Dear UCEAP Australia Spring and Year 2014 Students,
(You have been blind-copied on this message)

We know that the beginning of the UC quarter or semester is a very busy time for you. The semester just began at Berkeley and Merced, and quarter students are probably gearing up to move back to campus for the fall. Admittedly, you have a lot on your plates right now and may be too busy to think ahead to your spring program abroad, BUT...please take just five minutes anyway and pay close attention to these three important points about your program in Australia:

1. **INSURANCE/ The “OSHC”**: The Overseas Student Health Cover is health coverage that is required by the Australian government for all foreign students attending an Australian university. Your host university will require you to sign up for this national insurance, so please do so as requested. However, **DO NOT PAY this policy fee to your host university.** This fee is included as a part of your UCEAP fees and will be paid by UCEAP to your host university on your behalf*. If you end up paying your host university for the OSHC, you will be DOUBLE-PAYING. (*The exception: If you are attending UNSW you will pay UNSW per the instructions they send you with your offer of acceptance later this fall.)

2. **SEMESTER HOUSING**: Please be aware that it is **your** responsibility to choose the semester housing option you want while abroad. Some past students have chosen to live on-campus in a university residence hall or in university-managed apartments; other students have preferred a private flat or apartment located off campus. **The housing decision is yours to make**, based on your preferences, budget, and the availability of housing at your host university. **Semester housing costs are NOT included in your UCEAP fees**, meaning this is an out-of-pocket expense that you need to budget for.

   - If you think you will want to live in **campus housing** during the semester, start to investigate the options at your host university and apply early to your preferred option. You will need to apply through your host university by their housing deadline and make the required housing payments, including a deposit, if required. **This applies to all participants – even those on financial aid.**

   - Campus housing options and the housing application information will be included in the official offer letter from your host university. Housing information is also available on your host university’s accommodation webpage, so do you can do some online research about semester housing even before you receive your Australian university offer letter this fall. In fact, most universities will allow you to apply for semester housing before they send your official acceptance offer.
3. **ARRIVAL**: Arrange to arrive in Australia for your host university’s mandatory international student orientation. Orientation dates will be stated in the official offer letter from your host university, which will be sent to you later in the fall. Many Australian universities recommend that you arrive a few days before orientation to get over jet lag and settle in, and you will definitely want to arrive earlier if you want to look for off-campus housing.

That’s it for now, but remember to check your email regularly for correspondence from UCEAP and your host university!

Best regards,

**Liz Giles & Jeanie O’Connell**  
University of California Education Abroad Program  
6950 Hollister Ave. Ste. 200  
Goleta, CA 93117  
805-893-3246 (Egypt, Israel, UK Summer Programs)  
805-893-5926 (Australia, India, New Zealand)  
[www.eap.ucop.edu](http://www.eap.ucop.edu)

**24-Hour Emergency Number: (805) 893-4762**

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