Australia

Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology
University of Queensland, Spring Semester
2012 Program Guide
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office
The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates EAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.

- **Operations Specialists** coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.

- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students’ academic records.

- **Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

**Program Advisor**
Hugo Márquez
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**Operations Specialist**
Jeanie O’Connell
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**Academic Specialist**
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**Student Finance Accountant**
Rachel Wilson
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**UCEAP Systemwide Office**
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UCEAP Online

Bookmark your Participants program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the UCEAP Australia page.

Study Center & On-Site Support

UCEAP programs in Australia are administered from the UCEAP Study Center in Melbourne by Program Officer Kay Harmes.

Faculty and staff of the University of Queensland Biological Sciences Department provide on-site support.

Both offices routinely monitor local and international conditions and provide support, counseling, and safety advisories.

Phone Number Codes

- U.S. international code ................. 011
  (dial this to call from the U.S.)
- Australia country code ................. 61
- Brisbane city code ....................... 7
- Melbourne city code ..................... 3
- Cell phone code ......................... 4

Approximate Time Difference

Add 17 hours mid-March through October
Add 18 hours November through mid-March
Contact Information

In Melbourne
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University of California
Education Abroad Program
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Phone
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calling within Australia: 03 9621 2718
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In Queensland
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Teaching Programs office phone
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The friendly and helpful professors made a significant impact on my ability to comprehend and succeed in my classes.

The most important aspect of my academic experience was my ability to participate in field courses. These courses gave me valuable hands-on experience that I know I'll apply in future classes and after graduation when I look for a job. It's more hands-on work and papers than preparation for tests and midterms.

Academic Information

University of Queensland

Founded in 1910 as one of the early metropolitan universities in Australia, the University of Queensland is an attractive campus in a bend of the Brisbane River in St. Lucia, fewer than five miles from Brisbane’s central business district. The university is comprised of faculties of Arts; Business, Economics, and Law; Engineering, Architecture, and Information Technology; Health Sciences; Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterinary Science; Science; and Social and Behavioural Sciences. It enrolls more than 40,500 undergraduate students from more than 129 countries. This global student body enriches the cultural diversity of campus life and presents opportunities for international networking.

The University of Queensland is known for high-quality course work; excellent museums (an anthropology museum, an antiquities museum, and an art museum with the largest university collection of Australian art anywhere); and its marine research stations at the Great Barrier Reef, Heron Island, Pinjarra Hills, and Moreton Bay. It recently was selected by the Rotary Foundation to host one of six new global centers for peace and conflict resolution.

University of Queensland’s School of Biological Sciences

The University of Queensland’s School of Biological Sciences helps to coordinate the University of Queensland’s research and teaching focusing on the ocean, coast, estuaries, and reefs, as well as rainforests, the Outback, and urban environments.

Queensland is home to diverse marine systems, including coral reefs, rocky shores, beaches, salt marshes, mangroves, and sea grasses. The region’s rich variety of life includes a multitude of invertebrates and fishes, marine turtles, dolphins, dugong, and whales. The teaching and research programs cover the full range of organisms and environments.

The Faculty of Science coordinates activities at Heron Island Research Station, the largest research station on the Great Barrier Reef; Moreton Bay Research Station, a modern facility on Stradbroke Island in Moreton Bay; a suite of vessels of various capacities; and an aquaculture facility located a few kilometers from Queensland’s main campus. The Centre for Marine Science (CMS), operating within the School of Biological Sciences, integrates marine teaching and research for the university departments of Anatomical Sciences, Anthropology, Agriculture, Botany, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Earth Sciences, Economics, Geographical Sciences and Planning, Law, Microbiology and Parasitology, Management Studies, Physics, Tourism, and Zoology and Entomology.

