



LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Australia: Australia is celebrated as an ethnic melting pot, renowned for its breathtaking natural wonders and diverse landscapes. Since 1945, over six million individuals from around the globe have chosen Australia as their home. With 226 languages spoken, including English, Italian, Greek, Cantonese, and Arabic, Australia embraces a rich tapestry of cultures. Despite its vast size, Australia's population stands at approximately 25 million, with most residing along the coast. Boasting nearly 50,000 kilometres of coastline and over 10,000 beaches, Australia offers unparalleled coastal beauty. Its major cities provide vibrant lifestyles, cultural attractions, and a safe environment, making it an attractive destination for residents and visitors alike.

Multiculturalism: Australia stands as one of the most culturally diverse nations globally, with over 100 ethnic groups represented. This dynamic multiculturalism stems from a blend of indigenous cultures, early European settlement, and immigration from various corners of the world. Australians cherish the richness of cultural diversity that international students bring to campuses and communities. Institutions like ASCA prioritise the well-being of international students, assisting them in acclimating to the Australian lifestyle. Moreover, international students derive immense educational benefits in Australia and form enduring friendships during their stay.

Language: Although English is the official language, more than 4 million Australians speak a language other than English, more than 800,000 speak an Asian language, the most common being Mandarin, followed by Cantonese and Vietnamese, and another 800,000 speak a European Union language. English, as it is spoken in Australia, is easily understood by nearly all people from other English-speaking nations. As you improve your English, you will learn some of Australia's colourful and often humorous slangs, and have fun explaining the meanings to friends and relatives.



Religion: Australia is predominantly a Christian country however; all religions are represented. Australians respect the freedom of people to practice their choice of religion. Churches, mosques, temples, Gurudwara and synagogues are located in most major cities.

Healthcare: Australia has a very good healthcare system. All Australians pay a medicare levy (additional tax) to fund the public health system to ensure that everyone has access to public-system doctors, hospitals and other healthcare services. People who pay extra into private health insurance funds receive extra privileges when using private healthcare services. You will find the usual healthcare services available in Australian suburbs including GPs (doctors), dentists, osteopaths, chiropractors, psychologists, counsellors and many complementary healthcare practitioners too (traditional Chinese medicine, naturopathy, acupuncture, kinesiology, etc.). International students studying in Australia are required to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of their student visa. Visit- <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-move/overseas-student-health-cover-oshc>

Food: Australia boasts a diverse and exceptional food scene, with top-quality meat, fish, fruits, and vegetables exported globally. The country's produce markets offer a wide range of fruits and vegetables. International students can easily find familiar foods from their home countries in Australia, as the country's restaurants and cafes offer almost every type of cuisine. Ethnic restaurants provide diverse culinary experiences from around the world, while bistros, cafes, and Aussie pubs offer good food at reasonable prices. Additionally, major global fast-food chains are well-represented for those who prefer takeaway options.

Sports and recreation: Australians are very keen on sports and outdoor activities and have gained a worldwide reputation as tough competitors in individual and team sporting events. Australia has more than 800 national sporting organisations and thousands of state and regional sporting bodies. Australians are also enthusiastic about bushwalking, fishing, boating and water sports.



Transport:

Australia has an extensive public transport system that includes trains, buses, tramways, ferries, two major national airlines and a number of regional airlines.

- **Driving**

Tourist students may drive in Australia on a valid overseas driver's license, but if the document is not in English, visitor must carry a translation with the permit. An international driver's license alone is not sufficient. Different states in Australia have different driving licence conditions.

Motor vehicle registries in Australia

- Australian Capital Territory — [Road Transport Authority](#)
 - New South Wales — [Roads and Maritime Services](#)
 - Northern Territory — [Department of Transport](#)
 - Queensland — [Department of Transport and Main Roads](#)
 - South Australia — [Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure](#)
 - Tasmania — [Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources](#)
 - Victoria — [VicRoads](#)
 - Western Australia — [Department of Transport](#)
- **Taxis/Uber:** In Australia, metered taxicabs are readily available in major cities and towns, with taxi ranks located at transport terminals, hotels, and shopping centers. Students can also hail taxis on the street, with vacant taxis indicated by a light and sign on the roof. Taxis have a minimum charge and a per-kilometer fee, and tipping is not required. Additionally, Uber services are accessible at airports, with designated pick-up areas provided for customers outside the terminals.

Telephones and Internet connection: Australia offers a modern and affordable telecommunications system, with widespread access to mobile and internet services. Overseas calls can be made via internet data, including video calling. Free Wi-Fi hotspots are available in many places in and around Alice Springs, including airports and shopping malls. Most shared



accommodations provide Wi-Fi services, allowing students to make overseas calls and video calls. Students can choose between pre-paid and post-paid SIM cards, with prices starting from \$12-\$15. Providers like Vodafone offer student discounts on plans with varying internet data and overseas calling minutes.

Budgeting: Students should work out a budget that covers accommodation, food, transport, clothing and entertainment. Childcare, if applicable, should also be taken into account. For more information on living in Australia, and costs, visit www.studyinaustralia.gov.au.

Travel: During the term breaks, students may like to venture beyond Alice Springs to experience more of Australia's spectacular natural environment and great physical beauty, such as the Great Ocean Road in Victoria, marine parks, and national parks (The Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu, and Uluru), the Queensland rainforests and the pristine countryside and mountains of Tasmania. Student and backpacker travel agents in metropolitan cities offer cheap flights and package deals.

