

YOUR JOURNEY TO VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

A GUIDE TO LIVING AND
STUDYING IN MELBOURNE



WWW.VU.EDU.AU/INTERNATIONAL/LIFEATVU



**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Information in this guide is current at the date of publication and has been produced exclusively for international students. Information in this guide is for 2012 and is current as of December 2011. All information may be subject to change. Costs are quoted in Australian dollars (A\$) and are indicative only. Special thanks to all VU staff and students who contributed to this guide.

Produced by:
Victoria University International
(VUI)
International Student Support
Design and layout:
20/21 Design
© Victoria University
December 2011

CRICOS Provider No. 00124K

ANY QUESTIONS?

To contact Victoria University International, please refer to the address details on the back page of this guide.



CONTENTS

WELCOME TO VU

Welcome to VU from the Vice-Chancellor	2
About Victoria University	3
Congratulations on securing a place at VU	3
Victoria University International	3
International student support	4
Study abroad and student exchange	4
Support to sponsored students	5
Want to know more?	6

GETTING READY

Pre-departure	8
Before leaving home	9
Important documents to bring with you	10
On arrival	11
What to pack	12
Climate and clothes	12
Medicines	12
Personal computer or laptop	13
Excess baggage	13
Booking flights	13
Booking airport reception	13
Temporary accommodation	14
Customs and quarantine	14
Detector dogs	15

PREPARING TO ENTER AUSTRALIA

Student visas	16
Student visa conditions	16
Working in Australia	17
Bringing your family	17
Students under 18	18
Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)	18

FINANCES

Budgeting	20
Currency	20
Cost of living	21-22
Banking	23
Anti-terrorism laws	23
Tuition fees	24
Taxation	24

ACCOMMODATION

Things to consider before choosing a place to live	26
Protecting yourself and your property	26
Smoke alarms	27
Permanent accommodation	27
University residences	27
Homestay	28
Arranging housing after arrival	29
Private rental market	29
Rental prices	29
Student housing services at Victoria University	30

LIFE IN MELBOURNE

What Melbourne can offer	32
Melbourne and its charm	32
Shopping and food	33
After hours assistance	34
Safety in Melbourne	34
Safety on campus	34
Finding your way	35-36
Cultural expectations	37-38
Communication	39-41
Electrical goods	42
Postal services	42

STUDYING AT VU

Your course	44
Paying your tuition fees	44
Use of personal information	44
Academic calendar	44
What is orientation all about	45
When is orientation	45
Orientation registration	46
Study life balance	46-47
Successful completion	48
Changing your course	48
Changing your provider	48
Leave of absence	49
Suspending or changing your enrolment	49
Support services, resources and facilities at VU	50-52

WELCOME TO MELBOURNE

Airport reception	54
Other travel options from the airport	54-55
Explanation of terms	56-57
Australian slang	58

CAMPUS INFORMATION

City campuses	60
Footscray Nicholson	60
Footscray Park	60
Melton	61
Newport	61
St Albans	61
Sunshine	62
Werribee	62

INDEX

Index	63-65
-------	-------

WELCOME TO VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Congratulations on your decision to study at Victoria University (VU). Thank you for making that choice.

What can you expect during your time with us? That you will be encouraged to challenge conventional thinking and be inspired by our talented and committed staff as they deliver the highest quality education, research, training and support. Our commitment to giving you an excellent university experience will equip you with the skills, knowledge and experience you need for future success.

You can also expect to encounter a great range of different people, and your own contribution to our diverse and multicultural student body, representing more than 90 nationalities, will bring you great satisfaction and lifelong friends and networks.

Shared experiences form the basis for strong future relationships, and this guide offers information to lead you and your fellow new students confidently into the VU experience. It contains information about our on-campus facilities and services, orientation and enrolment, academic culture and much more. There are reminders of things to think about before you leave home and when you arrive in Melbourne, including accommodation options, airport reception, where to shop, and how to get around.

Once you are familiar with the contents of the guide, keep it with you for future reference as you settle into life at VU. It will assist you greatly in your transition to studying at VU and living in Melbourne, and remember our International Student Support team is always there to help any time you need assistance.

Enjoy your time with us as you strive for success in your studies while creating memories that you can cherish.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Dawkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Professor Peter Dawkins
Vice-Chancellor and President

ABOUT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Victoria University (VU) is a respected and high-performing tertiary institution. It was established in 1990 when a collection of colleges and schools, some dating back to 1916, joined forces under one name.

With 11 campuses, over 50,000 students and 2854 full-time equivalent staff, VU is a great place to study. We have more than 11,000 international students from over 90 countries studying our courses at VU's campuses in Melbourne or in their home country. We are one of only five universities in Australia that teaches vocational education, through our TAFE faculties, and higher education courses.

This means that you can progress from a diploma to a bachelor degree, often with credits, or from undergraduate through to postgraduate study. Or, you can supplement your higher education degree with a skills-based course to ensure that you are fully prepared for your chosen career.

WHAT WE DO WELL

- State-of-the-art multimedia facilities
- Award-winning hospitality and tourism courses
- Internationally recognised sports programs
- A welcoming, supportive, student-centred environment
- Extensive student events and intercultural exchange
- First Australian university to implement a Work Integrated Learning policy
- Strong industry partnerships
- International dimension to teaching, research and community engagement programs

CONGRATULATIONS ON SECURING A PLACE AT VU

You are about to embark upon an exciting adventure that will enrich your life on an academic and personal level. Every year VU welcomes students from all over the world who make the most of the opportunity to study abroad, live the Australian way of life, and generally gain tremendous personal growth from the experience.

This step-by-step guide, *Your Journey to VU* is designed to make your transition to VU as easy and enjoyable as possible. It provides a wealth of information on what you need to know before leaving home, what to expect when you arrive, and all the services and facilities provided on campus.

We know that the following practical information, checklists and web links will help to make sure your stay at VU starts smoothly and grows into a valuable life experience.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

International students are an important part of the student community at VU. VU's International offices are dedicated to supporting you, our international students, from the time of your arrival in Australia to the time of your departure. You can be assisted with matters about your offer at VU HQ at City Flinders campus or you can email us if you need any other assistance prior to your arrival.

CONTACT

Victoria University International
www.vu.edu.au/international-students
or email international@vu.edu.au

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

There will be always someone you can turn to for help at Victoria University International (VUI). We understand the challenges you face in adjusting to a new culture and environment. The International Office has a dedicated International Student Support (ISS) team that is here to help make your study experience a positive one. They can provide you with:

- pre-departure information
- an international Orientation Program and support during orientation
- personal and social support during your stay as well as programming annual events and activities
- advice and assistance so that your enquiries are solved
- assistance by referring you to the most appropriate service to answer your questions
- resources and assistance available through the following booklets:
 - *Your Journey to VU*
 - *Arrive and Thrive*
 - *Muslim Guide to Living in Melbourne*
- a dedicated ISS website to help you through the life cycle of studying at VU and living here in Melbourne

CONTACT

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu

or email **iss@vu.edu.au**

STUDY ABROAD AND STUDENT EXCHANGE

The Victoria Abroad team provides services for exchange and Study Abroad students who come to VU for one or two semesters. One of its main functions is to assist inbound students with their transition to Australia and VU.

In order to adjust to life as a VU student, it is important that you participate in the whole Orientation Program. During the program there is a specific session for all Study Abroad and exchange students. This session provides information on your study program, and other useful tips to ensure that you maximise your time studying at VU. It is also a great opportunity for you to meet other Study Abroad and exchange students.

Exchange and Study Abroad students can contact Victoria Abroad or ISS at any time during their stay at VU.

CONTACT

VU student exchange and study abroad:

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/study-abroad-and-exchange

or email **educationabroad@vu.edu.au** or **iss@vu.edu.au**

SUPPORT TO SPONSORED STUDENTS

VUI has staff dedicated to supporting sponsored students. These staff members work to ensure that student's are provided with quality support during their studies. Designated staff will liaise with support and academic units across the university to ensure you are progressing appropriately.

This guide can be helpful in preparing you for life in Melbourne. Please make some time to read all sections. If you need any assistance in regard to studying as a sponsored student at VU either before or during your studies you can email vuisscholarships@vu.edu.au

MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS

Your sponsor will be interested in your progress during your studies, as per your Application Form. (You can choose to not allow information to be given to your sponsor, but for some sponsors this is a condition of your scholarship). We will report to your sponsor at least every semester, more often if necessary. It is important that if you are having any problems with your study that you let the VUI Scholarships Team know as soon as possible, so that we can work with you to resolve any issues or provide you with additional support.

ATTENDING ORIENTATION

All scholarship students are expected to attend either the higher education (HE) or TAFE orientation program. For HE students this is scheduled one week before classes commence. For TAFE students this is dependant on your program start date. Attendance provides all students with an opportunity to meet fellow students – and form new friendships that can assist you when experiencing social and academic transition as a new student to VU. It is your responsibility to stay informed by visiting the link: www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu/settling-in

AusAID STUDENTS

INTRODUCTORY ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Introductory Academic Program (IAP) is designed to introduce you to VU and prepare you for academic studies. You will be provided with the program outline on your commencement of the program.

The IAP program is generally conducted over four weeks and the program allows you to settle into the university surrounds and adapt to the requirements of being a student at VU. You will learn the specific requirements of your tertiary study, what is expected of you academically, how to perform oral presentations, and what the marking requirements are, as well as learning more about Melbourne, the university and the particular faculty where you will be studying.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

At Victoria University we are confident that you will enjoy studying and living in Melbourne. Coming to a new country is exciting but for most students requires a period of adjustment. Most students who arrive are nervous about the unknown and this is okay. Be assured that you are not alone in feeling like this.



We are aware that in preparing to come to university you will be searching for information that will introduce you to life in Melbourne and allow you to set expectations of what experiences await you.

For this reason we have created an online resource that enables you to:

- send questions directly to international student support team members
- learn from the experiences of current students by interacting with the student blog
- view videos that will introduce you to life at VU and life in Melbourne
- use innovative technology to review information that you can convert to your own language
- provide information to your parents
- discover information that will be important for you during different stages – before you leave, when you arrive and while you are a student
- find tips that will enable you to get the most out of your studies
- be prepared
- get involved

Start here and use this resource to help prepare for your arrival and continue using it while you are with us as a student at VU from the site link:

http://guides.library.vu.edu.au/ISS_lifeatvu

North Terminal

**GETTING
READY**



CHECKLISTS

PRE-DEPARTURE

- Check that you have read, signed and sent the *International Student Acceptance Form* to VU with payment of the course fee and Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) fee
- Keep updated by regularly visiting the Life at VU website:
www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu
- Arrange to get an International Driver's Licence, or an English translation of your driver's licence if you are planning to drive in Australia
- Attend local medical, optical and dental checkups
- Check passport expiry date and renew if necessary
 - Check that the expiry date is later than the end date of your final course
- Check assessment methods on how to obtain a student visa for your country
- Apply for and receive your student visa
- Research and book temporary and/or permanent accommodation
- Research work requirements and opportunities if you are intending to work in Australia
 - Be aware of visa restrictions and tax liabilities
- Book and confirm flights to Melbourne to arrive in time for the Orientation Program
- Receive confirmation for your temporary and/or permanent accommodation
- Complete and submit the Airport Reception Request Form at least 10 days before you leave
- Find and take with you the contact details for your embassy or consulate/diplomatic mission in Australia
- Consider pre-opening a bank account and transfer funds into it, or organise a credit card
- Enquire about schooling or childcare for your children if they are travelling with you
- Organise and finalise all travel arrangements
- Receive confirmation that you will be met at the airport
- Make two copies of the 'Important documents to bring with you' list
- Leave most originals with your family, plus copies of your passport, student visa and electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)
 - Take one copy of all documents in your carry-on luggage plus your original passport, student visa and eCoE
 - Pack one copy of all documents in your other luggage including copies of your passport, student visa and eCoE
- Check Australian Customs and Quarantine regulations
 - Separately pack all items that need to be declared upon your arrival at Melbourne Airport
 - Check whether any medication that you take regularly is available in Australia and if you can bring it into the country
 - View what you can't bring to Australia as well as what can't be mailed to Australia by visiting the link:
www.daff.gov.au/aqis/about/public-awareness/int-students
 - The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) manages quarantine controls at our borders. For information visit:
www.aqis.gov.au
- Organise Australian currency
 - Bring some Australian currency (A\$500–A\$1500) with you for your first few days, but do not carry a large amount of cash
 - Include A\$10 in coins for emergency calls and luggage trolleys at Melbourne Airport

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

- Prepare yourself emotionally to leave home
 - Talk to someone about how you are feeling. It's OK to feel sad, tired, excited, frustrated, unhappy and confused – maybe all at once
 - Take some items with you that will help you feel close to your family and friends, such as photos or something with special meaning
- Learn to cook simple dishes, including some of your favourites
 - Bring some favourite recipes from home
- Learn how to clean and maintain your own clothes
- Learn to budget your day-to-day money
 - Make sure that your everyday budget is realistic
 - Become familiar with the overall cost of living in Australia
 - Be aware that you will not be able to earn enough money to cover your living costs or tuition fees
- Register for Orientation
 - Register as a new student so the International Student Support team can keep you informed about orientation and other events.
www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu/before-you-arrive/international-student-orientation-registration
 - Pack your luggage
Refer to the 'What to Pack' in this guide
- Prepare for Australia and university life
 - Practise listening to Australian accents by watching Australian films and listening to Australian radio
 - Take notes while you are listening to simulate a lecture situation
 - Search the Internet for information about Australian lifestyle and culture

- Familiarise yourself with Australian and Melbourne news and events by reading online newspapers and magazines
- Become familiar with academic writing styles in Australia by reading English language academic articles, journals and textbooks. Many can be found on the Internet
- Improve your English skills by practising writing and speaking in English

- Want to know more?
 - Visit the VU website that includes a student blog and videos to help you prepare for your life at VU in Melbourne.
http://guides.library.vu.edu.au/ISS_lifeatvu



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS TO BRING WITH YOU

- A valid passport
- Your student visa and entry permit
 - If you have an e-Visa, you will need to bring a hard copy of the confirmation which states the visa expiry date
- Your Letter of Offer
- A copy of your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)
- Receipt of your tuition payment
- Certified copies of:
 - Academic qualifications
 - English proficiency
 - Details of previous study if applying for course credit/advanced standing:
 - Outlines for past courses undertaken
 - Assessment method
 - Contact hours
 - Subject duration
 - Textbooks used
- Evidence of sufficient funds to support yourself during your study
 - This could be a scholarship offer or a bank statement
- Other official documentation such as:
 - Driver's licence (with English translation if required)
 - National ID card
 - Certified copy of your birth certificate (with English translation if required)
 - Certified copies of your children's birth certificates if they are travelling with you (with English translation if required)
 - Marriage certificate (if applicable and with an English translation if required)
- Written references
 - From a previous employer if you plan on looking for part-time work. You should also bring a copy of your resumé or CV
 - From a previous landlord, if you or your family have one, and if you are considering renting
- Optical and medical prescriptions
 - Include a letter from your doctor, in English, to prove that the medication has been prescribed to you (see the 'What to Pack' section of this guide)
- Contact telephone numbers
 - Victoria University International
 - Harlan Coach Tours if you have applied for Airport Reception
 - Your country's Embassy or Consulate in Australia
- Pack your *Journey to VU* guide.