Biologists affiliated with the School of Biological Sciences study the nerves, sensory systems, circulatory systems, physiology, reproduction, behavior, and parasites and pathogens of marine vertebrates and invertebrates from the tropics to the Antarctic. Ecologists at the center investigate the pelagic, littoral, and benthic plant and animal communities of Australia’s reefs, coasts, estuaries, rivers, and lakes with particular focus on identifying key ecological processes, environmental impact, and the sustainability of marine and aquatic resources. Specialists in aquaculture assess the economics of culture systems, the detection and treatment of pathogens and parasites, and the optimal rearing conditions for crustaceans, mollusks, fish, and reptiles; they also investigate the properties of potential culture organisms. Economists and management
specialists investigate fisheries, econometrics, and the use of coastal lands for tourism, aquaculture, natural systems management, environmental law, conservation, marine rehabilitation, and marine parks. Research on maritime and international law of the sea targets oceans policy, governance conventions, maritime boundaries, crime, and conflict resolution. CMS engineers and physicists deal with fluid dynamics, wave mechanics, coastal and estuarine environmental processes, waste treatment, water quality, biotechnology, the discovery of natural products for commerce, the geology and chemistry of reefs and the seabed, climatology, oceanography, physical geography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, and environmental planning.

The University of Queensland has made a considerable investment in its high-quality marine teaching and research functions, and its marine research facilities meet world-class standards. A wide range of advanced research programs are led by the university’s dynamic academic staff.

**Program Description**

UCEAP’s Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology Program consists of lectures, laboratory studies, and extensive field study at the Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef, the Moreton Bay Research Station, Carnarvon Gorge in Australia’s Outback, and Lamington National Park rainforests. The program is designed for juniors and seniors with backgrounds in marine biology, ecology, environmental science, oceanography, conservation biology, marine engineering, and related fields.

**Assessment and Evaluation**

A mix of continuous assessment, reports, and exams are used. An assessment of your participation in field and class activities will be included. For each course, you will complete one to two written reports on field-based projects, one to two essays, and up to two 90-minute written tests. The requirements vary by course. The essays are based on a topic of your interest which is finalized following discussion with the course coordinator. The essays may be in-depth examinations of specific topics or integrative approaches to general topics. Resources of the university’s Biological Sciences Library will be available to provide access to relevant literature.

**Teaching Staff**

The program is taught by academic and research staff of the University of Queensland and its affiliates. All staff have prior experience and a record of excellence in research and undergraduate teaching in their fields.

**Textbooks**

You will have full library access during the program. There are no recommended textbooks that need to be purchased.

**Grades**

For detailed information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
Course Information

You will enroll in two courses spanning 11 weeks of instruction and totaling 18 UC quarter units. The prominence of each course will alternate throughout the program.

Courses include:
- Marine Biology (13 UC quarter units)
- Terrestrial Ecology (5 UC quarter units)

Course Syllabi Samples

The following are course descriptions and lecture topics from past years. Some items may be changed for the current year.

Marine Biology (13 UC Quarter Units)

This course is ideal for University of California students with at least an intermediate level of familiarity with the biology and ecology of marine organisms, sampling techniques, sampling theory and experimental design, and statistics, although students with less knowledge in these areas are encouraged to apply. The program combines background knowledge of Australian marine systems and maritime resources with advanced concepts and exercises in marine biology.

The program will take you from nursing hatchling turtles at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef to the rich diversity of the estuarine and coastal systems around Moreton Bay. A combination of lectures and field-based instruction with essays and research reports provides an advanced understanding of tropical marine biology and ecology with particular emphasis on comparisons of temperate Pacific Ocean systems. Fascinating field trips consolidate information on other aspects of Australian ecology and life and make the program an intensive and diverse teaching and learning package that is unique in Australia.

The first marine biology field trip takes place at Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef. At the research station, you will participate in class-based activities that introduce the geomorphology, island ecology, management, marine biology, and ecology of coral reefs. Following these activities, you will conduct a research project with a group and present your results. At the end of the program, a second field trip focuses entirely on excellence and problem solving in marine research. It takes place on North Stradbroke Island at the Moreton Bay Research Station and includes the exploration of the major marine environments on the island, including seagrasses, mangroves, rocky shores, sandy beaches, and subtropical coral reefs. Research reports are prepared to international journal manuscript standards.

