

AUSTRALIA

Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology University of Queensland Fall Semester



2012 Program Guide



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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

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Operations Specialist

Jeanie O'Connell

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Academic Specialist

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Student Finance Accountant

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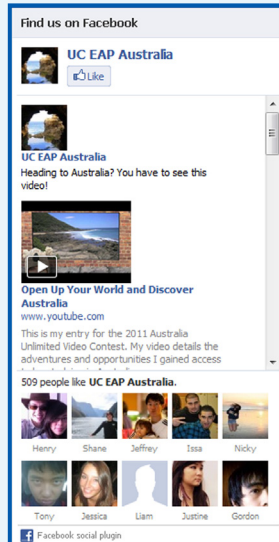
UCEAP Systemwide Office

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- **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 & On-Site Support Abroad

UCEAP programs in Australia are administered from the Study Center in Melbourne by Program Officer Kay Harmes. On-site support in Queensland is available from the faculty and staff of the University of Queensland Biological Sciences Department. Both offices routinely monitor local and international conditions and provide support, counseling, and safety advisories.

Contact Information

In Melbourne

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University of California
Education Abroad Program
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AUSTRALIA

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Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code011
(*dial this to call from the U. S.*)
Australia country code.....61
Brisbane city code.....7
Melbourne city code3
Cell phone code.....4

Approximate Time Difference

Add 17 hours mid-March through October
Add 18 hours November through mid-March

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

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

The most important aspect of my academic experience was my ability to participate in field courses. These courses gave me valuable hands-on experience that I know I'll apply in future classes and after graduation when I look for a job.

It's more hands-on work and papers than preparation for tests and midterms.

It's a lot of information, but it's easy to understand if you apply it out in the field.

Though it was a very intensive program and I learned a lot, it was designed so well and was so enjoyable that I didn't realize how much I was learning until it was over!

The teachers, tutors, field trips, and other students blended together to make an unforgettable experience.

The group projects, contact with the professors, and field trips were amazing.

”

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

University of Queensland

Founded in 1910 as one of the early metropolitan universities in Australia, the University of Queensland is an attractive campus in a bend of the Brisbane River in St. Lucia, fewer than five miles from Brisbane's central business district. The university comprises faculties of Arts; Business, Economics, and Law; Engineering, Architecture, and Information Technology; Health Sciences; Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterinary Science; Science; and Social and Behavioral Sciences. It enrolls more than 45,000 undergraduate students from about 134 countries. This global student body enriches the cultural diversity of campus life and presents opportunities for international networking.

The University of Queensland is known for high-quality coursework; excellent museums (an anthropology museum, an antiquities museum, and an art museum with the largest university collection of Australian art anywhere); and its marine research stations at the Great Barrier Reef, Heron Island, Pinjarra Hills, and Moreton Bay. It recently was selected by the Rotary Foundation to host one of six new global centers for peace and conflict resolution.

University of Queensland's School of Biological Sciences

The University of Queensland's School of Biological Sciences helps to coordinate the University of Queensland's research and teaching focusing on the ocean, coast, estuaries, and reefs, as well as rain forest, outback, and urban environments.

Queensland is home to diverse marine systems, including coral reefs, rocky shores, beaches, salt marshes, mangroves, and sea grasses. The region's rich variety of life includes a multitude of invertebrates and fishes, marine turtles, dolphins, dugong, and whales. The teaching and research programs cover the full range of organisms and environments.

The Faculty of Science coordinates activities at Heron Island Research Station, the largest research station on the Great Barrier Reef; Moreton Bay Research Station, a modern facility on Stradbroke Island in Moreton Bay; a suite of vessels of various capacities; and an aquaculture facility located a few kilometers from Queensland's main campus. The Center for Marine Science (CMS), operating within the School of Biological Sciences, integrates marine teaching and research for the university departments of Anatomical Sciences, Anthropology, Agriculture, Botany, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Earth Sciences, Economics, Geographical Sciences and Planning, Law, Microbiology and Parasitology, Management Studies, Physics, Tourism, and Zoology and Entomology.

