The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

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.

Local UCEAP Support

Campus UCEAP Office
The Campus UCEAP 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 UCEAP 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

Operations Specialist
Jeanie O’Connell
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu

Program Advisor
Hugo Márquez
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: hmarquez@eap.ucop.edu

Academic Specialist
Lisa Read
Phone: (805) 893-2730; E-mail: lread@eap.ucop.edu

Student Finance Accountant
Rachel Wilson
Phone: (805) 893-5927; E-mail: stufinance@eap.ucop.edu

UCEAP Systemwide Office
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583
Study Center Abroad
UCESP programs in Australia are administered from the UCEAP Melbourne Study Center by the Program Officer, Kay Harmes. Additional support is available at each host university. See University Contacts in Australia in this guide for your primary host university contact.

On-site staff routinely monitor local and international conditions and provide support, counseling, and safety advisories.

UCEAP Study Centers are supported by UC, a network of international offices at every UC campus, and the UCEAP Systemwide Office. The UCEAP network also includes U.S. embassies and consulates, the U.S. Department of State, and other international student exchange programs at each site.

Contact Information
Ms. Kay Harmes, Program Officer
University of California, Education Abroad Program
Suite 1314, Level 13
530 Little Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
AUSTRALIA

Phone—from the U.S.: 011 61 3 96 212 718
Phone—within Australia: 0396 212 718

After-hours emergency phone—from the U.S.: 011 614 08 317 296
After-hours emergency phone—within Australia: 0408 317 296

Fax—from the U.S.: 011 61 3 96 212 728
E-mail: uceap1@gmail.com

Phone Number Codes
U.S. international code .................... 011
(dial this to call outside the U.S.)
Australia country code...................... 61
Melbourne city code ...................... 3
Cell phone code ...................... 4

Approximate Time Difference
Add 17 hours April through October;
add 19 hours November through March
University Contacts in Australia

Do not communicate directly with these representatives until you have been referred to a host university by the UCEAP Study Center.

The Australian National University, Canberra
Claire Hughes
Student Mobility Program
Division of Registrar and Student Services
Pauline Griffin Building 11
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Phone: (02) 6125-0735; Fax: (02) 6125-5550
E-mail: studyabroad.info@anu.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00120C

The University of Adelaide
Sandra Findlay
Adelaide Abroad, International Office
Level 5 Oliphant Wing
The University of Adelaide
Adelaide SA 5005 Australia
Phone: (08) 8303-3096; Fax: (08) 8303-3988
E-mail: sandra.findlay@adelaide.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00123M

The University of Melbourne
Joel Wittwer
Melbourne Global Mobility
Level 1, Old Geology
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010 Australia
Phone: (03) 8344-9787; Fax: (03) 9348-2054
E-mail: jwittwer@unimelb.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00116K

Monash University
Sarah McNamara Argles
Monash Abroad
Building 10, Clayton Campus
Monash University
Victoria 3800 Australia
Phone: (03) 9905 8250; Fax: (03) 9905 8334
E-mail: TBA
CRICOS Provider No.: 00008C

The University of New South Wales, Sydney
Elena Sinitsyna
Global Education Office and Student Exchange
UNSW International
Level 2, East Wing, Red Centre Building
The University of New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2052
Phone: (02) 9385 5339; Fax: (02) 9385 5927
E-mail: elena.s@unsw.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00098G

The University of Queensland, Brisbane
Karen Fisher
International Marketing and Recruitment
JD Story Building, Room 225
University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072
Phone: (07) 3365 1768; Fax: (07) 3365 1794
E-mail: k.fisher@admin.uq.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00025B

The University of Sydney
Amanda Chau
International Office
Study Abroad and Exchange
Level 4, Jane Foss Russell Building (GO2)
The University of Sydney
NSW 2006 Australia
Phone: (02) 8627-8325; Fax: (02) 8627-8390
E-mail: amanda.chau@sydney.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00026A

The University of Western Australia, Perth
Carolyn Wood
International Centre
University of Western Australia
Nedlands WA 6009
Phone: (08) 6488-2298; Fax: (08) 9382-4071
E-mail: carolyn.wood@uwa.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00126G

University of Wollongong
Erin Hammond
Study Abroad and Exchange Office
Student Central, Building 17
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522 Australia
Phone: (02) 4221-3170; Fax: (02) 4221-3499
E-mail: erinbuc@uow.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No.: 00102E
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

"It was an incredible year that opened my eyes to cultural diversity—even within another English-speaking country! With the importance today of global education, this was a phenomenal way to learn about career possibilities I never fathomed. Most important is the opportunity to see the world from a different perspective. Small interactive tutorial groups provide detailed knowledge about the topic. It’s different and useful to see the world from a non-American point of view. The work demands brought the quality of my writing and research skills to a new level, and interacting in tutorials shed a whole new light on Australians’ views about controversial issues, politics, and life."

