How to use this Handbook

The information contained within this handbook has been colour-coded for your convenience in order of priority. Each page is colour-tagged according to its urgency or importance.

Example: Immediate Priority -

<table>
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<th>Colour Code</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>“I need to know IMMEDIATELY!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>“I need to know BEFORE classes begin!”</td>
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<td>Orange</td>
<td>“I need to know by the first week!”</td>
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<td>Green</td>
<td>“I need to know by the end of WEEK 4!”</td>
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<td>Blue</td>
<td>“I need to know by the end of WEEK 6!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>“I need to go back and remind myself of this as I go through my study!”</td>
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</table>
Important Information and Emergency Contacts:

AGB Training Main Contact Details:
AGB Training – Head Office
31 Barwon Terrace
South Geelong
Victoria 3220

Phone: 1300 123 AGB or 1300 123 242
Landline: (03) 5221 2611

Postal Address:
PO Box 1284
Geelong Victoria 3220

International Student Coordinator/Advisor
1300 123 AGB or 1300 123 242
(03) 5221 2611

International Student 24 Hour Emergency Contacts:
1300 123 AGB or 1300 123 242
(03) 5221 2611

Homestay Coordinator
1300 123 AGB or 1300 123 242
(03) 5221 2611

Emergency Telephone Numbers:
Police, Fire, Ambulance – 000

Medical Centres:
The Geelong Hospital
Bellerine Street (main entrance)
Ryrie Street (emergency entrance)
PO Box 281
Geelong VIC 3220
General enquiries: (03) 4215 0000

Transport:

www.geelontaxis.com.au or 131 008

Public Facilities:
Location of Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs)

Location of Public Telephones

Location of Post Office
google&mkwid=sJAWLen1f|geelong%20post%20office|e|pcrid|15262305986

Department of Immigration and Boarder Protection Melbourne:
Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne, Vic 3000

Dandenong
(level 5) 76 Thomas Street
Dandenong, Vic 3175

Note: Deliveries by clients in person will not be accepted at this address and should be sent by mail to:
GPO Box 241
Melbourne Vic 3001
Phone: 131 881

Medical Centres:
The Geelong Hospital
Bellerine Street (main entrance)
Ryrie Street (emergency entrance)
PO Box 281
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- Police
- Fire
- Ambulance
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- Lifeline
- Poisons Information Line
- Emergency Translation

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

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SECTION 1

Welcome
Message from CEO

Welcome, the team at AGB is committed to providing quality-training programs in a progressive training environment. We recognise that our students undertake study for many different reasons, whatever your reason we are here to support you to achieve your personal and professional goals.

We work hard to develop flexible, student focused training. We respond quickly and innovatively to the industries changing needs. This approach has helped us to continuously record high levels of student satisfaction. We are very proud of these results and we aim to constantly improve our performance ensuring all our students’ gain the best training possible.

Together with our experienced and professional trainers, we are focused on supporting students to achieve positive training outcomes. Our qualifications are nationally recognised and include practical skills required in a work place. We will train you to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, confidence and the ability to perform at your best when enter the industry of your choice.

We personally look forward to playing a fundamental role in your life journey as our educational relationship continues, as we work towards defining your educational and professional goals.

Warm Regards
Robert Dejanovic

Message from COO

AGB Training is committed to Quality and Practical application of training providing our student with a well-rounded education. A family run Registered Training Organisation (RTO); we are dedicated to providing support and guidance to all who study with us as these values are highly important to us.

Based within the Geelong’s regional community our (RTO) provides our students a safe and friendly environment for studying away from their familiar surroundings.

As the COO I hold to the understanding that everyone needs to drive themselves to seek the best education opportunities and to constantly further that education to ensure the greatest career pathway in life and apply that commitment every day within our institute and to myself. I personally would like to thank all students joining us and for enabling my team and myself join you on your pathway towards achieving your educational goals.

Warm Regards
Joanne Cornelius
Introducing AGB Training

AGB Training (AGB) became a Vocational Nationally Registered Training Organisation in 2006. Since then, we have been actively delivering programs throughout Australia, in such areas as:

- Automotive Management
- Hydraulic and Civil Construction Design
- Hospitality
- Warehousing
- Business
- Food Processing
- Training and Assessment
- Work Health and Safety
- Community Services
- Health Support Services
- Transport and Logistics

In 2010, Vic Roads accredited AGB to provide Heavy Vehicle License Training and Assessment and Work Safe to provide High Risk License training and assessment such as forklifts, order pickers and elevated work platforms.

AGB is a CRICOS 03356C registered Training Organisation that delivers vocational qualifications to international students.

Our aim is in developing an innovative and practical approach to learning for potential students.

Our dedicated industry qualified trainers support students through their learning journey, delivering course material and training through blended learning. We are committed to providing students with the best learning experience possible; we have dedicated student counsellors, administration and enrolment officers supporting our students through their courses.
Introducing Australia

The Country

Australia is a natural wonderland of beautiful beaches, crystal blue waters, amazing ancient rock formations and pristine rainforests. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world and has the lowest population density per square kilometre.

Australia has 16 world heritage listed properties with its historic townships, bustling cities, vivid landscapes and exotic flora and fauna all adding to its unique appeal. Much of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world and the lifestyle is one second to none.

Culture and Customs

The culture and customs consists of a rich tapestry of nationalities including traditions, legends, myths and folklore. The indigenous ‘Dream time’ forms the base of tens of thousands of years of spiritual aboriginal art and culture.

Language

In Australia over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 indigenous languages. The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.
Introducing the City of Geelong in the State of Victoria

As one of Australia’s largest urban centres, Geelong provides the perfect environment to Study. Geelong is Victoria’s largest regional city and the gateway to the famous Great Ocean Road. Geelong offers its international students the best of both worlds.

A regional atmosphere with some of Australia’s greatest surf beaches, picturesque parks, gardens, restaurants and plenty of shopping opportunities without the congestion of a large city. Other advantages include; affordable costs of living, a safe and multicultural environment with the ability to work up to 40 hours a fortnight, please refer to your Visa conditions.

There is easy access to Melbourne City, and regional areas such as Ballarat, Warrnambool Bendigo and Shepparton.

Climate

Geelong’s weather is very similar to Melbourne. During the summer months (December - February) temperatures can range between 15 - 40 degrees Celsius. In winter (June - August) temperatures can range between 8-15 degrees Celsius with temperatures at night as low as 3 degrees. For current Geelong weather, visit Geelong Weather www.geelongweather.com

Surrounding Geelong

Geelong is approximately;

- One-hour drive or train ride from Melbourne - Victoria’s Capital city.
- One hour drive from Ballarat - one of Australia’s largest inland cities and the third largest city in Victoria.
- Two and a half hours’ drive or train ride from Warrnambool - The largest city in the Great Ocean Road region, and Victoria’s largest coastal city- (outside Port Phillip Bay)
- Three hours’ drive from Bendigo- Victoria’s fourth largest city, with natural bushland surrounding Bendigo it has been referred to as "a city within a forest".
- Three and a half hour drive from Shepparton – The rich agricultural landscape of the Greater Shepparton region what has made the area renowned as Australia’s food bowl.

There is so much to love about Geelong and Australia’s uniqueness.
Things to Do:

Before Leaving Home:
- Apply for passport
- Arrange student visa
- Make contact with AGB Training
- Arrange for immunisations and medications from doctor
- Apply for a credit card and/or arrange sufficient funds
- Confirm overseas access to funds with your bank
- Make travel arrangements
- Arrange travel insurance
- Advise institution of travel details
- Arrange accommodation
- Arrange transport from airport to accommodation

Pack bags being sure to include the following:
- Name and contact details of an institution representative
- Enough currency for taxis, buses, phone calls etc. in the event of an emergency
- Important documents:
  - THIS HANDBOOK!
  - Passport
  - Letter of offer
  - ECoE
  - Certified copies of qualifications & certificates
  - Travel insurance policy
  - ID cards, drivers licence, birth certificate (or copy)

NOTE: Make sure you leave any originals or copies of these documents safely with family in your home country in case of loss.

Upon Arrival in Australia:
- Call home
- Settle into accommodation
- Contact institution
- Purchase household items and food
- Enrol children in school (if applicable)
- Attend international student orientation
- Get student ID card
- Advise health insurance company of address & get card
- Open a bank account
- Attend faculty/course specific orientation sessions
- Get textbooks
- Start classes
- Apply for tax file number if seeking work
- Get involved in student life and associations (e.g. music, sporting and cultural clubs).
Arranging Visas:

Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a **Student Visa**; some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may be better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due to their familiarity and experience in the field. Check our website for a list of approved education agent [http://www.agb.edu.au/international-students/international-education-agents/](http://www.agb.edu.au/international-students/international-education-agents/).

In order to apply for a visa you will need a **valid passport**, an **Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (ECoE)** and any **other documentation** required by the Australian Diplomatic Post with which you lodge your application. For example, if you are under 18 you must have a **completed Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) form** to ensure AGB Training approves your accommodation and welfare choice.

You must ensure to **allow enough time** for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

**Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)**

The Australian Government’s Department of Immigration and Border Protection provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit [www.immi.gov.au/study](http://www.immi.gov.au/study) for the latest information.

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

As well as links from the DIBP website, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website [http://www.dfat.gov.au/embassies.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/embassies.html) has a comprehensive list of Australian Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates and Representative Offices around the world.

**Migration Agents**

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIBP on your behalf, but please note that **you do not need to use a migration agent** to lodge any kind of visa application.

**Education Agents**

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can visit our website [http://agbhr.com.au/international-students/international-education-agents/](http://agbhr.com.au/international-students/international-education-agents/) to find an up to date list of approved Education Agents.
Please Note: Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are NOT licensed to provide migration advice.

Visa Conditions

- If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):
  - Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE
  - Maintain satisfactory academic progress
  - Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
  - Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
  - Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions, please visit www.immi.gov.au/study/pages/changing-courses.aspx

Arranging Travel

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least 1-2 weeks before the start of International Student Orientation to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet lag.

You should fly into Melbourne International Airport which is the closest international airport to Geelong. Visit http://melbourneairport.com.au/. Geelong is located 85 kms from Melbourne International Airport.
Documents
You should prepare a folder of official documents to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid Passport with Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from AGB Training
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by AGB Training
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or Certified copies of your Academic Transcripts and Qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. Birth Certificate, ID Card, Drivers Licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.

If you are travelling with your family, you will need to include their documents as well. Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage. In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you upon request.

What to Bring
Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, declare it anyway on the Incoming Passenger Card, which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Australian Customs and Boarder Protection homepage http://www.customs.gov.au and Read “Travellers and Private Individuals”, going through the boarder.

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted one (1) checked luggage (35kg) and one (1) carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

Seasonal Considerations
Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country, the hottest months are January and February.

If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive.

Clothing
On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals
are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

Other Items You Might Need to Include (most can also be purchased in Australia)

- Alarm clock
- Bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases
- Dictionary (bilingual)
- Small sewing kit
- Music CDs or iPod
- Sporting equipment
- Toiletries
- Umbrella
- Scientific or graphics calculator
- Camera
- Micro recorder for lectures
- Spare spectacles or contact lenses
- Your optical prescription
- Photos of friends and family
- Swimming costume
- Small gifts from home

The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

Bringing Your Computer

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia can be complicated. Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

Alternatively, AGB Training will be able to hire you a laptop at $300 per year. This equipment remains property of and is to be returned to AGB Training at the end of your study.
Mobile Phones & Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be Austel Approved in order to function in Australia.

On Your Flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be very HOT so wear light weight clothing underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively, extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia, passengers are given an Incoming Passenger Card to fill in. This is a legal document. You must tick ✓ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products. This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items, you don’t wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Do not be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than AU$10,000 in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is strongly recommended however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian Bank Account once it has been opened.

Entry into Australia

Australian Immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your Passport and Student Visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

Baggage Claim

Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged, go to the Baggage Counter and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

Detector Dogs

You may see a Quarantine Detector Dog at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog
working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

**Australian Customs and Boarder Protection**

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia does not have. You must **declare ALL** food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has **strict quarantine laws** and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require **treatment** to make them safe. Items that are **restricted** because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the **Australian Customs Officer**.

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)

**Arrivals Hall**

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Getting From the Airport:**

**Shuttle Buses**

Melbourne airport to Geelong city


**Taxi**


**Public Transport**


**Keeping in Contact:**

Before you leave home, you should provide your family, friends and AGB Training in Australia, with your flight details and where you will be staying upon arrival in Australia. (Do not change
these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have arrived safely. It is important to ALWAYS let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by post.

AGB Training
Head Office
31 Barwon Terrace
SOUTH GEELONG VICTORIA 3220

Postal Address:
PO Box 1284
GEELONG VICTORIA 3220
1300 123 AGB or 1300 123 242
(03) 5221 2611

Accessing Money:

You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.

How Much to Bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately AU$1500 to AU$2000 available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money either as Traveller’s Cheques or on an international credit card. Traveller’s cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

Please note that it is not safe to bring large sums of money with you! Lost credit cards or traveller’s cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.

Currency Exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Geelong, you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at;

Travel Money Geelong
SHOP 1191, Westfield Shopping Centre
Geelong, VIC, 3220
Phone: 03 5222 4936
Fax: 03 5221 9574
Email: geelong@travelmoneyoz.com

Open Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9:00am – 5:00pm
Fri 9:00am – 9:00pm
Sat 9:00am – 5:00pm
Sun 10:00am – 5:00pm

Electronic Transfer

You can transfer money into Australia by electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately 48 hours, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.
ATMs

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.

Credit Cards

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that repayments for many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

Arranging Accommodation:

Finding somewhere to live - On arrival, you will likely choose to rent a unit or house until you are familiar with the region. It is important to understand your budget. Geelong has a very good cost of living position compared to Melbourne. Try website suburb guides such as www.realestate.com.au or www.domain.com.au to find the areas applicable to your budget.

Temporary Accommodation:

Hotels, Motels & Backpackers

Generally, the price you pay for accommodation will determine its quality. However, it can be expensive to stay in a good quality motel or hotel for a long period. Backpacker accommodation is relatively inexpensive but you may need to bring your own pillow and sleeping bag if you choose this option. http://www.geelong.ws/Accommodation/Geelong-Backpackers-Accommodation/

Staying With Friends or Family

If you know someone in Australia, this is a great way to settle-in to life here. Your friends or family can provide advice, support and encouragement in your first days in Australia. However, if you are under the age of 18 you must obtain approval from AGB first.

Bringing My Family:

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependant’s, check your individual circumstances with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship remember to change your country in the top right corner http://www.immi.gov.au/Study/Pages/Study.aspx. Family members include your spouse, and you and your spouse’s dependent children. Before bringing your spouse or children to Australia, you will have to prove that you can support them financially. The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high discuss this with your family.