Biologists affiliated with the School of Biological Sciences study the nerves, sensory systems, circulatory systems, physiology, reproduction, behavior, and parasites and pathogens of marine vertebrates and invertebrates from the tropics to the Antarctic. Ecologists at the center investigate the pelagic, littoral, and benthic plant and animal communities of Australia's reefs, coasts, estuaries, rivers, and lakes with particular focus on identifying key ecological processes, environmental impact, and the sustainability of marine and aquatic resources. Specialists in aquaculture assess the economics of culture systems, the detection and treatment of pathogens and parasites, and the optimal rearing conditions for crustaceans, mollusks, fish, and reptiles; they also investigate the properties of potential culture organisms. Economists and management

specialists investigate fisheries, econometrics, and the use of coastal lands for tourism, aquaculture, natural systems management, environmental law, conservation, marine rehabilitation, and marine parks. Research on maritime and international law of the sea targets oceans policy, governance conventions, maritime boundaries, crime, and conflict resolution. CMS engineers and physicists deal with fluid dynamics, wave mechanics, coastal and estuarine environmental processes, waste treatment, water quality, biotechnology, the discovery of natural products for commerce, the geology and chemistry of reefs and the seabed, climatology, oceanography, physical geography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, and environmental planning.

The University of Queensland has made a considerable investment in its high-quality marine teaching and research functions, and its marine research facilities meet world-class standards. A wide range of advanced research programs are led by the university's dynamic academic staff.

Program Description

UCEAP's Marine Biology and Human and Terrestrial Ecology Program consists of lectures, laboratory studies, and extensive field study at the Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef, the Moreton Bay Research Station, Carnarvon Gorge in Australia's Outback, and Lamington National Park rainforests. The program is designed for juniors and seniors with backgrounds in marine biology, ecology, environmental science, oceanography, conservation biology, marine engineering, and related fields.

Assessment and Evaluation

A mix of continuous assessment, reports, and exams are used. An assessment of your participation in field and class activities will be included. For each course, you will complete up to two each of written reports on field-based projects, essays, and 90-minute written tests. The requirements vary by course. The essays are based on a topic of your interest which is finalized following discussion with the course coordinator. The essays may be in-depth examinations of specific topics or integrative approaches to general topics. Resources of the university's Biological Sciences Library will be available to provide access to relevant literature.

Teaching Staff

The program is taught by academic and research staff of the University of Queensland and its affiliates. All staff have prior experience and a record of excellence in research and undergraduate teaching in their fields.

Textbooks

You will have full library access during the program. There are no recommended textbooks that need to be purchased.

Grades

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

Course Information

You will enroll in two courses spanning 12 weeks of instruction and totaling 21 UC quarter units. The prominence of each course will alternate throughout the program.

Courses include:

- Marine Biology (13 UC quarter units)
- Human and Terrestrial Ecology (8 UC quarter units)

Course Syllabi Samples

The following are course descriptions and lecture topics from past years. Some items may be changed for the current year.

Marine Biology (13 UC Quarter Units)

This course is specifically designed for University of California students who have at least an intermediate level of familiarity with the biology and ecology of marine organisms, sampling techniques, sampling theory and experimental design, and statistics; however, students with only a little of this knowledge are encouraged to apply. The program combines background knowledge of Australian marine systems and maritime resources with advanced concepts and exercises in marine biology.

The program will take you from the rich diversity of the estuarine and coastal systems around Moreton Bay to nesting turtles at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. A combination of lectures and field-based instruction with essays and research reports provides an advanced understanding of tropical marine biology and ecology with particular emphasis on comparisons of temperate Pacific Ocean systems. Fascinating field trips consolidate information on other aspects of Australian ecology and life and make the program an intensive and diverse teaching and learning package that is unique in Australia.