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Program Calendar

Review the program calendar often. Dates are posted online as they become available.

The academic year runs from February to late November or early December, depending on your host university. Fall program participants will begin the program in the second term of the Australian academic year.

Academic Culture

Visit the Australia page to learn more about your host university.

Studying at an Australian university will complement your UC studies in a number of challenging ways. Australian undergraduate education is run more like American graduate education. There is much more specialization at the undergraduate level and students at Australian universities are expected to work much more independently than are those in the U.S. Australian students often begin specializing in their major area (“course”) in high school, so they may be more advanced than UC students in the same grade level.

Students typically attend lectures and tutorials (usually small discussion groups). During tutorials, which are often led by the instructors rather than by TAs, you will take short tests, write and analyze papers, and discuss lectures and readings. Instructor office hours often immediately follow the tutorials. Advanced classes frequently follow a seminar format.

The normal undergraduate degree program is a three-year program; students generally study courses only in their major (known as their “course”) for all three years. Since third-year courses in Australia correspond to fourth-year advanced courses for UC majors, they generally require more previous knowledge and course work than those at UC. Be careful about enrolling in “honours” courses; they are often intended for students entering graduate programs in that discipline.

Academic Life

Australian upper-level courses tend to be highly specialized and designed for advanced students; such courses demand strong writing skills and greater academic independence than may be the case at UC. Most courses involve little or no evaluation until the end of the semester; in many cases, performance on exams or papers completed during the last two weeks of the semester determines most of your grade. The library at each host university may stock copies of previous exams, which will be useful in outlining what you are expected to learn.

Courses do not automatically provide specific reading assignments, midterm exams, detailed instructions on what is expected in written assignments, or advice and practice questions in preparation for the final exam. Textbooks are not assigned in many courses. Classes meet for relatively few hours except in the laboratory sciences. Instead, you may get a long reference list or reading list with little guidance about what items are most important or how to use it to study for exams and write papers.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

"All my professors and tutors were very approachable, helpful, and understanding when I went to them, especially when I was clarifying what was expected on assignments. The professors’ friendliness and helpfulness made a significant impact on my ability to comprehend and succeed in my classes.

Taking environmental courses from Australia’s viewpoint was amazing. It made me realize the importance of multinational cooperation for global gain.

The Biomedical Science Department at the University of Wollongong is excellent and has a lot to offer that I don’t think any UC could compare to. There is more emphasis on presentations and seminars than research papers or exams—this was a new experience.

"
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Most grades are based on essays. Make sure you start relatively early and avoid a big headache. You really have to work for your grades. It’s not easy.”

Students participating in ANIP are placed in internships within the Federal Parliament, Australian Public Service, the Australian Capital Legislative Assembly or Public Service, or with non-governmental organizations. Most recently, a UCEAP student participating in ANIP was placed with the ACT Legislative Assembly, a state-level parliament in Australia.

As part of UWA’s Arts Practicum (an internship open to all majors), you would complete a minimum of 100 hours of work on a project with an organization, attend two workshops and a debriefing session, and write a report on your placement. If you want to participate in this opportunity, contact the Arts Practicum Coordinator.

A variety of organizations have hosted students in the past, ranging from The West Australian to the WA Industrial Relations Commission. Check out the gallery of previous practicum placements or list of host organizations for more information. You may take the practicum on a P/NP basis.

Grades

Instructors in Australia do not grade on a curve. A passing grade is a mark of 50 percent. The Study Center translates these grades to match the UC grading system.

For more information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
EXTENDING UCEAP PARTICIPATION

Plan Ahead

It’s possible to extend your UCEAP spring participation and stay in Australia for a full year. If you would like to apply for an extension:

1. Prior to departure submit a Departmental and College Pre-Approval to Extend (DPA) form to UCEAP.
2. Once abroad e-mail Kay Harmes, the on-site Program Officer, to initiate the extension process.
3. Complete and sign a Request for Final Approval (RFA) and submit it to Kay for approval.

Both the UCEAP Systemwide Office and the Study Center must approve your extension request. Approval is based on a number of factors, including your academic performance, the support of your UC campus department, and available space at the host university.

Once your extension is approved, UCEAP will notify your UC campus registrar and Financial Aid Office. For information about the steps you need to take with regard to finances, see the Extension of Participation chapter in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Travel Documents

Student Visa
To enter Australia and study there, you must obtain a student visa. The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship offers online visa applications for U.S. citizens participating in a one- or two-semester program abroad. Instructions are included in the Predeparture Checklist, which can be found on the UCEAP Participants web page.

Non-U.S. citizens should contact the Australian embassy in Washington, DC, to learn about special entry requirements related to their citizenship. The application process for non-U.S. citizens often takes much longer than it does for U.S. citizens.

