In addition to all Melbourne has to offer, you can choose from any of the 47 sporting clubs on campus or get involved with one of the on campus TV stations. These are just some of the activities student life at Monash University provides.

**The University of Adelaide**

Campus life at the University of Adelaide provides a wide assortment of activities to enjoy, from campus clubs and sports societies to enjoying a meal or live music at the Unibar. In addition to the thriving on-campus life, UoA’s location in the city of Adelaide gives you the opportunity to enjoy and explore what was dubbed “The Most Livable City in Australia” in 2011. Adelaide is known as the wine and festival capital of Australia, with festival subjects ranging from cabaret and food to literature and politics.

**The University of Melbourne**

The University of Melbourne, located in Parkville, an inner suburb of Melbourne, provides an exciting and enriching life for students, both in the city and on campus. In a study conducted by the University of Melbourne’s Student Union, students praised the campus’ inner-city location, in addition to its wide range of cultural and social activities. An emphasis on sports clubs can be found here, with two health centers on campus, as well as the student newspaper *Farrago*, and a variety of theatre clubs. The location within Melbourne allows you to enjoy the buzz of city life and all it offers, as well as the tranquility of its many gardens and parks which has earned it the title of “Australia’s garden city.” Due to its prolific cinema history and as the birthplace of Australian television, Melbourne is host to many film festivals and is also famous for its street art.

**The University of New South Wales, Sydney**

Found in the Sydney suburb of Kensington, the University of New South Wales is a short distance from several parks and zoos, including the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Sydney Aquarium, as well as museums, performing arts halls, cinemas, and annual festivals for music. Students may also find time to participate in one of Australia’s favorite pastimes or go to a sporting event at the Sydney Football Stadium, the AZN Stadium or the Royal Randwick Race Club. UNSW’s close proximity to Coogee Beach provides the opportunity to enjoy the surf and sun while golfing, bushwalking, and even scuba diving. Markets can be found near the campus, providing the opportunity to taste local dishes and shop for handcrafted goods. In addition to all the city has to offer, UNSW has over 150 clubs suited to almost any interest, whether academic, political, religious or cultural. A variety of student publications, from cookbooks to newspapers, allow students to find their inner author and share thoughts and ideas with one another.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“ Spend more time listening and learning about their culture than talking about your own. Although sharing is important, most Australians know way more about our culture through TV, movies, fast food, etc., than we know about theirs. ”

**The University of Queensland, Brisbane**

Beautiful Brisbane provides a perfect blend of cosmopolitan city life and Australia’s country charm. The campus provides a variety of cultural events for students, including performances by students in the theatre and music halls, film screenings, as well as access to museums and art galleries. UQ was the originator of the Three Minute Thesis, a competition that encourages undergraduate students to conduct research and present it in 180 seconds, honing their research and presentation skills. In addition to the academic and entertainment facilities on campus, there are many student organizations and clubs that will enrich your study abroad experience. Brisbane itself rests on the banks of the Brisbane River and provides everything you could want from city life, with parks, museums, theaters, and restaurants all readily available to enjoy.

**The University of Sydney**

Located in the heart of Australia’s most famous city, The University of Sydney’s neo-gothic campus is host to hundreds of student clubs and organizations and also houses several museums and galleries to enjoy. Public transport by rail and bus from campus makes it easy to discover Sydney and enjoy all the city has to offer, from the shopping and markets, to beaches and outback farms. Student life at UoS offers access to a multitude of cultural and scientific museums. On-campus bars offer a relaxed coffee shop atmosphere during the day, and comedy and poker events at night. In addition to the casual events around campus, organized clubs and societies are offered, from book and anthropology clubs to music and sports associations.

**The University of Western Australia, Perth**

One the oldest universities in the state of Western Australia, the University of Western Australia in Perth is located by the Swan River and Perth’s financial and business center. This central location puts you right in the bustle and vibrancy of the hub of the city. In addition, there are a variety of clubs and activities on campus, and the on campus bar “Tavern” hosts local and nationally touring bands every Friday during the semester. The UWA Student Guild hosts events throughout the school year as well, including carnivals and balls.

**University of Wollongong**

In coastal Wollongong, you can enjoy the coastal Australian lifestyle, with metropolitan Sydney just 80 km away. Scenic beaches perfect for surfing abound and botanical gardens around the city have also earned acclaim. The University of Wollongong has many activities for students to get involved in on campus as well: aspiring writers can find their niche writing for one of the universities many campus publications, while film lovers may enjoy the UniMovies club. Sports associations and clubs are readily available, as well as live music and theatre performances by student groups and organizations.

► The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad.

## Recreational Travel

You can travel within Australia by air, bus, or rail. Air services are excellent and among the best and safest in the world. [WebJet](#) lists all domestic flights for comparison. Note that baggage can cost extra, some discount airlines impose additional fees (e.g., Tiger), and if flying through/to Melbourne, be sure to fly to Tullamarine, not Avalon airport. When purchasing your international ticket, just book one ticket to your final destination. Otherwise, if you book a domestic Australian flight separate from your international one, you will be subject to harsher domestic baggage restrictions and can be forced to pay hundreds of dollars in excess baggage charges.