Issues to Consider

Rather than bringing your family together with you to Australia, some students may find it useful to arrive first, settle into studies, find appropriate accommodation, adjust to living in Australia and then arrange for their family to join them.
Before making a decision to bring your family to Australia, it is important to consider the following issues:

- The cost of airfares for your family to and from Australia;
- Possible higher rent for a larger home;
- Limited employment opportunities for your spouse;
- Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities;
- The effect on you and your studies if your family is not happy in Australia;
- Whether your children will adjust to school in Australia;
- Waiting lists for child care centres; and
- Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family or to all come at the same time
- For more information visit: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

Child Care

Finding suitable childcare in Australia requires patience and planning. Waiting lists for places in most childcare centres are long.

Many schools offer before- and after-school care programs (usually 7:30am-8:45am and 3:30pm-6:00pm). Children who need these programs must be registered with the school.


Schools

If you would like to bring your children to Australia with you, you must be aware of the following schooling issues:

1. It is an immigration policy that school-age dependants of international students undertake formal schooling while they are in Australia.
2. Children who have their fifth birthday before 1st April of that calendar year are eligible to start school.
3. You will need to provisionally enrol your child in a school before you leave your home country and you will normally have to pay the school fees one semester in advance. The school will issue an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment Form (ECoE) stating the program and its duration, so that you can obtain the appropriate visa for your child.
4. The Diplomatic Mission in your country can tell you which State schools are registered to take international students. Fees are payable by international students at all State schools unless you:
   - Are in receipt of sponsorship or scholarships from the Australian Government (e.g. the Australian Development Scholarship, IPRS);
   - Hold a higher institution or approved non-government scholarship. The State Government must approve these scholarships for the dependants to be exempt from school fees.
5. You will be responsible for school fees and other costs including school uniforms, books, excursions and stationery.
6. When choosing the most appropriate school for your child, it is best to ask questions about the school's curriculum, size, extra-curricular activities and the size of individual classes.
7. You should also take into consideration the distance from the school to your education institution, the suburb in which you intend to live and the method of transport you plan to use.

There are two types of schools in Australia – State schools and independent schools.

- State Schools
• Independent Schools

For further information, please contact http://www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice/Home.aspx
SECTION 3

Settling-In
Living in Geelong:

Time Zones
Standard Time Zone: GMT/UTC + 10:00 hour
Daylight Savings: In Victoria we adjust our clocks forward one hour in the summer months to lengthen our daylight.

Lifestyle
Geelong has a way of life that is hard to beat – quality housing, abundant recreational opportunities, a strong economy, a cosmopolitan and vibrant community and comprehensive health care services.

Located only one hour from Melbourne, Geelong is in the unique position of offering a range of lifestyle choices to residents, inner city, and suburban, waterfront, coastal or rural. Geelong offers enormous choice when it comes to dining out, theatre, movies, the arts, community events and general entertainment. The City boasts over 10,000 business enterprises, which include an abundance of retail outlets spread across a number of shopping precincts.

The Region’s education facilities at all levels, primary, secondary and tertiary, are amongst the best in any Australian centre. Over 40 training agencies ensure the workforce keep pace with the current work practices. A comprehensive range of health care providers and community organisations service residents across all age groups and needs.

Types of Accommodation:

Rentals - Choosing Where to Live
Geelong has a strong residential rental market catering to most needs across all areas of the Region. Short term or long-term leases, size and scale of properties and a variety of prices ranges are available. A mid-range four bedroom executive home in one of Geelong’s newer suburbs would attract a rental of approximately $300 to $450 per week.

Where to Look for Accommodation:
The following is a list of places where you can go to find advertisements for accommodation:
Try website suburb guides such as www.realestate.com.au or www.domain.com.au to find the areas applicable to your budget.
Newspaper Geelong Advertiser Saturday paper Realestate section.
Things to Keep in Mind When Renting:

Security Deposits/Bond

The owner or agent of an owner who has the right to rent you a property is called the landlord. A landlord will ask you for money before you move into a property, this is called a security deposit or bond, and may amount to more than $1,000 dollars. The bond is usually set at four weeks’ rent. A "bond/security deposit" is an amount of money that is supposed to guarantee that the tenant will care for the dwelling. If the tenant does not care for the property or clean it before leaving, the landlord has a legal right to keep the security deposit. Otherwise, the landlord must return the security deposit within a month after the tenant leaves. 


Signing a Lease

In most cases, the landlord will require the tenant to sign a lease. A lease is a written agreement between a tenant and a landlord that describes the responsibilities of each party. This binding legal document commits the student to a specific period of residency in the unit.

Inspection of Property

Most landlords will inspect the property with you on commencement of your tenancy. This is done with a list of furniture and fittings in each room of the property so that the two of you can agree on the condition of the property at the commencement of the tenancy. You should note on this document anything you notice during the inspection that is not already listed, and keep a copy that has been signed by both of you. Once you are the tenant, the condition of these things will be your responsibility. This will be done again at the end of your tenancy and the final condition of the property may determine the return of your full security deposit. If this inspection is not suggested, you might suggest it yourself as a means of ensuring fair treatment for all parties involved.

Utilities

Unless someone is already living in the dwelling, the new tenant must start utility services, such as telephone, electricity, and gas. This requires contacting each individual company and arranging for the services to be connected from a specified date. The companies providing these utilities also require a small security deposit. In some cities instead of making numerous calls to different companies, there may be a utility provider company. If someone has vacated the property before you, contacting these utility companies for connection of services will ensure all previous accounts have been finalised and paid for by the previous tenant.

‘Connect now’ will help you by arranging your Phone, Electricity, Gas, Internet and Pay TV - at no cost. For more information visit: http://connectnow.com.au or phone 1300 554 323. You can get the process started straight away by clicking the ‘Connect me NOW’ icon on their homepage.

Restrictions

The lease may contain restrictions, such as not permitting animals or children in the dwelling. Ask the landlord about his/her particular requirements. Make sure that you know and understand these restrictions before signing the lease. If you do not obey the restrictions on the lease, the landlord can ask you to leave.
Inspecting a Potential Property

It's a good idea to take notes of each property you inspect. As well as the address, rent, and agent take notes of the details:

☐ Are there laundry facilities?
☐ Is there a telephone line already connected?
☐ Do the light fittings work?
☐ Is the oven/ stove, gas or electrical?
☐ Do the toilet and shower all work?
☐ Is there damp or mould on the walls?
☐ Is there painting required?
☐ Is the place furnished? What kind of furniture?
☐ What kind of heating/cooling is there?
☐ Is there an insect/ pest problem?
☐ Is it close to transport, shops, and campus?
☐ Will the area be noisy? Is it on a busy road?
☐ Is there good security?
☐ Will the landlord carry out any repairs before you move in?
☐ How are repairs made once you live there, and who pays for which repairs?

Choosing a Roommate

The task of choosing a roommate needs to be taken very seriously. The person or persons with whom you decide to live can affect the quality and productiveness of your international student experience in Australia. When the moment comes for you to make your decision concerning roommates, remember these tips: Do not panic, take your time, and do not compromise on important principles.

Bills & Expenses

Do you and your roommates expect to share the costs of buying toilet paper, washing powder for clothes and dishes, cleaning supplies etc. that is used by everyone?

If you are answering an advertisement for a roommate; what does the rental price cover? Does it include utilities, or are they split equally when the accounts are due? Who will pay them and how will you all know they have been paid?

A small notebook, which is signed by everyone, who hands over his or her share of the costs and signed by the person the money is given to, is a good idea.

Food

Do you and your roommates expect to share the costs of buying food and share in the preparation? Do you have specific food needs (allergies, preparation needs)?
If your needs are for halal and your roommates are not, can you agree on respecting and upholding each other’s needs?

Cleaning
Who will clean what? How often?
Decide exactly what "clean and tidy" means to you.
Will you hire a cleaning company to keep things under control?

Personal Habits & Individual Needs
How much privacy do you need?

Smoking & Drugs
Do you prefer to have a smoker or non-smoker as a roommate?
Is a smoker alright as long as they smoke outside the residence? (Many rental agreements will forbid smoking inside the premises)
Clarify your stance on the use of alcohol and/or illicit substances.

Music & Television
What are your musical likes and dislikes?
Do you watch TV every day or just occasionally?
Do you like to study with or without music/TV?

Personality Traits & Communication
How do you perceive yourself?
How do others perceive you?
Do you enjoy being around a lot of people - or just a few friends?
Are you more comfortable by yourself?
What about overnight visitors?
When conflicts arise, how do you go about resolving them?
How do you behave when you are happy - angry? What are the things that bother you most?

*Please keep in mind that not everyone can be trusted! Follow your instincts and do not room with someone you do not trust.*
Housekeeping:

Some international students who come to Australia have never had the need to do their own shopping, cooking, and housecleaning. If these activities are new to you, you will need to understand that in Australia unless you choose to hire someone from a home services company to do some of these things for you; these are the responsibility of each individual and are a sign of personal independence and becoming an adult. Most Australians, especially landlords and rental agencies, believe it is very important for one’s living environment to be kept clean.

Disposal of Rubbish

Because insects such as ants and flies can be a problem, it is important for tenants to empty their rubbish every one to two days into the wheelie bins provided outside your accommodation. You will then put the wheelie bin/s out on the footpath once a week to be collected by council rubbish trucks. The landlord will inform the tenant about the way to dispose of garbage particularly with regards to recycling and the days your rubbish is collected.

Cleaning Kitchens

Grease and oil from cooking collects on cabinet and refrigerator tops and walls, especially if occupants fry foods often. These areas should be cleaned often in order to avoid unpleasant odours and fire hazards.

Cleaning the Bathroom

Sinks, showers, and tubs can be cleaned with bathroom cleaning products from the supermarket. If a sink does not drain properly, ask the landlord or manager to look at it. Toilet bowls should be cleaned with a special toilet cleaning solution. A plunger may also be used for toilets that do not flush properly. Do not put any items or paper other than toilet paper in the toilet as this may block the pipes. If it is obvious that misuse of the unit has caused the need for repair, the landlord will charge you for the cost of repair or cleaning.

Cleaning Floors

Different types of floors will require different kinds of care. A landlord can recommend the way he/she prefers to have the floors cleaned. Upon leaving a dwelling, the occupant is usually expected to have the carpet professionally cleaned. The landlord can inform the tenant about proper cleaning procedures.

Cleaning Products

Grocery stores and supermarkets stock many different products for cleaning. It is important to read labels carefully in order to understand proper uses and dangers of the products. (Warning: Keep all cleaning products out of reach of children and do not mix products!)
Maintenance & Fixtures & Fittings

You will be expected to replace light globes and keep fittings in your accommodation clean. If repairs or maintenance are required for example; a blocked toilet, the landlord should be consulted at the time. Generally, repairs will be the responsibility of the owner/landlord, unless caused by misuse of the item by the tenant or their visitors.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are devices that detect smoke and sound an alarm. Smoke alarms alert and wake people allowing valuable time to get out of a house during a fire. When you go to sleep, your sense of smell also goes to sleep. If there is a fire, toxic fumes may overcome you before you wake up. For your protection, a smoke alarm must be installed in your home.

ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

- Once a month you should check the battery by pressing the test button on the smoke alarm. If you cannot reach the button easily, use a broom handle to press the test button
- Keep them clean. Dust and debris can interfere with their operation, so vacuum over and around your smoke alarm regularly
- Replace the batteries yearly. Pick a public holiday or your birthday and replace the batteries each year on that day.
- When the battery is low the smoke alarm will sound a short ‘BEEP’ approximately every minute, this is to alert you the battery is low and needs replacing.
- Smoke alarms must never be painted
- If cooking and smoke sets off the alarm, do not disable it. Turn on the range fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm
- Do not remove the batteries from your smoke alarm or cover your smoke alarm to prevent it from operating.

(Source: Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne)

Electricity

The safe use of electricity assists in preventing house fires.

Improper use of power boards and double adaptors can lead to fires.

A double adaptor or a power board plugged into another double adaptor or power board creates a danger of overloading the system. For safety, use a single extension cord rather than joining shorter cords. Leaving an extension cord coiled while in use or placing a cord under floor coverings can cause overheating.

Be careful to keep electrical appliances away from water.
A hair dryer takes time to cool down. For safety, allow this to happen on an inflammable surface before storing it.

**Computers, monitors and TVs can overheat and cause fires even when not in use.**

They should be turned off after each session. Good air circulation is necessary around TVs and videos. TVs should be turned off at the set, not only with the remote control.

**Light globes can become very hot.**

It is dangerous to cover a lamp with any type of fabric. To dim a lamp it is recommended that a lower wattage globe is used.

**Heaters**

It is nice to keep yourself warm in the cooler weather, but remember heaters are a major cause of house fires.

- Read and follow the operating instructions for your heater.
- All clothes and curtains should be at least one metre from the heater.
- Turn off all heaters before you leave your room or go to bed.

Before you go to bed at night or leave your home, ensure heaters are turned off at their power source and fires are extinguished.

**Candles, Oil Burners and Cigarettes**

Candles, oil burners and cigarettes can all be dangerous fire hazards.

- Do not smoke in bed.
- Dampen cigarette butts before putting them in the rubbish.
- Make sure your candles are on properly designed candle holders.
- Don’t leave your room when a candle or oil burner is alight.
- Don’t go to sleep when a candle or oil burner is alight.
- Do not put candles or oil burners near windows; be careful, curtains can catch fire easily.
Cooking

Most house fires start in the kitchen.
- Prepare food only in the kitchen.
- Always stay in the kitchen while food is cooking.
- Hot oils and fats catch fire easily.
- **DO NOT** use water to put out an oil fire.
- Use a dry powder extinguisher, fire blanket or saucepan lid to extinguish, “If Safe To Do So”.
- Turn off the cooking appliance before you leave the room or go to bed

**FIRE Plan Your Escape**

In a Fire:
1. Get down on the floor. Crawl to the door.
2. Get out of your room.
3. Close the door. This prevents smoke and fire from spreading
4. Alert others.
5. When outside stay out.
6. Call 000.


**Where Can I Get Help?**

**Victoria**
The Tenants Union of Victoria

Consumer Affairs Victoria
Services:

Telephones

Calling Emergency Services   DIAL 000
In Australia, dial 000 from any phone for fire, police or ambulance services. 112 may also be dialled from mobile phones. Dialling 112 will override key locks on mobile phones and therefore save time. Emergency Services operators answer this number quickly and to save time will say, “Police, Fire, or Ambulance”. If you are unsure of what emergency service, you need tell the operator what the emergency is. You will then be connected to the appropriate service to assist. It is wise to think ahead with the most important information, which will help them to respond. Where you are; (note street names and the closest intersection), what has happened and to whom; what their condition is. The operator may then ask you to stay on the phone until the emergency services arrive. In life threatening situations the operator may also give you some instructions to assist until the emergency unit arrives. If you are concerned about your English, remain calm and work with the operators who are very experienced with all cultures.