Tentative Lecture Topics:
- Introduction to Marine Environments
- Diversity and Biogeography of Australian Marine Organisms
- The Shaping of the Australian Coastline
- Structure of Marine Plant Communities
- Primary Production in Tropical Estuarine Systems
- Physico-Chemical Influences of Estuarine Productivity
• Seagrass Macrograzer Ecology
• Managing Moreton Bay
• Endangered Aquatic Environment
• Australian Cetaceans
• Tropical Plankton and Pelagic Processes
• Subtropical and Tropical Estuarine Trophic Webs
• Sublittoral Benthic Communities
• Intertidal Rocky Shore Communities
• Intertidal Sand and Mud Shore Communities
• Moreton Bay 1: Physical Environment
• Moreton Bay 2: Ecology
• Toxic Cyanobacteria in Moreton Bay
• Nekton Nurseries in the Tropics
• Sensory Modalities of Fish
• Larval Recruitment in Estuaries
• Subtropical Coral Communities
• Estuarine Shark Populations
• Seabirds of Australia
• Origins and Geology of Coral Reefs
• Geomorphology of Coral Reefs and Coral Cays
• Corals in Space and Time
• Parasitism and Symbiosis in Reef Systems
• Coral Biology
• Coral Defense and Spatial Relationships
• Marine Flora of the Great Barrier Reef
• Primary Production in Reef Systems
• Reproduction, Dispersal and Recruitment in Corals
• Energy Pathways in Reef Systems
• Colour and Vision in Coral Reefs
• Are Coral Reefs Dying?
• Grazing in Reef Systems
• Poisonous and Venomous Animals: Human Health
• Why are Reef Fish so Diverse?
• The Reef’s Predators
• Toxic Repertoires of Reef Organisms
• Australian Fisheries
• Effects of Fishing
• Marine Pests
• History and Management: Australian Marine Resources
• Australian Mariculture
• Marine Protected Areas and Bioregionalisation
• Legislative Frameworks for Marine Resources: Part 1
• Legislative Frameworks for Marine Resources: Part 2

Recommended Reading:
• Great Barrier Reef (Reader’s Digest Travel Guide).

Terrestrial Ecology (5 UC Quarter Units)
This course examines the unique terrestrial flora and fauna of Australia and it is designed to equip you with a basic familiarity with the biology and ecology of terrestrial ecosystems in Australia (which can thus be compared and contrasted with ecosystems in the Americas). You will examine how the defining physical factors of the continent, such as climate and geology, have resulted in a distinctive Australian vegetation; explore how these physical factors and plant life have in turn influenced the evolution of Australia’s animals; and consider the interrelationships between Australian ecosystems and human cultures, both Aboriginal and contemporary. The combination of lectures, extended field trips, field-based study, and writing tasks will help you to develop knowledge of Australia’s unique terrestrial and freshwater environments and provide you with the field observation skills to investigate them. The ultimate aim of the course is to encourage you to bring a new perspective to terrestrial ecology globally.

Field trips to Queensland National Parks will introduce you to what Australians call “the bush,” the characteristic Australian vegetation adapted to poor soils, unpredictable rainfall, and a fire-prone environment. A trip to Lamington National Park (Binna Burra) introduces the world heritage Australian rainforest, and emphasizes the biological legacy of Australian prehistory and the ancient super-continent of Gondwana. A trip to Carnarvon Gorge National Park will introduce you to the Australian interior, the ancient landscapes where the Australian Outback begins, and one of the finest galleries of Aboriginal rock art. During the various field trips you will also likely see unique Australian animals such as kangaroos and koalas, and at least some of the 700-plus species of Australian birds. Apply your insights into Australian habitats and biota with a literature review, an essay-based writing task designed to complement the scientific report writing skills developed during the Marine Biology course.

Tentative Lecture Topics:
• What Makes Australian Ecology Different?
• Introduction to Australia’s Geology
• Introduction to Australia’s Climate
• How Plants Work: An Introduction to Botany
• Overview of Australian Botany
• Fire and the Australian Vegetation
• Sclerophyll Vegetation: The Typical Australian “Bush”
• Australia’s Ancient Rainforests
• Vegetation of the Dry Australian Inland
• The Ecology of Outback Australia
• Introduction to Australian Archaeology
• From Gondwana to Island Continent: The Evolution of Prehistoric Australia
• What Happened to Australia’s Prehistoric Megafauna?
• Overview of Australian Zoology
• Australian Terrestrial Invertebrates
• Australian Amphibians and Reptiles
• Australian Mammals
• Australian Birds
• Biodiversity and It’s Conservation in Australia
• Astronomy of the Southern Skies
• The Ecology of Natural Tropical Riverine Ecosystems
• The Distribution and Ecology of Tropical Lake Systems
• The Impacts of Invasive Species on Tropical Lake and River Systems
• The Dynamic Ecologies of Australian Man-made Lakes

