



Flinders
UNIVERSITY

inspiring achievement

2016 PREDEPARTURE GUIDE



FLINDERS.EDU.AU/INTERNATIONAL

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INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Welcome to Flinders University!

This guide is for international students who are about to travel to Adelaide and commence their studies at Flinders University.

It contains important information about what to do before you leave home, and how Flinders International Student Services (ISS) can help you settle in once you arrive.

If this is the first time you have moved to live in another country, you are probably feeling both excited and nervous. Don't worry, most new students feel this way! Preparing will make the transition smoother.

Our friendly staff and students will be waiting to answer your questions and to help you with more information about studying at Flinders and living in Adelaide once you arrive.

In the meantime, if possible, we suggest you talk to friends or relatives who have been to Australia to try to learn a little about our country before you depart. Alternatively, visit a library to read books and newspapers, or search online for information about living in Adelaide.

Of course, you can also find out more about studying at Flinders University and living in Adelaide on our website at www.flinders.edu.au/international. Flinders' website is the place to find information about courses, accommodation, orientation, student services and much more.

Good luck with your preparations.

We look forward to welcoming you to Flinders soon.

Nancy Cromar
Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)



USEFUL SITES:

STUDY ADELAIDE:

www.studyadelaide.com

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA:

www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE:

<http://dfat.gov.au/about-australia/Pages/about-australia.aspx>

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (ABC):

www.abc.net.au/ra



BEFORE LEAVING HOME



APPLY

RECEIVE OFFER

ACCEPT OFFER

Make payment for tuition, Overseas Health Cover (OSHC)
and meet conditions

RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT (COE)

APPLY FOR STUDENT VISA

ORGANISE

travel, temporary accommodation, free airport pick up

CHECK ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

ENROL IN CLASSES



PRE DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Before you leave, check that you have:

- ✓ Applied for and been granted your Australian Student Visa
- ✓ Booked your flight to arrive in time for enrolment and orientation (at least TWO weeks before classes start)
- ✓ Received booking confirmation for your compulsory Flinders International Student Orientation (FISO)
- ✓ Organised airport pickup (Using our free 'meet and greet' arrival service) and received confirmation of your booking
- ✓ Familiarised yourself with Australian Customs and Quarantine information
- ✓ Prepared an important documents file
- ✓ Purchased some Australian currency
- ✓ Organised temporary accommodation for at least the first 2 weeks
- ✓ Lodged your application for on campus accommodation or homestay (if required)
- ✓ Organised childcare and school for your children (if required)
- ✓ Given family and friends your travel details



ARRANGING VISAS

Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

The Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) issues visas for entry into Australia. DIBP provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application.

Please note that Flinders University is a participant in Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP). This means that students studying an eligible course at Flinders University will be assessed as the equivalent of Assessment Level 1 (AL1) when applying for a student visa.

For further information about student visas, please visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

In your home country, all matters relating to your student visa are managed by the immigration section of the Australian Diplomatic Mission (the Australian High commission, consulate or Embassy), visit: www.dfat.gov.au/geo/

Migration agents

You can choose to use a migration agent to help you submit your visa application and communicate with DIBP on your behalf. For a list of registered Migration Agents please visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Usin or www.mara.gov.au/

Education agents

Education agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. 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 Flinders University for contact details of agents we recommend.

Visit: www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/recruitmentagents

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

Student visa conditions

If you are granted a student 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 specified in the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for the first six calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your education provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within seven days.

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions for you and any family members that are listed as dependants on your student visa, visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Visa-conditions/visa-conditions-students

Visas for family members

Family members may be included in your application for a student visa and be assessed for visa entry at the same time. Amongst other things, they must undergo a medical examination and hold health insurance. You will need to provide evidence that you have enough money to support your dependents in Australia.

You must declare all family members on your application, even if they do not plan to travel with you to Australia. This will allow them to apply to join you after you have started your course.

If your family members are travelling with you on your student visa, they will receive permission to work when the visa is granted. Your family members will not be allowed to work until you have commenced your course. Conditions of their working rights vary depending on the type of course you will be studying. Spouses of students undertaking a masters by coursework or research or doctorates have unrestricted work permission.

All other spouses will only be allowed to work a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight throughout the year.

For more information about visas for family members, visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Brin

Visas for students under 18 years of age

If you are under 18 years of age, you will need permission from your parents or your legal custodian to apply for a student visa.

You will not be allowed to study in Australia while you are under 18 years of age unless:

- you are accompanied by a parent or legal custodian, or
- you stay with a relative, or Flinders provides a written statement saying that your accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements are appropriate; AND,
- if you are not staying with a guardian, you MUST live in on-campus accommodation.

Your parents can apply for a student guardian visa to accompany you. If you are not staying with a parent or nominated relative, you must comply with the accommodation and welfare arrangements as defined by Flinders University.

Make sure you allow sufficient time to make appropriate arrangements. You must complete and return all of the required documentation relating to your accommodation and welfare arrangements, received in your offer pack, before Flinders can issue your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and (if this is required) your Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) letter.

