Life In Australia Information Booklet for International Students
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIFE IN AUSTRALIA – OVERVIEW</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CULTURE AND SOCIETY</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOCATIONS AND FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAMPUS</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MELBOURNE – MOORABBIN AIRPORT</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GETTING THERE BY CAR</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GETTING THERE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SYDNEY – BANKSTOWN AIRPORT</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GETTING THERE BY CAR</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GETTING THERE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST OF LIVING</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESTIMATED WEEKLY EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKING IN AUSTRALIA</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINDING PAID WORK</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOUR RIGHTS</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL – MELBOURNE</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUSES</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAMS</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAINS</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAXIS</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAILING A CAB</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FARES AND SURCHARGES</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MYKI</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VISITOR PACKS</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FARE TYPES</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGIONAL VICTORIA</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSPORT &amp; TRAVEL – SYDNEY</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUSES</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FERRIES</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>METRO LIGHT RAIL &amp; MONORAIL</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAIN</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAXIS</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAILING A CAB</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FARES AND SURCHARGES</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPAL</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY SERVICES &amp; CONTACTS</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Life In Australia – Overview

Australia is well known for its beaches, sport and carefree attitude. With a population of over 24 million, over three quarters of Australians live in cities and in urban centres, mainly along the east coast. With more than one-quarter of the population born overseas, Australia's multicultural society is reflected in almost every aspect of Australian life including food, art, sport, film, culture, fashion and music. More than 15 per cent of Australians speak languages other than English at home, such as Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Italian, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Australians are generally laid-back, open and direct. They say what they mean and are generally more individual and outgoing than many other cultures. Some key values that reflect the Australian way of life include:

- Freedom of speech;
- Freedom of religion;
- Democracy;
- Equality regardless of sex, marital status, religion, nationality, disability or sexual preference;
- Peacefulness; and
- A ‘fair go’ (equal opportunity) for all and support for the underdog.

In most practical ways, Australia is an egalitarian society in that there are no formal class distinctions. There is no segregation between people of different incomes or backgrounds and everyone is free to live where they like, attend university and pursue any occupation they choose.

Culture and Society

In Australia, you may notice some differences in etiquette, lifestyles and values to what you are used to back home. Australians are informal, which can take some adjustment, especially if you are more accustomed to a culture where ritual is important and where levels of status and authority are clearly distinguished and carefully respected. These are not obvious characteristics of Australian culture and you will be expected to be able to accept a wide range of people on an equal basis in informal situations.
Locations and Facilities

Campus
Students have the choice to study at either Moorabbin Airport, Melbourne VIC or Bankstown Airport, Sydney NSW, with both being considered the leading hubs for Aviation training in their respective states. As key cities in Australian society, they also allow the opportunity for International Students to indulge in the amazing cultural experiences these beautiful cities have to offer.

Melbourne – Moorabbin Airport
Since 2011, Melbourne has been voted the most liveable city in the world for four years running. It is a very safe and peaceful city with plenty to do including excellent restaurants, lively bar and club scene and some of the best art galleries in the country. Melbourne is well known for its festivals including Moomba, the Melbourne Comedy Festival and numerous art and music festivals occurring regularly throughout the year. The city is very well balanced with beautiful old buildings set amongst contrasting modern buildings, parks and gardens. Melbourne has an excellent public transport system allowing users to travel where they need to with reliable bus, train, taxi and tram services.

SAFT Melbourne is located at 1 Second Avenue, Moorabbin Airport. Ideally situated, Moorabbin Airport is approximately 20 kilometres south east of Melbourne’s CBD. Moorabbin Airport is Victoria’s primary rotary and fixed wing General Aviation training airport, creating the perfect learning environment for pilots in training.

Getting there by Car
Driving directions are easily accessible to Soar Aviation, 1 Second Avenue, Moorabbin Airport through Google Maps. Free parking available on site.

Getting there by Public Transport
Moorabbin Airport’s closest train station is Cheltenham Station, located on the Frankston line. Coming from the city you can get on at central stops such as Flinder St station or South Yarra. From Cheltenham Station take either bus 827 or 828, and request to stop at DFO (Direct Factory Outlets shopping centre) and walk approximately 5 minutes to Soar Aviation.
Sydney – Bankstown Airport
Sydney is a fantastic city to live in and is famous for its natural beauty. With the central business district right on Sydney harbour, the city is made famous by the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. Sydney is surrounded by amazing beaches, national parks and rivers, which all can be visited with a short train trip from the city. Sydney is a cosmopolitan city with lots of outdoor activities and entertainment, as well as shopping, restaurants and sightseeing. Sydney has a great public transport system allowing users to travel where they need to with a reliable bus, train and taxi services.

