

International Student Pre-Arrival Guide



www.sunitafe.edu.au

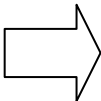

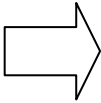
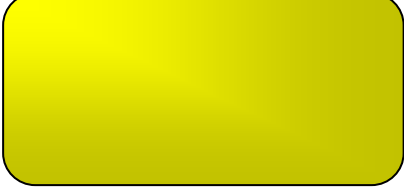

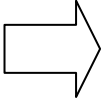


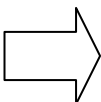
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How to use this Arrival Guide

The information contained within this arrival guide has been colour-coded for your convenience in order of priority. Each page is colour-tagged according to its urgency or importance

Example: Immediate Priority -

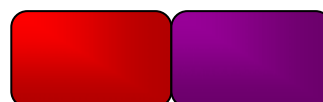


Colour Code		Information
		"I need to know <u>IMMEDIATELY!</u>"
		"I need to know by the first week!"
		"I need to know <u>BEFORE</u> classes begin!"
		"I need to know by the end of <u>WEEK 4!</u>"
		"I need to know by the end of <u>WEEK 6!</u>"
		"I need to go back and remind myself of this as I go through my study!"

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Important Information and Emergency Contacts:

Education Provider Main Contact Details:

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE:
 Ph: 03 5022 3666
 Benetook Ave
 Po Box 1904
 Mildura VIC 3502
www.sunitafe.edu.au

International Students Unit Staff:

Jane Zhang
 International Project Coordinator
 Ph: 03 5022 3915
 E: jhuaying@sunitafe.edu.au

Chelsea Diana
 International Administration Officer
 Ph: 03 5022 3703
 E: cdiana@sunitafe.edu.au

SuniTAFE Student Residences Office:

Ph: 03 5022 3721
 Email: residences@sunitafe.edu.au

Emergency Telephone Numbers:

Police, Fire, Ambulance – 000

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

Melbourne office:
2 Casselden Place
Melbourne VIC 3000
131 881

Medibank Private – Health Cover

Ph: 132 331

E: ask_su@medibank.com.au

W: www.medibank.com.au/oshc

Medical Centres:

Tri Star Medical Group:
87-89 Langtree Ave Mildura VIC 3500
Ph: 5023 1200

Deakin Medical Centre:
255 Deakin Ave Mildura VIC 3500
Ph: 5022 1488

Ontario Medical Clinic:
196 Ontario Ave Mildura VIC 3500
Ph: 5023 7311

Transport:

VLine Bus Services

Ph: 136 196

www.vline.com.au

Mildura:

Sunraysia Bus Lines
Ph: 03 5023 0274
www.sunbus.net.au

Mildura Taxi's
Ph: 03 5023 0033

City Taxi's
Ph: 03 5022 2000

Swan Hill:

Swan Hill City Taxis
Ph: 13 22 27

Post Office's

Cnr Ninth Street and Lime Ave
Mildura VIC 3500

Mildura Centre Plaza
831 Fifteenth Street
Mildura VIC 3501

Mildura Business Centre
Cnr Eighth Street and Orange Ave
Mildura VIC 3502

Important websites:

Education for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act)

http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/QuickInfo/ESOS_Framework_pdf.pdf

Other useful Websites:

Mildura Tourism

www.visitmildura.com

Sunraysia Mallee Economic Development Board

www.milduraregion.com.au

Grow Mildura Region

www.growmilduraregion.com.au

Mildura Rural City Council

www.mildura.vic.gov.au

Mildura Rural City Council Events Unit

www.milduraevents.com.au

Important Dates:

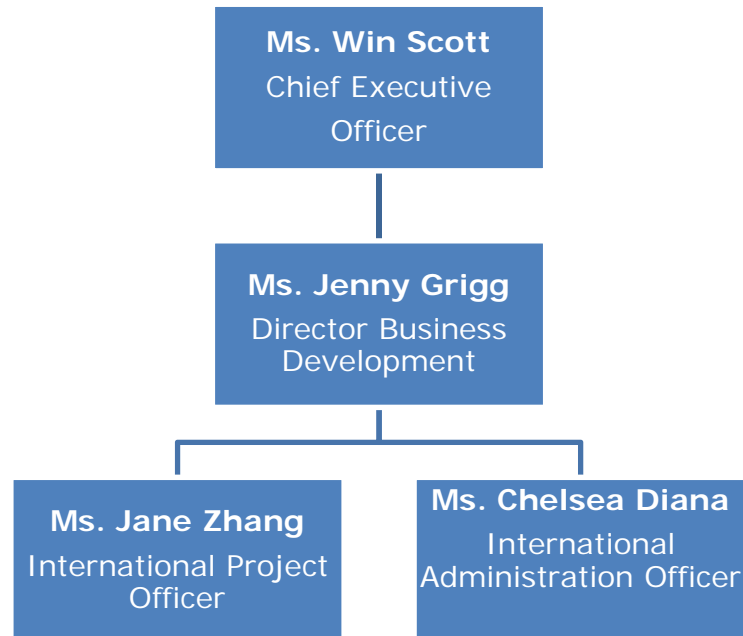
Victorian Public Holidays 2009

26 January	Australia Day
9 March	Labour Day
10 April	Good Friday
13 April	Easter Monday
25 April	Anzac Day
8 June	Queen's Birthday
3 November	Melbourne Cup Day

Victorian School Term Dates 2009

28 January	-3 April
20 April	-26 June
13 July	-18 September
5 October	-18 December (courses may break earlier than this date).

International Students Unit Hierarchy



Your first point of contact regarding your studies here at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE should be the International Students Unit. We will try to assist you with your query or concern, and refer it to another area if we are unable to deal with it.

International Students Unit staff can help you with: Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) enquiries and renewal, accommodation enquiries, visa enquiries, questions regarding finding employment, letters for DIAC, contact numbers for other organisations, worries you may have about your studies, application for leave forms, facilities and services available to international students.

Teachers or Educational Business Managers can help you with: Questions about your course, concerns about your enrolment, homework questions, questions about results, concerns about handing an assignment in on time, course credit / recognition of prior learning.

Student Support Services can help you with: Worries about being away from home, problems with settling in, concerns about your course, family issues and anything else you do not feel that you can speak with the International Students Unit or your Teachers or Educational Business Managers.

Introducing Mildura



Mildura began as a small irrigation colony established in the early 1880's as a result of the foresight and courage of the then Chief Secretary and Minister for Water Supply, Mr. Alfred Deakin. Enlisting the help of the Chaffey Brothers, irrigation specialists from Canada, Mildura was soon established as a thriving settlement. Situated in the far North Western corner of Victoria, Mildura is approximately 600km from Melbourne, 400km from Adelaide and 1100km from Sydney. With a population of approximately 60,000 the Mildura district is growing rapidly, with the introduction of new cultures and other industries including tourism.

Mildura is situated in Victoria's north-west. Covering around 10 percent of the state's area, its landscape ranges from Mallee vegetation to grain farms, intensive horticulture, vibrant towns and the beautiful banks of the Murray River.

The municipality includes Mildura, Red Cliffs, Merbein, Irymple and Ouyen. From the Murray River in the north to the Mallee National Parks and dryland farming districts, our region includes significant natural assets that are the hallmark of our district.

Mildura is known as the centre of Victoria's Food Bowl and is a major horticultural producer. Fruit sourced from the region is famous for its quality, with the rich soil contributing to optimal production. Our region has become a key service and economic hub of inland Australia and is recognised as being one of the top two fastest growing inland regions in the Country.

Mildura enjoys a warm to mild climate and days are mostly clear with 100+ days of full sunshine each year. Rainfall is about 290mm a year and is spread evenly across the months and seasons.

The charming rural city of Mildura has become a well-known and loved attraction to interstate and locals alike. With long hot summers and mild winters, Mildura makes for an enticing holiday destination.



Introducing Swan Hill

In the early 1850's, a wharf was built on the Murray River near Swan Hill, and it became one of the region's major inland river trading ports. As the river trade declined, Swan Hill saw the expansion of agriculture which spearheaded the town's prosperity with the use of the river for irrigation. Swan Hill Rural City is principally an agricultural and horticultural region, boarded by the Murray River. The region is also broadening its activities in manufacturing and tourism. Swan Hill is located approximately 335kms from Melbourne. The region's population is around 16,000. The average temperature in summer is 28 degrees Celsius and in winter average temperature is 15.7 degrees Celsius. Swan Hill experiences an average yearly rainfall of 345mm.

Introducing Sunraysia Institute of TAFE



The Institute is the major provider of Vocational Education and Training in north-west Victoria. Established in 1979, the Institute offers students up to date and relevant courses that are a combination of theoretical and practical learning. Sunraysia Institute of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) has 4 campuses, located in Mildura, Swan Hill, Ouyen and Robinvale and enrolls over 8000 students annually.