Students participate in two marine biology field trips. The first takes place at the Moreton Bay Research Station on North Stradbroke Island, and includes the exploration of the major marine environments on the island, including seagrasses, mangroves, rocky shores, sandy beaches, and subtropical coral reefs. At the end of the program, a second field trip focuses entirely on excellence and problem solving in marine research. It takes place at the Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef. At the research station, you will participate in class-based activities that introduce the geomorphology, island ecology, management, marine biology, and ecology of coral reefs. Following these activities, you will conduct a research project with a group and present your results. Research reports are prepared to international journal manuscript standards.

Lecture Topics:

Subject to change based upon faculty availability.

- Introduction to Marine Environments
- Diversity and Biogeography of Australian Marine Organisms
- The Shaping of the Australian Coastline
- Structure of Marine Plant Communities
- Primary Production in Tropical Estuarine Systems
- Physico-Chemical Influences of Estuarine Productivity

- Seagrass Macrograzer Ecology
- Managing Moreton Bay
- Endangered Aquatic Environment
- Australian Cetaceans
- Tropical Plankton and Pelagic Processes
- Subtropical and Tropical Estuarine Trophic Webs
- Sublittoral Benthic Communities
- Intertidal Rocky Shore Communities
- Intertidal Sand and Mud Shore Communities
- Moreton Bay 1: Physical Environment
- Moreton Bay 2: Ecology
- Toxic Cyanobacteria in Moreton Bay
- Nekton Nurseries in the Tropics
- Sensory Modalities of Fish
- Larval Recruitment in Estuaries
- Subtropical Coral Communities
- Estuarine Shark Populations
- Seabirds of Australia
- Origins and Geology of Coral Reefs
- Geomorphology of Coral Reefs and Coral Cays
- Corals in Space and Time
- Parasitism and Symbiosis in Reef Systems
- Coral Biology
- Coral Defense and Spatial Relationships
- Marine Flora of the Great Barrier Reef
- Primary Production in Reef Systems
- Reproduction, Dispersal and Recruitment in Corals
- Energy Pathways in Reef Systems
- Colour and Vision in Coral Reefs
- Are Coral Reefs Dying?
- Grazing in Reef Systems
- Poisonous and Venomous Animals: Human Health
- Why are Reef Fish so Diverse?
- The Reef's Predators
- Toxic Repertoires of Reef Organisms
- Australian Fisheries

- Effects of Fishing
- Marine Pests
- History and Management: Australian Marine Resources
- Australian Mariculture
- Marine Protected Areas and Bioregionalisation
- Legislative Frameworks for Marine Resources: Part 1
- Legislative Frameworks for Marine Resources: Part 2

Recommended Reading:

- *Great Barrier Reef* (Reader's Digest Travel Guide).
- *Wild Guide to Moreton Bay: Wildlife and Habitats of a Beautiful Australian Coast—Noosa to the Tweed*, Peter Davie, Brisbane, Australia: Queensland Museum, 1998.
- *The Ecology of Fishes on Coral Reefs*, Peter Sale, ed., San Diego: Academic Press, 1991.

Human and Terrestrial Ecology (8 UC Quarter Units)

This course examines the unique terrestrial flora and fauna of Australia. It is designed to equip you with a basic familiarity with the biology and ecology of terrestrial ecosystems in Australia (which can thus be compared and contrasted with ecosystems in the Americas). You will examine how the defining physical factors of the continent, such as climate and geology, have resulted in a distinctive Australian vegetation; explore how these physical factors and plant life have in turn influenced the evolution of Australia's animals; and consider the interrelationships between Australian ecosystems and human cultures, both Aboriginal and contemporary. The combination of lectures, extended field trips, field-based study, and writing tasks will help you to develop knowledge of Australia's unique terrestrial and freshwater environments and provide you with the field observation skills to investigate them. The ultimate aim of the course is to encourage you to bring a new perspective to terrestrial ecology.