For more information on government welfare requirements, visit:

www.border.gov.au/Busi/Educ/Educ/Welfare-requirements-for-student-visa-applicants-under-18



ARRANGING TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Australia. Once you arrive, Flinders provides a free 'meet and greet' arrival service to collect you from the airport, train station or bus station. You will need to book this service at least **3 working days before you arrive** in Adelaide.

Book online at: www.flinders.edu.au/international/airport

You will need to arrive in Adelaide at least two weeks prior to the course start date written on your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and offer letter. This will give you sufficient time to settle into Adelaide and attend your compulsory orientation activities.

When to Arrive

Please arrive at least two weeks prior to your start date as specified on the CoE.

Students who plan to find permanent accommodation after they arrive in Adelaide should book their temporary accommodation when they book their plane tickets.

Important Dates

A full list of academic and critical enrolment dates can be found at: www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/dates/dates_home.cfm

University orientation dates for all students can be found at: <http://flindersoweek.com.au/>

Flinders International Student Orientation (FISO)

The Flinders International Student Orientation (FISO) is a **compulsory** introduction to studying at Flinders. The briefing covers:

- campus services
- University policies and procedures
- obtaining your student card
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- enrolment
- culture, social and academic adjustment

You will receive your booking confirmation for compulsory FISO by email. FISO are offered for:

- new international students
- exchange and study abroad students
- international MD students

All international students must attend one FISO. There will also be a welcome event.

For further information, visit: www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/services/orientation/

What should I do if I cannot arrive before my course starts?

Our experience shows that students who arrive after semester begins face a number of difficulties: they may miss classes because they are looking for a place to live; they miss out on orientation activities and don't understand how the 'system' works; they can feel frustrated and anxious; and, they do not achieve their full academic potential. If you cannot arrive in time to enrol and find a place to live before classes start, you need to consider your options very carefully. If you are concerned that you will not arrive for the beginning of semester, and want to know your options, please contact your Client Services Officer (Conversion) and discuss the matter. Their contact details are in your offer letter.

Please note some programs do not allow late commencement under any circumstances.

TOURS

IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLORE A NEW ENVIRONMENT ALONE. OUR CURRENT STUDENTS RUN TOURS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO HELP THEM DISCOVER ADELAIDE. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR TOURS OF ADELAIDE CITY, MARION SHOPPING CENTRE, GLENELG BEACH, PORT ADELAIDE AND CLELAND WILDLIFE PARK.

ISS ALSO OFFERS TOURS TO BEAUTIFUL PLACES FURTHER AFIELD, INCLUDING TRIPS TO KANGAROO ISLAND, THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND THE GRAMPIANS.



Admission and Enrolment

After you return your 'Acceptance of Offer' to Flinders, Enrolment Services staff will admit you to your degree. You will receive an email to the address you provided on your application. This will include web links so you can enrol online. We encourage you to enrol early, so you have the widest possible choice of tutorial and seminar times.

The links cover activating your Flinders Authentication Name (FAN)*, reading your course rule, selecting topics, enrolment, and registration for classes.

If you are not confident in completing your enrolment online, it is okay to wait until you are in Australia to finalise your enrolment. Staff in Flinders Connect will be available to assist you with enrolment. You need to be enrolled before you can get your student card from the library. You will need your student card to buy concession tickets for public transport and show it to your bank as evidence of your student status.

If you have a conditional offer, you will not be able to enrol until you meet its conditions and provide the required evidence to the International Centre.

* The day after you have activated your FAN, you can log into the University's computers and use your student email and the internet.

For further information about enrolment, visit: www.flinders.edu.au/enrolling/index.cfm

You need to be enrolled before you can get your student card from the library. You will need your student card to buy concession tickets for public transport and show it to your bank as evidence of your student status.

Research Higher Degree Students

Before leaving home, or as soon as you arrive, you must set up an appointment to meet with your supervisor. Your Faculty staff will assist you with your enrolment into the program – you cannot enrol by yourself. If you are not sure, please contact ISS for assistance.



PLANNING TO LEAVE HOME

Before you travel to Australia, we encourage you to talk to your family about your move and make a plan for how you will stay in touch with them once you arrive.

Living away from home in another country will take some adjustment for both you and your family. It is best that you talk to your family about some of the issues you may encounter while studying in Australia before you leave, so you are prepared if problems arise.

For example, agree on whether you will share information with your family about your study results, and what you might do if you are not as successful as you had hoped. We all plan for success, but sometimes circumstances prevent us from achieving the best results.

In many cases, your family will support you financially while you are studying in Australia. Nevertheless, Flinders University considers that it has entered into an agreement with you, and any information regarding your studies, your address or anything about you will not be revealed to a third party (including your parents, other family members or friends). Your individual rights are protected under Australia's privacy legislation.

Before you leave, discuss how your family will arrange your financial support. Will they transfer money to you regularly, and what will be the limit of their support for you?

