



Living and Studying in Australia



Australia is a land of contrasts - sweeping golden beaches, coral reefs rich with marine life, tropical rainforests, mountain ranges, vast grazing lands and sparse deserts. One of the oldest continents, Australia is the only country to occupy an entire continent.

Surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Australia has many animals and plants that are unique on the planet. The surface geology is typically old and flat, with a major mountain range stretching down the eastern coast and another mountain range in the north west of the continent.

Further information can be found from visiting the following website by the Australian government about living in Australia:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/choose-australia/>

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia>

Living and studying in Parramatta



Parramatta City is predominantly a business centre because of its ideal location on several major national highways as well as its proximity to Sydney. Parramatta city has some of the finest cafés and restaurants and offers a rich shopping experience.

There are plenty of social opportunities around Parramatta such as rugby league, movies, theatre, music or performing arts.

The city is open for business seven days a week. Parramatta is also an educational hub for schools, vocational training providers and a university.

Parramatta Park is only a few minutes walking distance from Richmond School of Business's ('the School') campus where students can enjoy open space and where visitors can take part in a range of recreational



activities along the banks of Parramatta River or its fields, cycle ways and other facilities such as, picnicking, walking, cycling, field sports or just exploring the historical monuments and buildings throughout the park. There are also many other venues for entertainment such as movie cinemas, a bowling alley and retail outlets.

Climate

Sydney generally has a temperate climate with an average of 240 days of sunshine annually. The winters are cool and mild, while the summers are warm

Average Summer temperature: 26 degrees Celsius (22 degrees Fahrenheit)

Average Winter temperature: 16 degrees Celsius (61 degrees Fahrenheit)

Transport

The School in Parramatta City can be easily reached via Parramatta Train Station. Parramatta City Council runs a regular free bus service that loops around the various parts of the Parramatta to CBD including the Ferry Wharf on Charles Street. Ferry services run between Circular Quay and Parramatta every day via the Parramatta River.



Information about transport:

Sydney buses including timetables and fares:

<http://www.sydneybuses.info/routes/timetables-route-maps>

Sydney Trains including timetables and fares: <http://www.sydneytrains.info/timetables/#landingPoint>

Sydney water transport, including timetables: <http://www.131500.com.au/>

Opal Card

International students wishing to travel on public transport are encouraged to acquire an Adult Opal card. With the required amount of credit on it, the Opal Card allows travellers to use Sydney's trains, busses and ferries without having to buy tickets each time.

Where can customers obtain an Adult Opal card?

- Online (<https://www.opal.com.au/ordercard/>)
- By calling **13 67 25 (13 OPAL)**
- At one of 2,100 retailers (visit www.retailers.opal.com.au to find the closest retailer)
- At 27 selected Service NSW locations (visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/get-opal-card)



Accommodation while living in Australia

The School's Student Support Officer can provide information, advice, and guidance on the types of accommodation services available to students prior to arrival in the case of a need to change arrangements whilst in Australia. The types of accommodation available in Australia are many and varied and brief descriptions of some of the options are listed below:



Home-stay / Private Board

This is a common form of accommodation is where students live with an Australian family. Home-stay or private board is where you live with a family, couple or single person/s in their own home. There are many 'Home-stay Providers' operating in Australia and these arrangements will vary from Full Board, Part board, or Board in Exchange.

Hostels & Guesthouses

Generally, these are temporary accommodation arrangements and are available from \$90.00 to \$150.00 per week. Prices will depend on shared facilities, meals provided, shared rooms, etc.

Private Leasing / Rentals

The housing rental market in Sydney offers a wide range of housing options. Signing a lease on your own for an apartment, flat or house can offer you an independent lifestyle and privacy. You may also plan to stay in this property for the duration of your course.

It can, however, be expensive if you choose to live by yourself because you are solely responsible for the rental payments plus the connection fees for utilities and then ongoing bills. Generally, tenants are responsible for connection and usage of water, electricity and gas. Tenants are also responsible for connection and payment of the telephone. Rental prices vary according to the location and condition of the property. It can be useful to familiarise yourself with the average price of properties in the various suburbs.

Living Costs

This is only a guide to the living costs in Australia and these expenses will vary depending on the student's lifestyle.



Accommodation Costs:

Accommodation costs will vary from City to City and suburb to suburb.

The following is an estimate of various types of accommodation in the extended Sydney area.

Accommodation Type	No. of weeks	Weekly rent Aus \$	Estimated Yearly Rent Aus \$
Rental	52	165 - 440	8,580 - 22,880
Homestay	52	235 -325	12,220 - 16,900
Boarding schools	52		11,000 - 22,000
Shared Rental	52	85 - 215	4,420 - 11,180
Hostels and guesthouses	52	90 - 150	4,680 - 7,800

General Costs:

The estimates below are in Australian dollars (AUD\$) and are subject to change.

Other living expenses		Other living expenses	
Groceries and eating out	\$ 80.00 - \$ 280.00	Entertainment	\$ 80.00 - \$ 150.00
Gas, electricity	\$ 35.00 - \$ 140.00	Phone and Internet	\$ 50.00 - \$ 150.00
Public Transport fares	\$ 25.00 - \$ 55.00	Car (after purchase)	\$ 250 - \$ 550

It is recommended that students allow a minimum of \$20,290.00 per year for the student, \$7,100 for their partner or spouse and \$3,040 each child to cover their living costs. It is also recommended to allow an extra \$2000.00 for costs that you may incur while settling in – such as food, transport, and any personal items you may require.