SAFT Sydney is located at 685 Butler Crescent, Bankstown Airport and is approximately 20 kilometres from Sydney’s CBD. It is considered the leading hub for recreational and general aviation in NSW and is a great training environment.

Getting there by Car
Driving directions are easily accessible to Soar Aviation, 685 Butler Crescent, Bankstown Airport through Google Maps. Free parking available on site.

Getting there by Public Transport
From Central Sydney take the T3 Bankstown line train to Cheltenham, then take the 905 bus route to Bankstown Airport.
Setting up a Bank Account

To open a bank account in Australia, you must show several pieces of personal identification, each of which is allotted certain number of 'points'. You will need 100 points of identification to establish your identity as the person who will be named on 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 need additional documentation. To open an account you'll also need a minimum deposit (this can be as little as A$10).

For more information on the application process, please see each banks separate policy on opening an account for Overseas Students. There are four big banks in Australia that have widely accessible ATMs and branches nationwide. They are:

- Commonwealth;
- Westpac;
- NAB (National Australia Bank); and
- ANZ.

Accommodation Options

While SAFT does not offer accommodation services or take any responsibility for accommodation arrangements, SAFT is able to refer students to appropriate accommodation services and are always available to discuss any issues or concerns a student may have with their accommodation arrangements.

All students are encouraged to have at least 2-3 weeks accommodation organised prior to arrival in Australia, with the anticipation to move into permanent accommodation upon arrival. Our Student Support Officer can refer students to appropriate accommodation services.
We also suggest the following options:

- Home stay options (living with Australian Families), visit Oz Homestay or Auzzie Families;
- Student accommodation postings - visit Study Connect then scroll to Student Accommodation Australia and click on either Melbourne Student Accommodation (VIC) or Sydney Student Accommodation (NSW);
- Finding a room-mate, visit Housemates.com.au or Student Flatmates or The Gumtree; and
- Youth hostels, visit Youth Hostels Association of Australia or Get A Room.

Cost of Living
To help you understand the cost of living in Australia, we have developed a helpful student budget guideline. Prices will vary according to your lifestyle and choice of accommodation. It is more expensive to live on your own than to share with others.

Estimated Weekly Expenses
- Rent: AU$150 – AU$500
- Electricity, gas and water AU$40 – AU$100
- Food AU$80 – AU$400
- Phone and internet AU$20 – AU$50
- Public transport up to AU$50
- Entertainment AU$70 – AU$200
- Estimated weekly total AU$410 – AU$1300

Working in Australia
Most student visas allow you to work for up to 40 hours every fortnight while your course is in session, and unrestricted hours during any scheduled course break, but before you undertake any paid work you need to make sure your visa allows you to work through the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Finding Paid Work
Various avenues are available to search and source local jobs:
- Online job sites - most popular sites include Seek, Careerone, Indeed and Spotjobs;
- Register your details at a recruitment firm; many of them help place people in casual or short-term work. Popular firms include Hays and Michael Page;
- Newspapers; and
- Sourcing opportunities yourself - many cafes and bars advertise vacancies in their shop front windows, walking along urbanised streets and handing out your resume personally may yield results.
Your rights
Everyone working in Australia, including international students or those on working holiday visas, have basic rights at work. These rights protect entitlement to:

- A minimum wage;
- Challenge of unfair dismissal from the job;
- Breaks and rest periods; and
- A healthy and safe work environment.

Most employers in Australia are covered by an ‘award’, which sets minimum wages and conditions for a given field of work or industry. To find out more about your work rights visit the Australian Government’s Fair Work website.

You will also need to get a tax file number to work in Australia. Visit the Australian Taxation Office website to find out more information on getting a tax file number, as well as information about paying taxes in Australia.

Transport and Travel – Melbourne
Melbourne has a very good public transport system inclusive of buses, trains, trams and taxis. It is highly recommended students download the free ‘PTV’ app (Public Transport Victoria) on their mobile, as this will provide live information on the entire public transport network - most importantly timetables and directions on getting from location A > location B. Alternatively, the PTV website is highly informative and extremely helpful in planning your trip.