It is important to understand that the University has deadlines for the payment of tuition fees each semester. Your first semester's fees will usually be paid before you arrive in Australia. Sometimes, you will receive an account for additional fees in your first semester. This can be because of exchange rate differences, bank fees or because you enrolled in more than a full-time study load, thereby accruing an additional debt to the University.

If you have any problems about adjusting to study or living in Australia, or if you experience financial difficulties, please contact International Student Services for advice or assistance.

Documents

Prepare a folder of official documents to bring to Australia, including:

- Valid passport and student visa documents
- Offer letter from Flinders University
- Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) issued by Flinders University
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- 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
- Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (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 sure that copies 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 are in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, declare them 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 Department of Agriculture webpage to find out what needs to be declared when entering Australia:

www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/to-australia/arriving-in-australia-declare-it

Baggage allowances for flights to Australia vary according to your aircraft carrier. Please check the baggage allowance before you depart. Purchasing excess baggage once you have arrived at the airport can be expensive.

Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (20kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international and domestic flights. Think carefully about what you decide to bring. Most things you can buy in Australia, but they may be more expensive here than in your home country.

If your luggage significantly exceeds the airline limit it is much cheaper to send the excess as unaccompanied baggage. Ask your travel agent or airline how to do this.

Personal effects and belongings that you have owned for 12 months or more can be brought into Australia without attracting duty or sales tax.

Students can bring items such as desktop or laptop computers and similar electronic equipment duty free into Australia, provided Customs is satisfied that you will take these items with you on departure. Other goods you have owned for less than 12 months must not exceed a combined value of \$900 (or \$450 if under 18 years of age). This is your duty free allowance. Visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Ente/Duty-Free-concessions for more information.

Your Hand Luggage

Your hand luggage should include a document folder; plane ticket; valuables like laptops, camera; and any necessary medicine for an existing complaint.

There are security regulations about carrying liquids, aerosols or gels in your hand luggage. Read information at: www.travelsecure.infrastructure.gov.au

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.

In Adelaide, the hottest months are January and February.

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 buy a heating appliance once you arrive.

Clothing

On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or pants with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. Men and women commonly wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts in summer.

A nice jacket 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.

Other items you might need to include

(These can also be purchased in Australia)

- laptop or tablet
- smart phone
- camera
- micro recorder for lectures
- spare glasses or contact lenses
- your optical prescription
- photos of friends and family
- swimming costume
- small gifts from home
- alarm clock
- bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases
- dictionary (bilingual)
- small sewing kit
- music CDs or mp3 player (iPod)
- sporting equipment
- toiletries
- umbrella
- scientific or graphics calculator

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.

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

RED DOT INDICATES THE SWITCH IS ON AND POWER IS FLOWING THROUGH THE SOCKET.



Mobile Phones and Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop or any communication devices, visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority www.acma.gov.au. Any external or built-in modems must be Austel Approved in order to function in Australia.

Health Requirements

Australian health laws may require vaccination or immunisation against certain diseases before leaving your country. The Australian Embassy or High Commission in your country will advise you of any requirements.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is compulsory for most international students travelling to Australia on a student visa.

If you are a Belgian or Norwegian student, you are not required to buy OSHC. If you are a Swedish student with insurance from the Swedish National Board of Student Aid (CSN International) or the Swedish Legal, Financial and Administration Agency (Kammarkollegiet) you are also exempt from the requirement to buy OSHC.

You will find more information about OSHC and other health matters in our Arrival Guide.

Pharmaceutical Goods

International students cannot use the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which allows Australian citizens to buy prescription items at a subsidised cost. If you require ongoing medication, adjust your budget or you may consider the Personal Importation Scheme.

You can legally import most therapeutic goods (prescription drugs) for personal use under the Personal Importation Scheme, administered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Under the Personal Importation Scheme you may import a three (3) month supply at the one time (at the maximum dose recommended by the manufacturer) of unapproved therapeutic goods into Australia without any approval required by the TGA provided that:

- the goods are for your own treatment or the treatment of your immediate family; and
- you do not supply (sell or give) the medicine to any other person; and
- where possible, you keep the medicines in their original packaging with any dispensing labels intact; and
- the goods are not restricted under Australian Customs controls or quarantine rules and the goods do not contain a **controlled substance**; and
- the goods are not injections that contain material of human or animal origin (except insulin); and
- if the goods are medicines in Schedule 4 or 8 of the **Poisons Standard**, you will need a prescription from an Australian-registered medical practitioner.

If you wish to bring more than **3 months' supply** at the one time into Australia, an **Australian-registered** doctor will first need to apply to the TGA for **Special Access Scheme** approval.

For more information, visit: www.tga.gov.au/personal-importation-scheme

Declare your prescription drugs to Australian Customs and Border Protection Services Officers and show your script and a letter from your doctor.

Disability Support

If you have a health condition (e.g. chronic pain, depression, anxiety) or disability (e.g. learning disability, vision or hearing impairment) the Disability Advisor (DA) at Flinders may be able to provide some assistance with your studies. The DA provides a free, confidential service to all students. You must bring documentation of your disability from your home country—the DA cannot assess your level of disability or impairment.

