



**AUSTRALASIA**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

EST: 1973  
RTO CODE: 6251 CRICOS: 02747G

## **AUSTRALASIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CRICOS STUDENT PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE**

This document has been prepared to assist you in preparing to travel and arriving in Australia to undertake your studies.

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## ABOUT US

Australasia International School is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), RTO Code: 6251, which meets administrative, delivery, staffing, facility, marketing, financial, quality assurance and assessment standards regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

Australasia International School is listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) which is a register of Australian education providers that recruit, enrol and teach overseas students (CRICOS Provider Code: 02747G). Registration on CRICOS allows providers to offer courses to overseas students studying in Australia on student visas.

Australasia International School is responsible for the quality of the training and assessment you will receive in compliance with Standards for RTOs 2015, and for the issuance of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certification documentation. The Standards set out the requirements that an organisation must meet in order to be an RTO and ensure the integrity of nationally recognised training provided by registered training organisations.

## Applying for your Visa

### Your student visa conditions and what they mean

All international students need a student visa to study in Australia. You have to get this before you enter the country. You can apply for a student visa online or at the Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission in the city where you live or your capital city

The first step in getting a student visa is to pay your tuition fees. Once you have paid your fees to us you will receive a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). You will need to take this when you apply for your visa.

Students from some countries will also need to apply for a Pre-Visa Assessment before they pay for their tuition fees.

This only applies to students from countries designated as assessment level 3 or 4 (this includes China).

You can check the assessment level of • your country at the Department of Home Affairs website, [www.homeaffairs.gov.au/study](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/study)

### Your student visa conditions and what they mean

The Department of Home Affairs issues visas for all international students in Australia. Student visas carry certain conditions:

1. You cannot travel to Australia before your visa starts;
2. You must be enrolled in a full-time course;
3. We expect you to attend school every day (if you are ill, your school may require you to present a medical certificate);
4. You must notify us of your Australian address within 7 days of your arrival in Australia and notify, us Dept. of Home Affairs and any other Australian institution, government body that needs to know within 7 days;
5. You cannot change schools (providers) for the first 6 months of study. If your course is less than 12 months you must study for the full duration of the course before changing. You must maintain your overseas student health cover (OSHC) at all times while studying in Australia;



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6. If you are older than 16 years, your student visa also allows you to work in Australia. You can work up to 20 hours during the school term, and full time during the holidays; AND
7. If you have to extend your studies in Australia or you want to do some travelling before you return to your home country, you need to apply for an extension to your visa or a new visa.

### **Arrange accomodation**

- Option 1 – Live with a relative;
- Option 2 – Homestay;
- Option 3 – Private accommodation; and
- Option 4 - Student accommodation.

### **Booking your flight**

It is advisable to book your flight a few months in advance. Flights at the beginning of each school semester and in the summer holidays can be fully booked, so it's best to prepare early.

In Australia, the school year starts in late January, and the second semester starts in July. Don't book your flights before you pay your tuition fees and receive your student visa.

You must arrive by the first day of school and you may not leave until the day after the last day of school.

It is best to arrive a few days before school begins so that you can settle in.

Arriving too long before your course commences can cause complications with meeting your student visa requirements.

### **Packing your bags**

There is no need to pack a lot of household items eg. blankets, doonas or pots and pans, as there are a number of cheap options to buy in Australia (think K-mart)

You can buy most things in Sydney that you can in any other major international city. If anything, most students bring too much luggage.

Most foods are easily available at supermarkets or specialty grocers.

Sydney has a fairly temperate climate. In summer light clothing such as t-shirts, skirts and shorts are suitable, but it is handy to have a jacket or sweater available for cool nights. In winter you will need warm clothes, especially in the late afternoon. Winter in Sydney can be wet, so be sure to pack an umbrella or rain jacket.

Keep copies of your passport and student visa in a safe place. Leave a copy with your family, just in case you lose your passport.

It is advisable to pack a suitcase with a sturdy handle and wheels, rather than one that you pull with a detachable strap.

Please also ensure that you can lift your suitcase before you leave. If you cannot lift your suitcase, it will be very difficult to move it when you arrive.



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## Customs/Quarantine

The Australian Customs Service has strict rules about what you can bring into the country. You may not bring foodstuffs, animal products or pets on your flight.

If you are unsure about something you are bringing to Australia, you should declare it at customs at the airport.

If you are carrying greater than AU\$10,000 you must declare it. Sometimes international students make the mistake of bringing a large amount of cash or food into the country.

Not only is it ill advised, it can also be illegal. Australian Customs officers are friendly, but very strict.

Luggage will be screened at the airport and sometimes specially trained 'sniffer' dogs are used to check luggage. If you're not sure - ask!

## Pre-departure Checklist

Have you?

- Paid your tuition fees and received your CoE
- Obtained your visa
- Booked your flight (to arrive on a weekday)
- Advised Australasia International School when you will arrive (including flight number and exact date and time)
- Made sure you have Overseas Student Health Cover
- Obtained a copy of your medical history, detailing any medical conditions that you suffer from (including a letter from your doctor)
- Created a web-based email account to email your friends and family
- Left a copy of your passport and visa with your parents, and packed a spare copy in your bag
- Packed your bags; including clothes (for all seasons), toiletries, stationary for school, any medication you may need.
- Made sure your parents have contact numbers for you in Australia, and Encore Training Solutions
- Organised AU\$200 cash to carry with you when you first arrive in Australia for unexpected expenses

## Post Arrival - Arriving in Australia

Moving from one country to another can be exciting but you will also have to cope without your family and friends. It's normal to feel a bit confused, nervous and lonely at first.

When you arrive in Australia, our Student Support Officer will give you an induction and provide you with an orientation pack. At this time, you will also be introduced to your trainer and your fellow students.

There is no point trying to memorise Australian slang or trying to know everything about the Australian way of life before you arrive. It is best to enjoy the new experiences you will have in Australia; it's all part of the homestay experience. You'll find you adapt very quickly.



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Our Student Support Officer will understand the feelings most international students experience. You can rely on them to help if you are finding it difficult to adapt.

Most international students have similar feelings in their first few months. Remember, you're not alone. The other international students at your school will probably feel the same way.

Australians are fairly relaxed about formalities. While it is always important to say 'please' and 'thank you', you are unlikely to offend someone by using their first name or mispronouncing their name when you first meet.

It's normal for students to be a little nervous about their English. Try to use your English language skills as much as possible; they're probably better than you realise.

Tips to help you settle in:

1. Be positive – remember the reasons why you chose to study in Australia.
2. Make conversation – try talking to other international students. You will find that they know exactly how you feel, and they may be able to give you some coping strategies.
3. Keep a journal – this can help you gain perspective on the feelings you are experiencing as your time in Australia continues.
4. Stay occupied – use your spare time to play sport, or take up a hobby. This can help you meet new people, and keep you too busy to think about being homesick.
5. Socialise – spend time with students from other countries and Australia. This will enrich your study experience, and it can reduce your feelings of loneliness.
6. Be flexible – be prepared to adapt to your new environment.
7. Watch people around you – listen and observe the behaviour of others. If you don't understand, ask questions.
8. Say 'hello' – Try to be friendly and say 'hello' or start a conversation with other students. Australian students will respect you for this and talk to you. If you are too shy, Australian students may not talk to you for fear of upsetting or offending you.

## **Support services**

Sometimes international students may have difficulty with their personal life, school life or accommodation. Your Student Support Officer will be experienced in helping international students.

Your Student Support Officer is your first point of contact; you should trust them with your concerns in the early stages, before they become big issues. If your Student Support Officer cannot help you, they will contact the most appropriate service to assist you.