Public Telephones

Australia has an extensive network of Public Phones throughout the country. They are recognisable by the orange and blue Telstra emblem. The cost of local calls is 50 cents (AUD) with most phones accepting coins and prepaid telephone cards. Long distance call charges vary depending on time of day and distance.

Sundays are an excellent day to make interstate or international calls due to all day discount rates. Pre-Paid telephone cards offer competitive calling rates to all countries 24 hours per day. Pre-Paid Telephone Cards cost $5, $10, $20 and $50 and may be purchased at most newsagencies, post offices and convenience stores.
Making Phone Calls within Australia:

To make international phone calls:

进博会 – international access code (0011) + the country code + the area code (if required) + phone number

(when adding a country code to a number, any leading 0 (zero) on the area code following it is NOT dialled)

To make domestic phone calls:

进博会 – the area code + phone number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Code</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(02)</td>
<td>ACT, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(03)</td>
<td>VIC, TAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(07)</td>
<td>QLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(08)</td>
<td>SA, WA, NT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit www.whitepages.com.au and www.yellowpages.com.au for directories of residential, commercial and government phone numbers in Australia; and for a list of country codes and area codes for international calls.

Calling Australia from Overseas

To contact Australia, first dial the international access code from that country (this will vary in each country), then Australia’s country code prefix (61) followed by the area code without the first zero (for instance Sydney would be 2 instead of 02), and then dial the Mobile/Cell Phones required number.

Example: International access number +61 2 XXXX XXXX

Before bringing your mobile phone to Australia check with the Australian Communications and Media Authority, www.acma.gov.au to make sure it can operate here. Some countries, such as Japan and the USA, use mobile phone networks that are not available in Australia. If not, you can buy your mobile phone in Australia. Australian telecommunications providers offer a wide range of services, which provide a mobile phone within the cost of using that service. There are many differences to the services provided. You should understand what deal you are accepting before signing a contract with a provider. For a comparison of mobile phone plans in Australia see: http://www.mobiles.com.au/mobile-phone-plans/


(Source: on-line search)
Yellow Pages

The Yellow Pages are a telephone directory or section of a directory (usually printed on yellow paper) where business products and services are listed alphabetically. They are a **GREAT time-saver** and very useful when you are looking for specific products or services. “*Let your fingers do the walking!*” These books may be provided in rental properties, and are available at Post Offices around Australia. [www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au)

Computer & Internet Access

Many of the above companies will also provide you with internet access. In fact, you may be able to make arrangements with a company where you can get cheaper rates if you have internet and mobile phone through the one service provider. In addition, with providers Telstra and Optus, you could get a packaged deal for your home phone, internet and mobile phone.

Australia Post

Australia Post is one of our nation’s largest communications, logistics and distribution businesses; and is committed to providing high quality mail and parcel services to all people within Australia.

Small Letters

The cost of posting a small letter for distribution in Australia is an AU$0.70 postage stamp, which you affix to the envelope. The cost of a standard overseas stamp is $1.75

A small letter has the following characteristics:
- No larger than 130mm x 240mm
- No thicker than 5mm
- Maximum weight 250g

Envelope Layout

Australia Post uses advanced letter sorting technology to read the address on each envelope electronically. These machines work best when address formats are structured in a consistent manner. That is why it is necessary to address your mail clearly and correctly. The information below demonstrates how.

Support Groups:

Faith and Culture
Geelong and the greater Victoria provide open opportunities for you to practice your faith and culture.

Islam – Geelong Mosque,
45-47 Bostock Ave,
Manifold Heights Victoria 3218

Islamic Society of Geelong
http://gis.org.au/a/

Hinduism - Hare Krishna New Nandagram Rural Community,
Oak Hill Dean's Marsh Rd
Bambra VIC 3241

Christianity –

Jewish - Jewish Community Council of Victoria
http://www.jccv.org.au/

Buddhism - Buddhist council of Victoria
http://www.bcv.org.au/directory

Other Faiths and Cultures

The following links provide useful information:
Translation service
www.mylanguage.gov.au

Provides links to the City of Greater Geelong web site which can lead to information about the local council, connections to community organisations, events and other useful information
www.geelongaustralia.com.au

Living in Victoria, A website that provides information about moving, migrating and working in Victoria and more.
www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au

Barwon Health, links to hospitals and other medical services
www.barwonhealth.org.au

Barwon Community Legal Services, access to legal aid.
www.barwoncls.org.au

Yellow Pages, Phone directory to businesses, community groups, sporting groups and other associations and more.
www.yellowpages.com.au
Getting Around:

Public Transport

V/Line trains run frequently from the Geelong train station to Melbourne (approx. $10.20, one hour) and Warrnambool (approx. 2.25 hours) Four times on weekdays and twice daily on weekends V/Line buses travel to Apollo Bay (adult/child $23/12, 2½ hours) via Lorne (adult/child $14/7, 1½ hours). McHarry’s and Benders Bus Lines the Bellarine Transit service with frequent buses to Torquay and the Bellarine Peninsula.

V/Line
13 61 96 www.vline.com.au

Geelong train station
5226 6525
Gordon Ave

McHarry’s Bus Lines
5223 2111
www.mcharrys.com.au

Benders Bus Lines

Taxis

Shopping


Bargaining/Haggling

When shopping in Australia, you generally do not bargain or barter, also called haggling for the price of an item. The displayed price for items is fixed and if Australian GST (Goods & Services Tax) is applicable, it will already be included in the displayed price. However, there are exceptions to this rule. There are places and circumstances in which it is perfectly acceptable to barter for the best price possible. These may include; at garage sales, community markets, second hand dealerships, or at electrical goods’ stores, furniture shops, or when purchasing a motor vehicle if you are offering to pay in cash, or have seen the item at a competitor store for a better price. If you are paying by CASH and, if you are buying more than one item, you may have more bargaining power. Begin the bargaining process by asking:

“What’s the best price you can give me?”

Alternatively, at a garage sale, you might pick up several items whose combined total is $50 and say:

“I’ll offer you $30 for all of these.”

Purchasing an Item

The most common methods of purchasing items are by cash or EFTPOS (Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale). EFTPOS allows you to use the card attached to your Australian bank account to make purchases and withdraw cash at the same time (at the retailer’s discretion) from more than 103,000 merchants across Australia. Just swipe your key card through the EFTPOS card reader, select your account type and enter your PIN number. EFTPOS is available at most supermarkets, petrol stations and retail outlets. Just look for the EFTPOS sign. You can choose to make the EFTPOS transaction from your savings account, cheque account or credit card. You receive a printed receipt after each purchase and the transaction appears on your statement.
Health:

Emergencies – Dial 000

The Triple Zero (000) service is the quickest way to get the right emergency service to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life threatening or emergency situations only. Emergency 000 lines should not be used for general medical assistance.

Police

In Australia, police protect people and properties, detect and prevent crime, and preserve peace for everyone. They are not connected to the military or politics. The police can help you feel safe. In a non-emergency situation, you can contact the local police station directly on: (03) 52253100 or http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=586

Fire

The fire brigade extinguishes fires, rescues people from fires in cars and buildings, and helps in situations where gas or chemicals become a danger. As soon as a fire starts call 000 no matter how small or large the fire may be.

Ambulance

Ambulances provide immediate medical attention and emergency transportation to hospital.

Dial 000

State Emergency Service

The State Emergency Service (SES) is an emergency and rescue service dedicated to providing assistance in natural disasters, rescues, road crashes and extreme weather conditions. It is made up almost entirely of volunteers and operates in all States and Territories in Australia. For emergency assistance in a FLOOD or STORM dial 132 500.

Lifeline

Lifeline’s 13 11 14 service is staffed by trained volunteer telephone counsellors who are ready to take calls 24-hour a day, any day of the week from anywhere in Australia. These volunteers operate from Lifeline Centres in every State and Territory around Australia. Anyone can call Lifeline. The service offers a counselling service that respects everyone’s right to be heard, understood and cared for. They also provide information about other support services that are available in communities around Australia. Lifeline telephone counsellors are ready to talk and listen no matter how big or how small the problem might seem. They are trained to offer emotional support in times of crisis or when callers may be feeling low or in need of advice.
Poisons Information Line

The poisons information line provides the public and health professionals with prompt, up-to-date and appropriate information, and advice to assist in the management of poisonings and suspected poisonings. The seriousness of a poisoning situation is assessed after a detailed history is obtained from the caller. Members of the public may be then given first aid instructions, information on possible symptoms, and advised on the need for assessment by a doctor or referral to hospital. The Australia-wide Poisons Information Centre’s have a common telephone number: 131 126.

Emergency Translation

For translation service in an emergency situation dial 1300 655 010

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Overseas student health cover (OSHC) is insurance that provides cover for the costs of medical and hospital care which international students may need while in Australia and is mandatory for international student visa holders. OSHC will also cover the cost of emergency ambulance transport and most prescription drugs. AGB is able to assist you directly in this area, Ask us how. If you would prefer to select your own, read the following:

How to get an OSHC?

You may be or have been asked for an OSHC payment in the education offer package you receive from your chosen education provider, if they have a preferred provider agreement and do not need to complete a formal application form. If not, you may need to complete an Application for OSHC, which is available from registered OSHC providers and most educational institutions. Your local education adviser can lodge your OSHC form and payment at time of processing your enrolment to study in Australia. Only Australian health funds that have signed an agreement with the Australian Government can provide OSHC. Most Australian education institutions have a preferred OSHC provider. Depending on the institution you will be attending, you will be required to join one of these four registered health funds. You may choose to change your health fund at any time, but will need to abide by the conditions of change of the health fund provider you are leaving.

OSHC Providers

Medibank Private: www.medibank.com.au
OSHC Worldcare: www.oshcworldcare.com.au
Australian Health Management: www.ahm.com.au

Students may also take out additional cover in the form of Extra OSHC and students who could not previously access OSHC may now be able to access Optional OSHC. Some students may be exempt from enrolling in the OSHC such as students from countries who’s Governments may have Reciprocal Health Agreements for students in Australia. Note: only some reciprocal health agreements cover students in Australia, some will only cover visitors. You should determine if you are eligible before you apply for your visa to come to Australia.

If you come to Australia on a visa other than a student visa and undertake a short course of study of three months duration or less you will not be eligible for OSHC. It is wise to purchase travel or private medical insurance in this case.

What am I covered for?
OSHC provides a safety net for medical expenses for international students, similar to that provided to Australians through Medicare. Additionally, OSHC includes access to some private hospitals and day surgeries, ambulance cover and benefits for pharmaceuticals.

How do I use my OSHC card?
If you need to visit a doctor or medical centre, show your card at the end of the visit. You will be charged the doctor’s fee and the government fee component of that may be processed by the medical centre. If the medical centre is not able to process the government fee, pay the total amount, keep the receipt and you can claim the government fee back from your OSHC provider.

How do I make a claim?
Refer to your provider claims information

Renewal information
Refer to your provider renewal information

Types of Health Care in Australia:

The Australian healthcare system is mixed. Responsibilities for healthcare are divided between the Federal and State Governments, and both the public and the private sectors play a role.

Government programs underpin the key aspects of healthcare. Medicare, is funded out of general tax revenue, pays for hospital and medical services. Medicare covers all Australian citizens, pays the entire cost of treatment in a public hospital, and reimburses for visits to doctors.

Public System

The major provider of healthcare services in Australia is the Public Health System (Medicare). The Public Health System provides a comprehensive free-of-charge healthcare service for all Australian citizens covering both hospital-based and community-based medical services. Public hospitals are owned by the State. One of the problems with such a system is that waiting times in public hospitals can be extensive due to a shortage of healthcare professionals and facilities.

Private System

Private hospitals provide about a quarter of all hospital beds in Australia. Private medical practitioners provide most non-bed medical services and perform a large proportion of hospital services alongside salaried doctors; private dental practitioners provide most dental services. For Australians who take out private health insurance a range of services can be covered, such as access to your own Doctor in a private hospital, and extra services such as dental, optical and physiotherapy.
Attending an Australian Hospital

Few private hospitals have emergency departments, in an emergency most Australians rely on the public hospital system. If you attend an Emergency Department in a hospital, you will be attended to immediately by a Triage Nurse for information about you, your cover, and your current health condition. The Triage Nurse will determine the urgency of your condition in comparison to others in need in the emergency room; it is likely that you will remain at the emergency room for several hours. Whether you are seen immediately by a Doctor, or have to wait, it is customary to keep you in the emergency room for several hours to monitor your condition before releasing you to go home, or admitting you to hospital in more severe cases.

There are extensive waiting times for elective surgeries at public hospitals, e.g. for orthopaedic surgery. One of the attractions of health insurance is the ability to bypass public hospital waiting lists and go through the private system.

Private hospitals are very expensive for treatment and hospitalisation. Your OSHC will cover some of the cost of some private hospitals but you will have to pay the difference.

Your health insurance (OSHC) covers the total cost of accommodation in a shared ward of a public hospital. It also pays for the ‘schedule fee’ for the doctor but you will have to pay the difference if the doctor’s fee is higher than the ‘schedule fee’.

See also: Public hospital waiting times.

General Practitioners (GPs)

In Australia, you do not have to go to a hospital to see a doctor. You can see a doctor also known as a General Practitioner (GP) in their private practice or medical centre, with part or the entire doctor’s fee covered by Medicare or OSHC. You must make an appointment to see a GP. It is important to note that some GP surgeries will request full payment from you at the time of consultation and you will need to present the receipt to claim the rebate back from your health cover provider.
Medical Services:

What do I do if I am sick?

Choose a doctor from the list of medical facilities in this handbook or use the Yellow Pages and phone the GP’s surgery or medical centre to make an appointment. If you have woken in the morning feeling unwell and would like to see a doctor that day, you will need to phone the doctor’s surgery early in the morning (8:00am – 8:30am) for an appointment. Please note however, that it may not be possible to get an appointment on the same day - you may have to wait one or two days before you can see a doctor, in some regional areas of Australia it may be a week or two before you can get an appointment.

An alternative is to call a home doctor, which may be expensive, but they will come to you after hours. Phone 13 74 25 www.mmds.com.au

Seeing a Doctor

When you attend your appointment, the doctor will ask you questions about your health and may give you a brief physical examination, such as checking your breathing, your throat, your ears etc. The doctor will then give you some advice regarding management of your illness, and may give you a prescription for some medication. If you have had, or need to take time off studies you will need to get a medical certificate from the doctor to provide to AGB Training. If your illness is more serious or the doctor is unsure of a diagnosis, she or he may refer you for further tests eg: blood tests or x-rays, or to see a specialist Doctor. It is important to note that if you are dissatisfied with the diagnosis or service of the Doctor you see, you have the right to obtain an opinion from another Doctor.