Please email: disability@flinders.edu.au for further information.

On your flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing on your flight so that you can make adjustments if you are too cold or too warm. Check the current weather in Adelaide before departing and make sure you have appropriate clothing for when you get off the plane.

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 want to declare, you can throw them away 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. However, it is strongly recommended 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. (See the [Money Matters](#) section for further information).

Entry to Australia

What to expect





MONEY MATTERS

Please read this section carefully and discuss any issues raised with your 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.

Quick facts

- Australia's currency is the Australian dollar (\$)
- A dollar equals 100 cents
- Our coins are 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent, \$1 and \$2.
- Our notes are \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100
- Do not travel with large amounts of cash
- If you bring more than AU\$10,000 in cash into Australia you must declare it on the travel information form issued to you on the plane
- You can pre-open a bank account.

Your budget

It is essential to work out a practical budget for your time in Adelaide and to allow for unexpected expenses. Talk to your family about what you will do if a financial emergency occurs.

Before you leave, take time to consider the expenses you are likely to have while living here. Think about whether you are planning to drive in Australia, or whether you will want to travel in the university holidays. Research and be realistic about the cost of accommodation. Remember that your health insurance (see Arrival Guide) does not cover glasses, contact lenses, dentistry; or allied health services such as physiotherapy, and only provides limited rebates for prescription medicines.

Let your family or sponsor know about the due dates for payment of tuition fees. Tuition fees for first semester are due in early March and tuition fees for second semester are due in early August. Check your fee account from Student Information System to find out total due amount and due date.

How much money to bring

You will need between \$3,000 and \$6,000 to cover expenses for your first month in Adelaide. This money will be used to pay for your temporary accommodation and the costs of establishing yourself in permanent accommodation. Temporary accommodation could cost you between \$30 a night in a basic backpacker dormitory, to over \$150 per night in some hotels.

To establish yourself in permanent accommodation you will need to pay a bond (or deposit) plus two weeks' rent in advance, making a total initial payment of four to eight weeks' rent. You will also need to pay phone, electricity and gas connection fees, as well as household set-up costs (see Arrival Guide for more details). See the [Managing Finances](#) section for more information about living costs.

You should bring between \$500 and \$700 in cash (include some small notes) or loaded on a cash card (to withdraw notes at an ATM). The remainder can be travellers cheques or transferred to your credit card. Alternatively, you could arrange to transfer the remainder to a pre-opened bank account. Foreign currency drafts can take some time to clear and cost approximately AU\$15 to process. It usually costs AU\$7 per transaction to change travellers' cheques.

Please note that it is not safe to bring large sums of money with you. Lost credit cards or travellers 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 to 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 organise this on arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Adelaide, you can also change money at any bank or currency exchange. You will be given further information about places in the city where you can exchange foreign currency on arrival. A current passport or driving licence will be required for this service.

ATMs

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are located everywhere, including at the airport. 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 often repayments to 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.

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.

You are able to pre-open a bank account before you arrive. More information about this is provided on page 14.

Managing finances

Initial expenses

This is an example of some of the set up costs you might encounter when you come to Adelaide

Expense	Estimated Cost
Temporary accommodation (seven nights in a hostel / motel/backpackers)	\$210-840
Rental bond (four weeks rent@\$250/week)	\$1,000
Advance rent (two weeks@\$250/week)	\$500
Electricity connection	\$50
Telephone connection (landline)	\$60-300
Gas connection	\$50
Internet connection (Set up cost/Bundle)	\$50 -200
Mobile phone and/or network sim card	\$40
Household items, e.g. furniture, crockery, etc. (Second Hand/used)	\$500
Transportation (public transportation)	\$60
Textbooks and Educational Expenses	\$500-1000
Unexpected Emergency Cost	\$200
Insurance - contents, car	\$100 - 300

On-going expenses

Once you have established yourself in accommodation, you will need to budget for ongoing costs. This is an example of monthly expenses you may have living in single accommodation (costs will reduce if you are in shared accommodation)

Monthly Expense	Estimated Cost / month
Rent (four weeks rent @ \$150 to \$250/week)	600/1,000
Food (four weeks @ \$125/week)	500
Electricity (per month)	50 -100
Gas (per month)	50
Telephone (per month)	50
Internet (per month)	50
Mobile Phone (per month)	50
Public Transportation (per month)	60 - 100
Entertainment (per month)	50 -100
Educational (per month)	100 -300
Insurance— health, house, car (per month)	200 -300
Unexpected (per month)	200

Regularly purchased items in Adelaide

Bowl of noodles	\$8-\$10
Loaf of bread	\$3-\$5
Milk (1 litre)	\$1-\$2
Coffee (cup)	\$4-\$6
Cinema ticket	\$12.50-17 (student price, discount night Tuesday)
Bus/train/tram ticket (single)	\$2.60-\$5.20
Pie	\$5-\$7
Hot chips	\$4-\$5