A field trip to Carnarvon Gorge National Park will introduce you to what Australians call "the bush," the characteristic Australian vegetation adapted to poor soils, unpredictable rainfall, and a fire-prone environment. At Carnarvon Gorge, you will also experience close encounters with unique Australian animals such as kangaroos and kookaburras, and see one of the finest galleries of Aboriginal rock art. A trip to Lamington National Park (Binna Burra) introduces the world heritage Australian rainforest, and emphasizes the biological legacy of Australian prehistory and the ancient super-continent of Gondwana. The bushwalks at Lamington are considered some of the finest in Australia, and you will be hiking among rain forest waterfalls and exhilarating mountain scenery.

During the terrestrial ecology component of the course, you will be writing a literature review on an Australian habitat—a scholarly, essay-based writing task designed to complement the scientific report writing skills developed during the Marine Biology course. You will also be completing a book of terrestrial fieldwork, which includes an independent project based on your observation of Australian wildlife.

Lecture Topics:

Subject to change based upon faculty availability.

- What Makes Australia Different?
- Introduction to Australia's Geology
- Introduction to Australia's Climate
- Introduction to Botany: How do Plants Work?
- Introduction to Plant Ecology in Australia
- Ecology of Fire in Australia
- Ecology of Sclerophyll Vegetation in Australia
- The Significance of Australian Rainforests
- Vegetation of the Dry Australian Inland
- The Future Eaters: The "Big Picture" in Australian Ecology?
- Critically Reviewing the Future Eaters Theory
- Introduction to Zoology in Australia
- Introduction to Australian Terrestrial Invertebrates
- Introduction to Australian Reptiles and Amphibians
- Introduction to Australian Mammals
- Introduction to Australian Birds
- Australian Ecosystems: Exploitation and Conservation
- Astronomy of the Southern Skies
- The Ecology of Natural Tropical Riverine Ecosystems
- The Distribution and Ecology of Tropical Lake Systems
- The Impacts of Invasive Species on Tropical Lake and River Systems
- The Dynamic Ecologies of Australian Man-made Lakes

Recommended Reading:

- *A Natural History of Australia*, Tim M. Berra, San Diego, CA: Academic Press, 1998. A well-illustrated introduction to Australian landscapes, flora, and fauna.
- *Wildlife of Greater Brisbane*, Michelle Ryan, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 2007. An excellent photographic field guide to the most common invertebrates, frogs, reptiles, birds, and mammals you are likely to see in Southeast Queensland.
- *In a Sunburned Country*, Bill Bryson, New York: Broadway Books, 2001. Fun and easy to read; a great introduction to get you thinking about what makes Australia different.
- *The Future Eaters: An Ecological History of the Australasian Lands and People*, Tim Flannery, New York: Grove Press, 2002. A well written, easy-to-read overview of Australian ecology, including thought-provoking ideas that will come up in lectures.

PREPARATION

Online Registration with UQ

Well before departure, the School of Biological Sciences will forward you information about the online registration form. You must register as they instruct and provide your flight itinerary, medical or dietary requirements, homestay preferences and relevant general information. This information is used to assist with program planning, logistics, and to help determine the best homestay family placement for you.

Educate Yourself

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

- ▶ Additional information about required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and in the UCEAP online [Predeparture Checklist](#).
- ▶ The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad. Australian clothing costs are very high compared to the U.S. and selection is much more limited. Hair and toiletry items are also significantly more expensive in Australia.

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Visa

You must obtain a tourist visa for this program. The UCEAP Systemwide Office posts instructions for the application process to the Predeparture Checklist located on the [UCEAP Participants page](#).