Recommended Reading:
• Wildlife of Greater Brisbane, Michelle Ryan, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 2007. An excellent photographic field guide to the most common invertebrates, frogs, reptiles, birds, and mammals you are likely to see in Southeast Queensland.
• In a Sunburned Country, by Bill Bryson, New York: Broadway Books, 2001. Fun and easy to read; a great introduction to get you thinking about what makes Australia different.
PREPARATION

Predeparture Online Registration
Well before departure, the School of Biological Sciences will forward you information about the online registration form. You must register as they instruct and provide your flight itinerary, any medical or dietary requirements, homestay preferences, and relevant general information. This information is used to assist with program planning, logistics, and to help determine the best homestay placement for you.

Educate Yourself
Get acquainted with Queensland and Australian culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites such as the Lonely Planet are excellent sources. You can also brush up on current events in Australia by reading articles in Australian newspapers online.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Visa
You must obtain a tourist visa for this program. The UCEAP Systemwide Office will distribute instructions for the application process.

Packing Tips
- Must Have
- Light clothes for summer months (humid weather, temperatures 70°F to 105°F with occasional heavy rainfall)
- Pants, sweaters, jacket for cold and rainy weather (the temperature can drop below 50°F)
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses (polarized glasses are recommended)
- Smaller bag or backpack for daytrips (e.g., day bush walks)
- Sleeping bag (for some field trips)
- Towel
- Prescribed medication you may need (enough for the whole trip) and a copy of the prescription to show to customs
- Spending cash or ATM card (ATMs are widely available)
- A few extra passport-sized photos

Field Trip Requirements
- Headlamp
- Waterproof coat/jacket
- Long shirts, pants, and socks for forest work
- Comfortable, enclosed shoes or boots for hiking
- Mosquito repellent (can also be purchased in Australia)
- Water bottle
- Swimsuit
- Rash guard or old t-shirt for water activities
- Reef shoes or old running shoes to wear during fieldwork on the reef
- Field notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, inexpensive calculator, and ruler
- Diving mask is needed if you wear glasses or contact lenses; otherwise, these are provided along with fins and a wetsuit
Optional

- Bring snorkeling gear if you wish; this can also be provided on the island (most dive or snorkeling equipment can be rented as part of your dive package when you dive with a commercial operator)
- Mobile (cell) phone
- Laptop
- Digital camera (with charger)
- MP3 player or iPod
- Electrical adapters; Australia runs on 240 volts (these can also be purchased in Australia)
- A few small, lightweight, typically American gifts for your host family

Do Not Pack

- Small electrical appliances such as hair dryers and electric toothbrushes (these cannot be used in Australia)
- Meat, vegetable, or nut products; Australia has very strict quarantine laws

Climate

Australia’s climate ranges from tropical to cool temperate. Seasons are reversed: summer begins in December and winter begins in June.

This program begins at the end of the Australian summer, just after the fall equinox (a time of rapid climatic change and variable weather patterns). The weather at this time ranges from very warm and humid, to warm and humid with occasional evening thunderstorms accompanied by short bursts of heavy rain. You will be visiting the Great Barrier Reef shortly after your arrival. This is arranged so you can take advantage of warm sea temperatures, and to ensure you get in plenty of snorkeling and witness lots of biological activity (such as hatching baby turtles). The climate at Heron will be warm and humid. Pack serious sun protection; you will be coming from milder temperatures in California to Australia’s fierce sun. As the program progresses, cooler nights and days with lower humidity will begin to dominate the weather patterns. Rainfall in the area is unpredictable; it is best to be prepared for rainy weather. Towards the end of the program, temperatures at night may even approach freezing, although this is uncommon in Brisbane.