Buses
Melbourne buses run frequently to major hubs, including shopping centres, schools, hospitals, leisure and sports venues, and some of Melbourne’s biggest attractions. For people travelling further afield, Victoria’s V/Line service gives access to regional towns and scenic attractions across the state. See here for more information.
Trams
Melbourne is the only city in Australia which retains a network of trams. Tram travel is a scenic way to explore the city and inner suburbs of Richmond, St Kilda and South Yarra. Trams share road space on most Melbourne thoroughfares. Services run regularly from 5.00am to midnight Monday to Thursday, and to around 1.30am Friday and Saturday nights. On Sunday, trams run 7.00am to 11.00pm. Many tram services link to bus and train routes. See here for more information.

To encourage public transport usage, FREE tram services are offered within the Melbourne CBD (no myki card required). Follow this link to view a map of Melbourne’s Free Tram Zone.

Trains
Melbourne’s metro trains run between the outer suburbs and Flinders Street Station in the city. The city loop is Melbourne’s underground system, with five stations servicing the central business district: Southern Cross Station, Flagstaff (closed weekends), Melbourne Central, Parliament and Flinders Street. Many train stations connect with bus or tram services. Southern Cross Station is Melbourne’s hub for regional and interstate trains. Services run 5.00am to midnight Monday to Thursday, and to 1am Friday and Saturday nights. On Sunday, trains run 7.00am to 11.00pm. Plan your trip with Public Transport Victoria’s journey planner

Taxis
Melbourne taxis are numerous and easy to spot, as they are all painted yellow. Drivers are required to wear a neat uniform and have an identity card on show at all times.

Hailing a cab
Cabs often wait in designated ranks that are clearly signposted at central locations like major hotels in the CBD, or busy spots such as Flinders Street Station. You can also hail a taxi in the street. If the rooftop light is illuminated, it means the taxi is available for hire – Telephone bookings are also available. Outside Melbourne, taxis widely operate in Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, with additional cabs at country towns throughout regional Victoria.

Fares and surcharges
Taxi meters are clearly visible, so you can keep check of your fare as you go. Late night taxi trips must be paid for in advance. Between 10pm and 5am in Victoria, the driver will ask you for an up-front deposit, based on a table of point to point estimates. Use the fare estimator to work out what your trip is likely to cost. Melbourne cabs attract additional charges like a late night surcharge from midnight to 5am, a fee for phone bookings, a fee for using the Citylink freeway and even a fee for taxis waiting at the airport rank.
- Melbourne’s major taxi companies include:
- 13 CABS (Ph 13 22 27 – in Australia) 13cabs.com.au
- Silver Top Taxis (Ph 13 10 08 – in Australia) silvertop.com.au
- CABiT (Ph 13 22 22 – in Australia) cabit.com.au
- Uber - this private driver service is almost always cheaper than using public taxis, however users are required to download the free ‘Uber’ mobile app and register their credit card details prior to use. Your phone GPS will register your pickup location, from which you will request a driver and enter your destination. The closest available driver will attend, and charges will be made once drive complete to your previously registered credit card. For further information see Uber’s website.

myki
The electronic ticketing system, myki, is an easy, convenient and fast way of travelling on Melbourne’s trains, trams and buses.

Instead of buying a paper ticket, you pre-load money onto your myki card - via a range of convenient options - and electronically scan (otherwise known as tapping on and tapping off) each trip to pay for your fare. Ensure you keep your card on you on a permanent basis for reuse.

The card price for a full fare myki is $6 and $3 for a concession, seniors or child myki.

Get your myki card from:
- myki retailers
- myki website
- myki Customer Care representatives - 1800 800 007 (6am - Midnight, daily)

Find out more about myki
For more information on myki, visit the myki card website

Visitor packs
For flexible travel, buy a myki Visitor Pack from Melbourne Visitor Centre, Federation Square, the PTV Hub at Southern Cross Station (cnr Swanston and Little Collins streets), SkyBus terminals and some hotels. Packs include a pre-loaded myki card with enough value for one day of travel in Zone 1, instructions on how to use myki, a Melbourne tram map and discount entry to Melbourne attractions.

Fare types
Metropolitan Melbourne is divided into two zones. When you touch your myki on and off the electronic readers as you travel, the lowest fare for your trip is deducted. Train travel completed before 7am on a weekday is free. For more information on zones, ticketing and timetables, visit the Public Transport Victoria website

Regional Victoria
V/Line is Victoria’s regional train and bus provider, operating services across the state. Visit the V/Line website for timetables, maps and other information, if you plan to explore Victoria by train.
Transport & Travel – Sydney

Sydney has a very good public transport system inclusive of buses, trains and ferries. It is highly recommended students download the free ‘Tripview Lite’ app on their mobile, as this will provide live information on the entire public transport network - most importantly timetables and directions on getting from location A > location B.