Packing Tips

Must Have

- Pants, sweaters, jacket for cold and rainy weather (the temperature can drop below 50°F)
- Light clothes for summer months (humid weather, temperatures 70°F to 105°F with occasional heavy rainfall)
- Hat
- Sunscreen—SPF 30 or higher
- Sunglasses (polarized glasses are recommended)
- Smaller bag or backpack for daytrips (e.g., day bush walks)
- Sleeping bag (for some field trips)
- Towel
- Prescribed medication (enough for the whole trip) and a copy of the prescription to show to customs
- Spending cash or ATM card (ATMs are widely available)
- A few extra passport-sized photos

Field Trip Requirements

- Headlamp
- Waterproof coat/jacket
- Long shirts, pants, and socks for forest work
- Comfortable, enclosed shoes or boots for hiking
- Mosquito repellent (can also be purchased in Australia)
- Water bottle
- Swimsuit
- Rash guard or old T-shirt for water activities
- Reef shoes or old running shoes to wear during fieldwork on the reef
- Field notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, inexpensive calculator, and ruler
- Diving mask is needed if you wear glasses or contact lenses; otherwise, these are provided along with fins and a wetsuit

Optional

- Bring snorkeling gear if you wish; this can also be provided on the island (most dive or snorkeling equipment can be rented as part of your dive package when you dive with a commercial operator)
- Mobile (cell) phone
- Laptop

- Digital camera (with charger)
- MP3 player or iPod
- Electrical converter and plug adapters; Australia runs on 240 volts (these can also be purchased in Australia)
- A few small, lightweight, typically American gifts for your host family

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

Climate

Australia's climate ranges from tropical to cool temperate. Seasons are reversed: summer begins in December and winter begins in June.

This program begins at the end of the Australian winter, just after the spring equinox (a time of rapid climatic change and variable weather patterns). Although uncommon in Brisbane, it is possible that temperatures might approach freezing some nights. Otherwise, the weather in Brisbane at this time is very much like that of coastal California—cool evenings and warm, dry days. As the program moves toward late spring and early summer, the climate shifts; a rise in humidity and temperature is accompanied by evening thunderstorms. The climate at Heron Island, which you will visit at the end of the program, will certainly be warm and humid. Pack serious sun protection; you will be coming from milder conditions in California to Australia's fierce sun. Rainfall in the area is unpredictable; it's best to be prepared for rainy weather.

Travel to Queensland

Check the program calendar for the details of the program. Note that the last date to arrive in Brisbane and get settled in your homestay is **August 27, 2012**. The first UCEAP orientation session will begin the morning of August 28. Attendance at orientation is mandatory.

Shortly before the program begins, you will receive details from UQ Biological Sciences regarding the transfer service taking you from the airport to your homestay.

The start date of the program could change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. In addition, flights are routinely changed or canceled, so be sure to confirm your flight schedule well ahead of departure. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred for adjustments to 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 independent 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.

► All participants must arrive in Brisbane by August 27, 2012. If you fail to arrive by this date, you may be subject to dismissal from the program (Student Agreement, Section 10).

Travel Precautions

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

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.

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.

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

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Travel in Australia

You can travel within Australia by air, bus, or rail. Air services are excellent and among the best and safest in the world. 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. Hitchhiking is dangerous, unpredictable, and illegal in Australia. Never accept a ride from strangers. Instead, 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](#).

► 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 change \$50 to \$100 into Australian currency at a U.S. bank before you leave (this can take weeks), 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.

Banking

You can open a savings or checking account in Australia. Banks located on campus are ANZ and Commonwealth Bank. They are usually open from 9 or 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and until 5 p.m. on Fridays. Banks are closed on weekends and bank holidays.

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 will 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 and terms of use.

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 and on the fees imposed by the Australian ATM. If you use an ATM not operated by your bank, ATM fees of AUD\$2 will usually be charged for each transaction.

► Approximate time difference: add 17 hours mid-March through October; add 18 hours November through mid-March.

COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Calling the U.S.

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.