Childcare

If applicable, you will need to arrange childcare for children under the age of five years while you are attending classes if you do not have a spouse to care for them in the family home.

There are many childcare centres in Parramatta. Most are community-based centres and are open to public as well as staff and students. Please ask one of the Student Support Officers if you are having difficulty in finding a childcare centre for your children.

Schools

It is strongly advised to arrange schooling for children over the age of five years well in advance of your arrival in Australia. There are two separate schooling systems which operate in Australia: Government funded Public Schools, and Private Schools.

Tuition fees must be paid for dependents of international students who attend a school in NSW. These fees must be paid before your child can obtain a visa. Government School fees range from AUD4,500 to AUD 6,500/year per child. An initial application fee of around AUD\$200 may also be applicable.

Fees are also applicable for each child entering a private school. These fees are calculated on an annual school basis.

Enquiries regarding entry to public schools should be directed to:

NSW Department of Education and Training

International Student Centre
NSW Department of Education and Training
Block W, 827-839 George Street
Sydney NSW 2007
Australia
Phone: +61 1300 302 456
Fax: +61 2 9212 6721

[Visit the NSW Department of Education and Training website](#)

Mobile Phones and Internet

Australia has a range of phone and internet services available including public phones, fixed (landline) phones, mobile and internet.

Some of the major mobile phone and internet providers are Optus, Vodaphone, Telstra and Virgin.

Many providers of phone services have outlets in major shopping centres. Mobile phones and SIM cards can also be purchased from some Australia Post Offices.



Mobile phones

It is best to purchase a SIM card or Australian mobile number when you arrive in Australia, as using your home phone number could incur high costs in some cases. There are two types of mobile phone accounts you can choose from:

Prepaid

A prepaid service gives you flexibility because you control how much you spend and can stop using the service any time. Pre-paid SIM cards are sold in many shops and supermarkets, as well as by mobile phone providers. After an easy set-up process with the provider, you will have a working Australian mobile number which you can top up with credit as needed. You can usually top up your prepaid service online or at a range of retail outlets. Your mobile phone provider can provide details on how you can top up your service.

Contract

If you will be using your mobile a lot and will be in Australia for a fixed period for study, a contract might work out cheaper for you. There are numerous mobile phone operators in Australia, and you can choose from a range of phone plans where you can get the handset with little (if any) up-front cost; you then pay a fixed price per month for a certain amount of calls, text messages and data.

Internet

Many internet providers in Australia are also mobile or fixed phone carriers, and they offer pre-paid or contract internet plans like the above. If you choose a contract service, will receive a modem, and just like a phone service, you pay a monthly rate to get a certain data allowance. Ask the providers you are considering for details of plans that might suit you.

Making international calls

To make international telephone calls from Australia, dial 0011 followed by the country code, the area code (if required) and the telephone number. To call Australia from overseas, dial 61 followed by the area code and telephone number. To make calls from one location to another within Australia, dial the area code (if required) followed by the telephone number.

Shopping Centres

Most shopping centres have the following trading hours:

9am – 5:30pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri



9am – 9pm Thursday

9am – 5pm Saturday

10am – 4pm Sunday

- Supermarkets are often open longer hours than the shopping centres.

Driving in NSW

If you are on an international student visa and you hold a current overseas driver licence you do not have to obtain an NSW drivers licence so long as:

- You remain on a student visa
- Your overseas licence remains valid and current
- You have not been suspended or disqualified from driving in NSW or elsewhere
- You have not had your licence suspended or cancelled or your visiting driver privileges withdrawn
- Your licence must be either written in English or, if the licence is not in English, you must carry an authorised English translation.

You must carry your licence from your home country, including an English translation if it is in a language other than English, with you when driving and you must be able to prove genuine student status to NSW Police, if required. A visa and letter from an educational institution and a statement from a consulate or diplomatic office may be used to establish your student status.

It is illegal to drive without being properly licensed. Before attempting to drive on any road in Australia make sure that you have a proper licence and you know the road rules. There are certain criminal offences, such as drink driving, where the police can suspend your licence on the spot. You cannot drive while your licence is suspended.

- For details on Australian Road Rules please see the [Roads and Maritime Services website](#).
- For details on driving in Australia please see the [Guide for International Drivers](#). Translated versions are available

There are several different types of drivers licences that you can hold in Australia. To ensure that you have the correct licence and to understand the different types please see the Road Users' [Handbook](#).

When driving and registering a car in NSW it is essential to have CTP (Compulsory Third Party) Insurance. This insurance is sometimes known as a 'green slip' and you must pay the bill for your CTP insurance when, or before, it is due as there are no time extensions. It is strongly recommended that you also have third party property damage or comprehensive insurance for your car if you are planning to drive in NSW.



If you need a proof of age card you can visit Roads and Maritime Services to obtain one. You will be required to show them photographic identification. If you require further advice or assistance, please contact the Roads and Maritime Services on 13 22 13.

Further Information

Further information may be obtained regarding any of the items above through the School Reception Desk.