One of the major issues facing Australia at the present time and in the immediate future is the lack of skilled people to fill vacancies in the workforce. Preparing people of all ages for the workforce is very much the role of TAFE Institute's. Sunraysia Institute of TAFE is able to provide a wide range of courses to help prospective students become work ready for employment in Australia.



Arranging Visas:



Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a **student visa**. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may be better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due to their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your country.

In order to apply for a visa you will need a **valid passport**, an **electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)** and any **other documentation** required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application. For example, if you are under 18 you must have a completed **CAAW form** to ensure your accommodation and welfare is approved by your education provider.

You must ensure to **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.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

The Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm for the latest information.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

As well as links from the DIAC website the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website www.dfat.gov.au/embassies has 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 DIAC on your behalf, but please note that **you do not need to use a migration agent** to lodge any kind of visa application.

Education Agents

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend.

Please Note: Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are NOT licensed to provide migration advice.



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):

- Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions please visit www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students

Arranging Travel:



You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least 1-2 weeks before the start of International Student Orientation to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet-lag.

You should fly into Melbourne International Airport which is the closest international airport to Mildura and Swan Hill.

Visit www.melbourneairport.com.au

Mildura is located approximately 550kms from Melbourne International Airport, and Swan Hill is located around 335 kms from Melbourne International Airport.

For students choosing to travel to Swan Hill or Mildura via bus, a Skybus service operates between Melbourne airport and the Melbourne CBD. The Skybus departs every 10 minutes throughout the day and operates 24 hours a day.

Visit: www.skybus.com.au for more information.

Students are responsible for the cost of their travel to Mildura or Swan Hill. The Institute provides a free airport on-arrival reception for new international students for their arrival into **Mildura airport**. You should notify the Institute of your airline, flight number and date and time of arrival **at least one week before** your arrival into Mildura Airport by forwarding a completed Airport On-Arrival and Accommodation request form to the International Students Unit.

For those students studying at the Swan Hill campus, a train service is available from Melbourne to Swan Hill. Please visit the VLine Website: www.vline.com.au

for more information on this service. ** No airlines offer a service between Melbourne and Swan Hill; therefore no airport on-arrival service is available for those students studying in Swan Hill.

It is advisable that students arrive into Melbourne and travel by either air or bus to Mildura.

Domestic travel to Mildura can be arranged through:

Regional Express Airlines: www.rex.com.au

Qantas Airlines: www.qantas.com.au

Virgin Blue Airlines: www.virginblue.com.au

VLine Bus Service: www.vline.com.au

Documents

You should prepare a folder of **official documents** to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver's licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.

If you are travelling with your family you will need to include their documents as well. **Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage.** In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

What to Bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, **declare it anyway** on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) homepage www.aqis.gov.au:

- Read "**What can't I take into Australia?**"
- And also let your family and friends know "**What can't be mailed to Australia?**"

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (35kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

Seasonal Considerations

Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February. Our summer temperatures can vary from 25 degrees Celsius to around 45 degrees Celsius.

If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive. Our winter temperatures can vary from 0 degrees Celsius to around 20 degrees Celsius.

Clothing

On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or "running shoes" are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

Most primary and secondary school students will be required to wear a school uniform to classes and other school activities. You should check with your education provider what is included in the uniform package.

Other Items You Might Need to Include (most can also be purchased in Australia)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alarm clock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific or graphics calculator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> camera |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dictionary (bilingual) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> micro recorder for lectures |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small sewing kit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spare spectacles or contact lenses |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music CDs or iPod | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> your optical prescription |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sporting equipment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photos of friends and family |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> toiletries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swimming costume |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> umbrella | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small gifts from home |



The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

Bringing Your Computer

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated.

Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD\$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

Mobile Phones & Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority www.acma.gov.au before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be **Austel Approved** in order to function in Australia.

On Your Flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be **very HOT** so wear light weight clothing underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an **Incoming Passenger Card** to fill in. This is a legal document. **You must tick ✓ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products.** This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don't be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than **AU\$10,000** in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is **strongly recommended** however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.

Entry into Australia

Australian Immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

Baggage Claim

Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged go to the **Baggage Counter** and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

Detector Dogs

You may see a **Quarantine Detector Dog** at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food

you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

Australian Customs and Quarantine

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn't have. You must **declare ALL** food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has **strict quarantine laws** and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU\$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require **treatment** to make them safe. Items that are **restricted** because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the **Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)**.

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit www.daffa.gov.au/aqis.

Arrivals Hall

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Keeping in Contact:

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and your education provider in Australia, with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. (Do not change these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have **arrived safely**. It is important to **ALWAYS** let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by post.

It is a good idea to send the International Students Unit the details of your flight, and your arrival details into either Mildura or Swan Hill. This way, staff in the International Unit at SuniTAFE will know when to expect you. Once you have been granted your student visa, you should book your travel, and inform the International Students Unit using the Airport On-Arrival and Accommodation Request form if you will require either of these services.

Even if you do not require an airport reception, or accommodation, you should at least email the details of your travel and arrival to the International Students Unit, so that they are aware of when to expect you.

Please email your arrival details to: international@sunitafe.edu.au

Accessing Money:



You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.

How Much to Bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately **AU\$1500 to AU\$2000** available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money as either **Traveller's Cheques** or on an international credit card. Traveller's cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

Please note that it is **not safe to bring large sums of money** with you! Lost credit cards or traveller's cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.

Currency Exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Melbourne / Mildura you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at Melbourne airport, or at any bank branch in Melbourne or Mildura.

Electronic Transfer

You can transfer money into Australia by **electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer** at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately **48 hours**, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

ATMs

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at **ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo** (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.



Credit Cards

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that **repayments** too many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

Permanent Accommodation:



Choosing Where to Live

Most students want to live within walking distance of the campus but this is not always possible and is usually determined by availability and cost. Often it is more convenient and more cost-effective to live further from the campus but closer to shops and public transport.



Types of Accommodation:

On-Campus

The SuniTAFE Student Residences is an independent communal living facility set in a spacious garden setting and conveniently located on-campus at the Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Mildura campus. The complex is approximately a 30 minute walk, or 5 minute drive from Mildura's city centre.

For full time accommodation, residents must be enrolled in a Sunraysia Institute of TAFE or La Trobe University Course. Shared and single bedrooms are available within the complex. All rooms are fully carpeted, air conditioned and heated. Each full-time resident is provided with a single bed (supply own bedding), desk, chair, pin-board, wardrobe, bedside drawers and bookshelf. Students may bring their own TV, computer or bar-fridge.

A study room is provided with computers and internet access. Internet access can be provided in rooms at an additional fee.

Each unit has a communal and lounge area. The kitchen has a fridge and freezer, stove, microwave oven, kettle and toaster provided. A telephone (incoming calls only) is located in each unit. There is a payphone located within the complex available for making phone calls. Each unit has several communal bathrooms with showers, basins and toilets. The laundry is equipped with coin operated commercial washers and dryers. The SuniTAFE student residences have a common room with Cable TV, DVD and table tennis facilities. There is an outdoor BBQ and shady grassed areas for your enjoyment.

Students wishing to stay in the SuniTAFE Student Residences must send an accommodation request form to SuniTAFE at least 1 week prior to arrival. * Accommodation in the residences facility is available depending on availability at the time of request.

Current rates as at 30 June 2009:

Application fee:	\$30.00
Bond:	\$350.00

Weekly rates:	
Large Single Room	\$115.00
Single Room	\$105.00
Double Room	\$85.00
(Per person)	

Rentals

Rental accommodation is available in both the Mildura and Swan Hill regions. Rental accommodation can be found in both regions for between \$90 - \$300 per week depending on the size and quality of the accommodation. Generally the price is a good indication of the size and quality of the accommodation. For around \$100 per week, students could expect to find a 1 or 2 bedroom unit (a small dwelling) reasonably close to the Institute.