Low-cost bus service is available throughout the country. Buses are clean, safe, and punctual, and they are used by Australians for national travel. Trains are fast, clean, and comfortable.

It is wise to book all forms of travel in advance, especially around holidays. School holidays occur periodically throughout the academic year, increasing the demand for transportation and accommodations.

**Do not hitchhike.** Although it may seem to be the norm in Australia, hitchhiking is dangerous and unpredictable. Use reliable transportation to get to your destination.

## Hostels

There are various kinds of international youth travel associations and youth hostel associations in Australia. For information, see the [YHA Australia](#) website.

## Holidays

Australian national holidays include the following:

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Australia Day (January 26)
- Good Friday (before Easter)
- Easter Monday
- ANZAC Day (April 25)
- Queen's Birthday (proclaimed, usually in June in most states)
- Christmas Day (December 25)
- Boxing Day (December 26)

In addition to national holidays, Australians observe the following state holidays:

### Australian Capital Territory

- Canberra City Day (proclaimed, March)
- Labour Day (first Monday in October)

### New South Wales

- Labour Day (first Monday in October)

### Queensland

- Labour Day (first Monday in May)

### South Australia

- Labour Day (second Monday in October)
- Proclamation Day (December 28)

### Victoria

- Labour Day (second Monday in March)
- Melbourne Cup Day (first Tuesday in November; metropolitan Melbourne only)

Other holidays include bank holidays and occasionally extra holidays proclaimed over the Christmas break. Universities and most businesses usually close between Christmas and New Year's Day.

## Work in Australia

Your student visa allows you to work while studying in Australia. Once you have begun your program of study in Australia, you can work up to 20 hours per week while your host university term is in session and unlimited hours during scheduled semester breaks.

► In addition to the following section, read the **Health** chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

## HEALTH

### Medical Care

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact your host university's international center and the Study Center in Australia immediately. The international student services at your host university can assist if arrangements need to be made with your professors for an extended absence from class, and can also provide assistance with finding doctors, resolving health issues, etc.

Excellent public and private medical facilities are available in major cities. Regional health services with good standards are available in rural areas. Once in Australia, you will get information about local health services during your host university's international orientation. Coverage is effective during the authorized period of stay.

### Services

University medical services, including counseling services, are usually available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at your host university. You can fill prescriptions at chemists (pharmacies). Many medications are subsidized by the government. Private doctors and hospital outpatient departments usually require payment at the time services are rendered.

### Medical Emergencies

Australia has a high level of professional emergency medical services. By dialing 000, any person can obtain emergency medical assistance throughout most of Australia. Ambulance service staffed by certified emergency medical technicians is the standard throughout most of Australia.

► Carry your medical insurance information with you at all times.

### Insurance

While abroad, you will be covered by two insurance policies, as follows:

1. **Australian Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC):** The cost for OSHC is included in the UCEAP fees (unless you are attending UNSW; as UNSW will instruct, you must pay independently for the OSHC).

Australia's Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires all holders of a student visa to maintain their OSHC for **the full length of their visa**. You will receive the instructions and paperwork necessary to obtain your insurance card at your Australian university's orientation. If you do not receive the application or insurance card during orientation, contact the international office at your host institution. Further information about health insurance for international students in Australia is available on the [OSHC Worldcare website](#).

2. **The UCEAP Insurance Plan:** The UCEAP Insurance Plan is required. The premium is paid by the University Of California. You can find detailed information in the [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) brochure.

## Sun Damage

Australia has a very high skin cancer rate. The sun will feel much more intense than in California. Pack or plan to immediately buy sunscreen (SPF 30+, broad spectrum and water resistant protection), a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. Pack or purchase a rash guard for protection at the beach (even the lifeguards wear long sleeves in Australia). Check the UV index and UV Alerts on the weather page of most Australian daily newspapers. For more information, review the [Sun Smart](#) campaign by Cancer Council Australia.

## Students with Disabilities

Australia has and enforces laws prohibiting discrimination for access of premises, facilities, and accommodation. Keep in mind, however, that many of the downtown areas of Australian cities were built in the 1800s, and they often have narrow sidewalks crowded with pedestrians and tourists. Also, many of the tourist spots at the beach or in the outback may have varying degrees of accessibility. Generally speaking most public transit, parking, streets, and buildings are accessible to disabled travelers. Modern accessibility improvements include ramps, tactile indicators, and audible street crossing indicators. Many websites offer information on accessible hotels, motels, and rental properties. Parks, gardens, stadiums, and other public venues often have accessibility information on their websites.

► In addition to the following section, read the [Safety](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

## SAFETY

### Crime & Prevention

Australia is a politically stable country. Serious security problems are uncommon, although the crime rate is gradually increasing, especially in certain areas of larger cities. Use common sense and take security precautions similar to those observed in any major Western country.

There is a general threat from terrorism in Australia. Attacks cannot be ruled out and may be indiscriminate.