Metric System

Measurements are metric in Australia. Highway signs (distance, speed control, etc.) are expressed in kilometers, weather forecasts predict temperatures in degrees Celsius, weights are expressed in kilograms or tons, and liquid volume is measured in liters.
Travel to Brisbane
There is no prearranged group flight to Brisbane. You must make your own flight arrangements, even if you are on full financial aid. The Financial Aid Office is not responsible for purchasing tickets. **Standby tickets are not appropriate for program participants.** You are strongly urged to purchase a changeable airline ticket with flexibility on the return flight.

Check the calendar on your Participants page for the last date to arrive in Brisbane and get settled in your homestay as well as the UCEAP orientation session. Attendance at the orientation is mandatory.

Shortly before the program begins, you will receive details from UQ Biological Sciences regarding the transfer service taking you from the airport to your homestay.

The start date of the program could change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. In addition, flights are routinely changed or canceled, so be sure to confirm your flight schedule well ahead of departure. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred for adjustments to travel arrangements.

**Financial Aid Students**
Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Australia. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

**Travel Precautions**
Your UCEAP Insurance Plan offers coverage on lost or destroyed property; however, you should assess the Personal Property Benefit provided in the policy and verify that it is adequate for your needs.

When traveling always keep your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money with you. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Leave extra credit cards at home and carry only what is necessary. Luggage and weight restrictions vary by airline.

Identify each item of luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. To avoid theft, never leave luggage unattended. Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them and customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.

Travel light and pack your belongings in suitcases and backpacks that are small enough to lift and carry.
The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Travel in Australia

You can travel within Australia by air, bus, or rail. Air services are excellent and among the best and safest in the world. Low-cost bus service is available throughout the country. Buses are clean, safe, and punctual, and they are used by Australians for national travel. Trains are fast, clean, and comfortable.

It is wise to book all forms of travel in advance, especially around holidays. School holidays occur periodically throughout the academic year, increasing the demand for transportation and accommodations.

Do not hitchhike. Hitchhiking is dangerous, unpredictable, and illegal in Australia. Never accept a ride from strangers. Instead, use reliable transportation to get to your destination.

Hostels

There are various kinds of international youth travel associations and youth hostel associations in Australia. For information, see the YHA Australia website.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after the Program is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

• Contact information for finance questions
• How to estimate the cost of your program
• Budget instructions and information
• How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
• UCEAP student account information
• Banking before and after arrival
• Fees and penalties
• Loan information
• How financial aid works while abroad (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
• Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

EAP Student Budget

Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your UCEAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions

• Download and print your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
• Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
• Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the UCEAP Financial Information web page.
Handling Money Abroad

You can change $50 to $100 into Australian currency at a U.S. bank before you leave (this can take weeks), or you can plan to access an ATM at the airport when you land. International airports offer money exchange services, but ATMs are the most convenient and economical way to obtain Australian dollars.

Australian currency is made of colorful plastic; bills of different denominations are different sizes. There are no pennies; amounts are rounded up or down automatically to the nearest 5 or 10 cents.

Financial Aid Students

You should be knowledgeable about your program fees and understand how your financial aid will be applied toward these fees. Disbursements are issued only after you accept and approve the financial aid package and pay the required fees.

Banking

You can open a savings or checking account in Australia. Banks located on campus are ANZ and Commonwealth Bank. They are usually open from 9 or 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and until 5 p.m. on Fridays. Banks are closed on weekends and bank holidays.

Australian checking accounts are more costly than those in the U.S. and are based largely around online bill paying. Paper checks are not widely used. To open an Australian bank account, you need “100 points” of ID documents, a prescribed point system of valid identification.

Credit Cards

Many stores and restaurants honor major credit cards, particularly Visa and MasterCard, but small stores and restaurants will only accept cash. Australians often use a PIN on credit cards, rather than signing. U.S. credit and debit cards usually charge a 1–3 percent exchange fee for international purchases, so check with your bank for details.