ON ARRIVAL

- If you have arranged Airport Reception, meet the driver at the designated area, or alternatively, make your own way to your first night's accommodation
- Ring the numbers provided under the 'Airport Reception' section in this guide if you have any problems finding the driver
- Contact home
 - Phone or email to let your friends and family know that you have arrived safely
- Open a bank account, or if you have opened one overseas, take your passport to a branch to withdraw money
 - Deposit any bank drafts, traveller's cheques or cash you have brought with you
- Start looking for your permanent accommodation if you have not already arranged it
 - Refer to the 'Accommodation' section in this guide
 - Visit Student Housing
- Shop for your immediate food requirements
 - Buy food and household items in self-service supermarkets located in shopping centres in most areas of Melbourne
 - Locate the Highpoint Shopping Centre if you are staying at the Student Village
 - Go to the market close to the Footscray Park campus
- Try using public transport
 - Catch a bus, tram or train into the centre of Melbourne and to and from your campus
 - Register online with OSHC Worldcare for your membership card to be delivered to your address
www.oshcworldcare.com.au
- Explore your campus
 - Find campus maps in this guide or at **www.vu.edu.au/campuses**
- Get to know your local area
 - Find the shops, eating places, the closest branch of your bank, and entertainment options
- Explore Melbourne
 - Use the free Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle bus which visits many of the key tourist attractions around the city:
www.thatsmelbourne.com.au
- Be kind to yourself if you are feeling disorientated and homesick
 - Recognise this as a common response for new students and that it will pass as you adjust to your new surroundings
 - Make sure that you eat healthily
 - Get to know other students and join in the orientation activities
 - Focus on your goals
 - Talk with your International Student Adviser at VUI
- Attend the Orientation Program
 - Meet new friends, learn more about the university, your course and life in Australia
 - Enrol in your course and receive your student ID card
- Once you have confirmed your address of where you will be living in Melbourne after enrolment
 - Confirm your address details on MYVU portal and update any changes necessary.
www.myvuportal.vu.edu.au

PREPARING TO LEAVE HOME

WHAT TO PACK

- Pack your copy of the guide 'Journey to Victoria University'
- Important document folder (copies only) – See the Checklist 'Important documents to bring with you'
- Australian money for immediate use (A\$500–\$1500)
- Credit card and/or bank account
- Contact details for your Embassy or Consulate in Australia and Melbourne
- Clothes and shoes
- Medicines for personal use and prescriptions
- Glasses or contact lenses (including a second pair) and sunglasses
- Useful items such as a bilingual dictionary and a guide to Australia such as *Lonely Planet*
- Electrical items such as a laptop computer, ipad, ipod etc
- Adaptor plugs for electrical items
- Some personal items to remind you of home such as photographs, music and recipes – but **NO FOOD** items
- A positive attitude!

CLIMATE AND CLOTHES

When you are thinking about what clothes to pack, you need to consider the weather in Melbourne. The climate has four distinct seasons:

- Summer (December, January, February): 14–25 degrees Celsius with high temperatures of 35–40 degrees
- Autumn (March, April and May): 11–20 degrees Celsius
- Winter (June, July, August): 6–14 degrees Celsius, but can be near zero at night
- Spring (September, October, November): 10–20 degrees Celsius and this is usually the wettest season

The weather is very changeable and sometimes you can experience four seasons in one day! So layered clothing works well with t-shirts, jeans and skirts for summer, and a warm jumper (sweater), warm pants, scarves and gloves and a waterproof jacket for winter.

USEFUL TIP

- Most students in Melbourne dress casually in jeans, shirts, tops and skirts with sandals, thongs or sneakers, depending on the weather. You may need a formal set of clothes for interviews or special occasions.

MEDICINES

If you need to bring medication with you, you should include medical records, medical prescriptions and a letter from your doctor explaining why you need the medication. This will help an Australian doctor to know something of your medical history so that he or she can assist you in the best possible way.

USEFUL TIP

- Contact the Australian Diplomatic Mission in your country well before you leave to confirm that the medications and the amounts you need to carry are permitted in Australia.



In Australia these are called thongs!

PERSONAL COMPUTER OR LAPTOP COMPUTER

You will not need to pay duty or tax on a computer brought to Australia, provided you take it out of Australia at the end of your studies. Showing a receipt, if you have one, and your eCoE will support the use of a computer for study purposes.

USEFUL TIP

- If your personal computer is less than 12 months old, you will need to declare this on the Incoming Passenger Card given to you on the plane.

EXCESS BAGGAGE

Any baggage that is over the weight limit nominated by your airline will be at a cost to you. You will need to balance what to pack with the amount of baggage you can manage and the weight limits imposed by your airline. As you will be personally responsible for any costs relating to excess baggage, check with your airline carrier for this information before you pack anything.

You will be able to buy everything you need in Melbourne, but you may find that the cost could be more than in your home country.

USEFUL TIP

- If you have a lot to bring to Australia, consider getting it sent to you separately after you have arrived.

BOOKING FLIGHTS

You should book your flights to Australia soon after you accept your Letter of Offer as seats are in high demand at the start of study periods. You should plan your arrival carefully to give yourself sufficient time to recover from jetlag, adjust to your new environment and find permanent accommodation.

At the very least, you must arrive in time for the Orientation Program. This is an essential part of your life in Australia as during this program you will complete the credit/advanced standing process,

formally enrol in your course, sign up for tutorials, and meet your lecturers, other students and the international student advisers. You will also gain information that will assist you with living and studying successfully in Australia.

USEFUL TIP

- As a new international student, you should plan to arrive at least one to three weeks before the Orientation Program starts. If you arrive late, the university may not allow you to start your course.

BOOKING AIRPORT RECEPTION

As a new international, study abroad, or exchange student of VU arriving for the first time in Melbourne, you can arrange to be met at Melbourne Airport. Our representative will take you to your accommodation.

This is a free service but you do need to complete the Airport Reception Request form. You can return the completed form by fax to **+61 3 9689 5670** or via email to **international.arrivals@vu.edu.au**

USEFUL TIP

- This form must be returned to Victoria University International at least 10 days before you are due to arrive.

CONTACT

VU – Airport Reception Request form:
www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu/before-you-arrive/request-airport-reception

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

VU does not book your temporary accommodation, so an important task before leaving home is to organise your own temporary accommodation. If you do not have permanent accommodation to go to directly from Melbourne Airport, short-term accommodation is ideal for the first weeks of your arrival and will give you time to organise your long-term accommodation. You should be prepared for the cost of temporary accommodation as it may take you up to four weeks to find permanent accommodation.

You can choose from a number of temporary accommodation options:

- If there is space available you can book temporary accommodation at a VU residence;
- Many hotels and cheaper backpacker options are located near the university's campuses and offer accommodation to suit all budgets;
- As part of the university's housing services, a list of contact details for other accommodation options such as hostels, hotels and motels is available for viewing on the temporary accommodation webpage. Contact your accommodation choice directly to book.

USEFUL TIP

- Book your temporary accommodation as early as possible.

CONTACT

University Residences

www.vu.edu.au/housing

Hotel standby rates:

www.wotif.com

Melbourne information:

www.citysearch.com.au

Temporary accommodation options:

www.lonelyplanet.com

CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE (AQIS)

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Australia is relatively free from pests and diseases and has very strict customs and quarantine regulations. You need to be aware that there are some things that cannot be brought into Australia, and therefore should not be packed in your suitcase.

Detailed information is available on the Australian Customs and AQIS websites, and information leaflets entitled *What can't I take into Australia?* and *What can't be mailed to Australia* are included in your pre-departure package.

Some items that you cannot bring into Australia:

- many foods including airline food
- dairy and egg products
- animal products
- plant materials and wood
- medicinal products
- illegal drugs, weapons and firearms

USEFUL TIPS

- Mailed items are also inspected, so the same restrictions apply to anything sent to you from home. You will need to tell your family and friends about the restricted items.

To ensure a positive start to your studies in Australia, take note of the following travel tips from the Australian Quarantine Service:

- Find out what can and can't be brought to Australia before you travel.
- When you land at an Australian international airport, make sure you carefully fill in your Incoming Passenger Card.

- You must mark YES if you are carrying any food, plant material or animal products. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of these in quarantine bins in the airport terminal before going through Customs.
- If you are unsure about an item, declare it anyway on your Incoming Passenger Card.

You will have to fill out the Incoming Passenger Card before you land in Australia. This form is a legal document and if you make a false statement you may receive a heavy fine, imprisonment or both.

USEFUL TIP

- Melbourne is a multicultural city and you will find that you can buy all those taste-of-home foods.

CONTACT

AQIS:

www.aqis.gov.au

What I can't bring into Australia:

www.daff.gov.au/aqis/travel/entering-australia/cant-take

Australian Customs Service:

www.customs.gov.au/ or information@customs.gov.au

DETECTOR DOGS

You may see a quarantine detector dog at the baggage carousel or while you are waiting in line to pass through Customs. The dog screens luggage for food, plant material or animal products and other illegal items. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Dogs may detect odours left from food you had in your bag. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check if you are carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.



PREPARING TO ENTER AUSTRALIA

STUDENT VISAS

As an international student studying in Australia you must hold a student visa. You will need to supply certain information with your visa application, including the electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued to you by VU.

The diplomatic staff at the Australian Diplomatic Mission in your country will be able to give you specific information relating to the student visa processing in your country, as this does vary from country to country.

USEFUL TIP

- You must allow enough time for visa processing as this can be a long and complicated process depending on the country you come from. You must also indicate all the courses you intend to study so that the length of your student visa will be appropriate.

CONTACT

Australian Diplomatic Missions:
www.dfat.gov.au/missions

DIAC – Student Visa application information:
www.immi.gov.au/students/

STUDENT VISA CONDITIONS

If you are granted a student visa you must accept certain conditions imposed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

You must be familiar with all the conditions attached to your student visa, but some common visa conditions are:

- You must achieve and maintain satisfactory course progress.
- You must provide the university with your current Australian address and advise us of any changes of address within seven days.
- You must have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the total duration of your course.
- You have to maintain a full-time study load.
- You must achieve and maintain satisfactory attendance (ELICOS students only).
- You cannot change providers or transfer to another institution until you have studied six months of your principal course with the original provider.
- If you are under 18 years of age, you must maintain approved guardian arrangements, and accommodation and general welfare arrangements.

CONTACT

DIAC – Visa conditions:

www.immi.gov.au/students/visaconditions-students.htm



WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

Since 26 April 2008, student visas have included the Permission to Work (PTW) condition. For details of your work entitlements while on a student visa you should stay informed of current or introduced changes to the permission to work arrangements by visiting the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website.

USEFUL TIPS

There are a few things you need to reflect upon:

- students cannot begin work until the commencement of their classes at the university
- you may find it difficult to gain appropriate part-time work
- working part-time while studying will not give you enough money to cover your tuition fees
- to stay updated with Permission to Work rules, visit the DIAC website below
- you can work greater than 20 hours a week during non teaching periods

CONTACT

DIAC – Working while studying:

www.immi.gov.au/students/students/working_while_studying/

BRINGING YOUR FAMILY

If you are intending to bring your family (the person you are married to and your children) with you, there are additional arrangements you need to make when applying for your visa. There may also be certain limitations on bringing family with you, so you should familiarise yourself with the rules on the DIAC website: **www.immi.gov.au/students/students/bringing_family/**

- When applying for your student visa, you should declare all members of your family, even if they will not be coming to Australia with you at this time. If you don't do this, they won't be able to apply to join you after you have started your course in Australia.

- You may be asked to show DIAC that you have enough money to support your family.
- Any children between five and 18 years of age will have to attend full-time school.
- You will have to pay full school fees for your children unless you are:
 - a postgraduate research student;
 - an AusAid scholarship student and enrol your children in a Victorian Government school; or
 - you hold a full Australian Tertiary Institution Scholarship.
- You should be prepared for additional expenses for school-age children such as schoolbooks, uniforms, school levies and school outings.
- You should arrive in Australia in time for your children to start the school term.

CONTACT

DIAC – Bringing your family:

www.immi.gov.au/students/students/bringing_family/

School fees in Victorian schools:

www.study.vic.gov.au/Intstu/fees.htm

Schools registered with the Victorian Government to provide education for international students:

www.study.vic.gov.au/Download.htm

School dates:

www.study.vic.gov.au/Intstu/AbtVGS.htm#H2N100999

STUDENTS UNDER 18

If you are under the age of 18 when you apply for a student visa, you will have to meet special visa requirements regarding your welfare arrangements. Your parents/legal guardian must organise for you to be placed in the care of a guardian while studying in Australia. Parents/legal guardians can:

- apply for a Student Guardian Visa to accompany you
- nominate for you to stay with an eligible relative guardian who is over the age of 21
- make accommodation arrangements with a Caregiver Service, or a family friend, that is approved by VU as meeting university accommodation and welfare requirements

You must complete the *Victoria University International Under 18 Care Arrangements Form* (included in your offer pack) when accepting an offer.