You can have mail sent to you in care of:

University of California EAP
c/o International Programs Office
The School of Biological Sciences
Goddard Building (8)
The University of Queensland, St. Lucia
Queensland 4072, Australia

Computer & Internet Access

You will have access to computers in the library and in learning centers at UQ, including research stations, but not 24/7. Wireless Internet is available at connection points around campus as well as at your lecture venue. If you choose to bring your own laptop, do not forget the power supply, a USB stick, and plug adapter.

As you will be assigned a homestay, it is important to be aware that not all Australian households have Internet access and many that do have connections do not have broadband. In Australia, Internet service providers charge by download quotas so it is unlikely you will be in a home where you have unlimited broadband or wireless access. Many households only have one phone line and, if they use dial-up Internet, your access will be limited. Be prepared to negotiate your access. You may be required to pay a monthly contribution. You may prefer to purchase a pre-pay wireless broadband card that can plug into your USB slot. These are very common in Australia.

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 while abroad.

Note that you will not always have Internet access on field trips; there will be times when you will be out of contact. Give your family a heads up so they will not be alarmed when they don't hear from you during these periods.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The housing was in a good location and easy transportation was available.

I was very happy with my homestay family.

Have an open mind and really take in all of the culture offered by the host family.

I found the host family to be a great learning tool for Australian culture, sports, recommended travel locations, and general OZ knowledge.

I enjoyed learning from my host family all about their perspective of Australian culture as opposed to the American view. I also enjoyed going out with people in the program and meeting locals.

Just be open to new things. All families are different and it may be hard at first to get used to their food and quirks.

I really liked my host family. However, if you're not getting enough food, speak up!

You might want to bring some fruit on trips.

”

HOUSING & MEALS

Where Will I Live?

You will be assigned to a homestay with an Australian family in Brisbane. The School of Biological Sciences will send you instructions for completing an online homestay questionnaire, which will be used to help place you with an Australian family. Complete the homestay questionnaire carefully to help ensure that you are placed in the most appropriate situation for your lifestyle and preferences.

- ▶ **You may not make alternate housing arrangements; all program participants are accommodated in a homestay.**

Australia is a multicultural society, and homestay placements are generally with families of varied cultural backgrounds. Homestays are arranged with local Australian families and, just as with any family, issues sometimes arise that need to be addressed. From the beginning of the stay, communicate openly and honestly with your host family about issues that concern you. Be receptive to the host family's concerns as well. If you encounter a problem in the homestay that you cannot resolve alone, the local program staff is easily accessible and ready to assist in order to ensure a positive experience for all involved (see [Your UCEAP Network](#) in this guide).

Transportation from your homestay to lectures as well as to the group departure point for field trips is at your own expense. Lectures start at 9 a.m. most days, so plan your travel to allow arrival on campus at least 15 minutes prior to the lecture or other activity. If you use public transportation, purchasing a Go Card will save you money.

Homestays provide all meals, including packed lunches. Discuss your needs with your host family upon arrival.

During field activities, you will be housed in field stations with full amenities.

Except during periods of independent travel, housing is included in the UCEAP fees (see the UCEAP Student Budget located under the **Money Matters** tab on the UCEAP [Participants page](#)).

Food

Restaurants

Restaurants and cafés in Brisbane are plentiful and widely varied in cuisine, ambience, and price range. Many are closed on Mondays. Reservations (bookings) are essential on weekends at the more popular establishments. Vegetarian meals are readily available.

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

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

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Australia. Australians tip only for exceptionally good service, not as a rule. In a good restaurant, a customer 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.

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

HEALTH

For more information about staying healthy while traveling, you can also access the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Travelers' Health web page](#).

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention. Contact Dr. Ian Tibbetts or Ross Strong at the UQ School of Biological Science, or Kay Harmes at the UCEAP Study Center in Melbourne immediately (see [Your UCEAP Network](#) in this guide for contact information). They can help you in a number of ways—from recommending a clinic to helping you with the UCEAP insurance claim process.