Public Hospital Waiting Times

If you cannot get an appointment with a GP and want to go to a public hospital to see a doctor, you may find a public hospital, which has a general practice clinic attached. If not, and you attend an emergency room to see a Doctor, be prepared to wait a VERY long time. It is common to wait more than 3 hours, and at some hospitals, you could wait as long as 5-6 hours to see a doctor. It is common practice for a doctor or a nurse to make an initial assessment of your condition when you first arrive to prioritise the emergencies in the hospital. You will be seen as soon as the most urgent patients have been attended to. It is also common to remain in the emergency room for some time after a doctor has attended to you before you are instructed you can leave. Emergency department rules may include keeping you a little longer to observe you and ensure that your condition does not change and it is safe to send you home with the recommended treatment. It is the same for all patients – international students and Australian citizens alike.

Pharmacies

GP surgeries do not have medications to dispense to you. You must take the prescription given to you by the doctor to a Pharmacy or Chemist to obtain the medication. You will need to provide the pharmacy with your OSHC card, your full name and address. You are able to walk in off the street to any pharmacy/chemist/drug store in Australia and will only have to wait a short while for your prescription medicine to be prepared.

Prescription Medication

Medication prescribed by your doctor is not free. You must pay the pharmacy. If the cost is more than *AU$30.70 you can claim the difference back from your OSHC provider. Many pharmacists will offer you the option of having a “generic” brand of medicine, where the prescribed medicine is available by a company,
which produces generic brands at cheaper prices, this option will be offered to you. This is ONLY offered if the content of the medicine is the same as that prescribed by your Doctor.

Over-the-Counter Medication
Pharmacies/chemists also provide a variety of over-the-counter medications useful for treating colds, headaches, allergies and the like, which do not require a prescription. Ask the pharmacist on duty for advice regarding the best medication for your symptoms. Ensure that you advise the pharmacist of any other medications you may be taking.

Dental and Optical
Dental and Optical Health services are not covered by your OSHC unless you take out extra cover. If you need to see a Dentist or Optometrist, you will need to make an appointment (see the Yellow Pages) and pay the full fee of this service.

Interpreter Services
We are lucky in Australia to have a variety of healthcare professionals from many different cultural backgrounds, so you may be able to see a doctor who speaks your first language. However, if you are having difficulties communicating with your doctor, the Translation and Interpreter Service (TIS) can be used. For more information visit www.immi.gov.au or phone 131 450

Medical Facilities in Geelong:

Hospitals

Medical Centres X-ray Pathology and Pharmacies
Google Geelong required service

General Health
Maintaining good health is of vital importance when studying abroad. While living in another environment is a good way to change a daily routine, it is important for students who are experiencing difficulties in their own country (relationship, health, emotional, substance abuse, etc.) not to expect a vacation from their problems. Going abroad is not a “geographic cure” for concerns and problems at home that is, thinking that you can solve your personal dilemmas by moving from one place to another. Sometimes students feel that a change of venue will help them to move past their current problems. However, living and studying in a foreign environment frequently creates unexpected physical and emotional stress, which can exacerbate otherwise mild disorders. It is important that all students are able to adjust to potentially dramatic changes in climate, diet, living, and study conditions that may seriously disrupt accustomed patterns of behavior. In particular, if students are concerned about their use of alcohol and other controlled drugs or if they have an emotional or physical health concern, they should address it honestly before making plans to travel and study abroad.
(Source: Education Abroad Program, UCLA)

Mental Health
http://www.beyondblue.org.au/
Geelong Hospital

Physical Health

A big part of staying healthy involves eating healthy foods, and getting enough exercise for fitness and relaxation. Nutrition Australia provides some great information about healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle on its website www.nutritionaustralia.org.

☑ Exercise - do at least 30mins of moderate exercise a day
☑ Sleep - get at least 8-9 hours of sleep a night
☑ Nutrition - keep a balanced diet remembering to eat lots of vegetables and fruit everyday
☑ Binge drinking - limit your consumption of alcohol and avoid binge drinking. Binge drinking describes the habit of drinking to excess when you do drink, with little or no understanding of your limits to accommodate the amount of alcohol in your blood.

Sexual Health

Taking care of your sexual health means more than being free from sexually transmissible infections or diseases (STIs or STDs); it also means taking responsibility for your body, your health, your partner’s health and your decisions about sex. Talk freely to your partner to ensure you are both ready for sex. Always use condoms as condoms are the only form of contraception that protects against STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) and unplanned pregnancy. Females should also consider a form of contraception to ensure safety against an unplanned pregnancy. If you have, any sexual health concerns consult your GP.
Managing My Finances:

Initial Expenses

This is an example of some of the expenses you might encounter when you first come to Australia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary accommodation</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental bond (four weeks rent @ $300/week)</td>
<td>$1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance rent (two weeks @ $300/week)</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity connection</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone connection</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas connection</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet connection</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone and/or network sim card</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household items, e.g. furniture, crockery, etc.</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks &amp; Educational Expenses</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance – house, car, health</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On-going Expenses

Once you have established yourself in accommodation, you will need to budget for ongoing costs. This is an example of monthly expenses you may have if you live in **SINGLE accommodation**, costs will reduce if you are in shared accommodation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Expense</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent (four weeks rent @ $300/week)</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food (four weeks @ $100/week)</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Phone</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance – health, house, car</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting up a Bank Account:

You can choose to open an account in any Bank, Credit Union or Building Society in Australia. Do your research to get the best deal.

To open a bank account you will need:
- your Passport (with arrival date stamped by Australian immigration)
- Student ID card
- money to deposit into the account (this can be as little as $10)

Anyone who wishes to open a bank account in Australia must show several pieces of personal identification which are allotted a points system. 100 points of identification is required to establish your identity as the person who will be named in the account. Your passport and proof of your arrival date in Australia will be acceptable as 100 points IF you open an account within six weeks of arrival in Australia. After this time, you will be required to produce additional documentation. As a student, you will be able to open an account with special student benefits. Many banks have ‘Student Accounts’ which contain no or minimal fees for transactions that might normally be attached to regular savings accounts. You will also require the student ID card from AGB Training to prove you are a student and should have access to the benefits offered by a student bank account. For a comparison of accounts in banks throughout Australia, see: http://www.banks.com.au/personal/accounts/

Most people in Australia enjoy the convenience of Internet banking and/or Telephone banking, which enables them to manage their money, pay bills etc. from home. At the time, you are setting up your account you can request these services from your bank.

Bank & ATM Locations in Geelong

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANK</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Australia Bank</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nab.com.au">www.nab.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANZ</td>
<td><a href="http://www.anz.com.au">www.anz.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Bank</td>
<td><a href="http://www.commbank.com.au">www.commbank.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westpac Bank</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westpac.com.au">www.westpac.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St George Bank</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stgeorge.com.au">www.stgeorge.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Union Australia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cua.com.au">www.cua.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo Bank</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bendigobank.com.au">www.bendigobank.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NB – this list is just a sample of some financial institutions in Australia)
Banking Hours
Most bank branches are open from Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm except on public holidays. Some branches have extended trading hours during the week and may be open Saturdays, check with your individual bank. ATMs remain open 24 hours a day. However, you should be aware of your personal safety if accessing cash from an ATM at night in quiet areas where there are not a lot of people around.

Bank Fees
Bank fees are the price you pay for the products and services that banks offer. Different banks charge different fees for different products and services, and the best way to find out what fees apply is simply to ask your bank. Any fees that apply to your accounts are fully disclosed in information leaflets and terms and conditions that your bank can provide before you open your account. Some banks waive some fees if you are a full-time student. The way you do your banking may also affect the fees that apply for example: internet banking rather than walking into a branch. If you do not understand any fee, which has been charged, contact your bank.

Accessing Money from My Account:
Bank accounts offer lots of options for accessing your money. Some of the most popular options are described below.

EFTPOS
Short for ‘Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale’, EFTPOS terminals can be found where goods or services are sold, for example, supermarkets, service stations, restaurants, doctors’ surgeries and gymnasiums. You can pay for goods and make payments through EFTPOS using your ATM card, rather than paying with cash. At some stores, when you use EFTPOS you can also withdraw cash from your account at the same time. You should be aware that there are some retailers who put limits on how much cash can be withdrawn, which may be dependent on the amount spent in the store. When paying by EFTPOS, you also use your PIN to access your account. The same rules apply about keeping the PIN confidential and never handing it over to anyone. Be careful no one is looking over your shoulder when you enter your PIN.

Telephone Banking
You can use telephone banking to transfer payments to and from accounts, get your account balances, get recent transaction information and pay bills. You will need to register to use telephone banking and will then be given a password or an identification number that allows you to access your accounts over the phone. It is important never to give your password to anyone else.

Internet Banking
Internet banking allows you to view and check your accounts, review recent transactions, apply for loans and credit cards, or transfer money and pay bills – all on-line. Most banks offer Internet banking facilities, but you will need to register with your bank to gain access. You will be given a password that allows you to use your accounts on-line. Never give this password to anyone else.

There are security issues that need to be considered when using Internet banking. It is recommended that you install and keep up-to-date anti-virus software and a firewall, update security patches and be suspicious of emails requesting you to hand over confidential information such as your Internet banking logon password. Your bank will never ask you for this information, especially in an email. In addition, many banks publish security guides on their websites and this provides important information on precautions that you can take to protect your information on-line. If you are unsure about any approach that appears to be from
your bank to provide personal information. Refuse to provide that information until you can attend your nearest branch to discuss the request over the counter with bank staff. There is no charge for discussing your banking options at a branch.

Over-the-Counter Service
You can also go into a branch of your bank and, with the assistance of bank staff, conduct transactions including withdrawals, deposits, transfers, and account balance checks. If you do not have a branch close by, you may be able to visit an agency of your branch, such as an Australia Post outlet, to conduct certain transactions. Bear in mind that over-the-counter transactions usually incur higher fees than electronic transactions.

Paying Bills
Most bank accounts offer many easy options for paying bills. Transaction accounts with cheque book facilities allow you to pay bills by cheque, and most transaction accounts and savings accounts allow you to pay bills electronically (e.g., using facilities such as telephone banking, Internet banking) and using direct debits. A note of caution on direct debits – they are a convenient way to pay everyday bills, but always make sure you’ve got enough money in your account to cover the cost of the debit. If your pay or allowance goes into your account on a certain date, make sure your direct debit payments are scheduled to come out of your account after your pay goes in, or you might end up with an overdrawn account or a dishonoured payment – both can cost you money.

Account Statements
Most banks will provide regular statements for your accounts; regularity can depend on the type of account. On request, banks will provide statements on a deposit account at more frequent intervals, but this may attract a fee. Bank statements are your record of everything that has happened in your account over a given period – the withdrawals, deposits and transfers that were made, and any bank fees and government taxes you were charged. Telephone and Internet banking can make it easy to check your statements, and some banks even offer ‘mini statements’ through their own ATMs. Check your statements regularly to make sure you’ve got enough money in your account to cover your expenses and keep track of your spending, as well as make sure that all transactions made in your account are legitimate. Refer to your statements to see what fees you are paying on your bank accounts and why, and to see whether a few simple changes to your banking habits could help you to reduce the fees you pay for example, using your own bank’s ATMs instead of other banks’ ATMs.
(Source: Australian Bankers’ Association Inc.)

ATMs (Automatic Telling Machines)
ATMs can be used to withdraw cash from an account by using the ATM card which is available with most bank accounts. You can also use ATMs to get an account balance and transfer money into other accounts. Some ATMs also allow you to deposit cash and cheques into your account. Using the ATM of your bank will generally cost less money than if you use another bank’s ATM. Fees for using ATMs can vary between banks and between accounts.

Using an ATM
You will be given a PIN (Personal Identification Number) which you will enter into the ATM to access your account. It is the key to your account and it is important that you never tell anyone your PIN. A bank or reputable business will never ask you for your PIN. If anyone does, be suspicious, don’t hand it over and
report the incident to the bank and the police. Be careful no one is looking over your shoulder when you enter your PIN. These general rules should be followed for ATM safety, especially at night:

- Minimise your time at the ATM by having your card ready when you approach the machine;
- Take a look around as you approach the ATM and if there's anything suspicious, don't use the machine at that time (report any suspicions to the police);
- If you don't feel comfortable using a particular ATM, consider continuing on to another branch or using off-street ATMs;

Do remember that EFTPOS can be used to withdraw cash at many other places, like supermarkets and service stations; if you simply want to check your account balance or transfer funds between accounts, telephone or Internet banking can be used instead of an ATM. If your ATM or credit card is lost or stolen or if your PIN has been revealed to another person, notify your bank immediately. This will enable your bank to put a stop on your card immediately so that no one else can use it and get access to your money. Most banks have a 24-hour telephone number for reporting lost cards – it’s a good idea to keep a record of this number handy at all times, just in case. If you do not know the number, ask your bank.

(Source: Australian Bankers’ Association Inc.)
Safety When Carrying Money:

The first and fundamental rule of safety when carry money is:

“Don’t carry large amounts of cash!”

The second is:

“Don’t advertise the fact that you are carrying money!”

- Divide your cash into different locations on your person front pocket, coat pocket, shoes, etc.
- Keep your wallet in one of your front pockets at all times.
- Do not carry cash in a backpack or back pocket.
- Sew a small money pocket into the cuff of a trouser, sleeve of a shirt or even a bra.
- Divide your bank/credit cards and keep them in separate locations.
- Do not place money or valuables in lockers.
- Be very careful how you carry your handbag, and never leave it open for someone to slip their hand inside.

Working in Australia:

Permission to Work

From 26 April 2008, people granted Student Visas will automatically receive permission to work with their visa grant. Most Student Visa holders will no longer need to apply separately in Australia for permission to work. Please note that you will NOT be able to work in Australian until the first official day of classes when AGB Training will confirm your study commencement. AGB Training may do this automatically on the first official day of classes, or you may need to request that they do.

Working While Studying

You are not permitted to start work until you have commenced your course of study. You can work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the term and unlimited hours when your course is not in session. The Department of Immigration and Boarder Protection (DIBP) considers your course to be ‘in session’:

- for the duration of the advertised semesters (including periods when exams are being held)
- if you have completed your studies and your Confirmation of Enrolment is still in effect
- if you are undertaking another course, during a break from your main course and the points will be credited to your main course.

(Source: Department of Immigration and Boarder Protection)

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions please visit

www.immi.gov.au/study
Finding Work

You may find it difficult to find work in Australia, as you will be joining the general Australian population in your search; therefore, you should not rely on income from employment when budgeting to pay for living expenses. There is no guarantee that employment companies will find work for you. There are many different ways to find a job in Australia:

- Newspapers
- Student Job Boards
- online

Online - try these online companies:


(Source: On-line search)

Career and Employment Assistance:

Employment

Students should refer to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for advice on their allowable hours in which they can gain employment and work. Australia is generally experiencing a skills shortage and part time employment is quite easily obtained.

Tax File Number

A Tax File Number (TFN) is a unique nine-digit number is issued to individuals and organisations to assist in administering Tax and other Australian Government systems. You are only eligible to be issued with one TFN during your lifetime, even if you change your circumstances. Find out more about TFN's on the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) TFN page for further info. [https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number/](https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number/)

Taxation Returns

If you pay too much tax, you are entitled to a refund. To get a refund you will need to lodge a tax return. You can lodge online using e-tax (free), by mailing a paper tax return, or by paying a registered tax agent to complete and lodge the return for you. If you lodge by e-tax your refund will normally be issued within 14 days.