CONTACT

DIAC – Student Guardian visa:

www.immi.gov.au/students/student_guardians/

DIAC – Welfare arrangements for students in Australia at the time of application:

www.immi.gov.au/students/students/welfare-arrange.htm

OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER (OSHC)

The Australian Government requires that you, and your family if they are with you, are covered by Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). It is a condition of your student visa that you have health cover for the total duration of your student visa.

The only exceptions are:

- Norwegian students with Norwegian National Insurance Scheme cover
- Swedish students with cover through the National Board of Student Aid

CONTACT

Department of Health and Ageing:

www.health.gov.au

PAYING AND REGISTERING FOR OSHC

VU encourages you to organise visa length OSHC when you accept your place. This guarantees that you will not be in breach of your student visa conditions. As medical treatment is expensive in Australia, this arrangement also ensures that if you have an accident or get sick, OSHC will cover the basic costs of many of your expenses.

VU's preferred provider is OSHC Worldcare. When you accept your place, you will be asked to pay the full cost of OSHC, as set out in your Letter of Offer, at the same time as your tuition fees to VU.

If you opt for VU to arrange your healthcare with OSHC Worldcare, you will be able to arrange for delivery of your membership card via the OSHC Worldcare website, once you arrive in Australia and know your permanent address. OSHC Worldcare offers a 24-hour emergency helpline, including medical assistance, interpreting services and legal advice: telephone **1800 814 781** (free call in Australia).

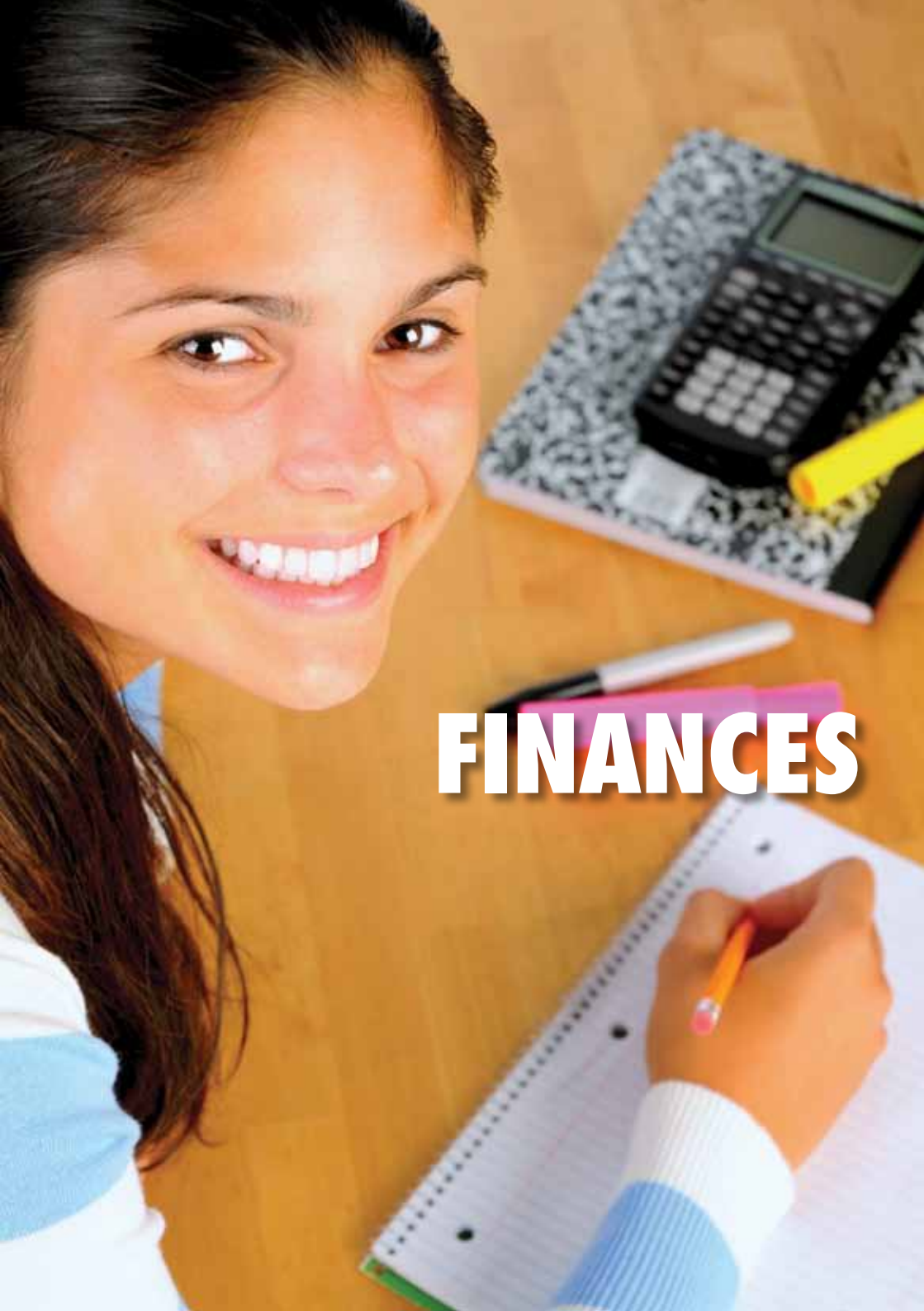
USEFUL TIP

- You should have a dental checkup before leaving home as dental services in Australia are expensive and are not covered in the basic OSHC.

CONTACT

OSHC Worldcare:

www.oshcworldcare.com.au



FINANCES

FINANCES

BUDGETING

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

It is a good idea to put together a budget for your stay at VU. This will help you to determine:

- how much money you need to bring with you
- where you can afford to live
- what you can buy

You will need to take into consideration all of your expenses when setting your budget.

We suggest that international students compare a current or expected weekly grocery shopping list with products available via online supermarkets such as Woolworths or Coles to get a better idea of everyday costs.

CONTACT

Supermarket Price Checks:

Woolworths

www.woolworths.com.au/

Coles

www.coles.com.au/

Aldi

www.aldi.com.au

AFTER YOU HAVE ARRIVED

You may need to review your initial budget once you have settled in. You can then make a more informed judgement about how much you need and how you can best manage your finances.

USEFUL TIPS

- You can save money by shopping sensibly
- You should beware of overspending on credit cards
- Your mobile phone bills can destroy your budget!

CONTACT

VU – Money management advice:

www.vu.edu.au/courses/fees-and-scholarships/financial-assistance

CURRENCY

Australia's currency is decimal, with the dollar as the basic unit. There are 100 cents in one dollar (\$1).

Notes come in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations, and coins in 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 and \$2. All major credit cards and travellers cheques are widely accepted in Melbourne.

USEFUL TIP

- When you purchase items if the end price is under five cents it is rounded up or down. For example if the total is \$11.32 it will cost \$11.30. However, if the total is \$11.37 it will cost \$11.40.



CURRENCY CONVERTER

To convert the cost estimates into another currency you may wish to use a currency converter.

Currency Converter
www.xe.com/ucc/

COST OF LIVING

From 1 January 2010 the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) regulations specify that you should allow A\$18,000 a year to cover living expenses. Please note that living expenses does not include your tuition fees.

Living costs will vary according to your lifestyle, the type of accommodation you choose, and whether you are single or bringing your family with you.

Recommended allowance (in Australian dollars):

- If you are a single student, you could spend \$18,000 a year.
- If you have your family with you, you should increase your individual cost of living by at least two-thirds. For example, if you spent \$18,000 as a single student, you should estimate:
 - \$6,300 for a spouse
 - \$7,600 for student's first child
 - \$2,700 for every other child

To help you to decide on how much money you will need to cover your living expenses, you may find the following 'Cost of Living' estimates useful in budgeting for your stay at VU.

Note: The information provided is based on a single student's cost of living for one year (all prices are estimated in Australian dollars for 2010).

Note: This does not take into account a child's education costs.



COST OF LIVING ESTIMATE (A\$)

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION		NO. OF WEEKS	WEEKLY RENT / BOARD RANGE (\$) PER PERSON	TOTAL (\$) RENT PER PERSON
Sharing Rented Premises (with two others)	Central Business District and surrounding area	52	170 - 205	8840 - 10660
	Close to the Footscray Park campus	52	155 - 185	8060 - 9620
Student Apartments	Two bedroom, shared	52	220 - 270	11400 - 14040
	One bedroom not shared	52	300 - 350	15600 - 18200
Hostel	One bedroom – shared bathroom/kitchen	52	165 - 205	8580 - 10660
Residential Sites NOTE: There will be application fees and a damage deposit that may apply.	Student Village – including utilities	Academic Calendar 40 weeks	151.17	6046.45
	Sunbury Hall – including utilities	Academic Calendar 40 weeks	120	4800
	Standard (without bathroom) Ensuite (with bathroom)	Academic Calendar 40 weeks	153.65	6146
Homestay	Victoria Place – plus utilities	Academic Calendar 40 weeks	Minimum 185 plus utilities	7400
	Living with a local family	Academic Calendar 40 weeks	240 - 275 Including some meals	9600 - 11000

ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR COURSE ANNUALLY

Books, equipment, stationery, photocopying etc \$700 - 800

Additional course costs can vary dramatically between courses.

We strongly advise students to contact their prospective faculties for full details.

Establishment Costs

Overseas Student Health Cover 1 year = \$420 (single cover)

Bond – (usually 1 month's rent) 4.333 x weekly rent

Connection fees of utilities – gas, electricity and phone \$300

General furniture items (not including whitegoods) \$450 - 800

Weekly Cost (other than rent)

Food and Groceries Contribution \$80 - 100

Bills (Electricity, Gas etc)* * \$25 - 35

Telephone (not Mobile) \$10 - 15

Public Transport fares – Zone 1 \$49

Spending Money \$80 - 100

BANKING

Melbourne has six major banks:

- ANZ
- Bendigo
- Commonwealth
- National Australia
- St George
- Westpac

Many international banks can work with Australian banks to set up an account for you before you leave home. You can also set up a bank account online before you leave home with most of the major Australian banks. If you prefer to set up a bank account once you have arrived in Melbourne, you should do so within six weeks of arriving, as during this period you only need your passport, electronic Confirmation of Enrolment and one other form of identification such as your student ID card. After six weeks, Australian Government identification guidelines require you to supply additional forms of identification in order to meet 100 points.

Most banks offer low-cost accounts for students. You can make enquiries on your bank account:

- in person
- via the telephone
- via the Internet

USEFUL TIP

- All interest earned on the savings in your bank account is taxable by the Australian Government. You can reduce the amount of tax you will have to pay by applying for a Tax File Number (TFN) available from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) once you have started your course, and giving it to your bank. There is no cost for this request and you can apply online.

CONTACT

Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

www.ato.gov.au

CONTACT

ANZ:

www.anzbank.com.au

Bendigo:

www.bendigobank.com.au

Commonwealth:

www.commbank.com.au

National Australia:

www.nab.com.au

St George:

www.stgeorge.com.au

Westpac:

www.westpac.com.au

ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS

You need to be aware laws relating to anti money-laundering and counter-terrorism financing apply to all foreign currency transactions.

If you bring any foreign currency into Australia or have money transferred to you from home, your Australian bank may be required to supply your personal information to the Australian Government.

CONTACT

Australian Government – Attorney-General

Department:

www.ag.gov.au/aml

TUITION FEES

The tuition fees you must pay are set out in the *Letter of Offer* you received from VU. Please note that the fees were correct at the date your *Letter of Offer* was issued and may be subject to change. VU reserves the right to annually adjust course tuition fees to take into account increases in university and program delivery costs. Changes to tuition fees will be applied at the beginning of each calendar year.

Your tuition fees may also change if you take longer than anticipated to complete your course, or if you enrol in greater than a full-time study load.

Your *Letter of Offer* forms part of your contract with the university. When you start your studies, accept a new course or change courses, you need to pay your first semester's tuition fees to Victoria University International (VUI) in the form of a bank draft, credit card or money order.

Your tuition fees for one semester must be paid in full before your course starts. If they are not, you will not be permitted to enrol in your course. For every semester after your first, you pay your tuition fees at a Student Service Centre before the start of each semester. An invoice will be sent to you. A full list of tuition fees is published in each of the TAFE, Undergraduate, Postgraduate and English Language Institute (ELI) International Course Guides. If you do not have a copy, you can ask at a VUI office or find the information online.

TAXATION

PERSONAL TAX

If you are considering working while on your student visa, you will pay personal tax. You will be considered a 'resident for tax purposes' once you have been living and studying in Australia for more than six months. So if you work or earn interest on your savings in the bank, you will need a Tax File Number (TFN). You can apply to the Australia Taxation Office (ATO) for this number.

USEFUL TIP

- As you will have to pay tax on all your earnings (from work or interest), you are required to lodge a tax return using your TFN at the end of each financial year (July to June).

RETAIL TAX

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a flat 10% value-added tax on most goods and services in Australia. GST should be included in the advertised price of most products or services you wish to buy so you only pay the price shown.

CONTACT

Australian Taxation Office (ATO):

www.ato.gov.au

ACCOMMODATION



ACCOMMODATION

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING A PLACE TO LIVE

Sorting through the many student accommodation options can be a very big task. Take the time to carefully consider your options, to weigh up positives and negatives of each accommodation type against your personal needs and expectations. It is important to address your needs, which can include access to public transport, privacy and your budget. You should arrive in Melbourne at least one week before orientation so that you can concentrate all your efforts on finding a place to live.

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY

Regardless of where you live you should have a smoke alarm installed. Since 1 August 1997, Victorian law states that smoke alarms must be installed in all homes, flats, units and townhouses.

It is the legal responsibility of all owners and landlords to install working smoke alarms. So as a tenant you are allowed to request one if you think it is absent from your property.

Because most people close their bedroom door when sleeping, it is also a good investment to buy an additional smoke alarm and fix it to the ceiling of your bedroom.



YOU SHOULD HAVE A SMOKE ALARM?

When you are asleep you lose your sense of smell. A smoke alarm will alert you if there is smoke from a fire. It provides early warning and time to escape.

