

PART 1 BEFORE YOU GET HERE

Obtaining a Student Visa

Availability of Student Visas

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) student visa program enables overseas students to come to Australia to undertake full time study in registered courses in Australia.

Temporary visa holders in Australia, (for example visitors, working holiday makers and short stay business visa holders) from gazetted countries, may be able to apply for their first student visa in Australia (Check with DIAC to see if this applies to your country - <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/assessment-levels.pdf>).

Work Rights

As an overseas student in Australia, you should have enough money to support yourself and your family for the entire time that you are studying. Your student visa gives you work rights while studying in Australia.

You are allowed to work for 20 hours a week while the Australian education provider you are studying at is in session. However, you can work for longer periods during your holidays. The money you earn from working in Australia should only supplement your income and not be used as your only source of income.

For more complete information on Australian visa matters see: www.immi.gov.au

Other Australian Visas

If you have a valid visa other than a student visa for entering Australia, you may also study at Unity College as either a full time or part time student. You would need to check the work rights as they applied to that particular visa.

Cost of Living in Australia

Before lodging your application you should consider whether you will have enough money to set up house in Australia as well as pay for your air fares (including return), course tuition fees, overseas student health cover (OSHC) and all general expenses during your stay in Australia.

As a general guide, your accommodation, food, transport, clothes and expenses could cost you between AUD \$ 15,000 to AUD \$ 25,000 or more a year, depending on your lifestyle and where in Australia you will study.

For example, a single person renting accommodation would need at least \$350 a week just to spend on living expenses (excluding tuition) and a married couple would need at least \$500 a week. If accompanied by family members, you will also need enough money to cover their expenses.

You should be aware that these amounts are only an indication of everyday expenses and do not include airfares.

To check current exchange rates see: www.currencyguide.com/exchange.

Overseas Student Health Insurance Cover

It is a condition of the grant of your Overseas Student Visa that you and your dependents have acceptable health insurance cover during the whole time you are in Australia. To be covered for health insurance, you will have to pay the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for yourself and any family members travelling with you.

The OSHC provides medical and hospital insurance for overseas students and their dependents who have travelled to Australia with them. All applicants must show evidence that they have health insurance cover before a visa can be issued to them.

To arrange for the OSHC, students can pay the OSHC premium to the education provider which will then arrange to pay the health insurance cover on their behalf.

Student Health Cover for Students from Norway and Sweden: Students applying from Norway and most Swedes do not need to obtain OSHC because the Department of Health and Aged Care has advised that these countries have a national health scheme or other arrangements that provide acceptable health insurance for them while they are overseas. For the OSHC requirement to be waived, Norwegian students should have documentation proving that they are covered by the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme. Swedish students should have proof that they have insurance provided by CSN International (the Swedish National Board of Student Aid). OSHC is available to Norwegian and Swedish nationals if they require it.

Travel Insurance

You may wish to take out travel insurance for your travel to Australia. Read what is covered very carefully as there are different kinds of policies. It is important that this is done before you travel to Australia.

PART 2 ONCE YOU ARRIVE

Arrival in Canberra

The Canberra International Airport is about 20 minutes from Unity College in the suburb of Yarralumla. The more notice you can give of your arrival time the more chance that it

can be arranged for someone to meet you. It would be especially helpful if you could let the College know the following details at least two weeks before your arrival:

Date of Arrival; Time of Arrival

Number of pieces of luggage

Airline; Flight Number

Number of adults/ children; Names of adults/ children

If something goes wrong and you are stuck call the Unity College office on (02) 61610050

Accommodation

Sometimes people from local churches will be able to offer you hospitality for your first week or so in Canberra (There is a charge for this service). However, there is no guarantee that such temporary housing will be available. Other short term accommodation might include the Youth Hostel in Canberra:

7 Akuna St, Canberra City, ACT 2600

Phone: (02) 6248 9155

Fax: (02) 6249 1731

Email address: canberra@yhansw.org.au

For other accommodation options and assistance, contact UCA at info@unity.edu.au . If you are seeking rental accommodation in Australia, you will need to bring any rental references you have from your home country.

Local Transport

Public transport service is by Bus.

Details can be found at the ACTION Bus services website:

www.action.act.gov.au

Some route maps and timetable are also available at the Unity College office.

Driving & Obtaining an Australian Driver's Licence

If you have a drivers licence that is not in English, you must have it translated into English and carry both the licence and the translation whenever you are driving. It is also often asked for as identification for banking transactions and other paperwork. If you are staying less than 12months, this is sufficient for driving in Australia. However, you may wish to study our road rules, remembering that we drive on the left hand side of the road.

If you are planning to stay 12 months or longer, and you already have a drivers licence (and it has not expired in the last 5 years) then you have only 3 months in which to obtain an Australian drivers licence.

Ask for the separate information sheet on obtaining a licence at the Unity College Office.

Opening a Bank Account

You will need your passport for identification, and evidence of your residential address. For example a receipt showing the rent you have paid, and the address of your residence.

Some advice... To avoid bringing large amounts of cash or a bank draft you may like to investigate putting money into your VISA (or similar) account in your home country so that it is in credit, then on arrival at the bank taking a cash advance from your VISA with which to open your new account. This avoids any delays with 'wire transfers'.

Shopping

This is not an exhaustive list or an endorsement, but to make the first few weeks easier you may try the following places: (Most shopping areas are easily reached by bus).

For shopping including groceries (Woolworths, Coles) and department stores (Big W, David Jones, Grace Bros):

Woden Plaza, Belconnen Mall, Gungahlin Town Centre, Tuggeranong Hyperdome

For second hand clothing and other items:

Salvation Army Family Store (Macquarie, Fyshwick, Mitchell, Phillip)

St Vincent de Paul Society (Belconnen, Curtin, Dickson)

Koomari (Fyshwick, Belconnen, Tuggeranong)

also look under Furniture secondhand in the Yellow Pages

Other:

You can join the ACT Public Library system while you are in Canberra. You will need proof of a residential address. In addition to borrowing rights the Libraries provide free internet access.

We would suggest setting up a free web based email account for use while in Australia.

Some sites that allow you to do this are:

www.hotmail.com

www.yahoo.com

You may also like to investigate:

www.whereis.com.au or www.goeureka.com.au which provide Australian search engines and maps for any address in Australia, as well as other Australian information.

Phone calls:

Phone numbers in Australia are 8 digits, preceded by a 2digit area code that begins with a '0'. If you are dialling a number in the same area code, you do not need to dial the 2 digit area code.

To dial Australia from other countries dial your international access code, then 61 (for Australia) then the area code of the Australian number (omitting the leading '0') then the 8 digit number.

For example to call from the USA to the Unity office dial 011 61 2 61610050

Contact Details:

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