After you have been selected by your campus and the UCEAP Systemwide Office has received your completed application, your documents will be forwarded to your assigned host university for consideration. The host university will process your application and, if approved, will issue you an acceptance letter. You must verify that you accept the offer by returning the university’s acceptance form per their specific instructions. Once your Australian university receives your signed acceptance form, their international admissions office will issue you an electronic Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) number. You will use your CoE number to apply online for your student visa. Consult the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website for detailed information and instructions about the student visa application process.

Consular Health Requirement
During the e-visa application process, you may be notified by the online system that you must complete a consular health clearance requirement. This is unrelated to the UCEAP Health Clearance, and the UCEAP clearance and forms are not accepted for this purpose. If you are told to complete this health requirement, you must comply. If you are notified that you must get the health exam and chest X-ray, take action quickly, get the exam done, and send the required medical forms to the embassy without delay. If you have a serious medical condition or suspect that you have been exposed to TB, you may want to use the “long form” of the student visa application from the start, rather than apply online. If you choose this longer paper application process (not available as an online process), UOEAP can give you more information about the forms needed for the medical exam and required chest X-ray.

You can contact the Embassy of Australia at the address below:

The Embassy of Australia in Washington, DC
1601 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036-2273

Phone: (202) 797-3000
Fax: (202) 797-3168
Web: www.usa.embassy.gov.au
Packing Tips

What to Bring

- Outerwear for wet and cool weather
- Sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and swimwear
- Clothing that can be layered
- Equipment, shoes, and clothing for sports or recreational activities
- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.) for the first several weeks
- Cosmetics (as many of your favorites as you can pack; they are expensive in Australia)
- Towels
- A sleeping bag is highly recommended for travel and for use as a comforter during cold weather
- Laptop

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

General Tips

When traveling, always keep your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money with you. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Carry only what is necessary; leave extra credit cards at home. Luggage and weight restrictions vary by airline. Travel lightly and pack your belongings in suitcases and backpacks that are small enough to lift.

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

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.

Neat, casual dress is generally adequate for all but the most formal occasions. The universities may hold various balls during the year. Formal wear is required for these events, but it can be borrowed or purchased at secondhand shops.

The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad. Australian clothing costs are very high and selection is much more limited than in the U.S. Hair and toiletry items are also significantly more expensive in Australia.

Climate

Australia’s climate ranges from tropical to cool temperate. Seasons are reversed: summer begins in December and winter begins in June. The long Australian summers range from warm to hot over the entire continent. Winters are generally mild, although Canberra, Melbourne, and Adelaide are among the colder areas.
Expect the first three months of semester one in Australia to be warm to hot, with frequent periods of short-duration rain. Rain is unpredictable and can come at any time. The months of June through September are generally colder, with the temperature dropping into the 30s (Fahrenheit) fairly often at night in Melbourne and Canberra. Frost and snow are rare. During winter, overcast conditions and frequent brief rains are common. In mid-winter, Canberra experiences the most sunshine, Melbourne and Adelaide the most rain, and Sydney the cloudiest days. Brisbane and Sydney are humid. Melbourne is known for frequently having all four seasons in a day.

**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 tonnes, and liquid volume is in litres.

**Official UCEAP Start Date**

Arrange to arrive at your host university by the “Last Date to Arrive” listed in the UCEAP program calendar. You must make your own flight and travel arrangements to arrive at your host university for their mandatory orientation program. Many universities recommend arriving early to acclimate, find housing, etc. If departing from the West Coast, be sure to allow two calendar days for the flight.

You are responsible for reserving and purchasing your own airline ticket (even if you are on full financial aid; the Financial Aid Office will not provide this service). Be sure to make round-trip arrangements; the visa application requires a return date. You are strongly urged to purchase a changeable airline ticket. Standby tickets are not appropriate for UCEAP.

Because flights are sometimes changed or canceled, you are urged to confirm your flight schedule online or with the airline about two weeks before departure.

The start date of your program can change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred if you make an adjustment to your 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 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.
Host University Orientation
Each host university will hold its own orientation. Attendance at the host university orientation is absolutely mandatory for all UCEAP participants. Check your host university website for the date of the mandatory international students’ orientation and the semester start date. During each host university’s orientation week (“O Week”), there are opportunities to sign up for optional activities and organized holiday trips with clubs and interest groups. Some universities have optional welcome activities (at an extra expense) that offer great opportunities to meet people and learn about life in Australia.

What Students with Disabilities Should Know
Australia has and enforces laws prohibiting discrimination for access of premises, facilities, and accommodation. Keep in mind, however, that many of the downtown areas of Australian cities were built in the 1800s, and they often have narrow sidewalks crowded with pedestrians and tourists. Also, many of the tourist spots at the beach or in the outback may have varying degrees of accessibility. Generally speaking, most public transit, parking, streets, and buildings are accessible to people with disabilities. Modern accessibility improvements include ramps, tactile indicators, and audible street crossing indicators.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after UCEAP 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 on UCEAP (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.