WHERE CAN I BUY A SMOKE ALARM AND HOW MUCH ARE THEY?

From hardware stores, electrical retailers and department stores and they cost between \$7 – \$15. It can protect yourself and your belongings.

LIVING WITH YOUR SMOKE ALARM

How do I test and clean my smoke alarm?



MONTHLY:

Test by pressing the test button with a broom handle.



YEARLY:

Vacuum around your smoke alarm vents.



YEARLY:

Replace your nine volt battery each year at the end of daylight saving.

IF YOUR SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF

1. If the source is smoke or a fire, get out of your room and/or property
2. Close any doors as this prevents smoke and fire from spreading
3. Alert others
4. When outside, stay out
5. Call 000 and ask for the fire brigade. There is no charge for calling the fire brigade in an emergency

PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION

There are several housing options available to you as a new student, so it is important to investigate which is the best option for you. This means considering the cost, location, standard, style and people.

If you are under 18 years of age and neither your parent/legal guardian(s) nor eligible relative will be living with you, as part of your visa requirements you must make suitable accommodation arrangements with a nominated caregiver approved by VU. You are required to complete the Victoria University Under 18 Care Arrangements Form (included in your offer pack) when accepting a place.

UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES – ARRANGING YOUR HOUSING BEFORE ARRIVAL

VU owns and operates a range of accommodation for students, staff and guests of the university. If you have never lived out of home or wish to live in a community that supports your academic progress with planned events and activities, living in halls or residences can be a great alternative. If living in a residence interests you then you can view the options as well as the application forms and fees on Housing Services website.

STUDENT VILLAGE

The Student Village is located in Maribyrnong and provides accommodation for 510 students. It is close to public transport and Highpoint shopping centre.

WHERE

Student Village, Hampstead Road,
Maribyrnong VIC 3032

Metlink: Zone 1

SUNBURY HALL

Sunbury Hall is located on the historic Sunbury Campus and provides accommodation for 120 students. It is close to transport and for St Albans students it could be a possible housing option.

WHERE

Sunbury Hall 17 Circular Drive, Sunbury
VIC 3429

Metlink: Zone 2

VICTORIA PLACE

Victoria Place is a modern, purpose-built apartment complex with 41 fully furnished self-contained apartments and two deluxe three-bedroom units. Located in Footscray, it is a short walk to the Footscray Park campus.

WHERE

Victoria Place 117-119 Ballarat Road, Footscray
VIC 3011

Metlink: Zone 1

USEFUL TIP

- You will need to register as soon as you have your eCoE or as early as possible because places at university residences are in high demand.
- Many places, including private rentals and Victoria University Residences will require two references as part of the application process. It is much easier to organise these before departing your own country. Use the confidential University Residence reference form in the links below.

CONTACT

University Residences websites:

Student Village:

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/housing-services/student-village

Sunbury Hall:

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/housing-services/sunbury-hall

Victoria Place:

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/housing-services/victoria-place

HOMESTAY

Homestay accommodation involves living with a family, couple or single person in their own home. Homestays provide a good opportunity to experience a family lifestyle and to practise your English.

Generally, full-board Homestay arrangements include a furnished room, meals and bills and shared access to common areas such as the kitchen, lounge/family room and bathroom. Additional services such as laundry may be included.

VU Student Housing Services do not provide a Homestay placement service. If you are interested in homestay/board situations, you can make direct contact with a private homestay provider or placement agency. These agencies organise your placement into homes and usually charge a fee.

CONTACT

Homestay Providers:

Australian Homestay Network:

www.homestaynetwork.org

Homestay Victoria:

www.homestay-australia.com

Familystay Australia:

www.familystayaustralia.com

ARRANGING YOUR HOUSING AFTER ARRIVAL

A good way of being fully informed about your long-term housing choice is to organise your permanent housing after you arrive in Melbourne. If you choose to do this, the university recommends you arrive in Melbourne at least three weeks before orientation. This will give you enough time to look for accommodation and settle in before university life starts.

There are many benefits in arranging housing after you arrive. You can:

- inspect the property before accepting the terms and conditions of the lease
- decide whether you are comfortable in the suburb or chosen location
- assess the noise levels, by day and night, so that you will be able to sleep and study in this new environment

This process still requires preparation. You should consider the following:

- ensure you have temporary accommodation arranged prior to your arrival in Australia
- be prepared financially for the time you may need to spend in temporary accommodation
- make housing your first priority
- avoid rushing your 'house hunting'. Feeling rushed can hinder your ability to make wise choices
- be informed before you arrive: read as much as you can about various housing options and how to arrange them. This enables you to start house hunting as soon as you arrive.

PRIVATE RENTAL MARKET

You can rent a property through a real estate agent or directly from the landlord/owner of the property.

Vacant properties and share house listings are listed through VU Student Housing Services. Private rentals are also advertised in the real estate section of newspapers and through real estate agents and their websites.

You may need to allow at least four weeks in order to find suitable housing, especially at the beginning of each semester when there is competition for accommodation in the rental market. You will need to visit real estate agents or their websites and look at their rental listings. When you rent a property, you are called a tenant and you will be entering into a legal agreement when you sign the lease.

It is important that you completely understand what you are signing. There will be conditions in the lease that you must follow. You also have certain rights and all tenants are covered by the Victorian Residential Tenancy Act (1987). It is important that you know your rights and responsibilities under this Act. Student Housing Services can provide students with tenancy information, advice and referral.

USEFUL TIP

- As a general rule, your weekly rent should not exceed 30% of your weekly income.

RENTAL PRICES

Rental prices vary according to the location and condition of the property. It can be useful to familiarise yourself with the average price of properties in the various suburbs around the university. Rental costs usually increase the closer the property is to the city centre. You will find that weekly rental prices vary according to a number of factors, such as:

- the size of the property
- the type of property, such as a house or apartment
- its location
- the condition of the property
- if it has additional features like garden space, garage, is fully or partially furnished, or not furnished at all
- inclusion of a maintenance fee for upkeep of the garden

USEFUL TIPS

- Do not sign any contracts without first seeking advice
- At the start of your rental agreement (tenancy) you will need enough money to pay the first month's rent plus the equivalent of one month's rent as a security bond. The bond is refundable when you leave the property if everything is left in its original condition. You will need money to pay for utilities connections, furniture and household items
- Refer to Cost of Living information on page 22
- The length of a lease is normally for 12 months for a rental property

CONTACT

Victorian Consumer Affairs – Renting:

www.consumer.vic.gov.au/

Website Rental Listings:

www.rentaustralia.com

www.realestate.com.au

www.domain.com.au

www.yourestate.com.au/

STUDENT HOUSING SERVICES AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Student Housing Services provide you with housing information, tenancy advice and referral. Private rental vacancies are offered to students through the Housing Database which is available through the Student Housing Services website.

Housing Services can help you with advice and assistance choosing accommodation that will suit your needs and budget. They offer support programs to assist you including a house hunting friend register, a housing mentoring program and other advice.

CONTACT

Housing Services:

www.vu.edu.au/housing

Rental Assistance and Support Programs:

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/housing-services/rental-assistance



LIFE IN MELBOURNE



LIFE IN MELBOURNE



WHAT MELBOURNE AND VU CAN OFFER YOU

Melbourne is a modern multicultural city with world-class facilities. It is home to a diverse population of 3.5 million people from over 140 nations. Melbourne hosts many outstanding arts and cultural events. Not only is it the capital of the State of Victoria, it is also known as the sporting capital of Australia, and you are bound to have an amazing experience coming here.

Melbourne's passion for sport is legendary. The VU and Western Bulldogs' Australian Football League (AFL) team partnership brings together two icons of Melbourne's western region: the west's own university and the west's own football team. More than an accident of geography, the relationship is a recognition of the shared commitment and vision for the Melbourne's west region. This is a unique partnership among Australian universities: no other

Australian university has an AFL partnership of the range and depth of our association. As a student attending Victoria University you have a great opportunity to experience an AFL game first hand and see the Western Bulldogs take the field. So get involved and stay informed.

MELBOURNE AND ITS CHARM

Victoria is the smallest mainland state in area, but the most densely populated and urbanised, with an estimated population of over five million people. It has consistently rated as one of the world's most liveable cities, and in 2011 was rated the top out of 140 cities world-wide (Economist Intelligence Unit survey, August 2011.)

Melbourne and its suburbs, each with its own distinct character and personality, are spread around much of Port Phillip Bay, and the city lies on the Yarra River. It is the home of Australia's largest container and general cargo port, yet it is regarded

as a cultural and cosmopolitan city. You will find that there is a little piece of home everywhere you look, with a great variety of restaurants, grocery stores, markets and shops.

CONTACT

Victoria and Melbourne information:

www.visitvictoria.com

www.melbourne.com.au

www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/pacific/australia/melbourne

SHOPPING AND FOOD

There are many places where you can buy various types of food, including supermarkets, speciality grocers, fruit and vegetables stores, butchers and open-air markets. Cafés, restaurants, food courts and convenience stores also operate across Melbourne.

The amount you spend on food depends on:

- what you include in your shopping basket
- how often you shop around to find the best buys – items on 'Special' offer good value for money
- which type of shop you visit – supermarkets offer a wide variety of food and other items but are not necessarily the cheapest
- the quantity of items you buy – it is often cheaper per item to buy a larger quantity
- whether you shop at markets – these can offer cheaper prices for fruit, vegetables and meat and it is important for you to compare prices and the quality of goods. You can pay for your food shopping with cash, credit card or EFTPOS (using your bank account access card), although you would normally use cash if shopping at a market

Melbourne's long history of welcoming and embracing cultures from all over the world has led to its reputation as the culinary and cultural capital of Australia. The city and surrounding suburbs are filled with a vast array of award-winning restaurants, cafés, bars, casual eateries and food stores representing



almost every cuisine in the world. You can have a lot of fun exploring new tastes here, and you'll have no trouble finding everyday favourites as well.

One of the best places to experience Melbourne's diversity is by absorbing the sights, smells and sounds of the historic Queen Victoria Market, or by checking out the many other markets in Melbourne's inner suburbs. Another European feature of Melbourne is its precincts, each with their own unique culture and character. These include:

- Hopkins Street in Footscray where you will find Vietnamese and Halal restaurants and food stores
- Chinatown and the Greek precinct in the city
- Lygon Street in Carlton, the historic heartland of Melbourne's Italian community and the place where the city's famous café culture was born
- Carlisle Street in East St Kilda, a traditional centre for Eastern European and kosher foods
- Victoria Street in Abbotsford, with its concentration of Vietnamese grocers and restaurants
- Sydney Road in Brunswick, where you'll find many halal stores and Middle Eastern restaurants
- Johnston Street in Fitzroy, featuring many Spanish restaurants
- Brunswick Street in Fitzroy, home to Melbourne's bohemian culture with a fascinating collection of designer and retro clothes shops, bookstores, galleries and cafés, and a vibrant nightlife.
- Halal and Kosher food at many restaurants, butchers, cafés and supermarkets

USEFUL TIPS

- Ask other students about the best places to shop near your campus and home.
- You are not expected to offer tips to people who provide a service for you, such as waiters at restaurants and cafés, or to taxi drivers and hotel staff – but it is an optional choice in recognising good service.

CONTACT

Shopping centre locations:

www.onlymelbourne.com.au

Markets in Melbourne:

www.whitehat.com.au/Melbourne/Markets/MarketsM.asp

SAFETY

Victoria University works closely with international students and key community organisations to develop a strong safety awareness among International students.

CONTACT

www.vu.edu.au/safety

SAFETY IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne is a safe and friendly city, but you need to be alert:

- You need to take care when crossing roads – look left, right and left again for cars, trams, cyclists and other pedestrians
- In an emergency, dial 000 as a free call from any telephone 24 hours a day for fire, police and ambulance
- You can approach police officers on the street or walk into a police station at any time
- If possible, avoid travelling alone at night, and if you are alone, walk in well-lit areas and avoid dark shortcuts

AFTER HOURS ASSISTANCE

VU provides an after-hours service you can use if you require urgent assistance when offices on campus are closed. Call 1800 758 350 for immediate advice and assistance on a wide range of issues including health and safety concerns. The service is a free call from landlines anywhere in Australia, and a standard call rate from mobile phones.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

The safety initiatives for international students on campus include:

INTERNATIONAL PRE-DEPARTURE PACKS

In preparation for international students arriving in Melbourne, VUI staff send a pre-departure pack to arriving students to better prepare them for life at VU.

SECURE SHUTTLE TRANSPORT FOR ALL VU STUDENTS

VU runs a night-time bus shuttle from Footscray Park campus stopping at Footscray Railway Station and the Maribyrnong Student Village; another service runs between the St Albans campus and St Albans Railway Station.

VU SECURITY

Security Operations Centre (SOC) is staffed 24 hours, seven days a week. Campus Security Officers (CSOs) are located at all VU campus sites. They conduct patrols, can escort staff and students, and respond to emergencies. So after you arrive add all appropriate campus security numbers to your phone.



FINDING YOUR WAY

STREET DIRECTORIES

People in Melbourne are generally very friendly and you can feel confident about asking a local person for directions. You should spend some time before leaving home, and when you first arrive, learning how to get around the area close to your campus and the Central Business District (CBD).

CONTACT

Melbourne street directory:
www.street-directory.com.au

Whereis:
www.whereis.com.au

Google maps:
<http://maps.google.com.au>

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Melbourne's extensive privatised public transport system consists of trains, trams and buses. The system is fairly reliable and safe to use, with premium train stations and services on weekdays, weekends and public holidays. Each of the university's campuses is within walking distance of a train station or bus stop so they are well serviced and you can travel safely and cost effectively.

With the easy purchase of one ticket you can move freely between the three types of transport. Trams operate within the CBD and some inner suburbs, and trains and buses serve the city centre and outer areas.

The Metlink website provides timetables and fare information, and has a journey planner so that you can easily find the right mode of transport for your journey.

USEFUL TIP

- You may feel anxious and uncertain about your first few journeys, so familiarise yourself with the system by checking the Metlink website and making some trial trips after you arrive in Melbourne. Your fellow travellers are usually very happy to help you navigate the system.

