Introduction to the Australian Student Visa
As a UCEAP participant planning to study in Australia, you must apply for and be granted a student visa. Your visa must be valid for the duration of your program. The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) offers online student visa applications for U.S. citizens participating in a one-or two-semester academic exchange program.

Non-U.S. Citizens
If you are a non-U.S. citizen, read the Australian Immigration website carefully. Contact the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C. immediately and check the Australian entry requirements for your country of citizenship (contact information is at the end of this document). The entry process for non-U.S. citizens may take longer than for U.S. citizens, so allow ample time to research the requirements and complete them. As a UC exchange student who is not pursuing a degree from an Australian university, you are probably eligible for streamlined processing, but check with the Australian Embassy to be 100% sure.

Cost of the Visa
The student visa application is expensive. Remember to include this item when totaling your out-of-pocket expenses. The student visa application fee for U.S. citizens studying in an exchange program such as this one is currently estimated at $535.00 Australian dollars. Note: The Australian immigration website states that the price can vary depending on when you apply. The most convenient way to pay your visa application fee is by credit card, but there will be a small surcharge added for credit card processing.

Timeline
For U.S. citizens -
U.S. citizens applying online should not apply too early; begin no more than 124 days prior to the start of your program. Under normal circumstances, and providing you are not required to complete a health exam, the online visa process does not usually take more than a couple of weeks from beginning to end.

★To determine the dates of your arrival and departure, see the pull-down calendar tab on the relevant Participant’s page of the UCEAP website. Find the “Last Date to Arrive” and the semester end date (last exam date) at your host university.

You may begin the application process as soon as you have received the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from your host university (see below for an explanation of the CoE). Be aware, however, that applications lodged too far in advance of the start date will not be processed.

Terms and Acronyms you will need to understand and use:

- Exchange Student
  You will always answer yes when asked if you are an exchange student. UCEAP has an exchange agreement with each of our host university exchange partners in Australia.

Edited November 2014
• “CoE”
To use the online application you will FIRST need an electronic “Confirmation of Enrolment” (CoE) number, which will be issued to you by your host University. How do you get a CoE? You will be issued a CoE by your host university once you have a) received an offer of place (an acceptance letter) from your host University and have b) accepted this offer by returning an acceptance form to your Australian University.

• “TRN”
After submitting your student visa application online, you’ll be assigned a transaction number (TRN). Keep track of the TRN, because this number, along with your passport number, allows you to check the status of your online visa application.

• “OSHC”
You may come across references to the OSHC policy. This stands for the Overseas Student Health Cover. The OSHC is a requirement for all international students studying in Australia. **Unless you are going to UNSW**, this fee is already included in your EAP fees. (Students accepted to UNSW will need to actually enroll in this Australian insurance plan and submit the receipt to UNSW as proof of enrollment in the OSHC). Your host university will include a statement in your CoE saying that you will be covered by the OSHC while studying in Australia.

• **Assessment Level**
The Assessment Level is based on what type of program you are going on and what country you are from. If you are a U.S. citizen going on EAP, then you are Assessment Level I. If you are not a U.S. citizen, read the immigration website carefully to understand your assessment level and your requirements to enter Australia and study there (consult the Australian Embassy in Washington, DC, if necessary). Dual citizens should also consult the DIBP and/or the Embassy for details.

• **“GTE” Genuine Temporary Entrant Requirement**
The Australian government needs to know whether applicants are truly coming to study or are using student visas to achieve other purposes. The requirements for the “GTE” are outlined on this page of the Immigration Department’s website: http://www.immi.gov.au/students/gte-requirement.htm

• **Student Subclass**
Your Student Subclass is “non-award” (non-award/575 to be exact). What does that mean? In this context, a non-award type of educational program is one in which you will not be awarded a degree from an Australian University; your degree will ultimately come from UC. Exchange program/non-award is your “main course of study” when asked.

THE APPLICATION

**The Application Checklist**
Most or all of you will use the online application, and much of the documentation in the checklist will not be required. Do be aware, however, that the visa processors at the DIBP may, at any time, request more information if they think a case requires it.

Here’s what you must actually have in hand to begin your online application:
- Your CoE number (see CoE description above). You will need to enter this special number.
- Credit card information for the visa fee (be aware that they add a surcharge for using a credit card)
- A valid passport; you will enter your passport number in the online application.
- Your arrival and departure dates.

**Begin the Online Application**
When you have your CoE, are ready to charge the visa application fee on your credit card, have established your program dates, and have your valid passport information ready to enter, you can begin your online visa application. Go to http://www.immi.gov.au/Services/Pages/student-visa-online-applications.aspx. Click the link that says, “Start application for first Student visa outside Australia”.

*Edited November 2014*
When your e-visa is granted, we recommend that you print out a copy of the approval notification, keep it with your passport, and take it with you when you travel.

😊 THE POSSIBLE SNAG:
The Consular Health Clearance
During the e-visa application process it is possible, though rare, that you could be notified to complete a health clearance. This is unrelated to the EAP Health Clearance, and the EAP clearance and forms are not accepted for this purpose. If you find out that you have been notified, you must take action to get the exam and/or chest x-ray completed and submitted as quickly as possible. The required medical forms are available on the DIBP website. These forms can be filled out by any certified MD and should be sent to the address specified in the DIBP notice. Most students will not encounter this obstacle; however if you are notified that you must submit the health clearance and if you have problems with the medical forms, please contact UCEAP and we will try to help.

Review the health requirements on the DIBP site. If you suspect that you will be required to submit the health clearance, go ahead and begin your application early!

Working while Studying
Your student visa will allow you to work part-time in Australia. More information can be found at http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/575-0.aspx. Click “How the visa works”, then click the dropdown option “Working while studying”.

Further Questions?
-The instructions above outline the basics. You will still need to read the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection website very carefully.

-If you cannot find the answers to your questions on the DIBP website, direct questions about your student visa application to the DIBP at 1-613-216-7603.

You may also contact the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C.

The Embassy of Australia in Washington D.C.
1601 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington DC, 20036-2273
Tel: (202) 797-3000

Edited November 2014