Alternatively, the Transport Infoline website is highly informative and extremely helpful in planning your trip. They can also be contacted on 13 15 00.

Buses

Sydney’s buses have the biggest network of transportation in Sydney. The price depends upon the number of ‘sections’ you pass through. Short trips cost $1.60 and most other fares in the inner suburbs are $2.70. For more information, visit the website at: www.sydneybuses.info

Ferries

Sydney’s ferries are the most enjoyable way to get around the harbour. There are three kinds of ferry: regular STA ferries (variable costs), Manly Fast Ferry ($8.20) and RiverCats that traverse the Parramatta River to Parramatta ($7.40). All ferries depart from Circular Quay. For more information call 02 9207 3166 or visit the website at: www.transportnsw.info/ferries

Metro Light Rail & Monorail

The Monorail and Metro Light Rail (MLR) are good means of transport within the city centre. The Monorail circles Darling Harbour and links it to the city centre. The MLR operates 24 hours a day between Central Station and Pyrmont via Darling Harbour and Chinatown. For more information on Monorail call 02 9285 5600 or visit the website at: www.metrotransport.com.au
Train
Sydney has a big suburban rail network and frequent services, so trains are much quicker than buses. Trains run from around 5am to midnight. For more information visit the website at: www.cityrail.info

Taxis
Sydney taxis are numerous and easy to spot, as they are all painted yellow. Drivers are required to wear a neat uniform and have an identity card on show at all times.

Hailing a cab
Cabs often wait in designated ranks that are clearly signposted at central locations like major hotels in the CBD and outside train stations. You can also hail a taxi in the street if the rooftop light is illuminated, it means the taxi is available for hire – Telephone bookings are also available.

Fares and surcharges
Taxi meters are clearly visible, so you can keep check of your fare as you go. Late night taxi trips must be paid for in advance. Between 10pm and 5am in New South Wales, the driver often will ask you for an up-front deposit, based on a table of point to point estimates. Use the fare estimator to work out what your trip is likely to cost. Sydney cabs attract additional charges like a late night surcharge from midnight to 5am, a fee for phone bookings, a fee for using the Toll roads and even a fee for taxis waiting at the airport rank.
- Melbourne’s major taxi companies include:
  - 13 CABS (Ph 13 22 27 – in Australia) 13cabs.com.au
  - Silver Top Taxis (Ph 13 10 08 – in Australia) silvertop.com.au
  - CABiT (Ph 13 22 22 – in Australia) cabit.com.au

Opal
The electronic ticketing system, Opal, is an easy, convenient and fast way of travelling on all transport modes - trains, buses, ferries and light rail - on the the public transport network in Sydney, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra and Southern Highlands.

The Opal card provides many benefits including cheaper fares, never having to queue for a ticket again, and being able to use just the one card on any transport mode.

Instead of buying a paper ticket, you pre-load money onto your Opal card - via a range of convenient options - and electronically scan (otherwise known as tapping on and tapping off) each trip to pay for your fare. Ensure you keep your card on you on a permanent basis for reuse.
You can choose from an Adult, Child/Youth, Senior/Pensioner Opal or a Concession Opal card.
Get your Opal card from:
- Opal retailers
- Opal website
- Opal Customer Care representatives - 13 67 25 (13 OPAL)

For more information on the Opal card, visit the Opal card website.

**Regional New South Wales**

NSW Trainlink is New South Wales regional train and bus provider, operating services across the state. Visit the [NSW Trainlink](https://www.nswtrainlink.com.au) for timetables, maps and other information, if you plan to explore NSW by train. It also services the Canberra and surrounding ACT region.

Emergency Services & Contacts

Emergency Services and their respective contact numbers will likely be different in Australia to what they are in your home country. Please take note of these most important numbers whilst you are in Australia:

**Police/Fire/Ambulance: 000**
SES during floods & storms: 132 500
International incident emergency helpline: 1300 555 135 (inside Australia)
+61 2 6261 3305 (outside Australia)
Police Attendance: 131 444 (all states except VIC)

For more information regarding Emergency Services, please click [here](https://www.abs.gov.au).