- For a registered tax agent visit [www.tabd.gov.au](http://www.tabd.gov.au)

Tax returns are lodged at the end of the Australian tax year – (1 July to 30 June).
Superannuation

If your monthly wage is more than AU$450, your employer must contribute an additional sum equal to 9% of your wage into a superannuation (pension) account for you. In most cases, you can access your contributions when you leave Australia permanently, although the contributions will be taxed.

To check your eligibility to claim your superannuation and to apply for your payment, visit www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia. You will need to provide the details of your superannuation fund.

(Source: Australian Taxation Office)

Laws and Safety in Australia:

Obeying the Law

One of the reasons we have such a wonderful lifestyle in Australia is due to our representative democracy, the separation of powers, and our respect for the rule of law. We have many laws in Australia and as a result, society runs smoothly.

In being granted a visa to study in Australia, you signed a document, Australian Values Statement, temporary agreeing to respect Australian values and obey the laws of Australia for the duration of your stay. Failure to comply with the laws of this land, including State and Territory laws, could result in a fine or the cancellation of your visa and possible deportation back home. If you are convicted of a serious crime, it could result in imprisonment. Nobody wants this to happen!

You can find a comprehensive outline of Australian law and the legal system at www.australia.gov.au

Legal Services & Advice

If you do break the law are arrested and need to attend a court appearance you will need legal representation to negotiate Australia’s complex legal system. http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/
## Child Protection Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Legislation</th>
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</table>
| Australian Capital Territory (Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services) | **Principal Acts:** Children and Young People Act 1999 (ACT)  
**Other relevant Acts:** Adoption Act 1993 (ACT)  
Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)  
Human Rights Commission Act 2005 (ACT)  
Public Advocate Act 2005 (ACT)  
Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) |
| New South Wales (Department of Community Services) | **Principal Acts:** Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)  
**Other relevant Acts:** Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Parental Responsibility Contracts) Act 2006 (NSW)  
Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 (NSW)  
Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)  
The Ombudsman Act 1974 (NSW)  
Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) |
| Northern Territory (Family and Children's Services, Department of Health and Community Services) | **Principal Acts:** Community Welfare Act 1983 (NT)  
Care and Protection of Children Draft Act (NT) (currently before Cabinet)  
**Other relevant Acts:** Information Act 2006 (NT)  
Disability Services Act 2004 (NT)  
Criminal Code Act 2006 (NT)  
Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) |
| Queensland (Department of Child Safety) | **Principal Acts:** Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)  
**Other relevant Acts:** Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 (Qld)  
Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)  
Public Health Act 2005 (Qld)  
Adoption of Children Act 1964 (Qld)  
Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) |
| South Australia (Families SA; Department for Families and Communities) | **Principal Acts:** Children's Protection Act 1993 (SA)  
**Other relevant Acts/Legislation:** Young Offenders Act 1994 (SA) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Department/Agency</th>
<th>Principal Acts</th>
<th>Other relevant Acts</th>
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Home Security

House-break-ins is one of the most common crimes. Most house break-ins appear to be crimes of opportunity with entry gained through an open or unlocked window or door. Most intruders are looking for, and often find, a house left open or unlocked where they can get what they want with ease and make a quick getaway.

Some General Security Tips:

- Your house number should be clearly visible from the street in case of an emergency.
- Keep your front door locked when you are at the back of the house.
- Do not leave messages on the front door. It lets people know you are not home.
- Avoid having parcels left on the doorstep.
- If you have to have something delivered while you are out have, the neighbours collect it.
- When out, leave a radio, television, or a light on in the evening to give the impression you are home.
- Keep cash and valuables out of sight.

Home Security is an issue for you to consider when you are deciding on a place to live. Windows and doors should preferably have security screens or locks; doors should have dead bolts, a security chain and a peephole, if the property has an alarm system – that would also make it an excellent choice.

Contents Insurance

It is recommended that if you are in a rental property that you obtain Contents Insurance for your belongings. This is a form of house insurance insuring the contents of the house. Landlords will usually have House Insurance but your belongings will not be covered. Contents insurance will replace your belongings if your house is robbed and your belongings are damaged or stolen, or you have a house fire and your belongings are destroyed or damaged. This may cost you up to $200 per year depending on the value of your belongings.

Internet Safety & Security

Internet Access on Arrival

Internet cafes are located in most major cities, or book a computer at a community library. The internet has now become an essential business, social, entertainment and educational resource for most Australians. The increasing level of economic transactions on the internet is making it the focus of criminal activities. It is important that internet users protect themselves from falling prey to these activities. The following tips list some simple precautions you can take to minimise the chances of becoming a victim of online criminals.

1. Install anti-virus and other security software, such as anti-spyware and anti-spam software. Use and update this software regularly.
2. Regularly download and install the latest security patches for your computer software, including your web-browser. Use automatic software security updates where possible.

3. Use a firewall and make sure it is turned on. Firewalls help prevent unauthorised access to, and communications from, your computer.

4. Delete suspect emails immediately. Do not open these emails.

5. Don't click on links in suspect emails. Visiting websites through clicking on links in suspect emails may result in malware (malicious software), such as a 'Trojan', being downloaded to your computer. This is a commonly used and effective means of compromising your computer.

6. Only open an attachment to an email where you know the sender and the contents of the attachment.

7. Do not download files or applications from suspect websites. The file or application could be malware. Sometimes the malware may even be falsely represented as e-security software designed to protect you.

8. Use long and random passwords for any application that provides access to your personal identity information, including logging onto your computer. Don't use dictionary words as a password. Ideally, the password should be eight or more characters in length. Change passwords regularly.

9. Use a limited permission account for browsing the web, creating documents, reading email, and playing games. If your operating system allows you to create a limited permission account, this can prevent malicious code from being installed onto your computer. A 'limited permission' account is an account that does not have 'Administrator' status. (Source: Australian Communications and Media Authority)

Personal Safety:

When you are out and about it is important to be alert and aware of your personal safety.

If you are socialising in a public place never leave your drink unattended. Read about Drink Spiking under ‘Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs’. If you are out and about:

- Think ahead - consider how you are going to get home - what about pre-booking a taxi or arranging transport with a friend or family member?
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend or as part of a group
- Never hitchhike, get into a car with strangers.
- Make sure that you stay with your party and that someone knows where you are at all times.
- Make sure you have enough money to get home or to phone.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible
- Keep away from trouble - if you see any trouble or suspect that it might be about to start moving away from the scene if you can. The best thing you can do is to alert the police and keep away.
- Walk purposely and try to appear confident. Be wary of casual requests from strangers, like someone asking for a cigarette or change - they could have ulterior motives.
- Make eye contact with people when walking - let them know that you have noticed their presence
- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you, especially if you are alone or it is dark
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street or in a car - continue walking
- always keep your briefcase or bag in view and close to your body
- Try not to carry your wallet in your back trouser pocket where it is vulnerable and in clear view.
- Be discrete with your cash or mobile phones
- When going to your car or home, have your keys in your hand and easily accessible
- Consider carrying a personal attack alarm
- If you do not have a mobile phone, make sure that you have a phone card or change to make a phone call, but remember - emergency 000 calls are free of charge.

(Source: Australian Federal Police)

Public Transport Safety:

Travelling on public transport should be a safe and comfortable experience. Numerous security measures have been adopted to maximise the safety of travellers including: security officers, police, guards, help points, good lighting and security cameras. Most drivers also have two-way radios and can call for assistance.

**Buses**

**Waiting for a bus:**
- Avoid isolated bus stops
- Stand away from the curb until the bus arrives
- Don’t open your purse or wallet while boarding the bus - have your money/pas already in hand
- At night, wait in well lit areas and near other people
- Check timetables to avoid long waits.

**Riding on the bus:**
- Sit as close to the bus driver as possible
- Stay alert and be aware of the people around you
- If someone bothers you, change seats and tell the driver
- Keep your purse/packages close by your side. Keep your wallet inside a front coat pocket
- Check your purse/wallet if someone is jostling, crowding or pushing you
- If you see any suspicious activity, inform the driver

**Trains**

Many of the same safety tips when travelling by bus apply for trains. In addition:

Most suburban trains have security cameras installed or emergency alarms that will activate the cameras. Carriages nearest the drivers are always left open and lit

Try not to become isolated. If you find yourself left in a carriage on your own or with only one other person, you may feel more comfortable to move to another carriage with other people or closer to the driver.
Taxis

Travelling by taxi is generally quite a safe method of public transport. To increase your confidence when travelling by taxi, consider the following suggestions:

- Phone for a taxi in preference to hailing one on the street. A record is kept by taxi companies of all bookings made.
- You are entitled to choose the taxi/taxi driver of your preference. If a driver makes you feel uncomfortable you are within your rights to select another taxi.
- Sit wherever you feel most comfortable. This may mean travelling in the back seat of the taxi.
- Specify to the driver the route you wish to take to reach your destination. Speak up if the driver takes a different route to the one you have specified or are familiar with.
- Take note of the Taxi Company and fleet number. This will help in identifying the taxi if required. If you are walking a friend to catch a taxi, consider letting the driver know that you have noted these details e.g. "Look after my friend, Mr/Ms Yellow Cab No.436".
- Stay alert to your surroundings and limit your conversation to general topics.
- If you don't want your home address known, stop a few houses away from your destination.

If the driver harasses you when travelling in a taxi, your options include:

- Ask the driver to stop. You may choose to make up an excuse to do so;
- Leave the taxi when it stops at a traffic sign or lights;
- Call out to someone on the street to attract attention and seek assistance. This may also cause the driver to stop;
- Read out the fleet number and advise the driver you will report him/her if they don't stop.

(Source: Queensland Police Service)
Road Rules:

If you are going to drive in Australia, no matter whether you are an experienced driver and have an international drivers’ licence or not, **YOU MUST KNOW THE ROAD RULES** before you attempt to drive, even 10metres! Many lives are lost on Australian roads every year and international visitors are at high risk! In Australia we drive on the left side of the road. If you come from a country where you drive on the opposite side of the road to Australia it is sometimes helpful to have a companion drive with you to ensure you both take note of traffic conditions and signs until you are more familiar with driving on the left side of the road. A handy tip is not to think of it as the other side of the road, but to think that the “white line”, or centre dividing line on the road, is on your side as the driver, just as it is in all countries. It is recommended that you take one or two driving lessons in Australia before you begin to drive here on your own.

**Owning a Car**

**Registration:**
Any motor vehicle you own must be registered before you drive it on the road. You must register it in your name and provide the State Car Registration Board with your driver’s licence details and your residential address in Australia.

**Insurance:**
It is recommended that you have car insurance if you own a car, this will protect you if you have an accident that is your fault as it will help pay for any damage you may have caused to your car or another car.

**Speed**
There are very obvious reasons for having speeding and traffic rules. The risk of being involved in an accident increases with the speed a vehicle is being driven because there is less time to react, less control of the vehicle and the distance needed to stop is longer. The higher the speed a vehicle is travelling when it hits a pedestrian, the greater the chance of a fatality occurring. **Speed kills.**

**Mobile Phones and Driving**
The use of mobile phones when driving is dangerous, against the law if it is not hands-free, and potentially fatal. This applies to sending or receiving text messages as well as calls. Operating a mobile phone while driving makes you **nine times more likely to be killed** in a collision. Police actively target the use of mobile phones by motorists. Fines are considerable and demerit point penalties do apply. You should be aware of how to legally use a mobile phone while driving.

**Demerit Points Scheme**
The Demerit Points Scheme is a national program that allocates penalty points (demerits) for a range of driving offences. The scheme is designed to encourage safe and responsible driving. Along with financial penalties, demerit points provide a strong incentive to drive within the law. Different offences have a different number of demerit points. A complete list of all offences, demerit points and fines can be downloaded from the related links section.

(Source: Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW)
License Requirements:

In most States/Territories of Australia if you hold a current driver licence from another country, you are allowed to drive on your overseas licence as long as:

- You remain a temporary overseas visitor
- Your overseas licence remains current
- You have not been disqualified from driving in that State or elsewhere and
- You have not had your licence suspended or cancelled or your visiting driver privileges withdrawn.

Most overseas visitors are not required to obtain an Australian licence if you comply with these conditions and can continue to prove your genuine visitor status to State Police if required.

**Note:** If you are a licence holder from New Zealand, you must obtain an Australian driver licence within three months of residing in Australia or you must stop driving. When driving in NSW you must carry your overseas driver licence. Your licence must be written in English or, if the licence is not in English, you must carry either an English translation or an International Driving Permit. An International Driving Permit is not a license to drive. It should still be accompanied by a current driving license.

If you are a temporary overseas visitor and you wish to obtain an Australian licence seek advice from your local Police Station.

(Source: Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW)

**Drinking Alcohol and Driving**

*If you are going to drink alcohol, **DO NOT** drive. If you are going to drive, **DO NOT** drink alcohol.*

Anything else is a risk, not only to you, but also to other motorists and pedestrians. Alcohol is involved in about one-third of all serious motor vehicle accidents. As the level of alcohol increases in your body, you have more risk of being involved in an accident. **Driving with blood-alcohol content above the legal limit is dangerous to others as well as yourself and severe legal penalties apply.** If you are above the prescribed blood alcohol content level, as the level of alcohol in your body increases, so does the severity of your fine and/or jail term.
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Levels

The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream. A BAC of 0.05 means you have 0.05 grams of alcohol in every 100ml of your blood. As the liver metabolises alcohol at around one standard drink per hour, the BAC level drops unless more alcohol is consumed. BAC is measured with a breathalyser, or by analysing a sample of blood.

Factors Affecting your BAC

The more you drink, the higher your BAC. However, two people who drink the same amount might register quite different BACs. There are many factors affecting BAC, including:

Body size: A smaller person will have a higher BAC than a larger person because the alcohol is concentrated in a smaller body mass.

Empty stomach: Someone with an empty stomach will reach a higher BAC sooner than someone who has just eaten a meal. Food in the stomach slows down the rate at which alcohol passes into the bloodstream.

Body fat: People with a lot of body fat tend to have higher BACs because alcohol is not absorbed into fatty tissue, so alcohol is concentrated in a smaller body mass.

Women: After drinking the same amount of alcohol, a woman will almost always have a higher BAC than a male.

Because of all these variable factors, counting the number of standard drinks you consume can only give a rough guide to your BAC. For more detailed information about alcohol and how it effects you, please see the Australian Drug Foundation website: [www.druginfo.adf.org.au](http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au).

Drinking Limits Advice

To stay below 0.05 BAC, drivers are advised to limit their drinking to:

For men: No more than two standard drinks in the first hour and no more than one standard drink every hour after that.