UCEAP 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

Plan to access an ATM at the airport when you land. International airports and tourist areas 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 cents.

Financial Aid Students

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. If you are in the year program, it is your responsibility to contact the UC Financial Aid Office to apply for financial aid for the upcoming academic year or fall semester.

Banking

You can open a savings or checking account in Australia. Banks are located on or near all university campuses.

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 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. Occasionally, there have been reports of American credit cards not having the necessary security features to use in the Australian system, but this is unusual.

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 as well as the fees imposed by the Australian ATM.
Communications in Australia

Time Zones
Australia is almost one day ahead of California. When Australia is on daylight saving time and California is on standard time (November through March), Australia is 19 hours ahead of California. The time differential becomes 17 hours when California goes on daylight saving time and Australia goes on standard time. There are three time zones in Australia (eastern, central, and western) during the winter months. Eastern Standard Time (EST) is used in Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, and Wollongong. Adelaide, which is in the Central Standard time zone, is one half hour behind EST. Perth, which is in the Western Standard time zone, is two hours behind EST. There are five time zones in Australia during the summer months since Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory do not observe daylight saving time.

Phone
Most students get cell (mobile) phones, and there are many different carriers in Australia. Many students use Skype or other computer phone/video services to talk to friends and family back home. However, limits on Internet may make this difficult.

Mobile phones have many international calling plans, and text messaging is very common. If you are staying in Australia for a year you may save money with a yearly contract. If you are studying for a semester, you can purchase pre-paid phones, or bring your own phones and buy a new SIM card once you arrive.

E-mail
You will receive an e-mail account when you enroll at your host university. You will be responsible for checking both your UC and host university e-mail accounts. Many students use an independent e-mail provider (e.g., Gmail) and have their university e-mails forwarded to that account.

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

Computer and Internet Access
Although many students bring laptops, most campuses have computers for student use. Internet access is much more limited in Australia. Students pay for a limited amount of broadband (rather than unlimited access once broadband is purchased in the U.S.). Some students find that a USB wireless broadband card is the most efficient way to get Internet access, especially if they live off campus. Campuses restrict broadband usage severely as well. Students are also restricted from some U.S. video sites (such as Hulu).

Mail
Mail service within Australia is comparable to other world postal operations, and airmail service to the U.S. is efficient; letters and packages to the U.S. arrive in about one to two weeks. There is no Saturday mail service in Australia.
**HOUSING & MEALS**

**Where Will I Live?**
You have three broad housing options:

1. residential colleges
2. university-affiliated apartments
3. off-campus housing (rental or house share)

Each option has advantages and disadvantages, and all are discussed on each university’s housing website. **Specific housing information will also be included with the acceptance letter from your host university.** At many of the universities you can apply for housing before acceptance. If this is an option at your host university, apply as soon as possible to increase your chances of getting campus housing. Offerings and circumstances change, so be sure to check all information online or with your host university!

Each university has a housing office where you can obtain information about on- and off-campus housing. While it can be very practical to live in the university halls of residence or other university-managed facilities, UCEAP returnees have also rented private flats (apartments) and shared rental houses. These vary in quality and cost and are at a premium near the universities, but most students have reported good experiences with private rentals.

**Important Notes on Housing:**

- Dorm life is much different from UC culture; many students who live on campus are from other countries (Australia has a large proportion of non-Australians enrolled in degree programs). Most Australian students live at home while attending university. They do not move away to attend university unless they live in rural areas isolated from universities.

- Be aware of the proximity of rentals to campus. Distances often take much longer to travel than in most of California. There are few highways and a lot of traffic. For instance, a 5-mile commute in Melbourne can easily take 45 minutes or more on public transport.

- Consider living on campus. It makes more sense to live on campus in some locations than others. Students at The Australian National University, La Trobe University, The University of Western Australia, and University of Wollongong often prefer on-campus housing for a variety of reasons, including location and a difficult housing market.

- For general off-campus rentals and shared housing, you can reference the following websites; however, local housing offices and bulletin boards are usually a better option.
  - Gumtree.com (similar to craigslist)
  - Realestate.com.au (select Rent or Share)
  - Domain.com.au (select Rent or Share)
  - Quokka online (browse by House and Home → Real Estate, then by Houses/Flats to Let or Flatmates and Board)
  - SabbaticalHomes.com (aimed at faculty, but sometimes useful)
  - EasyRoommate.com (need to register, may need to pay)
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

Residential colleges are convenient because they’re on campus and often provide food and cleaning, and you don’t have to deal with roommates. Everyone is friendly and the students range in age. I stayed at a residential college on campus for the first semester. When I moved off campus I was much happier. Looking back, I don’t regret my time on campus and would recommend doing it for one semester and moving off campus for the second semester.

