



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

for International Students
Travelling to Australia



VERSION: OCTOBER 2026

BANNER IMAGE: COPILOT AI

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TRAVELLING TO AUSTRALIA

Pre-departure checklist:

- Valid [Student visa](#) (Immi grant letter – subclass 500) issued, with any conditions noted (to enter Australia)
- Valid Passport or other travel document (not expiring in the next 6 months):
 - Copies of your passport and visa stored safely and left with family
 - International driver's licence (if any)
- Flight booked to arrive before the start of term (at least a week before course commencement) – travel ticket, aircraft check-in, luggage declaration
- Travel and medical insurance arranged (OSHC)
- Learn about the [average living costs in Australia](#) (important part of your financial preparation)
- Bank alerted that you will be making transactions in Australia:
 - Alternatively, you may want to create an Australian bank account (for this you will require [a TFN number](#); upon arrival you will be required to confirm your contact details)
- Mobile phone service availability and charges (phone calls and mobile internet)
- Accommodation booked:
 - Arrange transport to your accommodation (be aware of outside of usual business hours in case you arrive late at night or early in the morning)
 - College notified of arrival details so someone can meet you at the airport (homestay students only – under 18 years old)
- Medical history and doctor's letter obtained (if any)
- All people arriving in Australia must complete the [Incoming Passenger Card](#) (IPC). You will get the card on board (you may want to read about it beforehand).
- Note the difference in time due to [Time Zones](#) and [public holidays](#)
- Possible emergencies while you are away from home:
 - Find the contact details of your [Foreign Embassy in Australia](#)
 - Read the health and [safety guide](#) for International students traveling to Australia
 - Read the The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) [Guide for Travellers](#)
- What will happen [at the Australian border](#)?

Luggage checklist (packing your bag):

- Luggage compliant with your airline's size and weight limits
- Hand luggage:
 - Passport, visa, travel ticket, address of your accommodation, a pen for the IPC, any prescription medication, list of emergency contacts, compact umbrella
 - If this is your first time travelling internationally, it's a good idea to pack a change of clothes, a toothbrush, toothpaste and a deodorant in your carry-on bag. These

items will help you freshen up during your journey or if your checked luggage is delayed or lost.

- Remember that liquids, aerosols and gels in your carry-on luggage must be in containers of **100 mL or less**. Pack them in a clear, resealable plastic bag if required by the airport security rules.
- Suitable clothing for Australia's seasonal climate: pack lightweight/casual items for summer, include layers and a medium-weight jacket for cooler winters in cities like Melbourne or Hobart
- Any standard uniform items (if any)
- Your gadgets, power bank and a travel adaptor that connects to Australian power points
- Medical history, doctor's letter and any regular medicine
- Copies of travel and medical insurance documents (OSHC)
- Some cash if you are not travelling with family (don't forget to check [exchange rates](#))
- A reminder of home, photos and favorite music
- No banned items or [prohibited goods](#)

Your first week in Australia:

- Set up your phone (get a local SIM card) and internet
- Finalise your [TFN application](#)
- Open an Australian bank account
- Set up your [Unique Student Identifier \(USI\)](#)
- Check your local public transport options (including timetable, ticketing and pricing):
 - Get a public transport card
 - If you are planning to ride a bicycle, [research the cycling rules](#) (like wearing a helmet)
 - The rules for driving with a foreign licence vary depending on which state or territory you live in. You can check the [licensing rules in your state or territory here](#).
- Inform your Home College of your new contact details and USI
- Get familiar with your campus and attend an Orientation session
- Apply for the University of Divinity Student ID (for that, speak with your Registrar)
- Find a local hospital and health care clinic that accepts your OSHC, so that you know where to go in case of emergency
- Don't forget about the reusable water bottle and stationery items for studying (notebooks, pens and pencils, bag)