CONTACT

Metlink – Public transport information:
www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Guide to Melbourne's public transport:
www.viclink.com.au

TAXIS

There are many taxis in Melbourne and you can identify them easily:

- They are all yellow.
- Drivers should be well-groomed and wear a uniform that has their company logo.
- Drivers must have an identity card on show at all times.

You can get a taxi in three ways:

- Go to designated areas that are clearly signposted at central locations like major hotels in the CBD, or busy locations such as outside the bigger city train stations.
- Hail a taxi in the street – if the rooftop light is on, it means the taxi is available for hire.
- Telephone for a taxi to come and pick you up.

USEFUL TIP

Taxi fares can be quite expensive depending on your journey.

CONTACT

Melbourne Taxis:

[www.melbourneaustralia.com.au/
transport/taxi](http://www.melbourneaustralia.com.au/transport/taxi)

Melbourne Transport:

[www.melbourneaustralia.com.au/
transport](http://www.melbourneaustralia.com.au/transport)

DRIVING

If you hold a current valid driver's licence from your own country, you will be able to drive in Australia on your overseas licence for an indefinite period while you hold a temporary visa. Your licence must be in English or you must have an English translation, or you can use an International Driving License.

Once you are living in Melbourne, you can also apply for a Victorian Driver's Licence by completing tests on your knowledge of the road laws and your practical driving ability.

Regardless of your driving experience, it is essential that you know the road rules and signs before driving. While on the road you must obey all the road rules, including:

- Always drive on the left-hand side of the road.
- Drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts.
- Obey all speed limits at all times.
- Government-approved safety seats must be used for children at all times.

USEFUL TIPS

- You must have your licence with you when you are driving.
- You may find it useful to take some professional driving lessons to gain confidence.
- You should study the Victorian Traffic Handbook before driving to get a good overview of the road rules and signs.

CONTACT

Vic Roads:

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/

BICYCLES

Riding a bike is one of the best ways to cut your transport costs and keep fit at the same time. There are many bike paths and on-the-road bike lanes to keep you out of the traffic zones.

As a cyclist, you must obey the road rules and wear an approved safety helmet. Your bike has to be in good condition, with all the legal safety features such as a bell, reflectors and a light.

USEFUL TIP

- Vic Roads has cycling network maps and information about cycling safety.

CONTACT

Vic Roads:

www.vic.gov.au

Bicycle Victoria:

www.bv.com.au



CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

As a casual society with people from many cultures, the Australian lifestyle encourages you to maintain and share your cultural beliefs and to have confidence in your traditional practices. At the same time, there is an expectation that you will respect the right of others to do the same.

Melbourne's multicultural background influences its social conditions in many ways, but many of the customs are based on English, European and North American social behaviour and attitudes. If you understand some of the common customs, you will adapt better and feel at home.

USEFUL TIPS

- It will help you to adjust to the Australian lifestyle if you observe the interactions, habits and actions of different groups of people.
- You should remember that bribery is not part of Australian culture. It is illegal and not socially acceptable.

COMMON SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – 'SOME DOS AND DON'TS'

- You should blow your nose or spit into a handkerchief or tissue, and not onto the footpath.
- Many people will say 'Bless you' when you sneeze. This phrase has no religious meaning and it is considered polite if you say this when someone sneezes.
- Queuing is standing patiently in a line behind people who have arrived before you, and it is considered very impolite if you try to push ahead.
- You should leave some personal space between you and the people around you when you are in a queue, standing near to or talking to someone. If you are not sure how much space to leave, look at the people around you for clues.

- 'Please', 'Thank you', 'No thank you', 'Sorry' and 'Excuse me' are a few words you should learn to use so that other people will not think you are rude. Using these words will help you to build good relationships. These are words you can also use when receiving something, or buying goods or services.

CONTACT

DIAC – Living in Australia:

www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/choose-australia/about-australia/au-customs/polite-behaviour.htm

GREETING PEOPLE

When you meet someone for the first time:

- Shake the person's right hand with your right hand
- You generally do not kiss or hug when meeting a person you do not know
- It is not polite to talk about personal matters
- You can address a person using their title and family name
- You may use their first name if they ask you to or they use it in their introduction
- It is considered a sign of respect to look at the eyes of the people you are talking with and to show that you are listening

USEFUL TIP

- In the workplace or university and among friends, you can be informal and call other people by their first names, even your lecturers and tutors.

CLOTHING CUSTOMS

The type of clothing people wear reflects the diversity in Australian society just as much as the variation in climate. There are no laws or rules regarding clothing, but most people tend to dress casually at university, especially in summer.

Clothing is an individual choice and people tend to dress based on:

- comfort
- the weather
- the social situation. For example, in a cinema you should wear neat, clean clothes and footwear

Australians live a relaxed lifestyle and on hot days, even at university, you will see men and women wearing light clothing. This does not indicate that people who dress for the beach, for swimming or to go to university have low moral standards. It reflects what is socially acceptable.

USEFUL TIP

- You can choose to wear your national dress. This could be monks' robes, a burqa, a hijab or a turban. You are encouraged in Australia to wear clothing as a part of your cultural beliefs and practices, to respect those of others.

PUNCTUALITY

You should always try to be on time for meetings and other visits. If you realise you are going to be late, try to contact the person to let them know. This is very important for visits to your lecturers and tutors and for other professionals such as doctors who may charge you money for being late or if you miss the appointment without letting them know.

It is considered polite to be on time for meetings with other students, friends and acquaintances.

USEFUL TIP

- If you do not wish to attend a meeting or a social event, it is OK to say 'No' at the time you are invited.

SMOKING

It is forbidden to smoke cigarettes, cigars and other such items at certain places:

- in a public place where food and drink is served
- on public transport
- in cinemas
- in public buildings

USEFUL TIP

- When you are at someone's home, you should be prepared to smoke outside.

EQUALITY

In Australia, everyone is considered to have equal social status, political and legal rights. Women expect to have the same rights, status and opportunities as men. You are also expected to respect the rights of all people regardless of their gender, occupation and nationality.

There are anti-discrimination laws in Australia that make it illegal to treat people unfairly.

USEFUL TIP

- A good approach is to treat everyone you interact with as you would like to be treated.

COMMUNICATION – KEEPING IN TOUCH

MOBILE PHONES

If you bring your mobile phone to Australia, check that your SIM card is compatible and that you have global roaming or can activate international roaming. International roaming will be expensive, so it is best to change to an Australian network.

You are responsible for your mobile phone usage and charges, these bills can have a significant impact on your budget. Many companies offer mobile phone plans, but you could consider using a pre-paid mobile phone plan to help you monitor your budget as you:

- pay up-front
- have no monthly access fees
- have no fixed-term contract
- have no mobile phone bill

Another way you can save money is to use Short Message Service (SMS). If you send a text message on your mobile phone as an alternative to making a call, you will save the call rate plus a flagfall rate (in most circumstances). In Australia, SMS is charged at a rate per message, regardless of length. This has become a very popular feature for mobile phone users, but excessive use can still add substantially to your phone bill.

USEFUL TIPS

- The Australian mobile network uses bandwidth 900 or 1800 GSM, so you need to check that your handset will operate under these frequencies.
- For information about different phone plans and networks to use, you could talk to your fellow students.

CONTACT

Independent phone provider information:

www.phonechoice.com.au



PRIVATE TELEPHONES

If you decide to have a telephone line in your home, you can make four different types of calls:

- Local calls – These are untimed calls within designated areas around Melbourne and suburbs
- STD calls – These are long-distance calls within Australia and are timed with varying costs depending on the time of day and distance you call
- International calls – These are timed calls with a connection fee, and the final costs depend on the country you are calling
- Mobile phone calls – These are timed calls with a connection fee

The two main providers of private telephones in Australia, Telstra and Optus, will charge you:

- An initial connection fee
- Monthly line rental
- Call charges for each call you make

USEFUL TIP

A telephone in your home or shared household is very convenient, but the immediate costs can be difficult to monitor and line rental is expensive. Even though STD, mobile and international calls are itemised on your telephone bill, you always need to be aware of the costs incurred by each person. This will help to avoid problems in paying the final account and in sharing the costs appropriately.

MAKING AN INTERNATIONAL CALL

You can make international calls from all telephones, including public phones. All you need to do is dial:

- 1 the international access code – **0011**
- 2 your country code – if you need information dial **1125**
- 3 the area code for the city you are calling
- 4 your family's or friend's telephone number

PUBLIC TELEPHONES

Public telephones are getting harder to find but they tend to be located at the airport, shopping centres, train stations and in many hotels. To make a call you can use coins or a phone card, and in some you can use a credit card.

- The cost of a local call is 50c and is untimed
- STD, international and mobile phone calls are timed and charged by the minute

USEFUL TIP

- Generally you can buy phone cards from newsagents, convenience stores and post offices.

INTERNATIONAL CALLING CARDS

You can buy international calling cards which allow you to make international calls at greatly reduced costs. These cards work from nearly all home, public or mobile touch tone phones. There are many companies offering these so it is best to check the rates to call your home country.

USEFUL TIP

- Ask your fellow students for the best options on international calling cards and where to buy them.

CONTACT

Independent phone and Internet provider information:
www.phonechoice.com.au

Telstra:
www.telstra.com.au

Optus:
www.optus.com.au

Telephone directory:
www.whitepages.com.au

Broadband choice Internet plans:
www.whirlpool.net.au/bc



INTERNET CONNECTIONS

As part of your enrolment with VU, you will automatically have access to the Internet and computer services (see the 'Studying at VU' section) while you are on campus. However, you may wish to access the Internet from home.

Analysing your likely Internet habits will help you identify whether broadband will be worth the money, and if so, which service you should choose. Before you sign up for a broadband service, look carefully at your Internet use to determine:

- how much time you spend online
- what will you use the Internet for – surfing and email, downloading shareware, online games, instant messaging, chat, study or connecting with family
- when you most frequently connect
- where you use the Internet, as a wireless broadband option will give you mobile usage
- there is also a growing number of free wifi hotspots around Melbourne at cafes, restaurants, libraries and Internet cafes

USEFUL TIPS

- most broadband services require you to sign a lengthy contract (usually a minimum of 12 months) and purchase expensive hardware, so think carefully before you subscribe.
- broadband offers you the opportunity to use Voice over IP (VoIP), which may give you lower costs and free calls, especially for long-distance calls when you and the person you are calling, are on the same private network.
- naked broadband packages allow you to have broadband and often VOIP connection without needing a telephone line connected separately.



ELECTRICAL GOODS IN AUSTRALIA

If you bring electrical items from home, you have two issues to consider:

- Voltage compatibility.
- Power plug design.

The domestic electricity supply in Australia is 240volts / 50hz so your electrical items may need an appropriate voltage transformer.

The Australian three-prong power outlet design (powerpoint) is different from most other countries. If you bring your laptop, or other electrical goods, you will need to buy an adaptor plug to enable your power cord to fit into Australia's three-prong outlets.

USEFUL TIPS

- You can buy both of these items at most discount electrical stores and speciality stores that cater for overseas visitors.
- When purchasing a new appliance there is sometimes a plastic protector connected to the three prong outlet. Remove this before connecting to the outlet.
- At the electrical point if you see the orange dot it means that the switch is on and the appliance should operate.
- As a safety measure turn off all appliances at the outlet when not in use.

CONTACT

Electricity around the world:

<http://users.pandora.be/worldstandards/electricity.htm>

POSTAL SERVICES

If you need to post a letter or an item to your home country or elsewhere, there are post offices (Australia Post) at most suburban shopping centres and in the city centre. These are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Mail is delivered to your home Monday to Friday only.

CONTACT

Australia Post:

www.auspost.com.au

STUDYING AT VU



STUDYING AT VU

YOUR COURSE

You may have to make difficult decisions in your course, subjects and career path, but you need to think independently at university. Thinking about the subjects you like and are good at, as well as asking questions and seeking informed advice, will help to make these decisions easier for you.

PAYING YOUR TUITION FEES

For every semester after your first, you pay your tuition fees at a Student Service Centre before the start of each semester. An invoice will be sent to you. A full list of tuition fees is published in each of the TAFE, Undergraduate, Postgraduate and English Language Institute (ELI) International Course Guides. If you do not have a copy, you can ask at a VUI office or find the information online.

CONTACT

www.vu.edu.au/courses/international-courses

USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

VU is committed to the responsible collection and handling of your personal information in accordance with all relevant legislation, including the Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). The personal information we collect will be used to assess and process your application. Your personal information may be disclosed to Commonwealth and State Agencies such as the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), the Department of Immigration and Citizenship pursuant to reporting obligations under applicable legislation.

Your personal information will also be disclosed to your overseas student health care provider and, if you are under 18 years of age, to the carer appointed for you under the National Code made under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000. Your information will not be disclosed to other third

parties without your consent. You have a right to access personal information that VU holds about you. See the University's Privacy Policy for details, which can be accessed at: www.vu.edu.au/library/pdf/default/PrivacyPolicy.pdf

PARENTS AND YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Your parents will be interested in your progress and wellbeing while you are studying away from home. However, VU treats you as an adult and deals with you directly in all matters.

The university fosters independence and requires you to take responsibility for yourself. This, plus privacy and confidentiality restrictions, means that all information concerning you, including your academic results and personal information, is only available to you. VU cannot provide your personal information and details of your study progress to anyone other than DIAC without your written permission. This is in compliance with the privacy laws that exist in Australia.

CONTACT

VU – Privacy:

www.vu.edu.au/admissions/privacy

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

In the Academic Calendars you can find the university key dates. You can check for the start of study periods and other important dates that apply to your enrolment at VU.

CONTACT

VU – Timetables and calendars:

www.vu.edu.au/current-students/student-essentials/timetables-and-calendars

ORIENTATION

WHAT IS ORIENTATION ALL ABOUT?

Orientation is a series of events that sets you on the path of your once-in-a-lifetime student journey at VU. The Orientation Program is designed to help new students:

- build relationships, because during this week you'll get the chance to meet new friends at social gatherings and events
- introduce you to campus life at VU before your classes begin – a taste of what VU life is all about including essential information you need to know
- meet your faculty and school staff
- learn more about your new life in Australia
- enrol in your course and classes
- feel at home

The International Student Support team values the assistance of local and international students as orientation hosts to guide new international orientation events. As students themselves, hosts are approachable and sensitive to the challenges faced by new students.