Most parts of Australia have a low crime rate. Metropolitan areas experience a higher incidence of violent and petty crime. Street crime is relatively rare, but pickpockets and thieves frequent certain districts in each major city.

- Avoid poorly lit and crime-prone areas, especially at night.
- Be alert for thieves in some inner-city areas and at deserted public transport depots.
- Use common sense and take personal security precautions the way you would in any major Western country.
- Use caution at transport hubs after nightfall. Consider using taxis rather than public transportation at night. There have been some reports of late-night violence, especially at suburban train stations. Avoid deserted areas late at night.
- Guard personal belongings; do not leave property unattended. Be particularly careful with personal possessions and travel documents in cities and popular tourist destinations.

Check U.S. Department of State [travel information](#) before planning travel to nearby countries.

### Police Response

Police capabilities are generally excellent in urban and suburban areas throughout Australia. Officers are trustworthy and responsive. Police response may be slower in remote areas.

### Civil Unrest

Although strikes and protests are relatively common in various Australian cities, they rarely turn violent. Environmental and anti-globalization groups are fairly large and influential in Australia. They periodically organize protests in major cities, but these events do not typically cause many problems other than traffic disruptions.

### Criminal Penalties

While you are in Australia, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. While you are abroad, U.S. laws do not apply and your citizenship will not protect you if you break local laws. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from the U.S. It is important to know what is legal and what is not wherever you are going. Australian authorities will take action against anyone who imports or is found to be trafficking illegal substances. Prosecution can lead to a lengthy jail sentence and non-Australian nationals are usually deported at the end of their sentence. Deportation may lead to a ban on returning to Australia for several years. Laws, and the penalties for breaking them, can differ from state to state.

## Traffic & Transportation Safety

Make sure to **look to your right** when crossing streets as a pedestrian. Traffic operates on the left side of the road, and all vehicles use right-hand drive. Use caution when crossing streets. When crossing roads on foot, make sure you look carefully in all directions.

Roads and streets are frequently narrower and less graded than U.S. highways. Basic safety on Australian roads is considered to be excellent.

“Drink” (i.e., drunk) driving is treated very seriously in Australia, with regular traffic stops that include breathalyzer tests for alcohol and swabs for drug use.

Public transportation in Australia is comparable to most Western industrialized cities. As a precaution, always remain alert if you are unfamiliar with the local crime situation. In larger cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, buses and commuter trains and their stations can be havens for thieves and pickpockets. Keep loose items such as cameras, maps, and purses within a larger and securable carrying bag in front of you. Taxis are safe but occasionally difficult to find during high-demand time periods.

## Natural Disasters

Australia is prone to seasonal natural disasters including tropical cyclones, flash flooding, dust storms (outback areas), and bushfires (forest fires common in the summer months from November to February). Tropical cyclone season occurs mainly in Queensland, Northern Territory, and Western Australia. It normally runs from November to April.

You can access the [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#) website for updates.

## Beach Safety

Rip currents are the leading surf hazard for all beachgoers. They can occur at any beach and can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

To enjoy Australia’s beaches safely, take the following simple precautions:

- Always swim between the red and yellow flags, which indicate it is a supervised location where a lifesaving service is currently on duty.
- Do not swim at unsupervised locations.
- Read the safety signs; they indicate current and typical hazards for that location.
- Ask a lifeguard for advice—they are there to provide safety advice and make your experience safe and enjoyable.
- Always swim with a friend; never alone.
- Never swim after consuming alcohol or drugs, which would impair your ability and judgment and put your life at risk.



## Australian Wildlife & Marine Life

Australian fauna can be dangerous. From jellyfish off the Great Barrier Reef to crocodiles, sharks, poisonous insects, and snakes, the continent and its waters host wildlife that merit awe and respect in equal doses. Review the [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#) visitor information guide for facts on [Australian wildlife](#) and [marine life](#). While swimming, take important safety precautions, swim only between the flags where a lifeguard is present, and never swim alone.

## Fire Safety

Know all exits. Practice escape plans. Read the [Fire Association Protection Australia](#) fact sheet on 10 Steps to Home Fire Safety. Inform yourself by reading the [Fire Safety](#) section in the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

## Emergency Contacts

### What Is an Emergency?

An emergency is a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. The following are considered emergencies:

- Any life/death situation
- A traumatic event requiring immediate assistance
- An arrest
- Civil unrest or natural disaster in the host country

### In an Emergency

Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

#### If you are in the U.S.

- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact your Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

#### If you are abroad

- Contact local emergency services first (in Australia **call 000**) and then contact the Study Center.
- Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency call Kay Harmes at **0408 317 296** after first dialing 000.
- You should also call your host university international office emergency number. Because the UCEAP Study Center is in Melbourne, your host university can often provide immediate, local assistance.

If you have a health, travel, or safety emergency and do not have access to local or UCEAP representative emergency information, contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, available 24/7:

- **Call international collect:** 1+202-828-5896
- **Call within the U.S.:** 1+866-451-7606
- **E-mail:** [ops@europassistance-usa.com](mailto:ops@europassistance-usa.com)