City water is safe for all household purposes, and no tropical or exotic diseases are prevalent. The standard of community sanitation is comparable to that of North America.

Medical Care & Insurance

Excellent public and private medical facilities are available in major cities. Regional health services with good standards are available in rural areas.

University medical services and other suburban medical centers, hospitals, doctors, etc., are readily accessible. The standard costs for a consultation at the campus clinic is AUD\$40. If you visit a 24-hour medical center expect to pay around AUD\$80 for a consultation.

Pharmacies, called chemists in Australia, are reliable and accessible; 24-hour service is available in most major cities. Chemists are more limited in less populated areas. A written prescription is required for all prescribed medication.

Although most medications are available in Australia, if you require prescription medication, take enough to last through the end of your program. At customs, be prepared to present a prescription for any medications you take into the country.

Read the [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) policy brochure so you understand your coverage while on the program. University Of California automatically purchases accident, health, and repatriation insurance for all participants. There is no co-pay or deductible. In case of an emergency, the UCEAP health and accident insurance coverage includes access to a 24-hour emergency assistance professional network. This multilingual service can help locate medical treatment and coordinate with doctors and hospitals, while confirming health insurance coverage and arranging direct payment of medical bills. It can also help on emergency medical evacuation, emergency reunion benefits, trip cancellation, replacement of stolen passports or tickets, and other general assistance. Print your [Insurance Card](#) and carry it with you at all times. Share a copy with your parents.

Medical Emergencies

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

Sun Damage

Australia has one of the highest skin cancer rates in the world. 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 widebrimmed 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 enforces laws prohibiting discrimination for access of premises, facilities, and accommodation.

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.

Most public transit, parking, streets, and buildings are accessible to people with disabilities. Modern accessibility improvements include ramps, tactile indicators, and audible street crossing indicators.

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

SAFETY

Your Role in Staying Safe

Australia is a politically stable country. Serious security problems are uncommon. 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. Property crimes are common throughout Australia and are among the crimes most likely to be encountered by Australians and foreign residents alike. Tips to safeguard yourself and your belongings:

- Avoid poorly lit, deserted, 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.
- 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.
- 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

Australian police organizations are well trained and professional. They have well-equipped emergency response teams that can mobilize and respond to any incident with short notice.

Criminal Penalties

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.

Road & Transportation Safety

Basic safety on Australian roads is considered to be excellent. Speeding laws are enforced via a system of cameras and officers. Holiday weekends typically see a rise in roadside fatalities, as most Australians drive long distances to popular beach destinations.

Public transportation is generally very safe and is the preferred choice of residents in Sydney and Melbourne. The bus network is more extensive than the train network. Buses are well equipped. Taxis are safe but occasionally

difficult to find during high-demand time periods. Consider using taxis rather than public transportation at night.

Traffic operates on the left side of the road. Use caution when crossing streets. When crossing roads on foot, make sure you look carefully in all directions. Be alert for passing cars when stepping on and off trams.

“Drink” (i.e., drunk) driving is treated very seriously in Australia. Drunk driving enforcement checkpoints operate frequently with varied times and locations.

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.

For more information, refer to the [Association for Safe International Road Travel](#).

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 cyclones season occurs mainly in Queensland, Northern Territory, and Western Australia. It normally runs from November to April. Bush fire season in Australia is from October through May. Be aware of the impact any natural disaster could have on you. Follow all directions from the Australian emergency authorities, and carefully review travel plans during bush fires and flooding. Bush fires are most common when temperatures and wind speed are high and vegetation is dry. These fires move quickly and are often more intense in the afternoon.

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 in 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 impair your ability and judgment and put your life at risk.

Fire Safety

Buy a battery-operated smoke alarm. Know all your exits and have an escape plan. Read 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

Carry the local emergency contact information on **Page 2-3** of this guide at all times.

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