For on- and off-campus housing, see your host university housing website:

- The Australian National University
- La Trobe University
- Monash University
- The University of Adelaide
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Queensland
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Wollongong

Overview of Options

Residential colleges

Advantages

You can set up housing in a residential college before you leave the U.S. and likely move straight in when you arrive. Almost all residential colleges are very close to campus and most are on campus. Almost all have one student per room. Most provide academic facilities, like computing, support, tutoring, and general help learning about bureaucracy, available facilities (library, gym, banks, etc.), public transport, places to go, and special deals. Nearly all have social, cultural, and sporting programs, which are mostly good or outstanding. The friends you make may have cars, which can introduce opportunities like camping and excursions; some may be from rural areas and invite you home for the break.

Disadvantages

Residential colleges are usually the most expensive option. Often, the residents are international students, which makes meeting Aussies difficult, and many may be first-year students living away from home for the first time. There may be rules or restrictions you don’t like.

You may encounter “Fresher” initiation during O-Week. Although new student initiations are something that universities in Australia do not endorse, they exist in varying degrees at different residential colleges. While some UC students find these activities harmless, others may be disturbed by the rituals that take place at the beginning of the school year and/or semester at some residences and may see these as hazing. Keep the following in mind:

- Participation is not required; you can freely choose to opt out of such practices.
- If you feel threatened at any time, contact the UCEAP Study Center, the College Dean of Students, and/or the International Office of your host university.

In addition, you may not like the food; it may be inferior to UC dorm food and there may be only one main dish option per meal. Eating hours tend to be more restricted than at UC. A few colleges, however, are self-catering; each floor or suite has a kitchen, and you can buy your own food and cook individually or in groups.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Making Australian friends and having Australian roommates will have a major impact on your experience. I was surprised that most Australian students lived at home while attending university.”

Rental rates in Australia are usually listed by the week, not by the month.

University accommodations are generally closed during holidays and other times when the university is not in session. At some host institutions, extra lodging costs are charged during orientation, school breaks, and holidays. The duration of the housing contract may be a full year. Before signing, read the fine print, ask questions, and be fully informed about the cancelation policy.

University-Owned or University-Affiliated Apartments

Advantages
You can set up housing before you leave the U.S. and likely move straight in when you arrive. Almost all university-owned/affiliated apartments are close to campus. They are cheaper than colleges, but still more expensive than off-campus housing. Some provide extra facilities, like computing or Internet connections. It can make social life easier, since your neighbors will also be students. You will have more freedom and fewer required or expected activities than in the residential colleges.

Disadvantages
Some (not all) are a poor value for the cost, with small rooms, maybe two in a room, cumbersome and unresponsive management, inadequate cooking facilities (e.g., a hotplate), extra charges for phone, Internet, and laundry, etc. There may be rules you don’t like (curfew, noise, guests) imposed by management without consultation. The social life may be minimal, with no programs, rooms too small for guests, and no common areas. Again, many students will likely be international and first-year students, as well as some graduate students.

➢ Read the lease carefully. Former semester students have realized too late that they signed on for a year. There are almost always high costs involved with leaving before the lease is up.

Off-Campus Apartments and Shared Houses

Advantages
Usually, this is the cheapest option, with the most freedom and your own room. Kitchen/cooking facilities and common areas are adequate, and there are no restrictions with guests. Good roommates can become close friends and introduce you to their friends. If they are Australians, they may know good places to go and can generally ease you in to the local life. Many students felt that getting the housing they really wanted was worth the inconvenience of not knowing where they would live in advance.

Disadvantages
It’s challenging to set up off-campus housing before arriving in Australia. It’s usually best to see the place and meet your roommates before committing to a living arrangement. A bad roommate can dominate your life. Australia has some shoddy apartments and gouging landlords, just like the U.S. Apartments are often unfurnished, although student flats and shared houses will be furnished. Prices can be high the closer you get to the university. You need to be careful with the lease*, which may be longer than you need, and you may need to get utilities (phone, water, electricity, gas) turned on. If you are arranging this type of housing in advance, be sure to check with the host university about its real distance from your host university.

➢ *Read the lease carefully. Former semester students have realized too late that they signed on for a year. There are almost always high costs involved with leaving before the lease is up.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

"My flatmates definitely added to my stay in Australia. They taught me so much about real Aussie culture. They also helped me find furniture and a job. They proved to be great travel companions and a capable support system."

How to Get Off-Campus Housing

You can prearrange to stay in a hostel or an inexpensive place for a week or two while searching. University housing services are very helpful, and some provide places to stay or leads to them (e.g., youth hostels). They also have bulletin boards (and the locations of others), regular meetings where you can get tips or meet potential roommates, and plenty of good advice.