For women: No more than one standard drink in the first hour and no more than one every hour after that.
Random Breath Testing (RBT)

Random breath testing of drivers for blood alcohol levels and drug use is common at any time of the day or night. Police officers have the right to stop any vehicle at any time and require the driver to supply samples for screening. Any person driving a motor vehicle is required by law to have less than a specified amount of alcohol in their blood. If a driver exceeds the level, which applies to them the driver has committed an offence.

Risk of an Accident

It is safest not to drink alcohol at all if you are going to drive. The more alcohol you have in your body, the more risk you have of being involved in an accident.

- **At 0.05%** Blood Alcohol Content (BAC), your risk of being involved in a road accident is double that of a 0.00% reading.
- **At 0.1%** BAC your risk is more than seven times as high of being involved in a road accident, than at 0.00%.
- **At 0.15%** your risk increases to 25 times that of driving at 0.00%.

(Source: Australian Federal Police)

**DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE**
Alcohol, Smoking, & Drugs:

Alcohol

Alcohol use is legal for those aged 18 years or over. There are laws governing how alcohol may be used in each State and Territory of Australia.

Standard Drinks

The use of standard drinks can help people to monitor their alcohol consumption and exercise control over the amount they drink.

Different types of alcoholic drinks contain different amounts of pure alcohol. A standard drink is defined as one that contains 10 grams of pure alcohol.

These are all equal to approximately one standard drink:

- A middy of beer (285ml) = a nip (30ml) of spirits = a small glass (100ml) of wine = a small glass (60ml) of fortified wine such as sherry.

Please keep in mind:

- Some hotels don’t serve standard drinks - they might be bigger. Large wine glasses can hold two standard drinks - or even more!
- Drinks served at home often contain more alcohol than a standard drink.
- Cocktails can contain as many as five or six standard drinks, depending on the recipe.
- Pre mixed bottled drinks often contain more alcohol than a standard drink.

Smoking

Australian law makes it an offence to sell or supply tobacco products to a person under the age of 18 years. It is illegal for anyone under 18 to purchase tobacco products. There are also a number of laws regulating and restricting the advertising, promotion and packaging of tobacco products. Regulations have been introduced to restrict smoking in public areas such as shopping centres, hotels, restaurants and dining areas, and in some workplaces.
Drugs

Each State and Territory has laws governing the manufacture, possession, distribution and use of drugs, both legal and illegal. Drug laws in Australia distinguish between those who use drugs and those who supply or traffic drugs. The Federal Customs Act covers the importing of drugs, while each State has laws governing the manufacture, possession, distribution and use of drugs, both legal and illegal.

**DANGER: Drink Spiking!**

Whether you are drinking alcohol or not, keep your drink close to you and watch it at all times. Drink spiking (putting extra alcohol or other drugs into a person’s drink without their knowledge) is an unfortunate risk to people who are out trying to have a good time. Drink spiking can happen to anyone: male or female, young or old whether they are drinking alcohol or not. Never accept an open container of drink if you did not see it being poured and if you suspect you or your friends have had a drink spiked, **call 000 (zero zero zero)** immediately to report it and get help.

*(Source: Australian Drug Foundation)*

**Hitchhiking:**

A person who waves at unknown drivers from the side of the road to request a ride with a driver further along the road is called a Hitchhiker. Hitchhiking is illegal in Queensland and Victoria. Elsewhere in Australia, it is illegal to hitchhike on motorways, where pedestrians are prohibited and where cars are not allowed to stop. Some travel companies promote hitchhiking as an inexpensive means of travelling around Australia.

HOWEVER, many crimes have been committed against innocent hitchhikers including violent personal crimes and abductions. You do not know anything about the person whose car you get into.

Our advice to you is **DON’T HITCHHIKE!** It simply is not worth the risk.

**Avoiding Dangerous Areas and Activities:**

It is important to always be alert and aware of your surroundings and to avoid dangerous areas and activities, particularly at night.

**A public place can vary through the course of the day.** It may be used by different groups of people at different times. It may be busy at certain times and isolated at others. It may be different during the day than it is at night. These differences can have a very different impact on the way you feel when you are in them. For example:

The street outside a hotel in the morning is likely to be used by people going to and from work or shopping. At night however, the people most likely to be on the street are hotel patrons. **Alcohol consumption** has now become a factor in these places, and for many (particularly for women), **some areas may become less safe.**
A shopping mall during the day has lots of different people using it. Once it closes, it is often isolated and usually dark. A school between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm is usually lively and active. After 5 pm or during school holidays however, it may be isolated or dominated by particular groups of people.

**Being in a place when it is busy is very different from when the place is isolated.** There is often no reason to be afraid, But – be alert, be aware, and be careful.

### Making New Friends:

There is no magic trick to making friends. In addition, if you are in a foreign culture it can seem more difficult than usual to find people who you really “get along” with. **Be kind to yourself - remember that making friends takes time.** If you make the most of social opportunities during your life in Australia, just as you would back home, it will be quicker and easier for you to fit in, make friends and feel at home.

However you meet people, **remember to be careful.** When you meet someone new, be cautious until you get to know the person better and feel you can trust him or her. If a stranger starts talking to you, they are probably just being friendly. However, be safe, and do not give them any of your personal details like your full name, your phone number or your address. **With people, you do not know well; always arrange to meet them in a public place,** like a café or a park, instead of inviting them to your home or going to theirs, until you feel you have built a relationship with them, know more about them and feel comfortable with them.

Many international students spend time socialising with other students and people from their own country and culture while they’re in Australia. These people can make you feel accepted and you may be able to communicate much more easily with them than you can with the locals, particularly when you have just arrived. When everything around you is new and different, it can feel like a big relief to find people from your own country and cultural background. But remember, **you need to be careful at first,** until you get to know them better, just as you should with anyone else. Even though you may feel like you have a lot in common, **remain cautious until you feel you know them reasonably well and can trust them.** People sometimes commit crimes against international students from their own culture.

If you have any concerns or questions about someone you have met, or want to talk to someone about Australian mannerisms and communication “norms”, widely acceptable behaviour, make an appointment to talk it over with your **International Student Advisor.**
Sexual assault is a **criminal offence**. It includes sexual harassment, unwanted touching, indecent assault and penetration of any kind. It is important to remember that it can happen to anyone and at any time but certain **precautions** may make it more difficult for a possible perpetrator:

- When socialising, be smart. Drink in a way that leaves you in control. Leaving drinks unattended leaves them open to being spiked quite easily.
- Walk with confidence and purpose.
- Avoid lonely or dark places.
- Be wary of strangers, whether they are on foot, in cars or at parties.
- Be aware of the people around you.
- Respect your intuition.
- If placed in a situation where you feel uncomfortable say "**No!**" loudly and with conviction.

**What do I do if I am assaulted?**

It is very difficult to tell someone that you have been sexually assaulted. It is important to remember that sexual assault is a serious crime and can happen to people regardless of their gender or sexuality. Your first point of contact, should be the Police or your closest Sexual Assault Service. From a **public phone or mobile phone**, ring the police on **000**.

1. Do not wash, shower, change clothes or clean up in any way until after talking to the police and going to the hospital. You could destroy vital evidence. Do not drink alcohol or take tranquillisers or other drugs, as you will have to give a clear account of what has happened. Try to remember everything you can about your attacker.

2. Remember, **you are the victim**. You have nothing to feel guilty or ashamed about. Police officers are aware that a person, who has been assaulted, sexually or otherwise, is likely to be suffering from emotional shock. They will do all they can to make things as easy as possible for you. It is likely they will provide a female police officer for a female victim. If not, you have the right to request one. You can also ask the police to contact a friend, family member, interpreter or religious adviser to attend with you when you are dealing with the circumstances surrounding the report of assault.
SECTION 4

Studying with AGB Training
To Begin:

Arrive early

AGB Training provides an International Student Orientation before the commencement of classes and often before commencing local students attend an orientation. Staffs who run the orientation work hard to ensure that you as a student will be well equipped to achieve the best possible success in your studies. If you read this handbook, you will see that there is a lot of information for you to understand and consider as you move through your studies. Although the handbook outlines what you need to know, it is impossible to understand and recall everything. Once you are concentrating on your studies, you will feel less stressed if you are already comfortable with AGB Training, our staff and services.

Arriving early to attend orientation gives you the chance to;

- See and talk to the most important people you will need to know at AGB Training.
- International Office staff and their duties
- Course or Academic Advisor
- ESL Advisor
- Student Services staff
- Accommodation/Homestay Coordinator
- Counsellors
- Enrol early which will help you to get your student card early. You will need your student card to open bank accounts, borrow books from the library, and more.
- Meet and get advice from your Academic or Course Advisor
- Find your way around the campus,
  - computer rooms and facilities
  - Recreation and eating areas
  - Classrooms
- Meet other International students who may share your classes, share your concerns or fears. Knowing another face on campus can really help you avoid any feelings of isolation and assist you to become more comfortable with the routines.
- Find your way around the public transport/ City/ to and from your accommodation.
- Feel as though you already know some of the things local students know before you get to meet them at orientation activities later.
International Student Orientation:

You will be required to attend a compulsory orientation day between 9.30 am and 1.30 pm 1 week prior to commencement of class. You will be introduced to AGB Training, your trainers and support staff the CEO/PEO. You will be introduced to AGB Training student information, which can be found on our website www.agb.edu.au

- Code or conduct,
- Student hand book (academic progress and attendance requirements)
- International Student ‘Code of Conduct’
- Academic Policies & Procedures
- Complaints & Grievances

You will be issued with your ID card, Timetable/class schedules and any required training resources. You will have the opportunity to complete any administration and financial requirements prior starting your course. There will be time allocated for you to ask questions, both as a group and in private.

International Student Visa Conditions:

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions, please visit www.immi.gov.au/study

Current Address Details

Students on an International Student Visa no longer need to keep DIAC informed of their home address in Australia, as DIAC will check these details with AGB if required. Therefore, you MUST maintain a current residential address on your student file AT ALL TIMES.

At the start of each term (every 3 months), you will be asked to complete a student contact sheet to comply with policies and procedures.

Student Administration Information:

Paying Fees

All fee payments are to be processed through the OSCO. You will be issued with an invoice to be paid against and be issued with a receipt upon payment of fees - refer to your Written Agreement letter of offer and written agreement.

Enrolment

You will be taken through the enrolment process by an International Authorised delegate and be given a letter of offer, written agreement, training plan and invoice. Once you have agreed to, signed the written agreement and training plan, and made payment you are then enrolled into your course of choose.

ID Cards

You will be issued with your ID card at your induction, 1 week prior to you course starting

Refund & Cancellation Policy

Please refer to your written agreement or our website www.agb.edu.au
Textbooks and electronic Resources

Cost of textbooks and electronic resources are covered in your resources fee. Your textbooks will be issued at the beginning of the course to all students.

Student Support Services:

Quick Guide to Key Personnel

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<td>Senior Student Admin Officer</td>
<td>Help with reading, writing, note taking, preparation for exams &amp; assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Admin Officer</td>
<td>Visa problems, financial problems, enrolment and short term accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Admin Officer</td>
<td>Health care/insurance problems, academic progression, accommodation, understanding of how to utilise institution processes effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Admin Officer</td>
<td>Timetable, registration in subject units, change of address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERSONAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Student Admin Officer</td>
<td>Problems with relationships, home-sickness, gambling, depression, relationship issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Student Admin Officer</td>
<td>Sexual harassment, discrimination issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainer</td>
<td>Examination / study adjustments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emails can be directed to studentsupport@agb.edu.au
My Student Survival Page:

**EMERGENCY 000 or 112** from mobile (to override key locks)

**Government Departments**

Department of Immigration & Boarder Security (DIAC)
131 881
www.immi.gov.au

Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
Tax File Number: 132 861
www.ato.gov.au

Health Cover
Refer to AGB Training
international@agb.edu.au

AGB Training 24hr Emergency
counsellor@agb.edu.au or Call +61 3 5221 2611

My Important People & Places:

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Notes

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Section 5
Social and Cultural
Adjusting to Life in Australia:

While living and studying abroad may be an exciting adventure, it can also present a range of challenges. Having decided to study and live in Australia you will be undertaking adjustments in many areas of your life including cultural, social and academic. It is also important to remember that while these changes are occurring you will be embarking upon a new semester of study (for many of you in a different language) and be away from your usual supports, networks and resources. Adjustment to a new country and culture is a process that occurs gradually and takes time. The values, beliefs, traditions and customs of your home country may vary greatly from those in Australia and adapting to the Australian way of life may take some time. This advice may help:

- **Listen, observe and ask questions**
  Adjustment to a new culture and way of life takes time. Allow yourself time to observe those around you and patterns of both verbal and non-verbal communication. Don’t be afraid to ask questions if there are things you do not understand as this will reduce the chance of confusion or misunderstandings.

- **Become involved**
  Make an effort to meet people and become involved in groups both on campus and in the wider community. Maintain an attitude of openness to new situations and experiences. Establishing friendships and group participation, is the best way to experience and learn about Australian culture, and will certainly mean you have a richer and more enjoyable time here.

- **Try to maintain a sense of perspective**
  When confronted with difficulties remind yourself that living and studying abroad is a challenge and it is normal to feel stressed, overwhelmed and out of your depth at times. Try to recall or make a list of the reasons you initially wanted to study abroad in the first place. Also, listing positive events or changes within yourself that have occurred since you arrived may also assist with getting things in perspective.

- **Maintain some of the routines and rituals you may have had in your home country.**
  This can include small things such as continuing to drink a certain type of coffee or tea or eating specific foods. It may also include maintaining involvement in bigger events such as celebrating a national day in your country of origin with a group of friends.

- **Keep lines of communication open with those at home.**
  Communicating with those at home regularly about your experiences of study and life in Australia, through emails, telephones and letters, is vital. Not only does it help to keep you connected with important social supports, it also assists your friends and family to understand your experiences, which will smooth the transition when you return home.

- **Sense of humour**
Importantly, remember that living in a different culture means you will inevitably find yourself in a range of unusual and often confusing situations. Being able to laugh in these situations will remind you that it takes time to understand different cultures and that it is ok to make mistakes.

➢ Ask for help

Don’t be afraid to ask for assistance or support if you need it. In addition to the Counselling Service, there are many organisations set up on campus to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable time in Australia.

➢ Finally, relax and enjoy the journey!

(Source: Macquarie University)
Culture Shock:

Culture shock is the feeling of being out of place in an unfamiliar environment. The initial excitement of moving to a new country often subsides when different cultural expectations challenge you to attend to daily responses and behaviours previously taken for granted. The potential stress of dealing with these persistent challenges can result in feelings of hostility and frustration with your host country as well as a profound longing for home.

PROCESS OF CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Before Leaving
Happy, excited, YIPPEE!
(sad to say goodbye)

Graduation
Happy, excited, YIPPEE!
(sad to say goodbye)

Arrival
Happy, tired, jet-lagged
(a little bit confused)

Adjusting
Making friends, feeling happy, understanding things, socialising, feeling settled

Culture Shock
Everything is new & different
(What is it with these Aussies?!!)