Money and banks: Australia uses its currency, the Australian dollar, as the only legal tender. Currency exchange services are available at international airports, banks, and major hotels for converting foreign money. Travellers' cheques can be cashed in various currencies at banks and some shops. Students should open an Australian bank account, providing visa details and residency evidence. Major banks like ANZ, Westpac, National Bank, and Commonwealth Bank operate across cities and regional centers, offering ATM and EFTPOS facilities widely. Credit cards, especially Visa and MasterCard, are widely accepted in Australia. The currency system follows a decimal system, with notes ranging from \$5 to \$100 and coins in various denominations. Tipping isn't a common practice in Australia, and service charges aren't typically added to hotel and restaurant bills.

For further information on how to open a bank account online, simply visit any of the major four banks listed below or one of the smaller banks:



Commonwealth Bank of Australia: <https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/can/moving-to-australia.html>

Westpac Bank <http://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/student-banking/s-international-students/organise-australian-bank-acc/>

ANZ Bank

<http://www.anz.com/personal/bank-accounts/banking-for-life-changes/international-students/>

National Australia Bank (NAB)

<https://www.nationalaustraliabank.com/nabglobal/en/banking/migrant-banking/study-in-australia>

Finding Accommodation

Various accommodation options are available for international students in Australia, each with its own cost considerations:

- Home Stay: Students can live with a local family, couple, or single person to experience Australian life. Costs range from \$235 to \$325 per week.
- Full Board: This option typically includes a furnished room, three meals per day, and utility bills. Prices vary from A\$110.00 to A\$270.00 weekly.
- Half Board: Offering a furnished room and utility bills coverage, students can use cooking and laundry facilities. Prices range from A\$80.00 to A\$100.00 per week.
- Lease/Rent: Renting an apartment or house requires signing a lease for privacy and independence. Costs for shared accommodation range from A\$185.00 to A\$440.00 weekly (unfurnished). Cost (shared accommodation): A\$185.00 - A\$440.00 per week (unfurnished)



Useful internet sites for student housing are:

<http://homestaydirect.com.au>

<http://gumtree.com.au>

<http://flatmatefinders.com.au>

Useful rental accommodation websites are:

www.realestate.com.au

www.domain.com.au

www.realestateview.com.au

Living around Alice Springs (NT)

Alice Springs, known as "The Alice" colloquially, is the third-largest town in Australia's Northern Territory. It was named after Alice, Lady Todd, by surveyor William Whitfield Mills in 1933. The town has a population of approximately 26,534 people, representing about 10% of the Northern Territory's population. Alice Springs experiences four distinct seasons with varied temperatures. Despite its remoteness, Alice Springs is rich in arts, culture, and history, hosting events like the Parrtjima Festival and Desert Festival. It serves as a hub for exploring Aboriginal culture and unique wildlife. The Northern Territory Government promotes Alice Springs as a study destination, with initiatives like StudyNT. Public transport, including the Asbus service, operates regularly within the town, serving various routes.

Useful Websites

<https://studynt.nt.gov.au/>

<https://dipl.nt.gov.au/transport>



Living around Burwood (NSW)

Burwood, located in New South Wales (NSW), is a vibrant suburban area known for its diverse community and rich cultural landscape. Originally inhabited by the Burramattagal clan of the Dharug people, Burwood has evolved into a thriving hub in the inner-west region of Sydney. The name "Burwood" is believed to have originated from an Aboriginal term meaning "place of plenty." Today, it stands as a testament to multiculturalism, boasting a population that reflects a blend of cultures and backgrounds.

With its convenient location and excellent amenities, Burwood offers residents and visitors bustling retail precincts, diverse dining options, and cultural festivals. From family-friendly parks to trendy cafes and restaurants, Burwood provides something for everyone to enjoy.

As a prominent educational center, Burwood is home to several prestigious institutions, including the Australian Catholic University and the Western Sydney University Burwood Campus.

Transportation in Burwood is well-developed, with easy access to trains, buses, and major roadways, facilitating seamless connectivity to Sydney's central business district and surrounding suburbs. Residents and visitors can explore the city's attractions with ease while enjoying the convenience of modern transportation facilities.

Useful websites

<https://www.study.nsw.gov.au/>

Cost of Living

Australia provides good quality and affordable accommodation. Students will need \$ 21,041 per year (excluding tuition) to cover living expenses including accommodation, food, transport, entertainment, clothing, and books.

- For partners coming with you - AUD\$7,362
- For a child coming with you - AUD\$3,152
- Hostels and Guesthouses - \$90 to \$150 per week



- Shared Rental - \$95 to \$215 per week
- Homestay - \$235 to \$325 per week
- Rental - \$185 to \$440 per week

Other living expenses

- Groceries and eating out - \$140 to \$280 per week
- Gas, electricity - \$10 to \$20 per week
- Phone and Internet - \$15 to \$30 per week
- Public transport - \$30 to \$60 per week
- Car (after purchase) - \$150 to \$260 per week
- Entertainment - \$80 to \$150 per week

For further information refer to [Cost of Living Calculator](#) on Study Australia website.

Education and Childcare

Students who are coming to Australia with family members need to be aware of the costs associated with education and childcare in Alice Springs and Burwood. Students are advised to research the resources available before arrival in Australia. The following websites offer detailed information:

- <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/>
- Find an Early Childhood Service or School: <https://nt.gov.au/learning/early-childhood/find-a-child-care-or-preschool-service>