



Living in Australia
Information for International Students

Auctus Training
Institute

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Section A: Introduction

Welcome to Australia! This is a basic guide to some of the practical aspects to living in Australia. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Student Support Officer or the Administration staff.

Adelaide, South Australia

Adelaide is the capital of South Australia and is the fifth largest city in Australia; home to around one million people. Adelaide is often referred to as the festival and wine state. Adelaide hosts the Fringe Festival in March of every year which turns the Adelaide CBD into a vibrant Arts festival. There are many places to visit that are not far out of the city such as wine country in either McLaren Vale or the Barossa. There are also many hubs for nightlife including Rundle Street in the Adelaide CBD and the Glenelg beachfront. There are also wonderful natural landscapes to explore in the Adelaide Hills and places to enjoy a beautiful sunset include Windy Point or Mount Lofty Summit. Adelaide also offers stunning beaches such as Port Noarlunga, Second Valley, Brighton, and Semaphore Beach.

Visit [Study Adelaide](#) for your comprehensive guide to study and life in Adelaide.

History

The city was founded in 1836 and was named in honour of Queen Adelaide of Britain. Adelaide was settled by British migrants and was the only freely settled British province in Australia. The traditional owners of Australian land, known as Aboriginal people, are the Kurna people. The Kurna people were in Australia long before British settlers arrived in Australia.¹

Climate

Adelaide is defined as having a “Mediterranean climate”. This means it has hot, dry summers and cool winters with moderate rainfall. Temperatures in summer can get to over 40°C and in winter can get as low as 2°C. In Spring there can be storms and in summer, in country areas, bushfires can occur.²

Government

Australia’s government is run under a democracy and support multi-party system. This means all Australian citizens must vote in an election to decide which political party will take power and form the government.

¹ "How well do you know our Queen?". The Advertiser. Adelaide. 3 May 2013. [Archived](#) from the original on 7 August 2019. Retrieved 7 August 2019.

² http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_023090.shtml



Some major political parties in Australia include Labour Party, Liberals Party and the Greens. For more information on the Australian government system, you can look at: [The Australian System of Government](#).



Adelaide City at Night

Intersection of Hindley Street and Rundle Mall



Port Noarlunga Beach

30 minutes' drive or 1 hour train ride from Adelaide city



Second Valley

1.5 hours drive from the Adelaide city



Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens

25-minute drive from Adelaide City



Section B: Applying for a Student Visa

International students wanting to study in Australia require a student visa. Many students apply for a visa themselves online or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. Students can also apply with the assistance of an accredited migration agent with familiarity and experience in the field. A list of agents that Auctus uses is available online.

In order to apply for a student visa you will need a valid passport, an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) from Auctus, and any other documentation required by the Australian Department of Home Affairs (DHA) or diplomatic mission with which you lodge your application.

You must 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.

The Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/> for the latest information.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

The website <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/foreign-embassies/Pages/foreign-embassies-and-consulates-in-australia.aspx> provides 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 DHA on your behalf, but please note that you do not need to use a migration agent to lodge any kind of visa application.

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):

- Completing the course within the duration specified in the CoE
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress
- Maintaining satisfactory attendance
- Maintaining approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remaining with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless released from the provider to attend another institution
- Notifying your education provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address or contact details within seven (7) days of the change taking place
- Restrictions on working in Australia.



For information on student visa, read [Student Visa](#)

Section C: Working in Australia

Applicants granted student visas will usually automatically receive permission to work with their visa grant. Most student visa holders don't normally need to apply separately in Australia for permission to work. This information is a general guide only and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of visa conditions in relation to working in Australia and to abide by these conditions.

Working while studying on a Student Visa

You are not permitted to start work until you have commenced your course of study. You can work a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight during the study period.

For information on student visa conditions please visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>

Finding Work

The job market in Australia is highly competitive and you will be joining the general Australian population in your search for employment. You should not rely on income from employment when budgeting to pay for living expenses.

There are many different ways to find a job in Australia including:

- Newspapers
- www.seek.com.au
- www.careerone.com.au
- <https://www.auctus.com.au/jobs-board.aspx>

Taxes

Taxes are managed through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The tax you pay depends on how much money you earn.

Getting a Tax File Number

You must obtain a Tax File Number to be able to work in Australia. A tax file number (TFN) is your unique reference number to our tax system.



When you start work, your employer will ask you to complete a Tax File Number Declaration Form. If you do not provide a TFN your employment will be taxed at the highest personal income tax rate, which will mean less money in your wages each week.

You can apply for your TFN online at <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/tax-file-number> or phone 13 28 61, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. For the ATO translating and interpreter service phone 13 14 50.

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 into your nominated bank account.