Feeling Very Unhappy
Lonely, homesick, confused, depressed, doubt
(Did I make the right decision coming to Australia?)
(Will I succeed?)
Once you realise you have culture shock, getting over it and moving on to better adjustment with the host culture will depend on you. You must take some positive steps to feel better, and the sooner you take them, the better!

1. **Recognition:** First, you should remember that culture shock is a normal part of your adjustment and that you may have some of the symptoms. Some of your reactions may not be normal for you; you may be more emotional or more sensitive, or lose your sense of humour. Recognising your culture shock symptoms will help you learn about yourself as you work your way through it.

2. **Be objective:** Second, try to analyse objectively the differences you are finding between your home and your host country. Look for the reasons your host country does things differently. Remember that host customs and norms are (mostly) logical to them, just as your customs and norms at home are logical to you!

3. **Set goals:** Third, set some goals for yourself to redevelop your feeling of control in your life. These should be small tasks that you can accomplish each day. For example, if you do not feel like leaving your room, plan a short activity each day that will get you out. Go to a post office or store to buy something, ride a bus or go to a sports event. If you feel that language is your problem, set daily goals to learn more: study fifteen minutes a day; learn five new words a day; learn one new expression each day; watch a TV program in your new language for 30 minutes. Each goal that you achieve will give you more and more self-confidence that you can cope.

4. **Share your feelings:** Fourth, find local friends who are sympathetic and understanding. Talk to them about your feelings and specific situations. They can help you understand ideas from their cultural point of view. (Source: Rotary International Youth Exchange)

### Australian Culture:

#### Social Customs

**Greeting People**

When meeting someone for the first time, it is usual to shake the person's right hand with your right hand. People who do not know each other generally do not kiss or hug when meeting. When you first meet someone, it is polite not to talk about personal matters.

Many Australians **look at the eyes of the people** they are talking with. They consider this a sign of respect, and an indication that they are listening. Do not stare at the person for a long time.

You can address a new acquaintance using their title and family name.

You may use their first name when they ask you to or use it in the introduction. In the workplace and among friends, most Australians tend to be informal and call each other by their first names.

#### Clothing Customs

The types of clothing that people wear reflect the diversity in our society just as much as the variation in climate. There are no laws or rules on clothing, but you must wear certain clothing for work situations.
Most workplaces have dress standards.

Outside of the work situation, clothing is an individual choice; many people dress for comfort, for the social situation or the weather. Clubs, movie theatres and other places require patrons to be in neat, clean clothes and appropriate footwear.

Many Australians live close to the beach and the sea. On hot days, they may wear little clothing on the beach and surrounds. This does not mean that people who dress to go to the beach or swimming have low moral standards. It means that this is what we accept on and near our beaches.

People from other countries can choose to wear their national dress. They may be religious or customary items and include monks' robe, a burqa, a hijab or a turban. As a tolerant society with people from many different cultures, clothing is a part of cultural beliefs and practices that is encouraged.

Polite Behaviour

'Please' and 'thank you' are words that are very helpful when dealing with other people, and buying goods or services. When asked if you would like something, like a cup of tea, it is polite to say, 'Yes please', or just 'please' if you would like it, or 'no, thank you' if you do not. When you receive something, it is polite to thank the person by saying 'thank you'. Australians tend to think that people who do not say 'please' or 'thank you' are being rude. Using these words will help in building a good relationship.

Sometimes a sensitive issue may come up in conversation. Not to talk may seem rude. It is more polite to say 'sorry, it is too hard to explain' than to ignore a question.

Australians often say, 'Excuse me' to get a person's attention and 'sorry' if we bump into them. We also say, 'Excuse me' or 'pardon me' if we burp or belch in public or a person's home.

You should always try to be on time for meetings and other visits. If you realise you are going to be late, try to contact the person to let them know. This is very important for visits to professionals as you may be charged money for being late or if you miss the appointment without notifying them before the appointment time.

Most Australians blow their noses into a handkerchief or tissue, not onto the footpath. This is also true for spitting. Many people will also say, 'Bless you' when you sneeze. This phrase has no religious intent.

Australian Slang

Much common word usage or 'slang' may seem strange to people new to Australia. Slang words start from many different sources. Some words are shortened versions of longer words. Many were expressions already used by migrants who came from the north of England. If you are unsure what an expression means, it is all right to ask the person who said it to explain. Some common expressions are:

- **Bring a plate** - when you are invited to a party and asked to 'bring a plate', this means to bring a dish of food to share with your host and other guests. Take the food to the party in any type of dish, not
just a plate, and it is usually ready to serve. This is common for communal gatherings such as for school, work or a club. If you are unsure what to bring, you can ask the host.

- **BYO** - when an invitation to a party says 'BYO', this means 'bring your own' drink. If you do not drink alcohol, it is acceptable to bring juice, soft drink or soda, or water. Some restaurants are BYO. You can bring your own wine to these, although there is usually a charge for providing and cleaning glasses called 'corkage'.

- **Arvo** - This is short for afternoon. 'Drop by this arvo,' means please come and visit this afternoon.

- **Fortnight** - This term describes a period of two weeks.

- **Barbeque, BBQ, Barbie** – These terms are interchangeable referring to outdoor cooking, usually of meat or seafood over a grill or hotplate using gas or coals. The host serves the meat with salads and bread rolls. It is common for a guest, when invited to a BBQ, to ask if they should bring anything.

- **Snag** - The raw type sausages usually cooked at a BBQ. They can be made of pork, beef or chicken.

- **Chook** - The term chook means a chicken, usually a hen.

- **Cuppa** - a cup of tea or coffee 'Drop by this arvo for a cuppa' means please come and visit this afternoon for a cup of tea or coffee.

- **Loo or dunny** - These are slang terms for toilet. If you are a guest in someone's house for the first time, it is usually polite to ask permission to use his or her toilet. 'May I use your toilet please?' Some people ask, 'Where's the loo?'

- **Fair dinkum** - honest, the truth. 'Fair dinkum?' when used as a question means, 'is it really true?'

- **To be crook** - to be sick or ill.

- **Flat out** - busy.

- **Shout** - to buy someone a drink. At a bar or a pub when a group of friends meet, it is usual for each person to 'shout a round', meaning buy everybody a drink. Each person takes a turn at buying a 'round'. It is also acceptable to say that you do not drink (alcohol) by saying that you are a 'teetotaller'. This also means you are not obliged to shout.

- **Round** - purchasing everyone in the group that you are with a drink.

- **Bloke** - a man. Sometimes if you ask for help, you may get an answer to 'see that bloke over there'.

- **How ya goin?** 'How are you going?' means how are you, or how do you do? It does not mean what form of transport you are taking. Sometimes it can sound like 'ow-ya-goin-mate'.


**Responding to an Invitation**

- **What could I be invited to?** If you get an invitation to lunch, dinner, barbeque, party, wedding, birthday, or any type of event you will usually respond with a letter or phone call. The midday meal is called lunch, and the evening meal is called dinner or ‘tea’. ‘Tea’ can also mean a cup of tea or ‘cuppa’. If invited for tea, the time of the event is a good sign of whether your host means dinner or just a cup of tea. An invitation to tea, for any time after 6pm (1800 hours) usually means dinner.

- **How are invitations made?** Invitations can be written or spoken. Written ones usually ask for RSVP, (which is *respondez s'il vous plait* in French) and means please reply. You should reply whether you intend to go or not. The invitation will tell you how to reply and when the reply is expected. Your host may be specific about how many people are invited. If your host invites the whole family, you should tell your host how many people would go. Usually a family is the parents and their children.
• **What if I do accept an invitation?** When you accept an invitation to a meal, it is also usual to tell the host what you cannot eat. It is perfectly okay to say that you are a vegetarian and do not eat meat or that you are Muslim or Jewish and do not eat pork. **It is not polite to arrive late** and you should make a telephone call to your host to explain if you are going to be late.

• **What if I cannot accept an invitation?** You may not always be able to accept an invitation. The best way to refuse is to say, ‘thank you, unfortunately I/we have other plans at that time’. To say that you are too busy may seem extremely rude, even if it is true. Once you accept an invitation, you should only cancel if something arises where you cannot go. You should also explain the reason to your host. To cancel because you got a better invitation from somewhere else can seem very rude, and can affect new friendships. Sometimes it is best not to accept an invitation right away and to ask your host whether they would mind if you check your plans and reply to them later. (Source: Department of Immigration & Citizenship)

**Tipping**

Tipping is not generally expected or practiced in Australia. This is because throughout Australia, service industry staff are covered by minimum wage laws and therefore do not rely on tips for their income. However, it is acceptable to leave a small amount (perhaps 10%) should you feel you have received exceptional service.

**Public Holidays & Special Celebrations:**

Australians hold certain days each year as special days of national meaning. We may recognise the day with a holiday for everyone or we can celebrate the day as a nation with special events. Most States and Territories observe some of the public holidays on the same date. They have others on different dates or have some days that only their State or Territory celebrates. In larger cities, most shops, restaurants and public transport continue to operate on public holidays. In smaller towns, most shops and restaurants close.

**New Year**

Australians love to celebrate New Year. There are festivals, celebrations and parties all over the country to welcome in the New Year. Sydney Harbour and Sydney Harbour Bridge have become synonymous with New Year celebrations in Australia the fireworks display is considered to be one of the best in the world. January 1 is a public holiday.

**Australia Day**

Australia Day, January 26, is the day we as a people and place celebrate our nationhood. The day is a public holiday. The day marks the founding of the first settlement in our nation by European people.

**Easter**

Easter commemorates the resurrection (return to life) of Jesus Christ following his death by crucifixion. It is the most significant event of the Christian calendar.

In addition to its religious significance, Easter in Australia is enjoyed as a four-day holiday weekend starting on Good Friday and ending on Easter Monday. This extra-long weekend is an opportunity for Australians to take a mini-holiday, or get together with family and friends. Easter often coincides with school holidays, so many people with school aged children incorporate Easter into a longer family holiday. Easter is the busiest time for domestic air travel in Australia, and a very popular time for gatherings such as weddings and christenings.
Easter Traditions

• Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day: Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent. In earlier days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent such as meat and fish, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shroving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that would not last the forty days of Lent without going off.

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday because they were a dish that could use up perishable foodstuffs such as eggs, fats and milk, with just the addition of flour.

Many Australian groups and communities make and share pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Selling pancakes to raise money for charity is also a popular activity.

• Hot Cross Buns: Hot cross buns are sweet, spiced buns made with dried fruit and leavened with yeast. A cross, the symbol of Christ, is placed on top of the buns, either with pastry or a simple mixture of flour and water. The buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday; however in Australia they are available in bakeries and stores many weeks before Easter.

A recent variation on the traditional fruit bun has become popular in Australia. A chocolate version is made with the same spiced mixture, but cocoa is added to the dough and chocolate chips replace the dried fruit.

• Easter Eggs: Eggs, symbolising new life, have long been associated with the Easter festival. Chocolate Easter eggs are a favourite part of Easter in Australia. Some families and community groups organise Easter egg hunts for children in parks and recreational areas. Easter eggs are traditionally eaten on Easter Sunday, however stores start stocking Easter treats well before the Easter holiday period.

• The Easter Bunny: Early on Easter Sunday morning, the Easter Bunny ‘delivers’ chocolate Easter eggs to children in Australia, as he does in many parts of the world.

• The rabbit and the hare have long been associated with fertility, and have therefore been associated with spring and spring festivals. The rabbit as a symbol of Easter seems to have originated in Germany where it was first recorded in writings in the 16th century. The first edible Easter bunnies, made from sugared pastry, were made in Germany in the 19th century.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day is on April 25 the day the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915 during World War 1. This day is set apart to hold dear the memory of those who fought for our nation and those who lost their life to war. The day is a public holiday. We remember with ceremonies, wreath laying and military parades. You will find that many towns have an ANZAC Day parade and ceremony culminating in the laying of memorial wreaths at a monument or war memorial. These services can be very moving and a wonderful way of experiencing some Australian National pride, as the memories of our fallen soldiers are commemorated.

Many Australians attend the National War Memorial in Canberra, or a War Memorial in one of the Capital Cities around Australia, for either the traditional “Dawn Service”, which commemorates the landing of the ANZACS at Gallipoli in the dark and dawning of that day, or another service usually commencing around mid-morning with a parade of returned armed forces representing all Australians who have fought in war. As Australia is such a multi-cultural country, these days it is common to see many other countries also represented in these parades.
ANZAC Day is the only day of the year where it may also be possible to attend an RSL (Returned Servicemen’s League) Club to experience a traditional game of “TWO-UP”. A game of chance played by the ANZACS where money is waged on the toss of three coins for a resulting combination of 2 out of 3 being either heads or tails. RSL clubs are crammed with returned soldiers and their families and friends on this day. The atmosphere is one of “mate-ship” and friendliness to all and the experience of a game of two-up is a memorable one.

Labor Day

Labor Day is celebrated on different dates throughout Australia. As elsewhere in the world, Labor Day originated in Australia as a means of giving ‘working people’ a day off and recognising the roots of trade unionist movements and workers’ rights.

Queen’s Birthday

The Queen’s Birthday holiday celebrates the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II who is not only Queen of the United Kingdom but also Queen of Australia, where the Queen’s Birthday is a public holiday celebrated on a Monday but on different dates. Having the Queen’s Birthday on a Monday, results in a three-day long weekend.

Melbourne Cup Day

The Melbourne Cup is a 2 mile international horse race run on the first Tuesday of November each year attracting the finest racehorses from around the world. Known as the “race that stops a Nation” due to a Public Holiday being declared in metropolitan Melbourne in its home State of Victoria, and most of the nation whether at work, school or home, stopping to watch the race broadcast on television. In other places, and mainly in the workplace, many people have a celebratory “Cup Day Breakfast”, lunch, party or barbeque to celebrate Melbourne Cup.

It is traditional to run a “Cup Sweep” where everyone wages an amount per horse to create a total prize pool. The names of the horses entering the race are drawn and matched one by one to the list of people waging money. After the race is won, the prize pool is divided into amounts for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, and usually a small amount for last place, or horses scratched due to injury just before the race. The Melbourne Cup forms part of the “Spring Racing Carnival” which attracts celebrities from around the world. Women dress in their best outfits; hats are definitely the order of any day, gentlemen in suits of all sorts, and assorted other costumes. It is a very colourful time to be in Melbourne.
Christmas

Christmas is celebrated in Australia on 25 December. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is 'the son of God', the Messiah sent from Heaven to save the world. The heat of early summer in Australia has an impact on the way that Australians celebrate Christmas and our English heritage also has an impact on some northern hemisphere Christmas traditions which are followed. In the weeks leading up to Christmas houses are decorated; greetings cards sent out; carols sung; Christmas trees installed in homes, schools and public places; and children delight in anticipating a visit from Santa Claus. On Christmas Day, family and friends gather to exchange gifts and enjoy special Christmas food. Australians are as likely to eat freshly caught seafood outdoors at a barbeque, as to have a traditional roast dinner around a dining table. Many Australians spend Christmas out of doors, going to the beach for the day, or heading to camping grounds for a longer break over the Christmas holiday period. There are often places, which have developed an international reputation for overseas visitors to spend Christmas Day in Australia. One such example is for visitors who are in Sydney at Christmas time to go to Bondi Beach where up to 40,000 people visit on Christmas Day.