Where to Look for Accommodation:

The following is a list of places where you can go to find advertisements for accommodation:

- Student noticeboards around campus
- Newspaper classifieds
 - Rental properties are listed in the Mildura Weekly, a free newspaper available at all real estate agencies and newsagents. The newspaper is also delivered to all homes and businesses on a Friday. If you are unable to get a copy of the newspaper you can phone their office on Ph: 03 5021 1777 or visit their office at 73 Orange Ave Mildura.
- Real Estate Agent windows & websites

Real Estate Agents – Mildura

Collie & Tierney First National

67 Lime Ave Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5021 2200

www.collieandtierney.com.au

Elder's Real Estate

97-99 Lime Ave Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5025 8700

www.elders.com.au/realestate

LJ Hooker

101 Deakin Ave Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5022 2833

www.ljhooker.com.au/mildura

Ray White

69 Deakin Ave Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5021 9500

www.raywhite.com.au

Rescom

79 Pine Ave Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5021 4600

www.rescommildura.com.au

The Professionals

83 Deakin Ave Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5021 1900

www.rocisano.com.au

Stockdale & Leggo

107 Eighth Street Mildura VIC 3500

Ph: +61 3 5023 5000

www.stockdaleleggo.com.au

Real Estate Agents- Swan Hill:

Wood & Co First National

199 Campbell St Swan Hill VIC 3585

Ph: +61 3 5033 2000

www.woodandco.com.au

LJ Hooker Swan Hill

310 Campbell St Swan Hill VIC 3585

Ph: +61 3 5033 1331

www.ljhooker.com.au/swanhill

Arranging Accommodation:



Choosing accommodation that suits your needs is very important. It is important that you feel comfortable and safe where you live so that you can concentrate on your studies. SuniTAFE Student Residences offers accommodation to students enrolled at the Institute's Mildura campus. If students studying at the Mildura campus request accommodation prior to their arrival, they will be offered accommodation in the Institute's student residences facility (provided there are rooms available). A brochure on the student residences facility will be sent to the student so that they can nominate whether they would prefer a single or double room.

** The SuniTAFE student residence is only available to students enrolled at the Mildura Campus of the Institute. Partners of students are not permitted to stay on residences.

Temporary Accommodation: Hotels, Motels & Backpacker Hostels



Generally, the price you pay for accommodation will determine its quality. However, it can be expensive to stay in a good quality motel or hotel for a long period of time. Backpacker accommodation is relatively inexpensive but you may need to bring your own pillow and sleeping bag if you choose this option.

- **Budget accommodation / Backpacker hostels**

There is a wide range of budget accommodation available in the Sunraysia and Swan Hill area's, including backpacker hostels and caravan parks.

Some budget accommodation options and backpacker hostels include:

Sunraysia:

Sun City Caravan Park	Cnr Cureton & Benetook Ave Mildura	Ph: +61 3 5023 2325
Grapevine Tourist Park	Fifteenth St Mildura	+61 3 5023 3299
Sunraysia Holiday Park	Cnr Sturt Highway & Walnut Ave Mildura	+61 3 5023 1914

Astra Backpackers	35 Lemon Ave Mildura	+61 438 920 001
Victoria's Borderline Backpackers	78 Seventh Street Mildura	+61 3 5023 0671
Mildura City Backpackers	50 lemon Ave Mildura	+61 407 502 120

Swan Hill:

Kisimul Caravan Park	Murray Valley Hwy Swan Hill	+61 3 5032 4112
Hilltop Resort	659 Murray Valley Hwy Swan Hill	+61 3 5033 1515

Staying With Friends or Family

If you know someone in Australia, this is a great way to settle-in to life here. Your friends or family can provide advice, support and encouragement in your first days in Australia.

Bringing My Family



Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants (check your individual circumstances with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship See: **Arranging Visas**). Family members include your spouse, and you and your spouse's dependent children. Before bringing your spouse or children to Australia, you will have to prove that you can support them financially. The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high. You may have to consider and discuss many issues with your family.

Issues to Consider

Rather than bringing your family together with you to Australia, some students may find it useful to arrive first, settle into studies, find appropriate accommodation, adjust to living in Australia and then arrange for their family to join them.

Before making a decision to bring your family to Australia it is important to consider the following issues:

- The cost of airfares for your family to and from Australia;
- Possible higher rent for a larger home;
- Limited employment opportunities for your spouse;

- Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities;
- The effect on you and your studies if your family is not happy in Australia;
- Whether your children will adjust to school in Australia;
- Waiting lists for child care centres; and
- Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family or to all come at the same time.

For more information visit: www.immi.gov.au

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.

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE has its own Child Care Centre on campus at the Mildura Campus, and offers care to children of TAFE students and staff and the general public. The centre offers quality childcare for children 6 weeks to 12 years.

TAFE Kids Ph: +61 3 5022 3791

Swan Hill Child Care Centres:

Logan Street Child Care Centre
2-4 Logan Street Swan Hill
Ph: +61 3 5032 1328

ABC Swan Hill
100 Beveridge Street Swan Hill
Ph: +61 3 5033 2859

Schools



If you would like to bring your children to Australia with you, you must be aware of the following schooling issues:

1. It is an immigration policy that school-age dependants of international students undertake formal schooling while they are in Australia.
2. Children who have their fifth birthday before 1st April of that calendar year are eligible to start school.
3. 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.

4. The Diplomatic Mission in your country can tell you which State schools are registered to take international students. Fees are payable by international students at all State schools unless you:
 - o Are in receipt of sponsorship or scholarships from the Australian Government (e.g. the Australian Development Scholarship, IPRS);
 - o Hold a higher institution or approved non-government scholarship. These scholarships must be approved by the State government for the dependants to be exempt from school fees.
5. You will be responsible for school fees and other costs including school uniforms, books, excursions and stationery.
6. When choosing the most appropriate school for your child, it is best to ask questions about the school's curriculum, size, extra-curricular activities and the size of individual classes.
7. You should also take into consideration the distance from the school to **your education institution**, the suburb in which you intend to live and the method of transport you plan to use.

There are two types of schools in Australia – State schools and independent schools.

State Schools

There are a number of state schools in Sunraysia- offering both primary and secondary schooling. State schools in Sunraysia are zoned, meaning that your child will be sent to the state school which is closest to where you live. State schools are funded by the Government, meaning that local students pay minimal fees for the schooling of their children.

For more information, please visit the Victorian Government's Department of Education & Early Childhood Development website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/default.htm>

Independent Schools

There are a number of independent schools in Sunraysia and Swan Hill offering both primary and secondary schooling. Some of these schools are zoned, and others are available to students no matter where they live within the area. Independent schools receive less funding from the Government, so fees are generally higher than state schools. Independent schools include:

Mildura:

Trinity Lutheran College
Prep to year 10
920 Fifteenth Street Mildura
Ph: +61 3 5023 7013

Henderson College
Cowra Ave Irymple
Ph: +61 3 5024 5192
www.henderson-college.com.au

Swan Hill:

St. Mary's Primary School
2 Murlong Street Swan Hill
Ph: +61 3 5033 2541

Mackillop College (Secondary College)
53 McCrae Street Swan Hill
Ph: +61 3 5032 9771

Indicative Living Cost Mildura / Swan Hill Region

The following is an **indicative table** of living costs for Students attending Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Mildura or Swan Hill campuses.

All Indicative costs are Australian Dollars - \$AUD

All Indicative costs are approximate only.

Item	Minimum	Maximum
Food	\$50.00	\$100.00
Clothing	\$20.00	\$30.00
Entertainment	\$20.00	\$40.00
Accommodation (On Campus residences – Mildura)	\$90.00	\$120.00
Transportation	\$25.00	\$25.00
Incidentals	\$25.00	\$25.00
Weekly Total	\$230.00	\$340.00
Yearly Total (52 weeks)	\$12,000.00	\$18,000.00

The below accommodation options are approximate only, subject to variation.

Campus Residence (Mildura Only)	\$85.00 per week Twin Share room	\$115.00 per week Single room
Backpackers Accommodation	\$25.00 per night Dormitory room	\$140.00 Per Week Dormitory room
Rental Accommodation	\$90.00 per week Basic 1 Bedroom Unit / Shared House	

Services:



Telephones

Calling Emergency Services

DIAL

000

In Australia dial **000** from any phone for **fire, police or ambulance** services. **112** may also be dialled from mobile phones. Dialling **112** will override key locks on mobile phones and therefore save time. Emergency Services operators answer this number quickly and to save time will say, "Police, Fire, or Ambulance". If you are unsure of what emergency service you need tell the operator what the emergency is. You will then be connected to the appropriate service to assist. 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. (See also: Health – Emergencies)

Public Telephones

Australia has an extensive network of Public Phones throughout the country. They are easily recognized by the orange and blue Telstra emblem. The cost of local calls is 50 cents (AUD) with most phones accepting coins and prepaid telephone cards. Long distance call charges vary depending on time of day and distance.

Sundays are an excellent day to make interstate or international calls due to all day discount rates.

Pre Paid telephone cards offer competitive calling rates to all countries 24 hours per day.

Pre Paid Telephone Cards cost \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 and may be purchased at most newsagencies, post offices and convenience stores.



Making Phone Calls within Australia

To make international phone calls:

☎ Dial – international access code (0011) + the country code + the area code (if required) + phone number (when adding a country code to a number, any leading 0 (zero) on the area code following it is NOT dialled)

- To make domestic phone calls:

☎ Dial – the area code + phone number

Area Code	States	
(02)	ACT, NSW	
(03)	VIC, TAS	

(07)	QLD	
(08)	SA, WA, NT	

Visit www.whitepages.com.au and www.yellowpages.com.au for directories of residential, commercial and government phone numbers in Australia; and for a list of country codes and area codes for international calls.