- Lodge online using e-tax at www.ato.gov.au
- For a registered tax agent visit www.tabd.gov.au

Tax returns are lodged at the end of the Australian tax year, which runs from 1 July to 30 June and ends on the 30 June each year.

Superannuation

If your monthly wage is more than AU\$450 (before tax), your employer must contribute an additional sum equal to 10.5% 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 <https://www.ato.gov.au/Super>. You will need to provide the details of your superannuation fund to your employer, otherwise your employer will create a new superannuation fund for you, which may not be best suited to you and your financial requirements.



Section D: 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. OSHC for the duration of the visa is mandatory for student visa holders. You must provide proof of this arrangement to Auctus and this will be kept on your student file.

Only Australian health funds that have signed an agreement with the Australian Government can provide OSHC. For details visit: [Overseas Student Health Cover \(OSHC\)](#)

What to do if you are Sick?

Choose a doctor (a General Practitioner or 'GP') from the list of medical facilities found locally online 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 a day or so before you can see 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, ears and so forth. 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 Auctus. If your illness is more serious or the doctor is unsure of a diagnosis, she or he may refer you for further tests such as blood tests, x-rays, or to see a specialist doctor.

If you are dissatisfied with the diagnosis or service of the doctor you see, you have the right to obtain another 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 long time.

It is not uncommon 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 that 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 or chemist in Australia and should only have to wait a short while for your prescription medicine to be prepared.

Student Assistance Program

Auctus recognises its obligations in supporting students, and therefore strives to create a learning environment that promotes best practice, enabling students to excel at and achieve their study goals. A number of external services also exist including the ones below.

Lifeline-Crisis Support

Lifeline's 13 11 14 telephone service is staffed by trained volunteer telephone counsellors who are ready to take calls 24-hours a day, any day of the week from anywhere in Australia. Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

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.

There are also other services you can contact for mental health in our Student Handbook.

Poisons Information Line 13 11 26

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 Centres have a common telephone number: 13 11 26.

Medical Emergencies

If a person is seriously injured or ill, call an ambulance immediately on 000. Be ready to provide the following details:

- Service required - Ambulance
- your name
- location
- number of people involved and
- details of the medical emergency including if the individual is conscious and breathing.

Contact an Organisation staff member who will escort or direct the Ambulance/Medical Personnel to the site of the emergency and arrange for First Aid to be provided in the interim.



Section E: Health and Safety

Health and Safety Obligations

Auctus's health and safety management system has been developed in line with legislative requirements. The policies and procedures that form part of this system, provide general and, in some cases, specific guidelines to assist all stakeholders to meet their workplace health and safety obligations under the applicable Work Health and Safety legislation.

In accordance with state health and safety legislation, all staff and students at Auctus have health and safety responsibilities. Each student must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and the health and safety of others by:

- Taking action to avoid, eliminate or minimize hazards of which they are aware
- Complying with all health and safety instructions, policies and procedures of Auctus
- Making proper use of all safety devices and personal protection equipment
- Complying with the instructions given by emergency response personnel such as emergency wardens and first aiders
- Not willfully placing at risk the health and safety of any other person
- Seeking information or advice where necessary before undertaking new or unfamiliar work
- Only consuming or storing food and drink in areas designated for this purpose
- Being familiar with emergency and evacuation procedures
- Reporting all incidents, hazards and 'near miss' incidents to the Administration Manager.

As a student you must take reasonable care of your own health and safety!

Critical Incident Policy and Procedure

Emergencies can occur at any time and can arise from a number of causes including fire, medical emergencies, chemical spills, gas leaks, and physical threats. The first priority in any emergency situation is the safety of all people who may be in danger.

In the event of a fire or emergency situation requiring evacuation of a campus, the following procedure is to be adhered to:

- The person first sighting the emergency/fire should alert all others in the immediate area
- Telephone 000 and request the appropriate emergency service - fire, police or ambulance
- Clearly state the address and the specific level where the emergency is located
- The designated 'fire warden' or senior management staff member must be notified immediately after the emergency service call is made
- Any attempt to extinguish the fire or deal with the emergency should only be made if it can be done without undue risk or danger
- In the event of an evacuation, all staff and students must calmly proceed out of the building to their designated evacuation point



- No staff or student is to leave the evacuation point until told to do so by a designated fire warden or nominated key staff member
- Under no circumstances must any staff or student attempt to return to the building until the emergency is over and you have been told it is safe to do so
- Designated fire wardens/key staff members must ensure that all students and visitors that they are accountable for, are present at the evacuation point – and report any issues back to the Chief Building Warden

The Emergency Service personnel have authority once called to a site, and all students, staff, contractors and visitors must follow any instructions issued by them.