Your stay in Australia can be a wonderful time if you take steps to make new friends and access opportunities. Don't go home regretting all the things you've missed out on. Plan to take home more than you came with:

- qualifications
- memories of good times
- personal growth
- international contacts and networks for your working life
- life-long friends

USEFUL TIP

- Research shows that attending orientation will help you stay focused, gain satisfaction from your experiences, achieve better grades, and be more likely to graduate on time.

WHEN IS ORIENTATION?

HIGHER EDUCATION AND TAFE

All orientation details will be published on the VUI website. If you are a higher education student, you will start at VU in either Semester One or Semester Two. You will have an international Orientation Program to attend the week before your classes start, regardless of your commencement time.

Faculty briefings occur during the orientation program. You will receive essential information about your enrolment and timetable, so your attendance is **IMPORTANT**.

If you are a TAFE student your orientation may be held after your course commences. TAFE courses have different start dates, so check your Letter of Offer for the start date of your course.

CONTACT

VUI – International Orientation Dates and Information:

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu/settling-in

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

If you are an English Language student, your orientation will be held on the day after your enrolment. You can contact the English Language Institute (ELI) for information about orientation and course dates.

CONTACT

VU – English Language Institute:

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/english-language-studies

or email **eli@vu.edu.au**

USEFUL TIP

- Orientation is a group of events that assists you with your transition to VU. Once you have started your studies VU International will host a Welcome Event which celebrates your arrival at VU.

REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION

Stay informed about Victoria University's international student orientation program by completing and submitting the online orientation registration form. Registration will ensure that lunch is provided for you at orientation.

CONTACT

Orientation Registration Online Form:

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu/settling-in/international-student-orientation-registration

WHAT TO DO IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND ORIENTATION

It is best to plan your arrival for at least one week before orientation, but if you cannot attend you will need to email International Student Support (ISS) at **iss@vu.edu.au** as soon as you know that you will not be present at the program.

If you arrive late the university may refuse to allow you to start your course. This would mean that you have to defer your studies and return home to wait for the next semester or course intake.

STUDY LIFE BALANCE

VU provides services and programs to assist you in achieving a healthy study life balance. A balanced approach to your study and other life activities is critical to your success – you must be sure that you are making healthy life choices in all the important areas. There is temptation from personal ambition and pressure of family obligations for you to undertake study-related tasks and strive for study-related goals and neglect other areas of your life. This could lead to you overworking and suffering increased stress.

Problems caused by stress are both physical and psychological. Physical signs include poor immune system, frequent headaches, stiff muscles and backache. Psychological signs include poor coping skills, irritability, jumpiness, insecurity, exhaustion and difficulty concentrating. All of these symptoms will affect your ability to study and could lead to you achieving poor academic results.

It is essential to maximise your learning opportunities and this means working smarter, not harder.

- **Make sure you have enough sleep:** As an international student you will be tempted to spend many hours at night keeping in contact with your friends and family, playing online games, or trying to study. In your study organiser, you need to allocate six to eight hours of sleep each day for your body to stay healthy.
- **Plan to have free time:** A bit of healthy fun and laughter is the best medicine. Include at least one free hour every day in your schedule.
- **Stay active:** Just 20 minutes of walking or other cardio exercise three times a week will release both mental and physical tension and refresh your mind.
- **Eat healthily:** Eating breakfast with lots of protein will improve your brain function, and regular meals throughout the day will keep your energy levels up.

- Learn to use time efficiently: Aim to control your time by planning a balanced weekly schedule that includes leisure, work and social activities as well as study.

If you recognise that you are feeling stressed, do not ignore it. In the short term you can take action to de-stress:

- Drink lots of water or herbal tea: This will keep you hydrated and calm.
- Take a time-out: Closing your eyes for 30 seconds while taking some deep breaths or looking out the window will help to release tension and give your eyes and brain a much needed break.

- Get (and stay) organised: To-do lists and a tidy workspace will make your environment pleasant as well as efficient.

- Scatter some inspiration around: Pin up your short and long-term goals and positive notes of affirmation where you can see them. This will help you through the tough times.

USEFUL TIP

- It is easy for time to slip away while you are concentrating on your studies, so set an alarm for a certain time to keep yourself structured and on track with your schedule.



DURATION OF PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM

It is a condition of your student visa for you to complete your course within the expected duration. This means that you have to maintain a full-time load throughout your studies. The university will only allow you undertake a reduced study load and/or extend the duration of your program only in limited circumstances, for example:

- on compassionate or compelling grounds;
- if you were placed under an intervention strategy; or
- if you have an approved deferment to leave of absence from your studies.

If you need to study a reduced study load during your studies, or if you need to extend the duration of your program, you must apply to the university. VU can only accept an application to extend the duration of your course in limited circumstances (e.g. if you have been ill), as outlined on our application form.

CHANGING YOUR COURSE

If you change your course at VU, for example from a Bachelor of Business to a Bachelor of Science:

- You will need to complete a Defer Your Studies/ Change of Course Preference form, available from the International section of the website or from VUI offices, and submit the form at a VUI office.
- If your application to change course is successful you will receive a new Letter of Offer. Once you have accepted your offer and finalised any fees owing you will receive a new electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) from VUI. The Letter of Offer is part of your written agreement (contract) with the university.
- It is likely that the tuition fee for your new course will be different. You can access the tuition fees online from the International section of the website.

- You will need to check the procedures and timeframes to make sure that you are not at risk of any financial or academic penalty.

CHANGING YOUR EDUCATION PROVIDER

If you want to change to another education provider, a number of rules apply.

- You must notify VU if you intend to change to another provider.
- If you wish to transfer from VU during the first six months of your principal course you are generally required by law to obtain a Release Letter from VU. Before VU will consider issuing a Release Letter, you will need to apply using a VU Release Letter, and provide documentation, including a Letter of Offer from the new provider. Your request will be assessed against VU's policies and procedures and may be refused if the university believes the transfer is not in your best interests.
- You will need to check the procedures and timeframes to make sure you are not at risk of any financial or academic penalty.

CONTACT

VU – International Course Guides:

www.vu.edu.au/courses/international-courses

DEFERRING YOUR COURSE AFTER ACCEPTING YOUR OFFER

If you need to defer the start date of your course after you have accepted your offer, but before you formally enrol, you must apply to the university.

- Deferring your course can only be granted on compassionate or compelling grounds such as genuine illness or inability to obtain student visa on time etc. You will be expected to provide supporting evidence.

- You will need to complete a Defer Your Studies/ Change of Course Preference form, available from the International section of the website or from Victoria University International offices, and submit the form to a VUI office.
- If your application to change course is successful you will receive a new Letter of Offer. Once you have accepted your offer and finalised any fees owing you will receive a new electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) from VUI. The Letter of Offer is part of your written agreement (contract) with the university.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA)

If you need to be absent from your course after you have commenced studies, under government regulations the university can only approve Leave of Absence (LOA) for you on compassionate or compelling grounds, for example:

- on grounds of genuine illness
- if one of your family members dies or is seriously ill

You will usually be expected to provide supporting evidence, such as an original or certified copy of a medical certificate (in English) from a medical practitioner or a registered counsellor.

You can find the application forms at all VUI offices. Your faculty and VUI must approve any applications for LOA. Your application for LOA is not automatically approved so you need to continue classes until you receive official notification.

USEFUL TIPS

- A LOA may affect your student visa. It is your responsibility to contact DIAC to ensure you meet your visa conditions.
- You cannot take LOA for reasons of financial difficulty.
- LOA is only available for Higher Education students.

CONTACT

VUI Visa and Enrolment Variations:

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/visa-and-enrolment-variations

or e-mail the Compliance team at VUI for assistance
vuicompliance@vu.edu.au

Leave of Absence:

www.vu.edu.au/international-students/visa-and-enrolment-variations/leave-absence

DIAC:

www.immi.gov.au

SUSPENDING OR CANCELLING YOUR ENROLMENT

The university is permitted (and sometimes obliged) to suspend or cancel your enrolment as a result of unsatisfactory academic progress.

- Unsatisfactory attendance (ELICOS students only)
- Disciplinary action arising from misbehaviour
- Not paying your course fees

Your faculty or school makes this decision in accordance with the University's Student Progress Policy and Procedures after you have been given prior support.

If Victoria University suspends or cancels your enrolment, you will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to appeal the decision. The University is obliged to inform Government agencies (such as DIAC) of any change to your enrolment. If your enrolment is suspended or cancelled, it is important that you contact DIAC by calling

131 881.

SUPPORT SERVICES, RESOURCES AND FACILITIES AT VU

VU has many support and referral services and other resources available to you. You can find something just for you, whether it is information, opportunity or support.

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

www.vu.edu.au/international-students

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT (ISS)

The ISS team is there to guide and support you throughout your time at VU.

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/advice-and-counselling/international-student-support or email iss@vu.edu.au

LEARNING SUPPORT

Provides language, study skills and academic writing support. The Learning Hub provides a range of useful information and resources to assist you in developing your language and learning skills.

www.vu.edu.au/studyhelp

LIBRARY SERVICES

VU has 12 library sites that provide students with access to study resources in friendly student-focused environments that offer photocopying, computing and printing facilities and an extensive range of electronic and print resources.

www.vu.edu.au/library

EMAIL

VU provides you with a free email account upon enrolment which you can keep forever! Your DEJAVU email account is the fastest and safest way to communicate with VU staff and students. Use it as your primary account to ensure you are receiving important emails from within the VU community. As a student, you are expected to regularly check your account for updates.

www.vu.edu.au/current-students/student-essentials/student-email

COMPUTER FACILITIES

Modern computer laboratories with the latest hardware and software are available at each VU campus. Windows and Apple computers are used in teaching laboratories and open-access facilities. Students have access to the Internet and email, and all students receive an email address for personal use. VU has a wireless network service that VU students access without requiring cables or wires. A central IT helpdesk is also available to answer student queries.

www.vu.edu.au/it-facilities/



STUDENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT

VU's Student Career Development (SCD) provides access to a range of information and services tailored to the needs of students. You will have access to a number of online and face-to-face career and employment services to find a part-time job and to help make you more employable after graduating.

www.vu.edu.au/careers

SPORT AND FITNESS

Several campuses have excellent sport and fitness facilities and professional instructors to help you with your sport and personal fitness routine. You could also become involved in the learning to swim programs.

www.vu.edu.au/sport

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

We have a great range of clubs and societies on campus. Make friends with people who share similar interests with you.

www.vu.edu.au/current-students/campus-life/clubs-and-societies

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Victoria University Student Association (VUSA) is recognised as the peak student body representing the interests of all Victoria University students. Within VUSA, the International Students Association (ISA) represents international students, and the Postgraduate Association represents postgraduate students.

www.vusu.org.au

STUDENT ADVISORY SERVICE

Advice, support, information and referral regarding progress hearings, assessment, discipline and complaints per the Student Complaints policy. Student advisors can speak on your behalf if you prefer.

www.vu.edu.au/studentcomplaint

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BRANCH

VU has established procedures for receiving feedback and handling complaints of alleged discrimination and harassment as defined under Commonwealth and State anti-discrimination legislation

www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/vus-vision/equity-and-diversity

STUDENT SERVICE CENTRES

Located at 10 VU campuses, Student Service Centres provide access to a range of services for current and future students, including course information, enrolments, fee payments and general student administration. The centres feature computer terminals to access online services such as student email and the VU Internet.

www.vu.edu.au/future-students

HOUSING SERVICES

This service can help you with access to a rental database and rental information for the private market, or assist you to find affordable and safe accommodation.

www.vu.edu.au/housing

ADVICE AND COUNSELLING

Counselling services are available at most VU campuses. You can discuss any personal or relationship matter with a counsellor, and get help with study plans, time management and exam techniques.

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/advice-and-counselling/counselling-services

FINANCIAL ADVICE

We provide free and confidential support and assistance to help you develop practical skills to better manage your time and money including budgeting and financial planning.

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/advice-and-counselling/welfare-services

CHAPLAINCY

We invite you to be part of the Chaplaincy services at VU and we are pleased to meet people from every faith or no faith.

www.vu.edu.au/chaplaincy

CHILD CARE

We have four centres that provide care and education programs for children aged three months to six years. Students and staff of VU are given priority access to these centres, but numbers are very limited.

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/children-s-services

DISABILITY SERVICES

If you have a disability or medical condition we offer services and resources to support and help you complete your studies and participate in all aspects of university life. If you have a disability or medical condition that may affect your studies and participation in university life, register with Disability Services so we can help you.

disability@vu.edu.au

PRAYER ROOMS

VU embraces and celebrates the religious and spiritual diversity of our community. We recognise that some faiths require religious observance such as prayer or other ceremonial activities during hours that the university's programs are conducted. To support this, we provide religious and spiritual spaces for staff and students.

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/facilities/prayer-rooms

MUSLIM STUDENTS

VU has a large population of Muslim students. The university recognises that Muslim students have particular cultural and religious needs, and endeavours to make the transition as smooth as possible. VU International is pleased to have developed the 'The Muslim Guide to Living in Melbourne' and Muslim students are encouraged to read it to help you get the most out of your time and experience here at VU.

www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/international/pdfs/Muslim_Student_Guide.pdf

ALUMNI RELATIONS

VU welcomes current students and graduates into its alumni community. With more than 250,000 graduates, the VU alumni community is a great way to expand your networks and update your personal and professional skills.

www.vu.edu.au/alumni or email **alumni@vu.edu.au**

BOOKSHOP

You can buy a diverse range of products such as newspapers, textbooks, including second-hand, computer items, Metcards and phonecards.

www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/facilities/bookshop

USEFUL TIP

- Ask your own question in ASKVU or search the frequently asked question database at **www.askvu.edu.au**

WELCOME TO MELBOURNE



WELCOME TO MELBOURNE



WHERE TO MEET THE DRIVER IF YOU BOOKED AIRPORT RECEPTION

When you arrive, a VU representative will meet you in front of the Travellers Information Desk in the international arrivals hall at Melbourne Airport. The driver will be holding a 'Victoria University' sign.