Calling Australia from Overseas

To contact Australia, first dial the international access code from that country (this will vary in each country), then Australia's country code prefix **(61)** followed by the area code without the first zero (for instance Sydney would be 2 instead of 02), and then dial the required number.

Example: International access number +61 2 9999 3662

Mobile/Cell 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: <http://www.mobiles.com.au/mobile-phone-plans/>

www.telstra.com		www.optus.com.au	
www.three.com.au		www.vodafone.com.au	
www.virginmobile.com.au		www.dodo.com.au	
www.boost.com.au		www.crazyjohns.com.au	

(Source: on-line search)

Computer & Internet Access

Many of the above companies will also provide you with internet access. In fact, you may be able to make arrangements with a company where you can get cheaper rates if you have internet and mobile phone through the one service provider. In addition, with providers Telstra and Optus, you could get a packaged deal for your home phone, internet and mobile phone.

On enrolment at SuniTAFE, students will be issued with a student username and password to be used to access the computers at the Institute. There are a number of computer rooms located around the Institute, and students may use the computers in the Library if needed outside class time.

For those students staying in the SuniTAFE Student Residences, internet is available in the rooms for an additional charge of \$10 per week.

Driving

In Australia, cars drive on the left hand side of the road, and it is the law that seatbelts must be worn by everyone in the car.

To drive a car, you must have either an Australian Driver's Licence or must hold an International Drivers Licence from your home country.

Drink Driving (driving under the influence of alcohol) is against the law in Australia. If you do not obey drink driving laws, you may lose your licence and face heavy fines.

You must obey speed limits whilst driving in Australia. If you are caught speeding you may face losing your licence and heavy fines.

If you decide that you would like to purchase a car, it is essential that you have insurance. Any student wishing to buy a car is strongly advised to also purchase comprehensive insurance from an insurance provider so that you and other drivers are covered in case of an accident.

Cars in Australia must be registered before they can be driven on the road. Cars registered in Victoria must also be deemed roadworthy at the time of registration. If a car you are purchasing is not registered at time of purchase, be sure that you have a qualified person check the car to ensure that it is roadworthy, otherwise you may be forced to pay extra money to have the car deemed roadworthy before it can be registered and driven on the road.

Bicycles

Bicycles can be purchased from department store, specialist bicycle stores or sometimes you may pick one up second hand from a market.

It is the Law in Australia that you must wear a bicycle helmet whilst riding a bike. Helmets can also be purchased anywhere you buy a bicycle.

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 and is mandatory for international student visa holders. OSHC will also cover the cost of emergency ambulance transport and most prescription drugs.

How do I get OSHC?

You may be or have been asked for an OSHC payment in the education offer package you receive from your chosen education provider, if they have a preferred provider agreement and don't need to complete a formal application form. If not, you may need to complete an Application for OSHC which is available from registered OSHC providers and most educational institutions. Your local education adviser can lodge your OSHC form and payment at time of processing your enrolment to study in Australia.

Only Australian health funds that have signed an agreement with the Australian Government can provide OSHC. Most Australian education institutions have a preferred OSHC provider. Depending on the institution you will be attending you will be required to join one of these four registered health funds. You may choose to change your health fund at anytime, but will need to abide by the conditions of change of the health fund provider you are leaving.

OSHC Providers	
Medibank Private:	www.medibank.com.au
OSHC Worldcare:	www.oshcworldcare.com.au
BUPA OSHC:	www.overseasstudenthealth.com
Australian Health Management:	www.ahm.com.au

Students may also take out additional cover in the form of Extra OSHC and students who could not previously access OSHC may now be able to access Optional OSHC. Some students may be exempt from enrolling in the OSHC such as students from countries whose Governments may have Reciprocal Health Agreements for students in Australia. Note: only some reciprocal health agreements cover students in Australia, some will only cover visitors. You should determine if you are eligible before you apply for your visa to come to Australia.

Further information on OSHC can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/privatehealth-consumers-overseascover.htm>

If you come to Australia on a visa other than a student visa and undertake **a short course of study of three months duration or less** you will not be eligible for OSHC. It is wise to purchase travel or private medical insurance in this case.

What am I covered for?

OSHC provides a safety net for medical expenses for international students, similar to that provided to Australians through Medicare. Additionally, OSHC includes access to some private hospitals and day surgeries, ambulance cover and benefits for pharmaceuticals.

You will receive a brochure from SuniTAFE's preferred OSHC provider Medibank Private at orientation.

If you do not receive a brochure, please contact the International Students Unit for a copy, alternatively visit: www.medibank.com.au/oshc

How do I use my OSHC card?

If you need to visit a doctor or medical centre, show your card at the end of the visit. You will be charged the doctor's fee and the government fee component of that **may** be processed by the medical centre. If the medical centre is not able to process the government fee, pay the total amount, keep the receipt and you can claim the government fee back from your OSHC provider.

Types of Health Care in Australia

The Australian healthcare system is mixed. Responsibilities for healthcare are divided between the Federal and State governments, and both the public and the private sectors play a role. Government programs underpin the key aspects of healthcare. Medicare, which is funded out of general tax revenue, pays for hospital and medical services. Medicare covers all Australian citizens, pays the entire cost of treatment in a public hospital, and reimburses for visits to doctors.

Public System

The major provider of healthcare services in Australia is the Public Health System (Medicare). The Public Health System provides a comprehensive free-of-charge healthcare service for all Australian citizens covering both hospital-based and community-based medical services. Public hospitals are owned by the State. One of the problems with such a system is that **waiting times in public hospitals can be extensive** due to a shortage of healthcare professionals and facilities.

See also: Attending an Australian hospital.



Private System

Private hospitals provide about a quarter of all hospital beds in Australia. Private medical practitioners provide most non-bed medical services and perform a large proportion of hospital services alongside salaried doctors. Most dental services are provided by private practitioners. For Australians who take out private health insurance a range of services can be covered, such as access to your own Doctor in a private hospital, and extra services such as dental, optical and physiotherapy.

Attending an Australian Hospital

Few private hospitals have emergency departments, so, in an emergency, most Australians rely on the public hospital system. If you attend an Emergency Department in a hospital you will be attended to immediately by a triage nurse for information about you, your cover, and your current health condition. The triage nurse will determine the urgency of your condition in comparison to others in need in the emergency room and it is likely that you will remain at the emergency room for several hours. Whether you are seen immediately by a Doctor, or have to wait, it is customary to keep you in the emergency room for several hours to monitor your condition before releasing you to go home, or admitting you to hospital in more severe cases.

There are **extensive waiting times for elective surgeries at public hospitals**, e.g. for orthopaedic surgery. One of the attractions of health insurance is the ability to bypass public hospital waiting lists and go through the private system.

Private hospitals are very expensive for treatment and hospitalisation. Your OSHC will cover some of the cost of some private hospitals but you will have to pay the difference.

Your health insurance (OSHC) covers the total cost of accommodation in a shared ward of a public hospital. It also pays for the 'schedule fee' for the doctor but you will have to pay the difference if the doctor's fee is higher than the 'schedule fee'.

See also: Public hospital waiting times.

General Practitioners (GPs)

In Australia you do not have to go to a hospital to see a doctor. You can see a doctor (also known as a **GP – General Practitioner**) in their private practice or medical centre, with part or the entire doctor's fee being covered by Medicare or OSHC. **You must make an appointment to see a GP.** It is important to note that some GP surgeries will request full payment from you at the time of consultation and you will need to present the receipt to claim the rebate back from your health cover provider.



Managing My Finances



Setting up a Bank Account

You can choose to open an account in any **Bank, Credit Union or Building Society** in Australia. Do your research to get the best deal.

To open a bank account you will need:

- your passport (with arrival date stamped by Australian immigration)
- student ID card
- money to deposit into the account (this can be as little as \$10)

Anyone who wishes to open a bank account in Australia must show several pieces of personal identification which are allotted a points system. 100 points of identification is required to establish your identity as the person who will be named in the account. Your passport and proof of your arrival date in Australia will be acceptable as 100 points IF you open an account **within six weeks** of arrival in Australia. After this time you will be required to produce additional documentation. As a student you will be able to open an account with special student benefits. Many banks have 'Student Accounts' which contain no or minimal fees for transactions that might normally be attached to regular savings accounts. You will also require the student ID card from your institution to prove you are a student and should have access to the benefits offered by a student bank account. bank account. For a comparison of accounts in banks throughout Australia see:

<http://www.banks.com.au/personal/accounts/>

Most people in Australia enjoy the convenience of **Internet banking** and/or **Telephone banking**, which enables them to manage their money, pay bills etc. from home. At the time you are setting up your account you can request these services from your bank.

Banking Hours

Most bank branches are open from **Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm** (except on public holidays). Some branches have extended trading hours during the week and may be open Saturdays (check with your individual bank). **ATMs remain open 24 hours a day.** However, you should be aware of your personal safety if accessing cash from an ATM at night in quiet areas where there are not a lot of people around.