Most students find acceptable-to-excellent places and roommates in about a week or two. Public transport is better in most Australian cities than in the U.S., so you can easily live a mile or two from campus. Many students move into a shared place that already has furniture. If you do not select a furnished apartment, you may find roommates that already have furniture or buy it from secondhand stores.

Some UC students stay together. This can be a great option, but know that if you travel in a group of Americans, you may be more immediately comfortable but you are less likely to make friends with Aussies.

Your best resource once abroad will be your host university housing services. Housing services can give you advice about housing options, leases, and your rights as a tenant. They’ll provide maps, recommended suburbs, and estimates on what things should cost and good deals. The people in those offices are often local tenants themselves, so they are sympathetic and informed. (A few universities will block you from some parts of their housing website unless you have a student ID, but you should still be able to find enough information without the blocked sections.)

Ideas for finding off-campus housing:

- Take the search seriously and plan 1–2 weeks of serious research to find the best, not the first, option.
- Before you come, arrange to stay for a few nights in a college, youth hostel, or other inexpensive place. Some universities offer short-term housing as well. Resources:
  - YHA Australia (youth hostels)
  - The Bakpak Group (Australian hostels)
  - Wotif.com (Australian accommodation, often at discount rates)
  - Stayz Holiday Accommodation (holiday/short-term rentals)
- Talk to your host university housing office.
- Don’t insist on being a short walk from the university. A 15–30 minute trip by bike or public transport might get you something cheaper and better. What you save on rent may be much higher than the transport cost, but don’t go so far that you rarely see your friends and spend too much time commuting.
- Find out about the safety of suburbs from locals or the Study Center.
- Make sure public transport will get you safely to your home at whatever hours of the day or night you may be using it. Note that trains and trams don’t run around the clock.
- Usually, the best deal will involve roommates. If possible, meet them before signing an agreement. Good housemates are as important as good housing.
- The more research you do, the better your chances. Apartment rentals often come up only 15–30 days in advance, so it can be hard to arrange something ahead of time.
UCEAP Student Experiences

These notes are based on recent student experiences. Take them with a grain of salt, because student experiences are subjective and vary greatly. Some students love the same housing that others hate, and situations and options change each year (e.g., new chefs, new management, etc.).

The Australian National University
Nearly all students have lived in residential colleges or privately owned student accommodations such as the Uni Lodge. ANU exchange students are guaranteed accommodation. ANU’s colleges have more out-of-town Australians than others, which students usually like. Good things are said about Johns (private) and Burgmann (ANU-owned), which have very strong extracurricular programs (sports and non-sporting activities), as well as Bruce Hall and Burton and Garran (ANU), which is self-catering. All four of these housing options are on campus. Uni Lodge is right on the edge of campus and very close to Civic (downtown Canberra).

The University of Adelaide
Most of our recent students have lived off-campus, in shared houses. A few have lived in a university-affiliated apartment.

Shared Housing: Cheap, easy to get. The university has a housing bulletin online for finding rooms and roommates. There are also poster boards all over campus, especially in Union House.

University Apartments: It has a good location with big rooms.

The University of Melbourne
Many students live in a university-affiliated apartment complex. Students report favorably about RMIT Village, but still note that the rooms are small and not deluxe by any means.

Students who lived in residential colleges liked them, though it took a while for some to make friends, and some hazing practices were reported. Some thought that the expense of College Square or on-campus housing wasn’t worth it. Students who chose off-campus housing were usually very happy with it, though some dealt with anxiety while still searching.

Monash University
Nearly all UCEAP students live in colleges on or very near the Clayton campus. It takes about an hour to get to downtown Melbourne by public transport. An alternative is to live near the Monash University Caulfield campus, about halfway to Melbourne and linked to Clayton by a free bus or a train and bus trip. There is no university housing there.

The University of New South Wales
Residence Halls: Students usually liked the experience, although many didn’t like the dorm food. Many of the students are first-year students, and UC students sometimes didn’t enjoy being surrounded by 18-year-olds looking to party all the time.

University-Owned Apartments: These can be full of exchange students. It can be easy or hard to meet people, depending on your roommates.

Study Abroad Office Rentals: Has a system for renting apartments in nearby Coogee. Varied quality. You end up with other study abroad students.

Off-Campus Housing: Arrive with time to look for places because Sydney has a tight housing market. The International Center is very helpful, as are bulletin boards (e.g., in grocery stores).

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“UNSW: Tell people that they WILL find housing!”
“At Queensland I lived in the International House residential college. This was a great place to meet Australians as well as people from all over the world.”

The University of Queensland
Most of the recent students have lived in shared houses off campus. Some have stayed in university apartments, which are convenient and close to campus. It isn’t uncommon to commute for 30+ minutes to get to the UQ campus. There have been some concerns about hazing issues at UQ colleges.

