AUSTRALIA

Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology
University of Queensland, Fall Semester
2011 Program Guide
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

EAP 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, EAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Local EAP 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 EAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Operations Specialist
Jeanie O’Connell
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Program Advisor
Kirstin Maryott
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Academic Specialist
Kelsey South
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Goleta, CA 93117-5823
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To get this guide on your smartphone, scan the QR code above.
Study Center and On-Site Support Abroad

EAP programs in Australia are administered from the EAP Study Center in Melbourne by Program Officer Kay Harmes. On-site support in Queensland is available from the faculty and staff of the University of Queensland Biological Sciences Department. Both offices routinely monitor local and international conditions and provide support, counseling, and safety advisories.

Contact Information

In Melbourne

Ms. Kay Harmes, Program Officer
University of California
Education Abroad Program
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Melbourne VIC 3000
AUSTRALIA

Phone (calling from the U.S.): 011 61 3 9621 2718
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(If calling within Australia): 04 0831 7296

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In Queensland

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(If calling within Australia): 07 3365 4830

Teaching Programs office phone (calling from the U.S.): 011 61 7 3365 8857
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Ross Strong
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E-mail: r.strong@uq.edu.au
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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
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.

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 School of Biological Sciences coordinates activities with 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; Low Isles Research Station, a smaller station on the inner, northern Great Barrier Reef; a suite of vessels of various capacities; and an aquaculture facility located a few kilometers from Queensland’s main campus. 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. The School of Biological Sciences 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, climatography, 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**

EAP’s Marine Biology and Human 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 one 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 information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
Course Information

You will enroll in two courses spanning 12 weeks of instruction and totaling 21 UC quarter units. The prominence of each course will alternate throughout the program.

Courses include:
- Marine Biology (13 UC quarter units)
- Human and Terrestrial Ecology (8 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 specifically designed for University of California students who have at least an intermediate level of familiarity with the biology and ecology of marine organisms, sampling techniques, sampling theory and experimental design, and statistics. The program combines background knowledge of Australian marine systems and maritime resources with advanced concepts and exercises in marine biology.

The program takes participants from the rich diversity of the estuarine and coastal systems around Moreton Bay to Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. 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.

Students participate in two marine biology field programs. The first marine biology field program 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. Following these activities, you will conduct a research project with a group and present your results. Research reports are prepared to international journal manuscript standards. The second marine field program is conducted 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.

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 Macrogazer 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).
Human and Terrestrial Ecology (8 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.

A field trip to Stradbroke Island 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, koalas, and platypuses, and at least some of the 700-plus species of Australian birds. Learn more about Australian wildlife during a day trip to the Brisbane wildlife sanctuary, Walkabout Creek. 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.

You will also learn about Australian history and the main social and cultural forces shaping the nation. You are encouraged to look beyond preconceived images and appreciate Australia as a complex, modern, Western democracy. There are often references to indigenous viewpoints and issues. Aboriginal history is not only intrinsically interesting, it also challenges mainstream ideas of what constitutes “Australia.” The lectures provide unique opportunities to compare differing histories of Australia and evaluate the consequences of those differences. From this foundation, you develop skills to compare cultures within nations and between nations.

Tentative Lecture Topics:
- What Makes Australia Different?
- Introduction to Australia’s Geology
- Introduction to Australia’s Climate
- Tutorial Review: How do Plants Work?
- Introduction to Botany in Australia
- Ecology of Fire in Australia
- Ecology of Sclerophyll Vegetation in Australia
- The Significance of Australian Rainforests
- Vegetation of the Dry Australian Inland

“EAP students say...

Though it was a very intensive program and I learned a lot, it was designed so well and was so enjoyable that I didn’t realize how much I was learning until it was over!”
Ecology of Stradbroke Island
Ecology of Lamington National Park
The Future Eaters: The “Big Picture” in Australian Ecology?
Critically Reviewing the Future Eaters Theory
Introduction to Zoology in Australia
Introduction to Australian Spiders
Introduction to Australian Insects
Introduction to Australian Reptiles and Amphibians
Introduction to Australian Mammals
Introduction to Australian Birds
Australian Ecosystems: Exploitation and Conservation
Introduction to Australian Archaeology
Australian History from Indigenous and European Settler Perspectives
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.