ATM Card

UCEAP returnees report that the most convenient way to obtain cash is through an ATM. Check on the fees imposed by your bank for using the card internationally and on the fees imposed by the Australian ATM. If you use an ATM not operated by your bank, ATM fees of AUD$2 will usually be charged for each transaction.
**Communications Abroad**

**Calling the U.S.**

Most students get cell (mobile) phones, and there are many different carriers in Australia. It may be cheapest to buy a SIM card in Australia rather than getting set up for global roaming. Check that your phone is not locked, preventing it from accepting a different SIM card.

**Mail**

Mail service within Australia is comparable to other world postal operations, and airmail service to the U.S. is good. Airmail letters to the U.S. arrive in about one to two weeks, while air parcels can take longer. There is no Saturday mail service in Australia.

You can have mail sent to you in care of:

- University of California EAP
c/o International Programs Office
- The School of Biological Sciences
- Goddard Building
- The University of Queensland, St. Lucia
- Queensland 4072, Australia

**Computer & Internet Access**

You will have access to computers in the library and in learning centers at UQ, including research stations, but not 24/7. Wireless Internet is available at connection points around campus as well as at your lecture venue. If you choose to bring your own laptop, do not forget the power supply, a USB stick, and power converter.

As you will be assigned a homestay, it is important to be aware that not all Australian households have Internet access and many that do have connections do not have broadband. In Australia, Internet service providers charge by download quotas so it is unlikely you will be in a home where you have unlimited broadband or wireless access. Many households only have one phone line and, if they use dial-up Internet, your access will be limited. Be prepared to negotiate your access. You may be required to pay a monthly contribution. You may prefer to purchase a pre-pay wireless broadband card that can plug into your USB slot. These are very common in Australia.

Take with you (or know how to access) the fax and e-mail addresses of your UC academic advisors, Financial Aid Office, and Campus EAP Office while abroad.

Note that you will not always have Internet access on field trips; there will be times when you will be out of contact.
Housing & Meals

Where Will I Live?
You will be assigned to a homestay with an Australian family in Brisbane. The manager of International Programs for the UQ School of Biological Sciences will send you instructions for completing an online homestay questionnaire, which will be used to help place you with an Australian family. Complete the homestay questionnaire carefully to help ensure that you are placed in the most appropriate situation for your lifestyle and preferences.

➢ You may not make alternate housing arrangements; all program participants are accommodated in a homestay.

Australia is a multicultural society, and homestay placements are generally with families of varied cultural backgrounds. Homestays are arranged with local Australian families and, just as with any family, issues sometimes arise that need to be addressed. From the beginning of the stay, communicate openly and honestly with your host family about issues that concern you. Be receptive to the host family’s concerns as well. If you encounter a problem in the homestay that you cannot resolve alone, the local program staff is easily accessible and ready to assist in order to ensure a positive experience for all involved (see Your UCEAP Network in this guide).

Transportation from your homestay to lectures as well as to the group departure point for field trips is at your own expense. Lectures start at 9 a.m. most days, so plan your travel to allow arrival on campus at least 15 minutes prior to the lecture or other activity. If you use public transportation, purchasing a Go Card will save you money.

Homestays provide all meals, including packed lunches. Discuss your needs with your host family upon arrival.

During field activities, you will be housed in field stations with full amenities. Except during periods of independent travel, housing is included in the UCEAP fees (see the UCEAP Student Budget located under the Money Matters tab on your Participants web page).

Food

Restaurants
Restaurants and cafés in Brisbane are plentiful and widely varied in cuisine, ambience, and price range. Many are closed on Mondays. Reservations (bookings) are essential on weekends at the more popular establishments. Vegetarian meals are readily available.

Inexpensive food is usually available in “milk bars” or takeaways. Sandwiches are available at many small shops during lunch. There are also covered markets several days a week where you can purchase produce, meats, and specialty foods.

Guides to dining out, which are updated frequently, are available at newsstands or bookshops. The Cheap Eats guide series is a useful reference.

Tipping
Tipping is not customary in Australia. Australians tip only for exceptionally good service, not as a rule. In a good restaurant, a customer might tip 10 percent of the bill. Taxi drivers may be tipped, but it is not expected. Tipping barbers or hairdressers is entirely up to the customer. Rounding up to the next dollar is often an adequate tip.
HEALTH

For more information about staying healthy while traveling, you can also access the U.S. CDC Travelers’ Health web page.