If you arrive on a domestic flight, make your way to the international arrivals hall once you have collected your baggage. It is OK to ask for directions if you are not sure where to go.

IF YOUR FLIGHT IS DELAYED

If your flight is delayed, or you miss your connecting flight to Melbourne, or you are unable to find your driver, you can contact the company directly Harlan Coach Tours for help:

- During business hours between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday by phone:
+61 3 9354 5025
- Outside business hours you can contact the drivers directly by calling them on **+61 412 073 749** and if calling from within Australia, just dial **0412 073 749**

Do not panic if you are unable to contact Harlan Coach Tours. You can also contact Victoria University International on **03 9919 4953** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

USEFUL TIP

- If possible try to bring A\$10 in coins or buy a calling card in case you have to use a public telephone at the airport

CONTACT

VUI – Airport Reception Request form:
www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu/before-you-arrive/request-airport-reception

OTHER TRAVEL OPTIONS FROM THE AIRPORT

If you choose not to use the university reception service and wish to travel independently, you can catch a bus or taxi. Melbourne Airport is approximately 25km north-west of Melbourne's central business district (CBD). It usually takes about 20 minutes by car from the airport to Melbourne's CBD, but depending on the traffic conditions it may take longer.

BUS AND TAXI SERVICES

SKYBUS SUPER SHUTTLE

You can catch the Skybus between Melbourne Airport and Melbourne's CBD seven days a week, including public holidays. It takes around 20 minutes to travel between the airport and city.

You don't need to book as generally a Skybus departs every 10–15 minutes between 6.00am and 9.30pm, and half hourly or hourly at other times. All services are daily, including public holidays. The service leaves from two locations at Melbourne Airport, so from the International Arrivals terminal (T2) you need to walk to the bus stops:

- Terminal T1, serving Qantas Domestic, QantasLink and Jetstar Domestic
- Terminal T3, serving Virgin Domestic, Rex, and all international flights

The Skybus service will take you to the Southern Cross railway station in Spencer Street in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. From here you can catch other public transport (train or tram) to your final destination.

USEFUL TIP

- You can buy and print your Skybus ticket online before leaving home using a credit card.

PUBLIC BUSES

You can catch public buses from the terminal to various areas in Melbourne. You can find information on destinations and schedules from the information desks within the airport, or on the numbers listed on the website.

AIRPORT TAXIS

Taxis are available from the ground floor level of Melbourne Airport, outside the International Terminal and both domestic terminals.

It will cost you around A\$40 to A\$60 for a one-way trip between Melbourne Airport and the CBD, plus a A\$2 taxi parking fee paid by passengers leaving Melbourne Airport from a taxi rank.

ARRIVING AT AVALON AIRPORT

We presume that all of our arriving students will arrive at Melbourne Airport. However, some domestic airlines fly to and from Avalon Airport.

CONTACT

Melbourne Airport:

www.melbourneairport.com.au/

Skybus – Up-to-date departure times and fare information:

www.skybus.com.au

Avalon Airport:

www.avalonairport.com.au

Sunbus – Up-to-date departure times and fare information:

www.sitacoaches.com.au/avalon/



EXPLANATION OF TERMS

AQIS: The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service monitors visitors, the items they bring with them, and mail into Australia, to minimise the risk of pests and diseases entering Australia.

Assessment Levels 1 to 5: The passport you hold and the education sector of your principal course will determine the appropriate Assessment Level for your student visa application.

CAAW: *A Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare* is a letter provided to students under 18 whose welfare arrangements are approved by VU. The letter states the start and end dates for welfare arrangements approved of by VU and must be for a minimum period of CoE duration plus seven days. Students under 18 need to supply this letter when making their visa application.

CBD: The Central Business District of Melbourne, sometimes referred to as the centre of the city.

Course: A sequence of subjects/units which make up a degree, diploma or certificate.

CRICOS: The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students is an Australian Government register where every provider that seeks to recruit, enrol or teach overseas students, or to advertise their ability to do so, must be registered. CRICOS lists all providers registered to offer courses to people studying in Australia on student visas and the courses offered.

DIAC: The Department of Immigration and Citizenship issues and monitors student visas.

Diplomatic Mission: A general term for Australian embassies, high commissions, consulates, multilateral missions and representative offices around the world.

eCoE/CoE: This is the electronic Confirmation of Enrolment, or sometimes Confirmation of Enrolment, that is issued by VU once you have accepted the offer of a place. You need the eCoE to apply for your student visa.

EFTPOS: Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale is a buying mechanism where you can use either a debit or credit card, rather than using cash, for purchases of goods and services.

Education provider: An organisation that has been recognised by the Australian or State Government to provide education services within strict quality and accountability requirements.

Enrol: This is when you sign up for a subject. You need to enrol in each subject you study to make sure that it adds to your final degree requirements. If you change from one subject to another, you need to formally withdraw from the one you are leaving and formally enrol in the one you are starting.

Faculty: The whole teaching and administrative centre for your main area of study in the higher education sector.

HE: This stands for Higher Education and provides both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Guardian: This is the person(s) who is legally responsible for a student under 18 years old. They could be a parent, legal custodian, or a nominated relative who is of good character and over 21 years old.

ISS: International Student Support is part of Victoria University International. You can turn to the ISS team for assistance with your cultural and practical adjustment to the university and Australian environment.

Lecture: One of the main ways of teaching and learning at VU. Students are part of large classes that will have their lectures in a lecture theatre. If only a small number of students attend, the lectures might only be in a class room.

Lecturer: A regular member of the teaching staff who presents the subject material in a lecture. Sometimes the lecturer(s) will also take tutorials.

LOA: Leave of Absence is where you need to be absent from your studies for a period of time on account of personal illness or for compassionate or compelling reasons. You need to apply to VU for permission to be absent.

OSHC: Having Overseas Student Health Cover is a visa condition and VU requires that you have cover for the length of your visa. The university's preferred provider is OSHC Worldcare.

Plagiarism: A serious academic crime, considered to be stealing when you copy any ideas or text or restate the sense of the text without acknowledging the people who wrote it. You can include material from your reading, and not plagiarise, by referencing properly.

PVA: The Pre-Visa Assessment process is where you lodge your visa application with a copy of the Letter of Offer from VU. DIAC then completes a PVA and sends you a letter as to whether you are considered to be a 'genuine' student. You then send this letter to VU with the acceptance of place in order to obtain a Confirmation of Enrolment.

Recognition of prior learning: VU recognises that you gain knowledge from work and/or life experience as well as study and may therefore be granted credit transfer based on prior learning. This ensures that you do not have to repeat skills and knowledge already gained. This process is also known as Credit Transfer or Advanced Standing.

School-aged children: Children aged between 5 and 18 years of age. If you have brought your family with you to Australia, children of this age must be enrolled full time in an Australian school.

Semester: The name of one half of the academic teaching year, made up of 12 teaching weeks plus one week of exam study and three weeks of exams. It is divided into weeks (Week one, two, etc.) and has a mid-semester break in the middle.

STD: The charge for long-distance telephone calls made from within Australia. Although it stands for Subscriber Trunk Dialling, it is always referred to as STD charges.

Subject: A branch of knowledge you take as part of a larger course of study over one semester. Individual subjects are identified by a Subject Code and Subject Name. Also known as a unit of study.

Suburb: A district of Melbourne, or any large town or city, aside from the central or main business part of the city. A suburb has its own schools, shopping centres and public transport.

Unit of study: A term used for individual subjects. Each course is made up of a number of units of study.

TAFE: This stands for Technical and Further Education and provides vocational education and training relevant to a wide range of skilled occupations.

Tutor: A tutor is your teacher in a tutorial class. Some tutors are only employed for the sessions that they teach, so they may not always be contacted in person.

Tutorial: This is another way of teaching at university. Tutorials are small classes of instruction and involve the students in more interaction and discussion of the topic. There are usually several choices of time for tutorial classes and you only need to enrol in one tutorial session time when you enrol in the subject. Students are expected to contribute to the discussions, so you need to have done the required reading for the week.

VU: Victoria University.

VUI: Victoria University International.

Withdraw: When you discontinue a subject of study or your course, you need to officially withdraw from your faculty. There are special deadlines for when you can withdraw without having to pay the subject fee, or without having a 'fail' result recorded.

AUSTRALIAN SLANG

Coming to Australia includes many adjustments and one includes adjusting to the Australian accent, sayings and the use of slang that can be colourful, funny and a mystery to people not born here.

Adding to the complication is that Australians often shorten words and add the sound “o” and “e” to the end of words when they are shortened. So even though most people will be speaking English around you, it can often sound like a foreign language.

Ace! – Excellent!

Ankle biter – small child

Apples, she’ll be – It’ll be all right

Arvo – afternoon

Aussie (pron. Ozzie) – Australian

Aussie salute – brushing away flies with the hand

Back of Bourke – a

very long way away

Barbie or BBQ – barbecue (noun)

Big Smoke – a big city, especially Sydney or Melbourne

Bikkie – biscuit

Billabong – an oxbow lake cut off by a change in the watercourse.

Bloke – man, guy

Bloody – very (bloody hard yakka)

Bloody oath! – that’s certainly true

Blowie – blow fly

Bludger – lazy person,

Bog in – commence eating

Bonzer – great, ripper

Bottler – something excellent

Bush telly – campfire

BYO: refers to **Bring Your**

Own – often wine at a restaurant or food to an event

Cactus – dead, not functioning

Corker – something excellent.

Cozzie – swimming costume

Cranky – in a bad mood, angry

Crook – sick, or badly made

Cut lunch – sandwiches

Dag – a funny person,

Daks – trousers

Dinkum, fair dinkum – true, real, genuine

Dipstick – a loser, idiot

Down Under – Australia and New Zealand

Dunny – outside lavatory

Earbashing – nagging

Esky – insulated food/drink container for picnics, barbecues etc.

Fair dinkum – true, genuine

Fair go – a chance

Footy – Australian Rules football

Full – drunk

Furphy – false or unreliable rumour

G’Day – hello!

Galah – fool, silly person

Give it a burl – try it, have a go

Good onya – good for you, well done

Grouse (adj.) – great, terrific, very good

Heaps – a lot

Joey – baby kangaroo

Jug – electric kettle

Jumbuck – sheep

Knock – to criticise

Knock back – refusal

Larrikin – a person who is always enjoying himself, harmless prankster

So this list of slang is just a small introduction to some of the words you might hear, and don’t worry before long you can be speaking like a local, or at least understanding what is being spoken.

USEFUL TIP

- Australian Slang

www.koalanet.com.au/australian-slang.html

Lollies – sweets, candy

Matilda – swagman’s bedding

Moolah – money

Mozzie – mosquito

No drama – same as ‘no worries’

No worries! –

Expression of forgiveness or reassurance

Outback – interior of Australia

Oz – Australia! **Pash** – a long passionate kiss;

Postie – postman, mailman

Pozzy – position

Prezzy – present, gift

Quid, make a – earn a living

Rack off – push off! get lost!

Rapt – pleased, delighted

Ratbag – mild insult

Reckon! – you bet! Absolutely!

Rip snorter – great, fantastic - “it was a rip snorter of a party”

Ripper – great, fantastic

Rock up – to turn up

Roo – kangaroo

Salute, Aussie –

brushing flies away

Sanger – a sandwich

She’ll be right – it’ll turn out okay

Sheila – a woman

Shoot through – to leave

Shout – turn to buy - a round of drinks usually

Sickie – day off sick

Smoko – smoke or coffee break

Snag – a sausage

Spit the dummy – get very upset at something

Sprung – caught doing something wrong

Sunbake – sunbathe

Sunnies – sunglasses

Surfies – people who go surfing - usually more often than they go to work!

Swag – rolled up bedding etc. carried by a swagman

Swaggie – swagman

Tall poppies – successful people

Tea – supper

Tee-up – to set up

Thongs – cheap rubber backless sandals

Togs – swim suit

Too right! – definitely!