Bank Fees

Bank fees are **the price you pay for the products and services that banks offer**. Different banks charge different fees for different products and services, and the best way to find out what fees apply is simply to ask your bank. Any fees that apply to your accounts are fully disclosed in information leaflets and terms and conditions that your bank can provide before you open your account. **Some banks waive some fees if you are a full-time student.** The way you do your banking may also affect the fees that apply for example: internet banking rather than walking into a branch.

If you don't understand any fee which has been charged, contact your bank.

Accessing Money from My Account



Bank accounts offer lots of options for accessing your money. Some of the most popular options are described below.

ATMs (Automatic Telling Machines)

ATMs can be used to withdraw cash from an account by using the ATM card which is available with most bank accounts. You can also use ATMs to get an account balance and transfer money into other accounts. Some ATMs also allow you to deposit cash and cheques into your account. Using the ATMs of your bank will generally cost less money than if you use another bank's ATMs. Fees for using ATMs can vary between banks and between accounts. See also: Using an ATM.

EFTPOS

Short for 'Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale', EFTPOS terminals can be found where goods or services are sold, for example, supermarkets, service stations, restaurants, doctors' surgeries and gymnasiums. You can pay for goods and make payments through EFTPOS using your ATM card, rather than paying with cash. At some stores, when you use EFTPOS you can also withdraw cash from your account at the same time. You should be aware that there are some retailers who put limits on how much cash can be withdrawn which may be dependent on the amount which is spent in the store.

When paying by EFTPOS, you also use your PIN to access your account. The same rules apply about keeping the PIN confidential and never handing it over to anyone. Be careful no-one is looking over your shoulder when you enter your PIN. See: Using an ATM.

Telephone Banking

You can use telephone banking to transfer payments to and from accounts, get your account balances, get recent transaction information and pay bills. You will need to register to use telephone banking and will then be given a password or an identification number that allows you to access your accounts over the phone. It's important never to give your password to anyone else.

Internet Banking

Internet banking allows you to view and check your accounts, review recent transactions, apply for loans and credit cards, or transfer money and pay bills – all on-line. Most banks offer Internet banking facilities, but you will need to register with your bank to gain access. You will then be given a password that allows you to use your accounts on-line. Never give this password to anyone else.

There are security issues that need to be considered when using Internet banking. It is recommended that you install and keep up-to-date anti-virus software and a firewall, update security patches and be suspicious of emails requesting you to hand over confidential information such as your Internet banking logon password. Your bank will never ask you for this information, especially in an email. In addition, many banks publish security guides on their websites and this provides important information on precautions that you can take to protect your information on-line. If you are unsure about any approach that appears to be from your bank to provide personal information. Refuse to provide that information until you can attend your nearest branch to discuss the request over the counter with bank staff. There is no charge for discussing your banking options at a branch.

Over-the-Counter Service

You can also go into a branch of your bank and, with the assistance of bank staff, conduct transactions including withdrawals, deposits, transfers, and account balance checks. If you do not have a branch close by, you may be able to visit an agency of your branch, such as an Australia Post outlet, to conduct certain transactions. Bear in mind that over-the-counter transactions usually incur higher fees than electronic transactions.

Paying Bills

Most bank accounts offer lots of easy options for paying bills. Transaction accounts with cheque book facilities allow you to pay bills by cheque, and most transaction accounts and savings accounts allow you to pay bills electronically (e.g., using facilities such as telephone banking, Internet banking) and using direct debits.

A note of caution on direct debits – they are a convenient way to pay everyday bills, but always make sure you've got enough money in your account to cover the cost of the debit. If your pay or allowance goes into your account on a certain date, make sure your direct debit payments are scheduled to come out of your account after your pay goes in, or you might end up with an overdrawn account or a dishonoured payment – both can cost you money.

Account Statements

Most banks will provide regular statements for your accounts (just how regular can depend on the type of account). On request, banks will provide statements on a deposit account at more frequent intervals, but this may attract a fee. Bank statements are your record of everything that has happened in your account over a given period – the withdrawals, deposits and transfers that were made, and any bank fees and government taxes you were charged. Telephone and Internet banking can make it easy to check your statements, and some banks even offer 'mini statements' through their own ATMs.

Check your statements regularly to make sure you've got enough money in your account to cover your expenses and keep track of your spending, as well as make sure that all transactions made in your account are legitimate. Refer to your statements to see what fees you are paying on your bank accounts and why, and to see whether a few simple changes to your banking habits could help you to reduce the fees you pay (for example, using your own bank's ATMs instead of other banks' ATMs).

(Source: Australian Bankers' Association Inc.)

Working in Australia



Permission to Work

From 26 April 2008, people granted student visas will automatically receive permission to work with their visa grant. Most student visa holders will no longer need to apply separately in Australia for permission to work. Please note that you will NOT be able to work in Australia until the first official day of classes when the education provider will confirm your study commencement. Your education provider may do this automatically on the first official day of classes, or you may need to request that they do.

Working While Studying

1. You are not permitted to start work until you have commenced your course of study
2. You can work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the term and unlimited hours when your course is **not in session**.
3. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) considers your course to be '**in session**':
 - o for the duration of the advertised semesters (including periods when exams are being held)
 - o if you have completed your studies and your Confirmation of Enrolment is still in effect
 - o if you are undertaking another course, during a break from your main course and the points will be credited to your main course.

(Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship)

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions please visit www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm

Laws and Safety in Australia



Obedying the Law

One of the reasons we have such a wonderful lifestyle in Australia is due to our representative democracy, the separation of powers, and our respect for the rule of law. We have 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. Failure to comply with the laws of this land (including State and Territory laws) could result in a fine or the cancellation of your visa and possible deportation back home. If you are convicted of a serious crime, it could result in imprisonment. Nobody wants this to happen!

You can find a comprehensive outline of Australian law and the legal system at: www.australia.gov.au.

To Begin:



Arrive early

Australian education providers will provide an International Student Orientation before the commencement of classes and often before commencing local students attend an orientation. It is a requirement of the ESOS (Education Services for Overseas Students) Act 2001. Staff who run the orientation work hard to ensure that you as a student will be well equipped to achieve the best possible success in your studies. If you read through the pre-departure, arrival, and orientation manuals which the institution provides for you, you will see that there is a lot of information for you to understand and consider as you move through your studies. Although the manual will outline what you need to know, it is impossible to understand and recall everything. Once you are concentrating on your studies, you will feel less stressed if you are already comfortable with the institution, its staff and its services.

Arriving early to attend orientation gives you the chance to;

- See and talk to the most important people you will need to know at the institution.
 - International Students Unit staff and their duties
 - Educational Business Manager for your course
 - ESL Advisor
 - Student Support Services staff
 - Accommodation / Student Residences Officer
 - Counsellors
- Enrol early which will help you to get your student card early. You will need your student card to open bank accounts, borrow books from the library, and more.
- Meet and get advice from your Academic or Course Advisor
- Meet representatives of Student Associations, Clubs, and Mentors
- Find your way around the campus
 - Library
 - Computer rooms and facilities
 - Recreation and eating areas
 - Classrooms
- Meet other International students who may share your classes, share your concerns or fears. Knowing another face on campus as you become more comfortable with the routines can really help you avoid any feelings of isolation.
- Find your way around the public transport/ City/ to and from your accommodation.
- Feel as though you already know some of the things local students know before you get to meet them at orientation activities later.

What to Do First

Report to the International Students Unit or Student Administration desk at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE.

International Student Orientation

You will have received a letter outlining the date and time which you should report for your orientation program. The orientation program is compulsory for all new international students to attend. During the program you will be given important information about studying at SuniTAFE including information about Institute policies and procedures, and information about your course and study area.

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Student Code of Conduct

The adult learning environment at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE encourages and supports the participation of people from diverse backgrounds. The Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Student Code of Conduct applies to all enrolled students and aims to ensure the safety, comfort and wellbeing of everyone at the Institute.

To view the full Code of Conduct visit: www.sunitafe.edu.au/international

International Student Deferral, Suspension or Cancellation of Enrolment

Standard 13 of The National Code allows students to defer commencement of studies, take a leave of absence or temporarily suspend their studies during the course for compassionate and compelling reasons. The Institute may also seek to cancel or suspend the student's enrolment. The Institute has implemented a policy to assess a student's eligibility for deferral, suspension or cancellation of enrolment in a manner that complies with current legislation. All students must be aware that the deferment, leave of absence, suspension or cancellation of his or her enrolment may affect their student visa.

Leave (time away from your course)

- You must apply to the International Students Unit to take leave from your course, and you must put your application form in before you take your leave.
- Leave will only be granted in Compassionate or Compelling circumstances including illness or injury, pregnancy, involvement in a serious accident or serious crime, or illness or bereavement of close family members
- If you are unwell (Sick) you must provide an original Medical Certificate to the International Students Unit as evidence that you were not fit to attend classes.
- Any leave of absence from studies may affect your student visa. It is recommended that you contact the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to seek advice.
- Application for Leave forms are available from the International Students Unit.