Currency Converter: www.oanda.com/currency/converter/

Pre-opening your Bank Account

There are many financial institutions in Australia. For a comparison of accounts in banks throughout Australia, visit: www.banks.com.au/personal/accounts

Most Australian banks charge fees for a bank account or a banking service. For a comparison of banking fees see: www.canstar.com.au/transaction-accounts/compare-transaction-accounts-full-service-high-transactor/

You are able to pre-open a bank account before you arrive. To do this:

- You will need an Australian address
- Follow the instructions from the financial institution that you choose to pre-open your account. See information about major banks in Australia below.
- After arrival you will need to show your passport at the bank of your choice to verify your identity.

You can deposit money into your bank account from overseas using BSB, account number and SWIFT code that will be provided after you apply online. It can be sent as a bank draft or electronic fund transfer (EFT). Banks charge a fee for transfer of money.

ANZ Bank

www.anz.com/personal/bank-accounts/help-select-account/international-students/

There is an ANZ ATM at the Sturt campus

National Australia Bank

<http://learn.nab.com.au/international-students/>

There are NAB ATMs on the main and Sturt campuses

Commonwealth Bank

www.commbank.com.au/personal/can/student-banking/overseas-students.html

Westpac Bank

www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/student-banking/s-international-students/





ACCOMMODATION

Quick facts

- Flinders University does not book temporary accommodation for new students.
- Decide where you would like to live, based on your campus (Bedford Park main campus, CBD campus, Tonsley Campus).
- Marion Holiday Park is near the University's Bedford Park Campus. The cabins are very expensive for single travellers but useful for families or groups travelling together.
- Glenelg has backpacker and motel accommodation and is on a direct bus or tram route to the University's Bedford Park and City campuses. Allow 30 minutes travel for the journey.
- City accommodation is often on a direct bus route to the Bedford Park campus. Allow 40 minutes for public transport to get to the Bedford Park campus. More information about transport is available at: www.liveadelaideonline.com.au/

Temporary accommodation

If you have not arranged long-term accommodation in Adelaide, it is essential to book temporary accommodation before your arrival. Please make your own temporary accommodation arrangements and bookings, as the University does not run a temporary accommodation booking service.

Information on temporary accommodation options can be found on the Flinders Living website at: www.flinders.edu.au/living

You can also search for temporary accommodation through:

www.expedia.com.au

www.wotif.com

www.needitnow.com.au

www.lastminute.com.au

www.agoda.com

www.trivago.com

How much will it cost?

The cost of temporary accommodation varies considerably. If you are happy to stay in a backpacker hostel, you might pay between \$26 and \$35 per night for a bed in a shared dormitory. It might cost between \$90 and \$200 per night to stay in an apartment. This charge may be for one or two persons, and the surcharge for a third person might be small. Most apartments have minimum stays of at least three nights and some offer discounts for stays of seven or more nights. Students starting their studies in Semester 1 will be arriving during the 'high season', so please be aware that many accommodation providers will be charging premium rates for their rooms.

When should I book?

If you are commencing study in Semester 1, you must book your temporary accommodation as soon as possible.

If you are commencing study in Semester 2, try to book your temporary accommodation at least two weeks before you travel to Adelaide.

For how long should I book accommodation?

We recommend that you initially book your temporary accommodation for at least a week.

Long-term accommodation on-campus

Many students choose to live on-campus for the first year to help with their transition to life in Adelaide. If you are considering doing this it is important to apply as early as possible.

Flinders on-campus accommodation

If you want to apply for accommodation on campus through Flinders Living, or in the Flinders Medical Centre Flats, you need to apply before you come to Australia.

Accommodation managed by Flinders Living

Students can apply to live in University Hall or the University Village in either the townhouses or the units. Flinders Living's accommodation is open to all Flinders students and therefore provides an opportunity for international students to mix with Australian students from interstate, rural and remote areas of South Australia.

To apply for a place in any accommodation managed by Flinders Living, you need to apply online at:

www.flinders.edu.au/living/on-campus/applications

University Hall is very popular and there are often more applicants for accommodation than there are vacancies. Please be aware that making an application does not guarantee you a place in either University Hall or other Flinders Living accommodation.

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) flats

Flinders Medical Centre has very limited short and long-term accommodation available. This is a short walk from the hospital and Bedford Park campus.

Hospital staff receive highest preference for these flats, followed by medical and nursing students, then any other students. Competition for places is high.

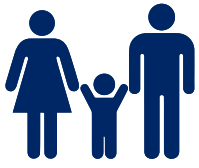
Download an application form at: **www.flinders.sa.gov.au/employment/pages/accom/accom/**

Email your completed form to: **sonya.mausolf@health.sa.gov.au** or fax to +618 8204 5396, marking it 'Attention: Manager, FMC residential Flat'.