The University of Sydney
UC students largely live off campus (on-campus housing can be tough to get), but sometimes in residential colleges or university-affiliated housing. Students report relatively favorably about International House and Sydney University village, but they can be expensive.

The University of Western Australia
Nearly all students live in UWA residential colleges. The housing market is exceptionally tight in Perth.

University of Wollongong
Nearly all students live in residential colleges. Students report that the university apartments are occupied mostly by Australians, and they have more of an apartment feel than that of a residential college.
Meals

Restaurants and cafés are plentiful and widely varied in cuisine, ambience, and price range. Many are closed on Mondays. Reservations (bookings) are essential on weekends at popular establishments. It is easy to find vegetarian meals.

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

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

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Australia. Australians tip only for exceptionally good service and not as a general rule. In a good restaurant, one 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.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

"Don't make judgments about the cultural differences you'll encounter. The most difficult thing to adjust to was the slang they use. My advice is to just ask if you don't understand. Expect everything to be different—even the utility bills."

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get Involved

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as the Lonely Planet, are excellent resources. You can keep up with current events by reading Australian newspapers online as well.

Once you are abroad, participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while on UCEAP is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community. Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Residential colleges typically offer more opportunities for organized activities than you might find if you live off campus.

Student discounts are available for most commercial films, performances, and exhibitions with a university ID card. Student discounts are also available on public transit through concession fares. Your host university will provide information about concession cards during the international student orientation.

Outdoor Activities

You'll find many opportunities for hiking (called bushwalking), mountain climbing, nature walks, orienteering, sailing, bird watching, beach activities, and water sports. Every university has a variety of sports and outdoor clubs. Joining one or more clubs provides an opportunity to make new friends as well as to participate in inexpensive outings and to rent sports equipment, which is often expensive to buy in Australia. Expect to pay sports union membership fees and user fees for facilities such as gyms and swimming pools, unlike at UC campuses.

Recreational Travel

You can travel within Australia by air, bus, or rail. Air services are excellent and among the best and safest in the world. WebJet lists all domestic flights for comparison. Note that baggage can cost extra, some discount airlines impose additional fees (e.g., Tiger), and if flying through/to Melbourne, be sure to fly to Tullamarine, not Avalon airport. When purchasing your international ticket, just book one ticket to your final destination. Otherwise, if you book a domestic Australian flight separate from your international one, you will be subject to harsher domestic baggage restrictions and can be forced to pay hundreds of dollars in excess baggage charges.

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. Although it may seem to be the norm in Australia, hitchhiking is dangerous and unpredictable. 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.

Holidays
Australian national holidays include the following:
- New Year’s Day (January 1)
- Australia Day (January 26)
- Good Friday (before Easter)
- Easter Monday
- ANZAC Day (April 25)
- Queen’s Birthday (proclaimed, usually in June in most states)
- Christmas Day (December 25)
- Boxing Day (December 26)

In addition to national holidays, Australians observe the following state holidays:

**Australian Capital Territory**
- Canberra City Day (proclaimed, March)
- Labour Day (first Monday in October)

**New South Wales**
- Labour Day (first Monday in October)

**Queensland**
- Labour Day (first Monday in May)

**South Australia**
- Labour Day (second Monday in October)
- Proclamation Day (December 28)

**Victoria**
- Labour Day (second Monday in March)
- Melbourne Cup Day (first Tuesday in November; metropolitan Melbourne only)

Other holidays include bank holidays and occasionally extra holidays proclaimed over the Christmas break. Universities and most businesses usually close between Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Work in Australia
Your student visa allows you to work while studying in Australia. Once you have begun your program of study in Australia, you can work up to 20 hours per week while your host university term is in session and unlimited hours during scheduled semester breaks.
Carry your medical insurance information with you at all times.

HEALTH

Medical Care

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact your host university’s international center and the Study Center abroad immediately. The international student services at your host university can assist if arrangements need to be made with your professors for an extended absence from class, and provide assistance with finding doctors, resolving health issues, etc.

Excellent public and private medical facilities are available in major cities. Regional health services with good standards are available in rural areas. Once in Australia, you will get information about local health services during your host university’s international orientation. Coverage is effective during the authorized period of stay.

Medical Services

University medical services, including counseling services, are usually available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at your host university. You can fill prescriptions at chemists (pharmacies). Many medications are subsidized by the government. Private doctors and hospital outpatient departments usually require payment at the time services are rendered.

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

Sun Damage

Australia has one of the highest skin cancer rates in the world. The sun will feel much more intense than in California. Pack or plan to immediately buy sunscreen (SPF 30+, broad spectrum and water resistant protection), a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. Pack or purchase a rash guard for protection at the beach (even the lifeguards wear long sleeves in Australia!). Check the UV index and UV Alerts on the weather page of most Australian daily newspapers. For more information, review the Sun Smart campaign by Cancer Council Australia.