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention. Contact Dr. Ian Tibbetts or Ross Strong at the UQ School of Biological Science, or Kay Harmes at the EAP Study Center in Melbourne immediately (see Your UCEAP Network in this guide for contact information). They can help you in a number of ways—from recommending a clinic to showing you the right insurance claim form to use.

City water is safe for all household purposes, and no tropical or exotic diseases are prevalent. The standard of community sanitation is comparable to that of North America.

Medical Care & Health Insurance

Excellent medical care is available in Australia. Australia has a high level of professional emergency medical services. By dialing 000, any person can obtain emergency medical assistance throughout most of Australia. Ambulance service staffed by certified emergency medical technicians is the standard throughout most of Australia.

University medical services and other suburban medical centers, hospitals, doctors, dentists, etc., are readily accessible. The standard costs for a consultation at the campus clinic is AUD$40. If you visit a 24-hour medical center expect to pay around AUD$80 for a consultation.

Pharmacies, called chemists in Australia, are very reliable and accessible; 24-hour service is available in most major cities. Pharmacies are more limited in less populated areas. A written prescription is required for all prescribed medication.

Although most medications are available in Australia, travelers requiring medications are encouraged to bring enough to last the duration of their trip. At customs, be prepared to present a prescription for any medications brought into the country.

Inform yourself about your health insurance while on UCEAP by reading the UCEAP Insurance Plan benefits policy brochure. Print your insurance card and carry it with you at all times.
SAFETY

Your Role in Staying Safe

There is nobody better at protecting you than yourself. Take some time before travel to improve your personal security while traveling.

Australia is a politically stable country. Serious security problems are uncommon, although the crime rate is gradually increasing, especially in certain areas of larger cities. Property crimes (robbery, burglary, breaking and entering, theft) are common throughout Australia and are among the most likely crimes encountered by Australians and foreign residents alike. Armed robberies have been reported. In these cases, the weapon of choice is typically a knife. Although firearms are sometimes used, they are the exception rather than the rule. Australia has extremely restrictive firearms legislation and the purchase, licensing, and storage is very difficult when compared to U.S. standards.

Use common sense and follow security precautions similar to those observed in any major Western country. Avoid crime-prone areas, especially at night. Use caution at transport hubs; criminals sometimes loiter at these sites after dark. There have been reports of late night violence, especially at suburban train stations. As always, be safe and avoid deserted areas late at night.

Police capabilities are generally excellent in urban and suburban areas throughout Australia. Officers are trustworthy and responsive.

Road & Traffic Safety

Basic safety on Australian roads is considered to be excellent. Speeding laws are enforced via a system of cameras and officers. Holiday weekends typically see a rise in roadside fatalities, as most Australians drive long distances to popular beach destinations. Public transportation is generally very safe and is the preferred choice of residents in Sydney and Melbourne. Taxis are safe but occasionally difficult to find during high-demand time periods. Consider using taxis rather than public transportation at night.

Traffic operates on the left side of the road, and all vehicles use right-hand drive. Use caution when crossing streets. When crossing roads on foot, make sure you look carefully in all directions.

“Drink” (i.e., drunk) driving is treated very seriously in Australia. Drunk driving enforcement checkpoints operate frequently with varied times and locations.

Beach Safety

Whether you’re at the beach or having fun in the sea, always have someone with you to look out for you and go for help if you get into trouble. Beach conditions and local safety provisions vary considerably throughout the world. Check the presence of any flags and/or lifeguards at beaches before entering the water, and familiarize yourself with the signs of a rip current or tide. Always swim close to the beach in line with the shore. Never go alone or swim out of your depth.

Sun Damage

Australia has one of the highest skin cancer rates in the world. The sun is much more intense than in California, so make sure you pack sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. You will also need to pack or purchase a rash guard for protection at the beach (even the lifeguards wear long sleeves in Australia). For more information, review the Sun Smart campaign by Cancer Council Australia.
Emergency Contacts

What Constitutes an Emergency?
Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad
Carry the local emergency contact information on Page 3 of this guide at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency and do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the UCEAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762