Long-term accommodation off-campus

If you plan to live in off campus rental accommodation, we recommend that you do not sign any agreement before you come to Australia and have seen the property for yourself. Detailed information about off campus accommodation can be found in our Arrival Guide.





BRINGING FAMILY TO AUSTRALIA

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 Border Protection (DIBP). Family members include your spouse and your dependent children. You will have to prove you can support them financially. The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high. Please consider and discuss these issues with your family.

Quick facts

- Children age 5 to 18 years must go to school full-time.
- You will pay school fees for your children — \$4,160 a year at primary school and \$5,160 a year at secondary school (see the [Schooling](#) section for any exceptions).
- Childcare in Australia is not subsidised for most international students.
- Childcare places are limited and many centres, including the childcare centres at the University and Flinders Medical Centre, have long waiting lists. You can expect to pay at least \$80 a day in a childcare centre or if you use family day care, the minimum rates are between \$5.00 and \$11.50 per hour.
- You must provide immunisation records for your children before they attend school or childcare.
- You must bring official translations of birth and marriage certificates.

Issues to consider

It is important to consider the following issues:

- The additional cost of Overseas Student Health Cover for your family;
- 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 childcare centres; and
- Whether to come to Australia first and arrange things for your family or to all come at the same time.

If you, your spouse or partner gives birth to a child in the period between lodging your student visa application and the visa being granted, you must advise DIBP immediately as having an additional dependant will affect DIBP's visa assessment process. You should also let DIBP know if you marry or can show evidence of a de facto relationship in between the application being lodged and your visa granted.

If you plan to bring your family to Australia, even if they are not going to travel with you initially, we recommend you commence their visa application process before you leave home. The granting of visas to your dependants can take from one to four months after application, or longer in some countries.

Dependant work rights

If you are on a student visa and enrolled in a doctoral or masters-level program, your dependants can work full-time.

If you are in an undergraduate program, graduate certificate or graduate diploma, they can work 40 hours in a two-week period. Please note, your family members will be allowed to work as soon as you have started your course.

Cost of living

DIBP asks you to show that you have \$18,610 a year for your living expenses. If you are coming with family members, for DIBP purposes you must show an extra \$6515 a year for a spouse, \$3720 for a first child and \$2790 for each additional child. DIBP advises you that you need an extra \$8000 a year for children between five and 18 to cover schooling expenses.

Visit: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Student-Visa-Living-Costs-and-Evidence-of-Funds#

Childcare

Local childcare centres are very popular but do not give priority to the children of international students. It may take a long time to find a suitable childcare centre. You may consider completing a waiting list form – ask your preferred child care centre for further information. Childcare is not subsidised unless you hold an Australian Government scholarship and it costs approximately \$80 a day. Please note the subsidy will not cover all the costs.

For on-campus child care options visit:

www.flinders.edu.au/childcare/

For off-campus child care options visit:

www.mychild.gov.au

Family day care is another option for your children. This is where children are looked after in a person's family home. The person must be a registered provider. You can find more information at:

www.careforkids.com.au/family-day-care/adelaide or

www.mychild.gov.au/

Child Care Benefit (CCB)

International students sponsored by the Australian Government (e.g. Australia Award or Endeavour scholarship or fellowship) can apply for the Commonwealth Child Care Benefit after they arrive in Australia. The Child Care Benefit helps families with their work-related child care costs for dependent children. It helps cover a percentage of the cost of day-long care, family day care and out-of-school hours care for school aged children. You should discuss this with a Client Services Officer at International Student Services.

Kindergarten

In Australia, three and four-year-old children can attend kindergarten, otherwise known as preschool. The South Australian Government funds kindergarten programs for children in the year before they go to school. These programs are offered by a range of organisations and in a variety of settings (including many child care services). The funding contributes to the cost of providing a kindergarten program but most kindergarten services charge fees in addition to the Government's contribution. The fees can vary greatly from service to service. Many kindergarten programs are sessional; children attend either in the morning or afternoon a couple of days per week.

For local kindergartens or child care centres with integrated kindergarten programs, visit: **www.mychild.gov.au**

Playgroups

Playgroup is an informal session where babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, parents and carers can meet together in a relaxed environment. Children who go to playgroup can make new friends, have new experiences, gain self-confidence and develop physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually.

Parents and carers can meet new people, practice English language skills and share cultural exchange in an Australian early childhood setting.

To find playgroups in your local area, visit: **www.playgroupsa.com.au/**

Immunisation records

If your child will be attending childcare or any pre-school, kindergarten or school, you will be required to produce evidence of immunisation. Therefore it is advisable to have these records available in English from your home country.

Schooling

If you have school-age children, you will need to make arrangements for them to attend a school in Adelaide. Although school attendance in South Australia is only compulsory for children aged between 6 and 16, because you are on a student visa, your children must attend school between the ages of 5 and 18.

SA public schools

In South Australia's public school system, children of international students studying award courses are required to pay fees unless the parent holds one of the following scholarships:

- Australian government scholarships (e.g. Australia Awards, or International Postgraduate Research Scholarship)
- South Australian government scholarships
- South Australian university scholarships
- Some scholarships awarded by the tertiary student's home country, provincial or state government, or multilateral agency (e.g. United Nations, World Bank or Asian Development Bank).