The key to successful emergency response is being prepared. To ensure that you are prepared, discuss your campus local emergency procedures with your trainer. Make sure that you are familiar with:

- The alarm tones in your building/s
- The closest emergency exits
- The evacuation point for your campus
- Local emergency personnel – wardens and/or nominated First Aid Officers
- Any specific emergency procedures that relate to your study areas (e.g. chemical spills, emergency machinery shutdown).

Who to call in an emergency

If you need to report an emergency at any time in Australia, dial 000 from any phone for fire, police or ambulance services.

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.



Section F: Legal Services

Legal Services in Australia

The National Liaison Committee for International Students

National Liaison Committee for International Students, more widely known as NLC, is the national peak body for all International Students in Australia. Further information is available online at

<http://www.nlc.student.org.au>

Obeying the Law

One of the reasons for the wonderful lifestyle in Australia is due to its representative democracy, the separation of powers, and our respect for the rule of law. There are a lot of 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.

You can find a comprehensive outline of Australian law and the legal system at

<https://www.ag.gov.au/LegalSystem/Pages/default.aspx>



Section G: Housing & Accommodation

Arranging Accommodation

The cost of accommodation in Australia varies from state to state and the cost of renting accommodation while studying can be high. Many International students choose to share accommodation to keep costs down.

Most international students choose to rent a home with friends or find people to share with, through websites. It is important to stay safe when searching for accommodation or people to share with online. Australian Government advice on accommodation can be accessed by visiting [Accommodation](#).

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 an apartment. 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 property. If the tenant does not care for the property or clean it before leaving, the landlord has a legal right to keep the bond/security deposit. Otherwise, the landlord must return the security deposit within a month after the tenant leaves.

Ensure you receive a receipt for any money paid to a landlord and do not pay any deposit/bond amounts without first inspecting a property.

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 is a binding legal document that commits the student to a specific period of residency in the unit or dwelling.

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 (you are entitled to) as a means of ensuring fair treatment for all parties involved.

Restrictions

The lease may contain restrictions, such as not permitting animals or children in the dwelling. Ask the landlord about his/her 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.

Where can I look for Accommodation?

The following websites have available rentals in South Australia. You can select which suburbs or areas of Adelaide you would like to live, as well as your price range.

<https://www.realestate.com.au/>

<https://www.domain.com.au/>

<https://flatmates.com.au/>



Section H: Other Services

Mobile Phones

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:

- www.telstra.com
- www.optus.com.au
- www.vodafone.com.au
- www.virginmobile.com.au
- www.dodo.com.au
- www.boost.com.au

Cost of Studying and Living

Students should be aware that the costs of studying in Australia will depend on your education provider, the level of study you choose and your study location in Australia. Knowing the average living costs in Australia is an important part of your financial preparation.

The costs outlined at the link below are an approximate guide only and don't consider your budget and personal spending habits. It is suggested that you should be prepared in case your living costs are greater than the indicated figures. See [Study and Live in Australia to gain an insight into cost of studying and living](#).

You can also use [Cost of Living Calculator](#) to estimate your living costs.

Budgeting

Once you've settled in, it is recommended you work out a budget covering costs including clothing, food, accommodation, transport, and entertainment. Travel costs and childcare, if applicable, should also be considered.



Shopping

Australia's major town centers and capital cities have world-class shopping facilities. Hours are generally 9.00am to 5.00pm seven days a week, with late night shopping until 9.00pm on Thursdays for the outer suburbs or Fridays until 9pm for Adelaide CBD. Some supermarkets are open 24 hours a day seven days a week, such as the IGA.

Some major shopping centres include:

- Rundle Mall – For all retail stores and supermarkets
- Harbour Town (727 Tapleys Hill Rd, Adelaide Airport SA 5950) – Direct factory outlet for clothing and household items
- Westfield Tea Tree Plaza (976 North East Road, Modbury SA 5092) - For all retail stores and supermarkets
- Burnside Village (447 Portrush Rd, Glenside SA 5065) – for designer clothing and high-end stores.

Compulsory Schooling for School Aged Dependents

If you would like to bring your children to Australia with you, you must be aware that School - age dependants of international students studying on a student visa must undertake formal schooling while they are in Australia.

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.

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.

Public Transport

In Adelaide, you have the option to catch bus, train, or tram. You will need an Adelaide Metro Card to catch public transport, and these can be purchased from any newsagent or post office. You will need to refill this card with money, and you will be charged every time you catch public transport.

For more information you can go to the Adelaide Metro website: <https://www.adelaidemetro.com.au/>



Places to Visit

For other places to visit, look at the following websites:

<https://southaustralia.com/>

<https://tourism.sa.gov.au/>