Insurance

While abroad, you will be covered by two insurance policies, as follows:

1. **Australian Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC):** The cost for OSHC is included in the UCEAP fees (unless you are attending UNSW; as UNSW will instruct, you must pay them directly for the OSHC).
   
   Australia’s Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires all holders of a student visa to maintain their OSHC for the full length of their visa. You will receive the instructions and paperwork necessary to obtain your insurance card at your Australian university’s orientation. If you do not receive the application or insurance card during orientation, contact the international office at your host institution. Further information about health insurance for international students in Australia is available on the DIAC website. Find a price schedule for 2011 on the OSHC Worldcare website.

2. **The UCEAP Insurance Plan:** The UCEAP Insurance Plan is required. The premium is paid by the University Of California. You can find detailed information in the UCEAP Insurance Plan brochure.
SAFETY

Crime and Prevention

Australia is a politically stable country. Serious security problems are uncommon. There is a general threat from terrorism in Australia. Attacks cannot be ruled out and may be indiscriminate.

Most parts of Australia have a low crime rate. Metropolitan areas experience a higher incidence of violent and petty crime. Street crime is relatively rare, but pickpockets and thieves frequent certain districts in each major city.

- Avoid poorly lit and crime-prone areas, especially at night.
- Be alert for thieves in some inner-city areas and at deserted public transport depots.
- Use common sense and take personal security precautions the way you would in any major Western country.
- Along with personal safety behaviors, consider having a good-quality, loud, rescue whistle easily accessible for enhanced security. The loud sound of a self-defense whistle or a personal alarm can cause temporary disorientation and signal for help, giving you the necessary time to get away.
- Use caution at transport hubs after nightfall. Consider using taxis rather than public transportation at night. There have been some reports of late-night violence, especially at suburban train stations. Avoid deserted areas late at night.
- Take precautions to guard personal belongings; do not leave property unattended. Be particularly careful with personal possessions and travel documents in cities and popular tourist destinations.

Check U.S. Department of State travel information before planning travel to nearby countries. Visit the U.S. Department of State website.

Police Response

Australian police organizations are well trained and professional. Officers are trustworthy and responsive. However, police response may be very slow in remote areas.

Criminal Penalties

While you are in Australia, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. While you are abroad, U.S. laws do not apply and your citizenship will not protect you if you break local laws. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from the U.S. It is important to know what is legal and what is not wherever you are going. Australian authorities will take action against anyone who imports or is found to be trafficking illegal substances. Prosecution can lead to a lengthy jail sentence and non-Australian nationals are usually deported at the end of their sentence. Deportation may lead to a ban on returning to Australia for several years. Laws, and the penalties for breaking them, can differ from state to state.
Traffic and Transportation Safety

Make sure to **look to your right** when crossing streets as a pedestrian. 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.

Roads and streets are frequently narrower and less graded than U.S. highways. Basic safety on Australian roads is considered to be excellent.

“Drink” (i.e., drunk) driving is treated very seriously in Australia, with regular traffic stops that include breathalyzer tests for alcohol and swabs for drug use.

Public transportation in Australia is comparable to most Western industrialized cities. As a precaution, always remain alert if you are unfamiliar with the local crime situation. In larger cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, buses and commuter trains and their stations can be havens for thieves and pickpockets. Keep loose items such as cameras, maps, and purses within a larger and securable carrying bag in front of you. Taxis are safe but occasionally difficult to find during high-demand time periods.

Natural Disasters

Australia is prone to seasonal natural disasters including tropical cyclones, flash flooding, dust storms (outback areas), and bushfires (forest fires common in the summer months from November to February). Tropical cyclones season occurs mainly in Queensland, Northern Territory, and Western Australia. It normally runs from November to April.

You can access the [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](http://www.bom.gov.au) website for updates.

Beach Safety

Rip currents are the leading surf hazard for all beach goers. They can occur at any beach and can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

To enjoy Australia's beaches safely, take the following simple precautions:

- Always swim between the red and yellow flags, which indicate it is a supervised location where a lifesaving service is currently on duty.
- Do not swim at unsupervised locations.
- Read the safety signs; they indicate current and typical hazards for that location.
- Ask a lifeguard for advice—they are there to provide safety advice and make your experience safe and enjoyable.
- Always swim with a friend; never alone.
- Never swim after consuming alcohol or drugs, which would impair your ability and judgement and put your life at risk.
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
- Contact local emergency services first (in Australia call 000) and then contact the Study Center.
- Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency call Kay Harmes at 0408 317 296 after first dialing 000. If you do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the UCEAP 24-hour emergency phone number. You should also call your host university international office emergency number. Because the UCEAP Study Center is in Melbourne, your host university can often provide immediate, local assistance.