For these scholarships, you must:

- study at Flinders University, the University of Adelaide or University of South Australia
- reside in South Australia for the duration of your studies
- be studying a higher degree by research (visa subclass 574)

If you are the holder of a relevant scholarship and have school-aged dependants, please go to the website:

www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au

Click on the subheading 'Children of International Tertiary students, then click on 'Children of South Australian Government endorsed scholarship holder'. Download the new application form for dependants of eligible scholarships along with the Tertiary Scholarship Verification form.

Only International Student Services staff are authorised to complete the Declaration by Authorised Tertiary Institution Signatory on your behalf. When you come into ask for this to be signed, please bring evidence that you hold a scholarship. This is especially important in cases where your sponsor pays money directly to you and you pay your own university tuition fees. If you are planning to bring your family please send the Tertiary Scholarship Verification form and evidence of your scholarship to: **iss@flinders.edu.au**

If you are not the holder of a relevant scholarship as stated above and have school-aged dependants, please go to the website: **www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au**

Click on the subheading 'Children of International Tertiary students', then click on 'Children of a full fee paying international tertiary students'. Download the new application form for dependants and follow the steps.

For non-scholarship holders, the fees are \$4160 a year for a child at primary school and \$5160 a year for a child at secondary school. For each child attending school there is also an annual administration fee of \$300 per year/ per child. The application and administration fee is \$600 per family if all applications are processed at the same time.

A Letter of Offer will be sent to you detailing the initial fees payable. These fees must be paid before you enrol your children in school.

Either before you travel to Australia or on arrival in Adelaide, you will also need to contact a primary or high school near you and enrol your child in that school. Contact details for South Australian state and private schools, both primary and secondary, can be found by clicking on the A–Z listing at the following web address:

www.sa.gov.au/directories/state-schools-and-services

Most government schools are zoned according to location. You can find a South Australian government school for your children based on the zone in which you will be residing.

Primary schools that are close to Flinders University Bedford Park Campus are Bellevue Heights, Clovelly Park, Darlington, Blackwood, Eden Hills and Marion. Secondary (or high) schools that are close to Flinders are Blackwood, Australian Science and Mathematics School, Brighton, Seaview and Pasadena.

Education expenses for children

As well as tuition, there are other expenses such as school books, subject levies, uniforms and school outings which must be paid for. Most schools also expect you to pay an annual contribution. This amount varies from \$110 to \$920 per annum and is payable directly to the school.

In addition to the fees charged by the department on behalf of the Government, some schools charge an additional amenities fee, which is set by the school council. While this is a yearly fee, it can be levied on a term basis. Parents are expected to pay for the stationery their children require, as well as their school uniforms.

Children under 18 attending tertiary institutions are required to pay full tuition fees.

English language needs

If your child does not speak English as their first language, some principals may recommend that your child spends up to a year in an Intensive English Language Centre (IELC), where specialist English language support is provided. Bellevue Heights Primary School and Clovelly Park Primary School, which are both very close to the University, have an IELC.



Intensive English Language Centres (IELC)

Bellevue Heights Primary School

7–19 Vaucluse Crescent,
Bellevue Heights, SA, 5050
Phone: (08) 8278 7182
Email: bellevue.ps891@schools.sa.edu.au

Clovelly Park Primary School

1 Renown Place,
Clovelly Park, SA, 5042
Phone: (08) 8276 5366
Email: info@clovellyps.sa.edu.au

If your child will be entering secondary school, the nearest IELC is based at Adelaide Secondary School of English in Croydon — this is a significant distance from the University and would usually require that your child changes buses to reach the school from the southern side of the city.

Adelaide Secondary School of English

253 Torrens Road,
West Croydon, SA, 5008
Phone: (08) 8340 3733
Email: adenglish@adsecenglish.sa.edu.au

A number of secondary schools also offer Intensive Secondary English Course (ISEC) programs, which students can enter for between 10 and 40 weeks before transferring to mainstream classes in the same school.

2016 term dates

To find our public school term dates, visit:

www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-skills-and-learning/general-information/term-dates



ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Studying overseas is an exciting adventure, and the experiences you have while living in Australia will stay with you for your lifetime. To begin with, you may find it challenging and it will take time to adjust to your new life. You may experience difficulties in cultural, social or academic areas; and find that the values and customs of your home country are very different to those in Australia. Remember that you are not alone and that there is always help available to assist you to settle in. Some of this advice may help:

Listen, observe and ask questions!

While you are adjusting to living in a new culture, you may find some things difficult to understand. Listen and observe those around you, and if you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask. Australians are known for being friendly and usually respond warmly to being asked questions.

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 mean you have a richer and more enjoyable time here.

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 and overwhelmed sometimes. At times like this, try and keep things in perspective. Remember the reasons why you wanted to study overseas in the first place, and think about the positive events or changes within yourself that have occurred since you arrived.

