

## Living in Australia

- \* Accommodation
- \* Employment
- \* Money and banking
- \* Religious and spiritual information
- \* Your safety and security
- \* Health services

Guide to Visiting Australia: Web-site: <http://www.aussie.net.au>

### >>>>>>>>>Accommodation

Generally you have two options from which to choose—on-campus or off-campus.

1. On-campus living:

It can be self catering means living independently doing own cooking and cleaning.

You may reside at Halls with food and cleaning facilities.

You may stay at HOMESTAY accommodation means living with an Australian Family and you may ask for required things.

2. Off-campus living:

It's Private Accommodation. You may get useful information from local real-state agents.

Seek assistance from a2z Study Counsellor for accommodation or write to [md@a2zstudy.com](mailto:md@a2zstudy.com)

### >>>>>>>>>Employment

#### **How to apply for permission to work**

Many international students obtain work during their stay in Australia. If you want to work you must first apply to DIMA (Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs) for a work visa after you arrive in Australia. The cost is A\$50.00.

Your work visa permits you to work up to 20 hours per week in part-time employment during term and full-time employment during vacation.

**Note:** Work cannot be guaranteed. Unemployment exists in Australia and therefore part-time work is not always easy to find. Under the conditions of your student visa, students should not rely on income from part-time work to meet tuition and living expenses.

Dependants of international students wanting to work in Australia must apply for a work visa. Dependants of Doctorate and Masters level students may work full-time, dependants of other students are limited to 20 hours work per week.

Web Site: <http://www.immi.gov.au/students/index.html>

## **>>>>>>>How to apply for a Tax File Number**

If you want to work in Australia you must apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) to give to your employer. International students studying approved programs are regarded as residents for taxation purposes. It is also important to lodge your Tax File Number with your bank so any interest you earn on your savings is not taxed at the highest taxation rate.

Web Site: <http://www.ato.gov.au/>

## **>>>>>>> Money and banking**

### **Australian currency**

Australian currency follows a decimal system. The dollar (\$A or AUD) is the basic unit of the Australian decimal system and is divided into 100 cents.

Notes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coin denominations are \$1 and \$2 (gold colored) 50c, 20, 10, 5c (silver colored).

Currency Converter: Web Site:<http://www.xe.net/ucc/full.shtml>

## **>>>>>>>Banking**

It is recommended you bring at least A\$2500 with you to meet your establishment costs (your temporary accommodation, your rental bond and rent in advance, telephone connection charges, text books etc.). It is advisable to carry traveler's cheques in Australian dollars as these are secure and can be exchanged for cash at the international airport on your arrival to pay for your immediate expenses. They can also be cashed at banks and major department stores.

It is advisable to open a bank account as soon as possible after your arrival so you can transfer funds from overseas. As bank drafts may take up to two to three weeks to be cleared in Australia, electronic transfers are recommended. If you open your account within six weeks of your arrival, your passport will be sufficient proof of identity.

Normal banking hours are 9 am to 4 pm Monday to Thursday and 9 am to 5 pm Friday. Banks are not open on Saturdays. A Commonwealth Bank ATM (automatic teller machine) is located in the commercial center on campus.

Automatic teller machines enable you to withdraw or deposit funds using a plastic card and a secret PIN (personal identification number). To avoid someone else using your card or PIN to withdraw money from your account it is important to take great care. Do not keep your PIN number in your wallet with your card. If you lose your card, you must notify the bank immediately using the after hours phone number given to you at the time you receive your card.

International credit cards, including Visa card, Master, American Express and Diners Club can all be used in Australia.

## **>>>>>>>>>Religious and spiritual information**

In Australia our laws protect individuals' rights to practice the religion of their choice. The main religion is Christianity with other widely practiced religions being Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Taoism.

In Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, students are provided with relevant information regarding the religious organizations near the campuses, and have access to multi-national staff who can provide advice on specific religious services. All campuses have dedicated prayer rooms open to all religions.

## **>>>>>>>>>Your safety and security**

While Australia is considered a very safe country in which to live, unfortunately, petty crime such as burglary and theft is not uncommon. There are some precautions you can take. At home, know who is at your door before you open it. When you go out lock all doors and windows. Always keep your passport, credit cards and other important documents in a safe place. Avoid walking alone especially at night. Do not leave your keys or other personal belongings unattended.

In an emergency do not hesitate. **Dial 000** for fire, police or ambulance services any time, day or night for 24-hour service. It is a free call. Tell the operator which service you need—fire, police or ambulance and wait to be connected.

University also has security staff who are available to assist you with your personal safety. Make sure you become aware of the locations of the on-campus direct phones to the Security Office.