To view the full International Student Deferral, Suspension or Cancellation of Enrolment Procedure visit: www.sunitafe.edu.au/international

Academic Progress

The Institute has implemented the DEEWR/DIAC Course Progress Policy through the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's reporting system meaning that unsatisfactory course progress will be reported to DIAC if intervention strategies do not improve the student's progress in the course. Your course progress will be assessed after each study period (at the end of each term, or equivalent timeframe if not a term). In the case of students who are deemed Not Yet Competent in 50% or more of the units studied in that study period, or are deemed as at risk of not achieving competency in at least 50% of units, the Institute will intervene and apply the policy for monitoring international student progress. Students who achieve who are deemed Not Yet Competent in 50% or more units in two consecutive study periods will be reported to DIAC. To view the full DEEWR/DIAC Course Progress Policy visit: www.sunitafe.edu.au/international

Attendance

The Institute expects that your attendance in class will be 100%. Your attendance is recorded on a daily basis by the class teacher. Teacher's will monitor attendance and report any concerns about attendance to the International Students Unit through the International Student Course Progress Report. Poor attendance will affect your course progress, and therefore may affect your student visa.

ELICOS Students – Attendance

The Institute is required to record and monitor attendance of students enrolled in ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students). The Institute will monitor your attendance in line with The ELICOS Student Attendance Recording, Monitoring and Reporting Procedure. To view the procedure visit: www.sunitafe.edu.au/international

Current Address Details

Students on an International Student Visa no longer need to keep DIAC informed of their home address in Australia, as DIAC will check these details with your education provider if required. Therefore you MUST maintain a current residential address on your student file AT ALL TIMES. If you change your address at all whilst you are studying at SuniTAFE, you must inform the International Students Unit by completing a Student Variation Form so that we can update your details in your file.

Refund Policy

The Institute has developed the International Student Fee Refund Policy which outlines the conditions for refunding fees paid by International Students. When you are offered a place at the Institute, you will be asked to sign a Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Acceptance Agreement which outlines the Institute's International student Fee Refund Policy and Procedure. In signing this agreement you are accepting the terms of the Policy and Procedure.

To view the full International Student Fee Refund Policy visit www.sunitafe.edu.au/international
To view the full International Student Fee Refund Procedure visit www.sunitafe.edu.au/international

Transfer Between Registered Providers

Under the standards of The National Code 2007, international students holding an Australian Student Visa are required to remain with the Principal Institution for the first six months of study of their principal course. However, the standard recognises international students as consumers and supports them in exercising choice whilst acknowledging they may also be a group that requires support to transition to study in Australia. Requests for transfer within the restricted period will be assessed using the International Student Transfer Policy.

To view the full International Student Transfer Policy visit: www.sunitafe.edu.au/international

International Student Visa Conditions

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions please visit www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm

Student Administration Information



Paying Fees

On Signing the Acceptance Agreement, International Students pay the first semester fees for the relevant course. Students must return a signed Acceptance Agreement prior to making payment to the Institute.

Once students are enrolled at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, subsequent fee payments are due:

- By 15th of June (next semester fee)
- By 27th November (a 25% deposit on the next semester fee, or full next semester fee)
- By 15th January (remainder of next semester fee if not paid in full by 27th November)

A \$50 per week penalty applies each week to fees not paid by the due date. The late fee will be applied and charged from the day after the fees are due. Students who have not paid their fees by the commencement of the next semester will not be able to commence in their course.

Tuition fees must be paid in the form of bank draft, cash, credit card or telegraphic transfer. If you plan to pay via EFTPOS, please check with your bank first, because most bank cards have a daily limit of between \$500 - \$1000.

ID Cards

Student ID cards can only be issued once the student has been enrolled into the course. Once you have been issued with a Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Confirmation of Enrolment, you may go to the Library and ask to have a student ID card.

Textbooks

If your course requires you to purchase textbooks, these should be available through the Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Bookshop, located in the Library at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE – Mildura Campus:

Bookshop Ph: 03 5022 3711

Student Support Services



International Student Office

Key Personnel:

Jane Zhang: International Project Officer

Ph: 03 5022 3915

jhuaying@sunitafe.edu.au

Chelsea Diana: International Administration Officer

Ph: 03 5022 3703

cdiana@sunitafe.edu.au

Counselling

Key Personnel:

Mildura:

Deb Broadhead: Student Counsellor

Ph: 03 5022 3614

dbroadhead@sunitafe.edu.au

Swan Hill:

Karen Kelly: Student Counsellor

Ph: 03 5036 2225

kkelly@sunitafe.edu.au

Disability Services

Key Personnel:

Janet Nunn: Disability Liaison Officer

Ph: 03 5022 3629

Jnunn@sunitafe.edu.au

Adjusting to Life in Australia:



While living and studying abroad may be an exciting adventure, it can also present a range of challenges. Having decided to study and live in Australia you will be undertaking adjustments in many areas of your life including cultural, social and academic. It is also important to remember that while these changes are occurring you will be embarking upon a new semester of study (for many of you in a different language) and be away from your usual supports, networks and resources. Adjustment to a new country and culture is a process that occurs gradually and takes time. The values, beliefs, traditions and customs of your home country may vary greatly from those in Australia and adapting to the Australian way of life may take some time. This advice may help:

➤ **Listen, observe and ask questions**

Adjustment to a new culture and way of life takes time. Allow yourself time to observe those around you and patterns of both verbal and non-verbal communication. Don't be afraid to ask questions if there are things you do not understand as this will reduce the chance of confusion or misunderstandings.

➤ **Become involved**

Make an effort to meet people and become involved in groups both on campus and in the wider community. Maintain an attitude of openness to new situations and experiences. Establishing friendships and joining groups is the best way to experience and learn about Australian culture and will certainly mean you have a richer and more enjoyable time here.

➤ **Try to maintain a sense of perspective**

When confronted with difficulties remind yourself that living and studying abroad is a challenge and it is normal to feel stressed, overwhelmed and out of your depth at times. Try to recall or make a list of the reasons you initially wanted to study abroad in the first place. Also, listing positive events or changes within yourself that have occurred since you arrived may also assist with getting things in perspective.

➤ **Maintain some of the routines and rituals you may have had in your home country.**

This can include small things such as continuing to drink a certain type of coffee or tea or eating specific foods. It may also include maintaining involvement in bigger events such as celebrating a national day in your country of origin with a group of friends.

➤ **Keep lines of communication open with those at home.**

Communicating with those at home regularly about your experiences of study and life in Australia, through emails, telephones and letters, is vital. Not only does it help to keep you connected with important social supports, it also assists your friends and family to understand your experiences which will smooth the transition when you return home.

➤ **Sense of humour**

Importantly, remember that living in a different culture means you will inevitably find yourself in a range of unusual and often confusing situations. Being able to laugh in these situations will remind you that it takes time to understand different cultures and that it is ok to make mistakes.