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.

Talk to friends and family at home

Keeping in touch with your friends and family back at home is very important. Tell them about your experiences and life in Australia. Not only will this keep you connected, it will also help them 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 okay to make mistakes.

Ask for help

Don't be afraid to ask for assistance or support if you need it. Flinders University offers a free and confidential counselling service to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable time in Australia. For more information about counselling, visit: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/healthandcounselling/counsel.cfm>

Finally, relax and enjoy the journey!

Culture shock

Culture shock is the feeling of being out of place in an unfamiliar environment. The excitement of moving to a new country can quickly wear off if you feel like you don't understand the people and the customs of your new home. The potential stress of dealing with persistent challenges can result in feelings of frustration towards your host country, as well as homesickness.

Overcoming culture shock

1. Recognition:

The first step to overcoming culture shock is realising that you are experiencing it. The sooner you identify the symptoms, the sooner you can start taking positive steps to overcome it and adjust to your new life in Australia. Some signs that you are experiencing culture shock may be:

- feeling overwhelmed and like everything here is different and more difficult than at home
- being more emotional or more sensitive than usual
- losing your sense of humour

2. Be objective:

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 their customs are logical to them, just as your customs and norms at home are logical to you.

3. Set goals:

Set goals to help you feel more in control. 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 outside. If language is a problem, set daily goals to learn more, like learning five new words a day or watching a TV program in your new language. Each goal that you achieve will give you more and more self-confidence.

4. Share your feelings:

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.





CULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS

There is no such thing as an average or typical international student, and so it is difficult to offer general guidelines on cultural adjustments. However, these basic principles will help you make the most of your interactions with others:

- You don't need to change or abandon your cultural, moral or religious values to be able to relate to others. Studies have shown that those who remain true to their cultural base while being open and respectful to others have healthier and more enduring cross-cultural relationships.
- A particular behaviour, response, or attitude could be peculiar to a person and not a cultural, ethnic or national characteristic. Don't be hasty in making generalisations on the basis of a few isolated experiences.
- Australia is a multicultural society made up of more than 150 national or ethnic groups. It is better to be open and frank about your values. Australians are generally open and honest about theirs.
- Australia is renowned for its support of freedom of choice and expression. An individual's right to live and do as they please is respected, so long as it does not adversely affect others.
- Australians respect a person's privacy. It is easy for newcomers to mistake this for unfriendliness.
- Try and maintain an attitude of willingness to respect, learn, understand and accept how others go about their lives.

Friendships and relationships

Starting friendships in Australia may be different from what you are used to in your own culture. Don't be too disappointed if you find the more spontaneous processes you may be accustomed to in starting friendships don't work as well here.

Australians are mostly friendly and informal in dealings with others. They respect other people's privacy, and may be less forthcoming in making the first move in social contact than you are used to. Don't take this as a sign of unfriendliness. Good friendships take time to mature.

Australians rarely start conversations with people they have just met by asking about personal details like age, employment, marital status and relationships, or income. To do so might be seen as intrusive.

Generally, friendships in Australia start through sharing or simply talking about common interests, whether they are common views on environmental issues, having children at the same school, or enjoying cooking or soccer.

Starting a conversation

Impersonal or humorous comments are usually the means to start a conversation with friends or acquaintances. Favourite topics in Australia are the weather, what you plan to do on the weekend, and sport.

Australians are often keen spectators of sports like cricket or 'footy' – the Australian Football League (see www.afl.com.au), and many people will be happy to talk about recent matches.

If you need information or help, it is polite to be more formal. You will be pleasantly surprised at the willing and generally good-humoured response and assistance you receive. Try not to judge the Australian culture by someone who seems offensive and ill mannered. Quite simply, there are a small percentage of people in all cultures who will sometimes be inappropriate or impolite.



A FINAL WORD

Most international students look back on the time they spend studying and living in Australia as a challenging yet rewarding adventure. Remember, getting used to anything new or different takes a while.

Try to get involved in the new experiences available to you at Flinders and in Adelaide. Be active and participate in as much as you can. Although your studies are important, there are many opportunities to expand your horizons in non-academic areas. In hindsight, you will find your time in Australia will pass very quickly.

In particular, make a special effort to meet locals and other international students. You'll carry the good times and the friends you make with you long after you've left Flinders and Australia.

There may be times of stress, difficulty and discouragement. There may be times when you feel you are not able to cope with the demands of studies. Don't wait until the last minute to seek advice or assistance with any difficulties, either personal or academic, as small problems can become big problems if they are not dealt with quickly.

Remember that there are many people and organisations willing to help you along the way. You are about to begin a life-changing journey!

We look forward to welcoming you in Adelaide.

Best wishes,

International Student Services (ISS)

B10 Union Building
Flinders University
Sturt Road, Bedford Park
South Australia 5042
Phone (618) 8201 2717
Email: iss@flinders.edu.au





Flinders
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www.flinders.edu.au/international

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