True blue – patriotic

Tucker – food

Ugg boots – Australian sheepskin boots

Uni – university

Vedgies – vegetables

Veg out – relax in front of the TV

Walkabout – a walk in the Outback by Aborigines that lasts for an indefinite amount of time

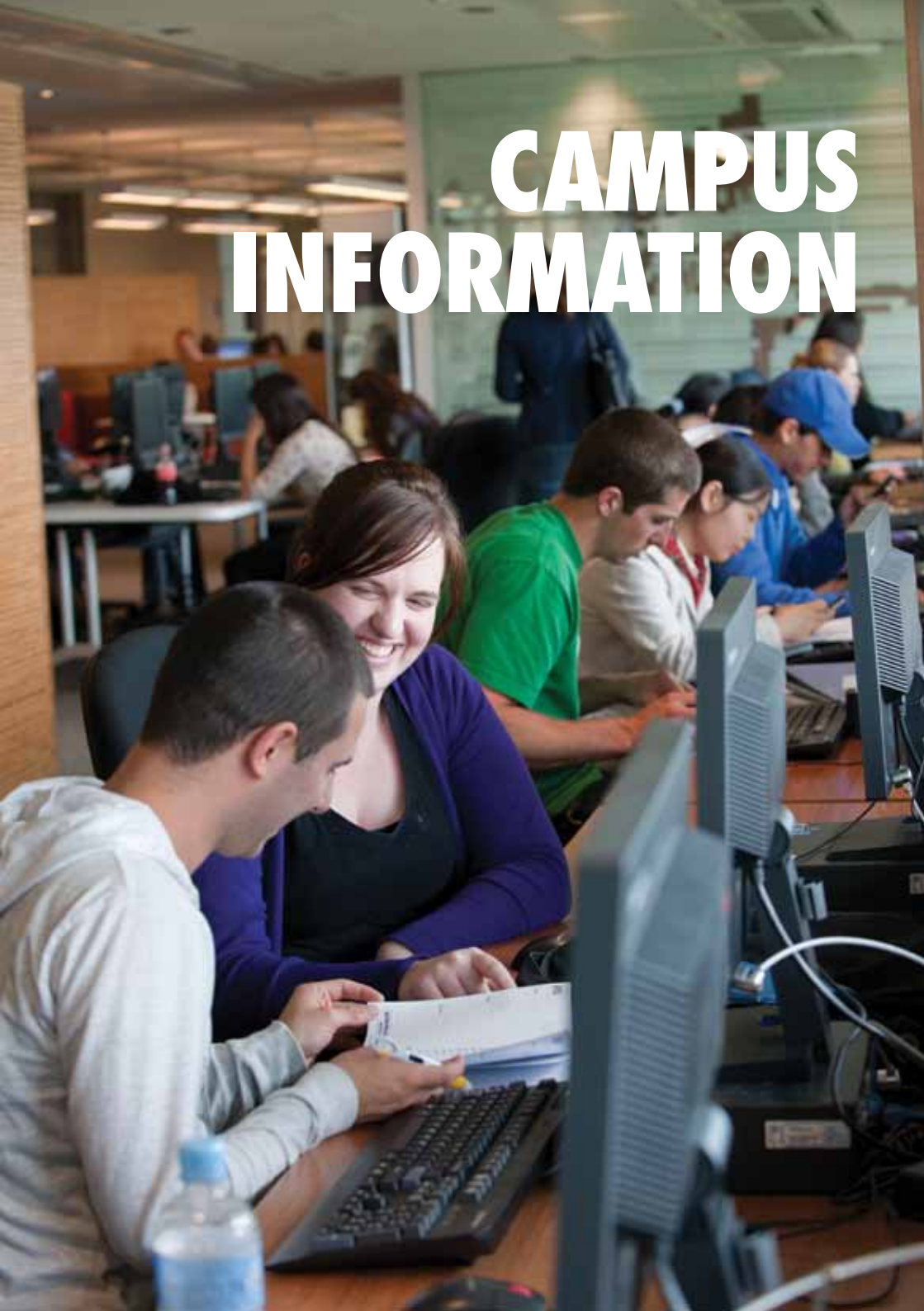
Walkabout, it’s gone – it’s lost, can’t be found

Whacker, whacka – idiot;

Whinge – complain

Yakka – work (noun)

CAMPUS INFORMATION



GETTING TO CAMPUS

Three of our campuses are located in Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD), putting you right at the heart of all Melbourne has to offer.

Four other campuses are within 10 kilometres of the CBD. All of our campuses are easily accessed by public transport. Students often comment that each VU campus has a unique atmosphere and culture. This adds another layer of diversity to your studies.

To learn more about your campus visit the appropriate campus websites below. Please note that the campus you study at will be dependent on campus/subjects you select. Options of getting to campus can be many but check out some of the options below;

CITY CAMPUSES

All city campuses can be reached by train and tram services. However, bus connections may be a great way to start you on your journey. Investigate what will meet your needs the best.

CITY FLINDERS

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/city-flinders

CITY FLINDERS LANE

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/city-flinders-lane

CITY KING

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/city-king

CITY QUEEN

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/city-queen

FOOTSCRAY NICHOLSON

Located just a five minute walk from the Footscray train station. Walk down Irving Street and left onto Nicholson Street where the campus is located. Buses 220, 223, 409, 411 & 412 all pass along Buckley Street outside the main campus.

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/footscray-nicholson

FOOTSCRAY PARK

A 10 minute walk from the Footscray train station. Walk down Irving Street, turn right onto Leeds Street and left onto Hopkins Street, then right onto Nicholson Street, which leads to Ballarat Road where the campus is located. The 406 bus runs along Ballarat Road past the main university entrance and continues on to the train station.

BUS ROUTES

- 402 – Footscray – East Melbourne (via North Melbourne)
- 404 – Footscray – Moonee Ponds (via Newmarket)
- 406 – Keilor East – Footscray (via Avondale Heights – Maribyrnong)
- 220 – Sunshine – City – Gardenvale (via Footscray Market, Victoria Market, , Southgate, The Shrine of Remembrance, Prahran Market, Chapel Street.
- 411 – Laverton Railway Station – Footscray via Altona Meadows, Altona Gate Shopping Centre (via Millers Road)
- 412 – Laverton – Footscray via Altona Meadows, Altona, Mills Street, Altona Gate Shopping Centre.
- 414 – Aircraft Railway Station – Footscray via Geelong Road
- 472 – Williamstown – Moonee Ponds (via Footscray)

TRAINS

Three train lines run through the City of Maribyrnong.

Sydenham line: Stopping at Footscray, Middle Footscray, West Footscray and Tottenham stations.

Williamstown line: Stopping at Footscray, Seddon and Yarraville stations.

Werribee line: Stopping at Footscray, Seddon and Yarraville stations.

TRAM ROUTES

57 – West Maribyrnong – City (Elizabeth Street/ Flinders Street), via Maribyrnong

82 – Moonee Ponds – Footscray, (via Ascot Vale and Maribyrnong)

NOTE: The 82 tram runs direct from the train station up Droop Street, dropping students at Tiernan Street – a five-minute walk from the university.

<http://www.vu.edu.au/campuses/footscray-park>

MELTON

Campus is located approximately five minutes' walk from Melton Station. Walk down Straughton Street and left onto Rees Road to the campus.

BUS ROUTES

456 – Sunshine – Melbourne (via Woodgrove Shopping Centre and Caroline Springs)

457 – Melton – Melton Railway Station (via Woodgrove Shopping Centre)

459 – Melton – Melton Railway Station (via Westlake, Brookfield, Woodgrove Shopping Centre)

TRAIN

Melton trains are on the Sydenham line. Change at Sunshine for Melton.

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/melton

NEWPORT

Campus is located approximately 1.5 minutes' walk from Newport Station. Walk down Market Street and left onto Champion Road to the campus.

BUS ROUTES

432 – Newport – Yarraville (via Altona Gate Shopping Centre).

471 – Williamstown – Sunshine (via Newport Railway Station and Altona Gate Shopping Centre)

415 – Laverton Altona – Williamstown – North Williamstown (via Altona) stops near Champion Road

472 – Williamstown – Moonee Ponds (via Footscray) stops near Newport Station.

TRAINS

Newport Station is located on the Werribee and Williamstown train line. For trains to Sydenham, change at Footscray.

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/newport

ST ALBANS

BUS ROUTES

408 – St Albans Railway Station – Highpoint City (via Sunshine)

418 – St Albans – Keilor Downs to Highpoint Shopping centre (via Sunshine Railway Station)

419 – St Albans – Watergardens Railway Station (via Taylors Lakes)

421 – St Albans – Watergardens Railway Station (via Keilor Downs Shopping Plaza)

422 – St Albans – Delahey (via Taylors Road)

423 – St Albans Railway Station – Brimbank Shopping Centre (via Furlong Road)

424 – St Albans Railway Station – Brimbank Shopping Centre (via Gillespie Road)

425 – St Albans – Watergardens Railway Station (via Delahey)

NOTE: All of these buses stop at St Albans Station.

TRAINS

St Albans is on the Sydenham train line.

St Albans campus is approximately 10 minutes' walk from the station down McKechnie Street. For connection to Melton, change at Sunshine. For Werribee, Williamstown and City trains change at Footscray Station.

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/st-albans

SUNSHINE

Campus is located 20 minutes' walk from Sunshine Station. Walk through Sunshine Shopping Plaza to Hampshire Street – leads directly to the campus.

BUS ROUTES

- 215 – Caroline Springs – Highpoint Shopping Centre (stops directly out the front of Sunshine campus)
- 219 – Sunshine Park – City – Gardenvale – Caroline Springs
- 220 – Sunshine – City – Gardenvale (stops directly out the front of Sunshine campus)
- 408 – St Albans – Highpoint Shopping Centre (via Sunshine)
- 410 – Sunshine – Footscray (via Ballarat Road)
- 451 – Sunshine – Deer Park North (via Ardeer)
- 454 – Sunshine – West Sunshine (via Glengala Road)
- 456 – Sunshine – Melton (via Woodgrove Shopping Centre and Caroline Springs)
- 471 – Williamstown – Sunshine (via Newport Railway Station and Altona Gate Shopping Centre)

NOTE: All buses stop at Sunshine Station.

TRAINS

Sunshine is located on the Sydenham and Melton train lines. For Werribee, Williamstown and City trains change at Footscray Station.

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/sunshine

WERRIBEE

Campus is located five minutes' walk from Hoppers Crossing Station. Walk directly down Hoppers Lane.

BUS ROUTES

- 413 – Laverton – Werribee Plaza (via Boardwalk Boulevard)

- 416 – Aircraft Railway Station – Hoppers Cross (via The Strand)
- 436 – Werribee – Hoppers Crossing (via Riverdene, Werribee Plaza, Morris Road)
- 437 – Werribee – Hoppers Crossing (via Werribee Plaza, Willmott Drive, Bellbridge Drive)
- 442 – Hoppers Crossing – The Grange (via Heaths Road, Werribee Plaza)
- 444 – Hoppers Crossing – Tarneit (via Werribee Plaza)
- 445 – Hoppers Crossing – Werribee (via Thames Boulevard, Werribee Plaza)
- 440 – Werribee – Hoppers Crossing (via Wyndham Vale, Heaths Road and Werribee Plaza)

NOTE: All buses stop at Hoppers Crossing Station.

www.vu.edu.au/campuses/werribee

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

CONTACT

Metlink – Public transport information:

www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Guide to Melbourne's public transport:

www.viclink.com.au

INDEX

A		
Academic Calendar	44	
Academic Terminology (see Explanation of Terms)	56-57	
Accommodation	14, 26-30	
Airport Reception (Booking)	13-54	
Anti-terrorism Laws	23	
Arriving	11, 54-55	
AusAID (see Support to Sponsored Students)	5	
Australian Customs Service	14-15	
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS)	14	
Australian Slang	58	
Australian Taxation Office (ATO)	23-24	
Avalon Airport	55	
B		
Baggage (see Excess Baggage)	13	
Banking/Banks	23	
Before Leaving Home Checklist	9	
Bicycles	36	
Booking Airport Reception (see Airport Reception)	13	
Booking Flights	13	
Bringing Your Family	17	
Budgeting	20	
Bus	35, 54, 55, 60-62	
C		
Calendar (see Academic Calendar)	44	
Calling Cards	40	
Campus Information	60-62	
Campus Safety	34	
Cell Phone (see Mobile Phone)	39-40	
Changing Your Course	48	
Checklists	8-12	
Climate and Clothes	12, 38	
Communication	39-41	
Cost of Living	21-22	
Course	44, 48-49	
Cultural Expectations	37-38	
Currency	20	
Customs (see Customs and Quarantine)	14-15	
D		
Deferring Your Course	48-49	
Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)	16-17, 21, 49, 56	
Driving	36	
E		
Electrical Goods	42	
Employment (see Working in Australia)	17	
Enrolment	45, 48	
Equality	38	
Excess Baggage	13	
Exchange	4	
Explanation of Terms	56-57	
F		
Family (see Bringing Your Family)	17	
Fees	24	
Flights (Booking)	13	
Food (see Shopping and Food)	33-34	

G

Getting to Campus 60-62

H

Hand Phone (see Mobile Phone) 39

Health Insurance (see Overseas Student Health Cover) 18

Homestay 28

Hotel 14

Housing (see Accommodation) 26-30

I

Important Dates 44

Important Documents to Bring Checklist 10

International Phone Calls and Calling Cards 40

International Student Support 4, 45, 50

Internet 41

J

Jobs (see Working in Australia) 17

K

Keeping in Touch 39-40

L

Leave of Absence 49

Life Balance (see Study/Life Balance) 46-47

Life in Melbourne 32-41

Luggage (see Excess Baggage) 13

M

Medical Cover (see Overseas Student Health Cover) 18

Medicines 12

Melbourne (see Life in Melbourne) 32-41

Melbourne Airport 54-55

Mobile Phones 39

Money (see Currency) 20

O

On Arrival Checklist 8-12

Orientation 45

OSHC Worldcare 18

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) 18

P

Packing Checklist (see What to Pack) 12

Permanent Accommodation (see Accommodation) 26-30

Personal Information 44

Postal Services 42

Pre-departure Checklist 8

Public Transport 35, 55, 60-62

Punctuality 38

Q

Quarantine (see Customs and Quarantine) 14

R

Reception (see Booking Airport Reception)	13
Rental market and prices (see Accommodation)	29

S

Safety	34
Scholarship Students	5
School-aged Children	57
Shopping and Food	33-34
Skybus Super Shuttle	55
Slang	58
Smoking	38
Social Behavior	37
Student Career Development (Part-Time Employment and Career Assistance Provided)	51
Student Housing Services	30
Support Services, Resources and Facilities at VU	50-52
Student Village (see Accommodation)	22, 27
Student Exchange	4
Student Visas	16
Study Abroad	4
Study life balance	46
Studying at VU	44-49
Sunbury Hall (see Accommodation)	23

T

Tax	24
Tax File Number	24
Taxi	35
Telephones	39-40
Temporary Accommodation	14
Time (see Punctuality)	38
Transport (see Finding Your Way)	35-38, 54-55
Transportation Options from the Airport	54-55
Travel Arrangements (see Booking Flights)	13
Tuition Fees	24
Tullamarine Airport (See Melbourne Airport)	55

U

Under 18 Years of age	16, 18
University Residences (see Accommodation)	22, 27-28

V

Victoria Abroad	4
Victoria Place (See Accommodation)	26-30
Victoria University	3
Victoria University International	3
Visas (see Student Visas)	16

W

What to Pack Checklist	10, 12
Working in Australia	17

WHERE ARE WE?

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA

200km

Melton

Sunbury

St Albans

Werribee

100km

Sunshine

Footscray Park

Footscray Nicholson

Newport



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Footscray Park Campus

Room 109, Building M
Ballarat Road, Footscray

Phone: +61 3 9919 4953

Email: iss@vu.edu.au

Fax: +61 3 9689 5670

www.vu.edu.au/international

City Flinders Campus

VU HQ (Arcade)
300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

Phone: +61 3 9919 1164

Email: iss@vu.edu.au

Fax: +61 3 9919 1466