➤ **Ask for help**

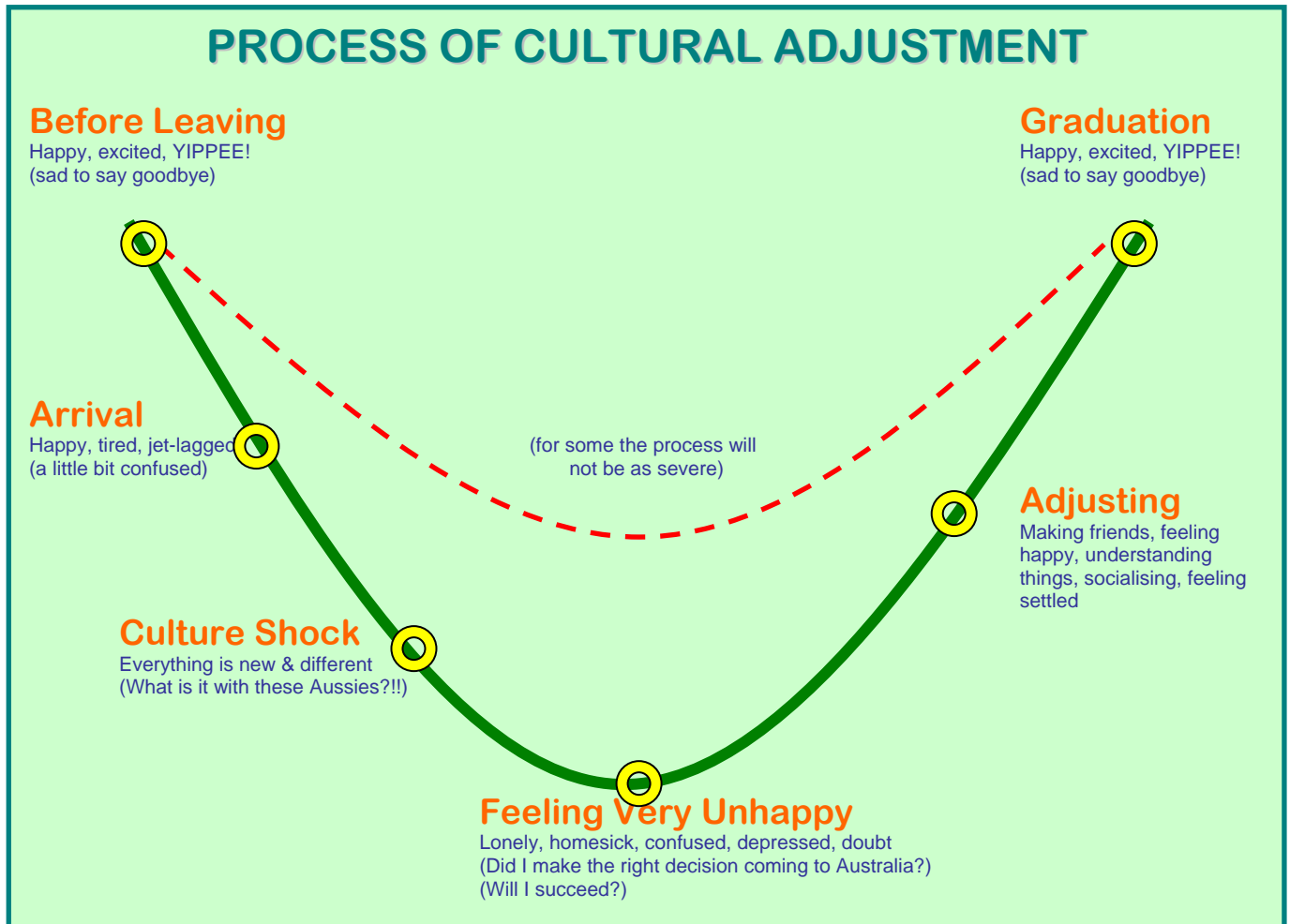
Don't be afraid to ask for assistance or support if you need it. In addition to the Counselling Service there are many organisations set up on campus to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable time in Australia.

(Source: Macquarie University)

Culture Shock:



Culture shock is the feeling of being out of place in an unfamiliar environment. The initial excitement of moving to a new country often subsides when different cultural expectations challenge you to attend to daily responses and behaviours previously taken for granted. The potential stress of dealing with these persistent challenges can result in feelings of hostility and frustration with your host country as well as a profound longing for home.



Overcoming Culture Shock

Once you realise you have culture shock, getting over it and moving on to better adjustment with the host culture will depend on you. It is you who must take some positive steps to feel better, and the sooner you take them, the better!

1. **Recognition:** First, you should remember that culture shock is a normal part of your adjustment and that you may have some of the symptoms. Some of your reactions may not be normal for you; you may be more emotional or more sensitive, or lose your sense of humour. Recognising your culture shock symptoms will help you learn about yourself as you work your way through it.

2. **Be objective:** Second, try to analyse objectively the differences you are finding between your home and your host country. Look for the reasons your host country does things differently. Remember that host customs and norms are (mostly) logical to them, just as your customs and norms at home are logical to you!
3. **Set goals:** Third, set some goals for yourself to redevelop your feeling of control in your life. These should be small tasks that you can accomplish each day. For example, if you do not feel like leaving your room, plan a short activity each day that will get you out. Go to a post office or store to buy something, ride a bus or go to a sports event. If you feel that language is your problem, set daily goals to learn more: study fifteen minutes a day; learn five new words a day; learn one new expression each day; watch a TV program in your new language for 30 minutes. Each goal that you achieve will give you more and more self-confidence that you can cope.
4. **Share your feelings:** Fourth, find local friends who are sympathetic and understanding. Talk to them about your feelings and specific situations. They can help you understand ideas from their cultural point of view.

(Source: Rotary International Youth Exchange)

Australian Culture:



Social Customs

Greeting People

When meeting someone for the first time, it is usual to shake the person's right hand with your right hand. People who do not know each other generally do not kiss or hug when meeting. When you first meet someone, it is polite not to talk about personal matters.

Many Australians **look at the eyes of the people** they are talking with. They consider this a sign of respect, and an indication that they are listening. Do not stare at the person for a long time.



You can address a new acquaintance using their title and family name. You may use their first name when they ask you to or use it in the introduction. In the workplace and among friends, most Australians tend to be informal and call each other by their first names.

Clothing Customs

The types of clothing that people wear reflect the diversity in our society just as much as the variation in climate. There are no laws or rules on clothing, but you must wear certain clothing for work situations. Most workplaces have dress standards.

Outside of the work situation, clothing is an individual choice; many people dress for comfort, for the social situation or the weather. Clubs, movie theatres and other places require patrons to be in neat, clean clothes and appropriate footwear.

Many Australians live close to the beach and the sea. On hot days, they may wear little clothing on the beach and surrounds. This does not mean that people who dress to go to the beach or swimming have low moral standards. It means that this is what we accept on and near our beaches.

People from other countries can choose to wear their national dress. They may be religious or customary items and include monks' robe, a burqa, a hijab or a turban. As a tolerant society with people from many different cultures, clothing is a part of cultural beliefs and practices that is encouraged.



Polite Behaviour

'Please' and 'thank you' are words that are very helpful when dealing with other people, and buying goods or services. When asked if you would like something, like a cup of tea, it is polite to say, 'Yes please', or just 'please' if you would like it, or 'no, thank you' if you do not. When you receive something, it is polite to thank the person by saying 'thank you'. Australians tend to think that people who do not say 'please' or 'thank you' are being rude. Using these words will help in building a good relationship.

Sometimes a sensitive issue may come up in conversation. Not to talk may seem rude. It is more polite to say 'sorry, it is too hard to explain' than to ignore a question.

Australians often say, 'Excuse me' to get a person's attention and 'sorry' if we bump into them. We also say, 'Excuse me' or 'pardon me' if we burp or belch in public or a person's home.

You should always try to **be on time** for meetings and other visits. If you realise you are going to be late, try to contact the person to let them know. This is very important for visits to professionals as you may be charged money for being late or if you miss the appointment without notifying them before the appointment time.

Most Australians blow their noses into a handkerchief or tissue, not onto the footpath. This is also true for spitting. Many people will also say, 'Bless you' when you sneeze. This phrase has no religious intent.

Australian Slang

Much common word usage or 'slang' may seem strange to people new to Australia. Slang words start from many different sources. Some words are shortened versions of longer words. Many were expressions already used by migrants who came from the north of England. If you are unsure what an expression means, it is all right to ask the person who said it to explain. Some common expressions are:

- **Bring a plate** - when you are invited to a party and asked to 'bring a plate', this means to bring a dish of food to share with your host and other guests. Take the food to the party in any type of dish, not just a plate, and it is usually ready to serve. This is common for communal gatherings such as for school, work or a club. If you are unsure what to bring, you can ask the host.
- **BYO** - when an invitation to a party says 'BYO', this means 'bring your own' drink. If you do not drink alcohol, it is acceptable to bring juice, soft drink or soda, or water. Some restaurants are BYO. You can bring your own wine to these, although there is usually a charge for providing and cleaning glasses called 'corkage'.

- **Arvo** - This is short for afternoon. 'Drop by this arvo,' means please come and visit this afternoon.
- **Fortnight** - This term describes a period of two weeks.
- **Barbeque, BBQ, barbie** - outdoor cooking, usually of meat or seafood over a grill or hotplate using gas or coals. The host serves the meat with salads and bread rolls. It is common for a guest, when invited to a BBQ, to ask if they should bring anything.
- **Snag** - The raw type sausages usually cooked at a BBQ. They can be made of pork, beef or chicken.
- **Chook** - The term chook means a chicken, usually a hen.
- **Cuppa** - a cup of tea or coffee 'Drop by this arvo for a cuppa' means please come and visit this afternoon for a cup of tea or coffee.
- **Loo or dunny** - These are slang terms for toilet. If you are a guest in someone's house for the first time, it is usually polite to ask permission to use his or her toilet. 'May I use your toilet please?' Some people ask, 'Where's the loo?'
- **Fair dinkum** - honest, the truth. 'Fair dinkum?' when used as a question means, 'is it really true?'
- **To be crook** - to be sick or ill.
- **Flat out** - busy.
- **Shout** - to buy someone a drink. At a bar or a pub when a group of friends meet, it is usual for each person to 'shout a round', meaning buy everybody a drink. Each person takes a turn at buying a 'round'. It is also acceptable to say that you do not drink (alcohol) by saying that you are a 'teetotaler'. This also means you are not obliged to shout.
- **Bloke** - a man. Sometimes if you ask for help, you may get an answer to 'see that bloke over there'.
- **How ya goin?** 'How are you going?' means how are you, or how do you do? It does not mean what form of transport you are taking. Sometimes it can sound like 'ow-ya-goin-mate'.