“EAP STUDENTS SAY...
The teachers, tutors, field trips, and other students blended together to make an unforgettable experience.
The group projects, contact with the professors, and field trips were amazing.”
**PREPARATION**

**Online Registration with UQ**

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, 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 family placement for you.

**Educate Yourself**

Get acquainted with your new host city and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as the *Lonely Planet*, are excellent sources. You can also keep up with current events in Australia by reading articles in Australian newspapers online.
Additional information about required documents is provided in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and in the EAP online Predeparture Checklist.

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

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

Packing Tips

Must Have
- Pants, sweaters, jacket for cold and rainy weather (the temperature can drop below 50°F)
- Light clothes for summer months (humid weather, temperatures 70°F to 105°F with occasional heavy rainfall)
- Hat
- Sunscreen—SPF 30 or higher
- 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

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

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

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

All participants must arrive in Brisbane by August 14, 2011. If you fail to arrive by this date, you may be subject to dismissal from the program (Student Agreement, Section 10).

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 winter. The weather at this time ranges from warm to cold, with clear days and cool nights. Evening temperatures can drop down to freezing, although this is uncommon in Brisbane. As the program progresses and spring begins, cool temperatures will persist; however, the weather patterns change dramatically as the equinox nears in mid-September. Thereafter, the weather warms rapidly and the humidity skyrockets. Rainfall in the area used to be predictable, but is less so now. It is best to be prepared.

The last date to arrive in Brisbane and get settled in your homestay is August 14, 2011. The first EAP orientation session begins on the morning of August 15, 2011. Attendance 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. EAP 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 EAP 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 EAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither EAP 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 EAP 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 EAP 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 EAP
- EAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on EAP (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 EAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions
- Download and print your EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your EAP 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 EAP 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
EAP 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 (8)
- The University of Queensland, St. Lucia
- Queensland 4072, Australia

Computer and 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 and Meals

Where Will I Live?

You will be assigned to a homestay with an Australian family in Brisbane. The 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.

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 EAP fees (see the EAP Student Budget located on the Participants page of the EAP website).

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.

“EAP Students Say...”

The housing was in a good location and easy transportation was available.

I was very happy with my homestay family.

Have an open mind and really take in all of the culture offered by the host family.

I found the host family to be a great learning tool for Australian culture, sports, recommended travel locations, and general OZ knowledge.

I enjoyed learning from my host family all about their perspective of Australian culture as opposed to the American view. I also enjoyed going out with people in the program and meeting locals.

Just be open to new things. All families are different and it may be hard at first to get used to their food and quirks.

I really liked my host family. However, if you’re not getting enough food, speak up!

You might want to bring some fruit on trips.
In addition to the following sections, read the Health and Safety chapters of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

Health
For more information about staying healthy while traveling, you can also access the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 and Insurance
Excellent public and private medical facilities are available in major cities. Regional health services with good standards are available in rural areas.

University medical services and other suburban medical centers, hospitals, doctors, 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 reliable and accessible; 24-hour service is available in most major cities. Chemists are more limited in less populated areas. A written prescription is required for all prescribed medication.

Although most medications are available in Australia, if you require prescription medication, take enough to last through the end of your program. At customs, be prepared to present a prescription for any medications you take into the country.

Inform yourself about your health insurance while abroad by reading the UCEAP Insurance Plan policy brochure. The premium is paid by the University Of California. Print your insurance card and carry it with you at all times.

Medical Emergencies
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 calling 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.

Students with Disabilities
Australia 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. 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.
SAFETY

Your Role in Staying Safe
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.

Take precautions to guard yourself and your belongings:
- Avoid poorly lit, deserted, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
Road and Transportation 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.

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 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 in 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 EAP 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 2 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 EAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762.