Carols by Candlelight have become a huge Christmas tradition in Australia. Carols by Candlelight events today range from huge gatherings, which are televised live throughout the country, to smaller local community and church events.

Christmas in Australia is also associated with two major sporting events:

The Boxing Day Test:

December 26 is the opening day of the traditional 'Boxing Day Test' at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) between the Australian Cricket Team and an international touring side. It is the most anticipated cricket match each year in world cricket, and tickets are usually sold out months in advance.

The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race:

The “Sydney-to-Hobart” is Australia’s most prestigious yachting race and on the calendar of international yacht racing, and begins 26 December in beautiful Sydney Harbour.

(Source: Australian Government – Culture and Recreation Portal)
Sports, Recreation, Clubs & Organisation’s:


Where to Find Out what’s Going On:


Sun Safety:

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. In fact, one in every two Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer at some point during their lifetime. The good news is it can be prevented. By minimising your exposure to the sun’s damaging ultraviolet radiation (UVR), you can protect your skin and prevent the development of skin cancer.

**Sun Protection**

Skin cancer and skin damage are caused by being exposed to the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation (UVR). The key to preventing skin cancer is to protect your skin from the sun by practising sun safe behaviours.

There are **six simple steps** you can follow to reduce your risk of skin cancer and protect your skin:

1. Minimise your time in the sun between 10am and 3pm
2. Seek shade
3. Wear suitable clothing that provides good sun protection
4. Choose a broad brim, legionnaire-style or bucket-style hat that will protect your face, neck and ears
5. Wear UV protective sunglasses
6. Apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before you go out into the sun.

Beach Safety:

Understanding the ocean is very important - the more you know about how waves, wind and tides affect conditions in the water, the better able you are to keep yourself safe, or even rescue others, from danger. Recognising danger signs and awareness of surf conditions is an essential part of lifesaving.

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*ACADEMIC GLOBAL BUSINESS PARTNERS*
Remember the F-L-A-G-S and Stay Safe

F Find the flags and swim between them - the red and yellow flags mark the safest place to swim at the beach.

L Look at the safety signs - they help you identify potential dangers and daily conditions at the beach.

A Ask a surf lifesaver for some good advice - surf conditions can change quickly so talk to a surf lifesaver or lifeguard before entering the water.

G Get a friend to swim with you - so you can look out for each other's safety and get help if needed. Children should always be supervised by an adult.

S Stick your hand up for help - if you get into trouble in the water, stay calm, and raise your arm to signal for help. Float with a current or rip - don't try and swim against it.

And remember – NEVER
Never swim at unpatrolled beaches
Never swim alone
Never swim at night
Never swim under the influence of alcohol
Never run and dive into the water
Never swim directly after a meal

The Surf Environment

Rips
A rip is a strong current running out to sea. Rips are the cause of most rescues performed at beaches. A rip usually occurs when a channel forms between the shore and a sandbar, and large waves have built up water which then returns to sea, causing a drag effect. The larger the surf the stronger the rip. Rips are dangerous as they can carry a weak or tired swimmer out into deep water.

Identifying a Rip
The following features will alert you to the presence of a rip:

• darker colour, indicating deeper water
• murky brown water caused by sand stirred up off the bottom
• smoother surface with much smaller waves, alongside white water (broken waves)
• waves breaking further out to sea on both sides of the rip
• debris floating out to sea
• a rippled look, when the water around is generally calm
Surf Skills

Escaping From a Rip

If you are caught in a rip:
• Don't Panic - stay calm
• If you are a strong swimmer, swim at a 45 degree angle across the rip and in the same direction as the current until you reach the breaking wave zone, then return to shore.
• If you are a weak or tired swimmer, float with the current, don't fight it. Swim parallel to the shore for about 30 - 40m until you reach the breaking wave zone, then swim back to shore or signal for help.
• Remember to stay calm and conserve your energy.

Negotiating the Surf

Before entering the surf, always make note of a landmark such as a building or headland that can be seen from the water and used as a guide for maintaining a fixed position. Also check the depth of any gutter and the height of any sandbank before diving under waves – this will help prevent spinal injury.

When going out through the surf, negotiate the shallows by a high hurdle type of stride until the breakers reach your waist or until your progress is slowed. Waves of any size and force should not be fought against and should be negotiated by diving underneath, giving you time to reach the bottom and lie as flat as possible on the sand while the wave passes over. Your hands can be dug into the sand in front at arm's length for stability and as a pull forward when ready to surface.

If the water is deep enough, bring your knees up under your body so you can get a good push off the bottom, like an uncoiling spring. This gives added force to your next dive. Repeat this process until in chest-deep water, then start swimming.

If a broken wave approaches when the water is not too deep, dive down and run or crawl along the bottom. In deep water, do not use extra energy trying to reach the bottom; instead duck dive to just below the turbulence. Wait for the wash to pass and then push or kick to the surface (off the bottom, if possible).

Stick to your predetermined path on the swim out. Check your position by occasionally raising your head for a quick look when swimming on top of a swell.

(Source: Surf Lifesaving Australia)

Bush & Outback Safety:

Australia has many extraordinary and beautiful places to explore. If you are going on a trip, travel with other people, make sure someone knows where you are at all times and stay on a road or a walking track.
In the Bush

Be prepared if you plan some time in our bush land. Plan your hike. Always tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return. Let them know when you return safely.

- Check the weather forecast and be prepared for unexpected changes in weather.
- Check the length and degree of difficulty of your planned walk. Consider using a local guide when taking long or difficult walks.
- When walking or exploring outdoors drink plenty of water (allow at least one litre of water per hour of walking). Wear sturdy shoes and socks, a hat, sunscreen lotion, comfortable clothing and insect repellent. Other handy items for long bushwalks include food, warm clothing, first aid supplies, a torch and a map.
- Never walk alone. Read maps and signs carefully. Stay on the track and stay behind safety barriers.
- Never dive into a rock-pool, creek, lake or river. Stay away from cliff edges and waterfalls.
- Do not feed or play with native animals. You might get bitten or scratched.
- Limit your use of fire. Use a fuel stove for cooking and wear thermal clothing to keep warm. Never leave fires unattended or unconfined.
- Visit the ranger station or park information centre to obtain details on the best places to visit and any additional safety tips for that park.

Advice for Motorists Caught in Bush Fires

Bush fires are common occurrences in Australia during our often long hot summers. If you are in smoke and fire-affected areas, you should stay off the roads. If you must get in the car, put your headlights on, dress in protective clothing and footwear and make sure you take food and water - you could be stuck for long periods if your journey is blocked by road closures. Turn the car radio on and keep it tuned to local stations for bush fire updates.

- If you are caught in the middle of a bush fire, park the car immediately and remain calm
- Look for a clear area, preferably off the road. Areas clear of grass or bush are safest - they will not sustain fires of high intensity
- Do not leave the vehicle. Many people have lost their lives by exiting the vehicle only to be trapped on foot in the open. Your vehicle will help protect you from radiant heat, the chief danger
- Switch the ignition off. It is unlikely that a vehicle’s fuel tank will explode from the heat of a passing bush or grass fire
- Close all windows and vents or turn vents to recycle
- Put the headlights on so that the car is as visible as possible, especially to fire tankers
- Everyone must get down on the floor, below window height and cover all exposed skin with a wool or cotton blanket. Do not use synthetics, which may give off toxic vapours or melt
- Stay in the vehicle until the fire front has passed. Generally, this will take between 30 seconds and one minute. During this time it will be hot, noisy and frightening. It will last a short time even though it may seem longer
- If you have water, drink it
• Never attempt to drive through smoke or flame. Crashes can occur when drivers run off the road, striking trees or other cars.
• Once the fire front has passed, exit the vehicle and inspect it for damage before proceeding
• Do not proceed until you are satisfied that the fire has passed and that you are not likely to be trapped a second time
• Falling trees and branches are a hazard during and after intense fires. Do not park or drive under trees.
• Exit the area as quickly as possible. Remember fire vehicles may be trying to enter the area and your presence may hinder firefighting operations. (Source: NRMA)

In the Outback

Australia’s outback is vast. Our remote wilderness areas have few towns and facilities, often with large distances between them, so be aware and plan your trip.

• When planning each day of travel spend some time to calculate how long it will take to drive between destinations. Be realistic about how far you can drive in a day.
• Inform family and friends or the local police of your travel plans. The local police can also provide helpful advice on facilities and road conditions.
• Always carry a current road map.
• Make sure your vehicle is in good working order and has been serviced recently.
• Use a four-wheel drive vehicle on unsealed roads in remote areas. Take extra care when driving these vehicles. For example, drive at reduced speeds on unsealed roads.
• Always carry a spare tyre, tools and water. If travelling to remote areas off major highways take extra food, water, fuel and tyres. Do not overload your vehicle and never carry spare fuel inside an enclosed vehicle.
• If you have trouble with your vehicle, don’t leave your vehicle because it will provide you with shade and protection from the heat. Wait for help to come to you.
• Hire appropriate emergency communication equipment, such as a satellite phone or an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon device (EPIRB).
- Obey road closure signs and stay on recognised routes.
- Fires in desert and bush areas can spread very quickly. If required, be prepared to evacuate the area immediately.
- Australian wildlife and livestock often graze on the roadside and can stray onto the road. Be very careful when driving at sunrise, sunset and at night, when animals are most active. If an animal crosses in front of you brake gently, do not swerve wildly to avoid it.
- During daylight hours always drive with your headlights on low beam, as outback conditions can make it difficult to see oncoming vehicles.

(Source: Visit Victoria. com)

**Storm Safety:**

Storms can happen anywhere and at any time of the year. Storms are more common during storm season – from October to the end of April, but it is important to be aware all year round.

Severe storms can cause major damage. They may be accompanied by torrential rain, strong winds, large hailstones, loud thunder and lightning. Storms can cause flash flooding, unroof buildings and damage trees and power lines.

You can also be indirectly affected by storms even if your property is not damaged; such as losing power, or access roads being cut.

The SES is responsible for managing the clean-up and helping people during and after a storm.

During a storm, there are some things you can do to stay safe:

- Stay indoors and away from windows.
- Unplug sensitive electrical devices like computers, televisions and video recorders.
• Listen to your radio for weather updates.
• Don’t use a landline telephone during an electrical storm
• If you are caught outside during storm, get inside a vehicle or building if possible.
• If no shelter is available, crouch down, with your feet close together and head tucked in.
• If in a group – spread out, keeping people several metres apart.

Dangerous Animals & Plants:

Australia is home to a variety of native animals. Even if they seem friendly to you, do not touch or feed them - they are not used to close contact with humans and may hurt you.
If you are visiting any of Australia’s beautiful parks or forests:

**Be wary of animals in their natural habitat.** Stay well back from goannas, crocodiles, snakes, dingoes, cassowaries, and also wild pigs, cattle, horses and buffaloes.

People have been seriously injured or killed by wild animals. Be very careful about approaching any injured animal, such as kangaroos or possums. They are likely to bite and scratch if you attempt to touch or move them.

**Never feed or play with wildlife.** Native animals are by nature timid, however, having been provided food from people, may become aggressive in pursuit of food. You may get bitten or scratched. In addition, human foods may be harmful to native animals.
In the warm waters of Tropical Queensland:

**Take care to avoid marine stingers.**                      **Do not enter water where crocodiles may live.**

**Bites and Stings**

The majority of insects in Australia are not harmful to humans. Some insects bite and sting if they are threatened so it is best to avoid touching them if you want to avoid being stung or bitten.
The Australia-wide **Poisons Information Centres** have a common telephone number:

131 126
Some people are allergic to certain insect bites or venom. In the case of an allergic reaction to bites or stings, medical attention should be sought immediately.

Call a doctor or hospital for guidance, or 000.

Anaphylaxis – Allergic Reactions

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can occur in sensitive individuals from exposure to any chemicals foreign to the body, including bites and stings, plants, or medications. Parts of the body, for example the face or throat swell up so much that the patient can't breathe. In severe cases the patient may go into shock within a few minutes and the heart can stop. For any patient who shows signs of anaphylaxis, call 000 for an ambulance, and have the patient taken immediately to the emergency department of the nearest hospital.

General First Aid for Bites and Stings

For bites or stings from these creatures seek first aid assistance straight away, stay calm, and as immobile as possible.
- all species of Australian snakes, including sea snakes
- funnel web spiders
- blue ringed octopus
- cone shell stings

For all other bites and stings: Seek or apply basic first aid.
- Wash with soap and water and apply an antiseptic if available
- Ensure that the patient's tetanus vaccination is up to date
- Apply an ice-pack to reduce local pain and swelling
- Pain relief may be required eg. paracetamol or an antihistamine (to reduce swelling, redness and itch)
- The patient should seek medical advice if they develop any other symptoms or signs of infection.


(Source Queensland Health)

Student Property Inspection Checklist
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<tr>
<th>Number:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Address:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent:</td>
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**Property Location**

- Is the property close to transport, shops and campus?
- Is the area noisy? Is the property on a busy road?

**Property Features**

- Do the oven and stove operate correctly?
- Do the toilet and shower operate correctly?
- Are there laundry facilities?
- Do the light fittings work?
- Are there enough electrical power points to plug in your electrical appliances without overloading electrical power boards?
- Is there a telephone line already connected?
- Is the place furnished? What kind of furniture?
- Is there good security?
  - Where locks are fitted on doors, can they be opened from the inside without a key?
  - Do front and back doors open easily from the inside to allow escape in case of fire?
- Is a Smoke alarm fitted outside your bedroom? *(by law smoke alarms must be fitted and maintained)*
- If you are living in campus accommodation or a rooming house, are there smoke alarms in your room?
  - Test the smoke alarm by pressing the test button. Did the smoke alarm operate correctly?
- Is there damp or mould on the walls?
- Is there painting required?
- Is there an insect / pest problem?
- Will the landlord carry out any repairs before you move in?

**Comments**
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This project could not have been completed if it were not for all the wonderful international student resources that have been developed to support international students and programs throughout Australia. This is specifically to acknowledge the International Student Handbooks and online support services developed by the following education providers from whom examples of ‘best practice’ were sought:

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Queensland University of Technology
Southbank Institute of Technology
Study Queensland

Study Victoria
TAFE NSW
TAFE Queensland
TAFE South Australia
University of Adelaide
University of Melbourne
University of New South Wales
University of Queensland
University of South Australia
University of Sydney
University of Tasmania
University of Wollongong