For more information on Australian slang visit: www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/slang

Responding to an Invitation

- **What could I be invited to?** If you get an invitation to lunch, dinner, barbeque, party, wedding, birthday, or any type of event you will usually respond with a letter or phone call. The midday meal is called lunch, and the evening meal is called dinner or 'tea'. 'Tea' can also mean a cup of tea or 'cuppa'. If invited for tea, the time of the event is a good sign of whether your host means dinner or just a cup of tea. An invitation to tea, for anytime after 6pm (1800 hours) usually means dinner.
- How are invitations made? Invitations can be written or spoken. Written ones usually ask for RSVP, (which is *repondez s'il vous plait* in French) and means please reply. You should reply

whether you intend to go or not. The invitation will tell you how to reply and when the reply is expected. Your host may be specific about how many people are invited. If your host invites the whole family, you should tell your host how many people would go. Usually a family is the parents and their children.

- What if I do accept an invitation? When you accept an invitation to a meal, it is also usual to tell the host what you cannot eat. It is perfectly okay to say that you are a vegetarian and do not eat meat or that you are Muslim or Jewish and do not eat pork. It is not polite to arrive late and you should make a telephone call to your host to explain if you are going to be late.
- What if I cannot accept an invitation? You may not always be able to accept an invitation. The best way to refuse is to say, 'thank you, unfortunately I/we have other plans at that time'. To say that you are too busy may seem extremely rude, even if it is true. Once you accept an invitation, you should only cancel if something arises where you cannot go. You should also explain the reason to your host. To cancel because you got a better invitation from somewhere else can seem very rude, and can affect new friendships. Sometimes it is best not to accept an invitation right away and to ask your host whether they would mind if you check your plans and reply to them later.

(Source: Department of Immigration & Citizenship)

Tipping

Tipping is not generally expected or practiced in Australia. This is because throughout Australia, service industry staff are covered by minimum wage laws and therefore do not rely on tips for their income. However, it is acceptable to leave a small amount (perhaps 10%) should you feel you have received exceptional service.

Public Holidays & Special Celebrations:



Australians hold certain days each year as special days of national meaning. We may recognise the day with a holiday for everyone or we can celebrate the day as a nation with special events. Most States and Territories observe some of the public holidays on the same date. They have others on different dates or have some days that only their State or Territory celebrates. In larger cities, most shops, restaurants and public transport continue to operate on public holidays. In smaller towns, most shops and restaurants close.

New Year

Australians love to celebrate New Year. There are festivals, celebrations and parties all over the country to welcome in the New Year. Sydney Harbour and Sydney Harbour Bridge have become synonymous with New Year celebrations in Australia the fireworks display is considered to be one of the best in the world. **January 1** is a public holiday.

Australia Day

Australia Day, **January 26**, is the day we as a people and place celebrate our nationhood. The day is a public holiday. The day marks the founding of the first settlement in our nation by European people.



Easter

Easter commemorates the resurrection (return to life) of Jesus Christ following his death by crucifixion. It is the most significant event of the Christian calendar.

In addition to its religious significance, Easter in Australia is enjoyed as a four-day holiday weekend starting on Good Friday and ending on Easter Monday. This extra-long weekend is an opportunity for Australians to take a mini-holiday, or get together with family and friends. Easter often coincides with school holidays, so many people with school aged children incorporate Easter into a longer family holiday. Easter is the busiest time for domestic air travel in Australia, and a very popular time for gatherings such as weddings and christenings.

Easter Traditions

- **Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day:** Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent. In earlier days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent such as meat and fish, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shrove Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday because they were a dish that could use up perishable foodstuffs such as eggs, fats and milk, with just the addition of flour.

Many Australian groups and communities make and share pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Selling pancakes to raise money for charity is also a popular activity.



- **Hot Cross Buns:** Hot cross buns are sweet, spiced buns made with dried fruit and leavened with yeast. A cross, the symbol of Christ, is placed on top of the buns, either with pastry or a simple mixture of flour and water. The buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday; however in Australia they are available in bakeries and stores many weeks before Easter.

A recent variation on the traditional fruit bun has become popular in Australia. A chocolate version is made with the same spiced mixture, but cocoa is added to the dough and chocolate replace the dried fruit.



chips

- **Easter Eggs:** Eggs, symbolising new life, have long been associated with the Easter festival. Chocolate Easter eggs are a favourite part of Easter in Australia. Some families and community groups organise Easter egg hunts for children in parks and recreational areas. Easter eggs are traditionally eaten on Easter Sunday, however stores start stocking Easter treats well before the Easter holiday period.
- **The Easter Bunny:** Early on Easter Sunday morning, the Easter Bunny 'delivers' chocolate Easter eggs to children in Australia, as he does in many parts of the world.

The rabbit and the hare have long been associated with fertility, and have therefore been associated with spring and spring festivals. The rabbit as a symbol of Easter seems to have originated in Germany where it was first recorded in writings in the 16th century. The first edible Easter bunnies, made from sugared pastry, were made in Germany in the 19th century.

Anzac Day



Anzac Day is on **April 25** the day the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915 during World War 1. This day is set apart to hold dear the memory of those who fought for our nation and those who lost their life to war. The day is a public holiday. We remember with ceremonies, wreath laying and military parades. You will find that many towns have an ANZAC Day parade and ceremony culminating in the laying of memorial wreaths at a monument or war memorial. These services can be very moving and a wonderful way of experiencing some Australian National pride, as the memories of our fallen soldiers are commemorated. Many Australians attend the National War Memorial in Canberra, or a War Memorial in one of the Capital Cities around Australia for either the traditional "Dawn Service", which commemorates the landing of the ANZACS at Gallipoli in the dark and dawning of that day, or another service usually commencing around mid-morning with a parade of returned armed forces representing all Australians who have fought in war. As Australia is such a multi-cultural country, these days it is common to see many other countries also represented in these parades. ANZAC Day is the only day of the year where it may also be possible to attend an RSL (Returned Servicemen's League) Club to experience a traditional game of **"TWO-UP"**. A game of chance played by the ANZACS where money is waged on the toss of three coins for a resulting combination of 2 out of 3 being either heads or tails. RSL clubs are crammed with returned soldiers and their families and friends on this day, the atmosphere is one of "mate-ship" and friendliness to all and the experience of a game of two-up is a memorable one.

Christmas

Christmas is celebrated in Australia on 25 December. Christmas is celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus son of God', the Messiah sent from Heaven to save the world.



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The heat of early summer in Australia has an impact on the way that Australians celebrate Christmas and our English heritage also has an impact on some northern hemisphere Christmas traditions which are followed.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas houses are decorated; greetings cards sent out; carols sung; Christmas trees installed in homes, schools and public places; and children delight in anticipating a visit from Santa Claus. On Christmas Day family and friends gather to exchange gifts and enjoy special Christmas food. Australians are as likely to eat freshly caught seafood outdoors at a barbeque, as to have a traditional roast dinner around a dining table.

Many Australians spend Christmas out of doors, going to the beach for the day, or heading to camping grounds for a longer break over the Christmas holiday period. There are often places which have developed an international reputation for overseas visitors to spend Christmas Day in Australia. One such example is for visitors who are in Sydney at Christmas time to go to Bondi Beach where up to 40,000 people visit on Christmas Day.

Carols by Candlelight have become a huge Christmas tradition in Australia. Carols by Candlelight events today range from huge gatherings, which are televised live throughout the country, to smaller local community and church events.

Christmas in Australia is also associated with two major sporting events:

- **The Boxing Day Test:** December 26 is the opening day of the traditional 'Boxing Day Test' at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) between the Australian Cricket Team and an international touring side. It is the most anticipated cricket match each year in world cricket, and tickets are usually sold out months in advance.
- **The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race:** the "Sydney-to-Hobart" is Australia's most prestigious yachting race and on the calendar of international yacht racing, and begins 26 December in beautiful Sydney Harbour.



Acknowledgements

This project could not have been completed if it were not for all the wonderful international student resources that have been developed to support international students and programs throughout Australia. This is specifically to acknowledge the International Student Handbooks and online support services developed by the following education providers from whom examples of 'best practice' were sought:

[Australian National University](#)

[Central Queensland University](#)

[Charles Darwin University](#)

[Curtin University of Technology](#)

[Griffith University](#)

[Education and Training International WA](#)

[La Trobe University](#)

[Macquarie University](#)

[Monash University](#)

[Education Queensland International](#)

[Queensland University of Technology](#)

[Southbank Institute of Technology](#)

[Study Queensland](#)

[Study Victoria](#)

[TAFE NSW](#)

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