



Harbour College

Where Seekers Become Achievers

RTO CODE: 41338 | CRICOS PROVIDER CODE: 03449J



Pre-Departure Guide

Welcome pack for academic and social life in Australia



Travelling to Australia

THINGS YOU SHOULD REALLY KNOW FROM THE START

PASSPORT

Your passport must be valid for at least another 6 months at the time of arrival into Australia.

VISA

You are required to have a student visa to study full-time. Make sure you have a valid visa when entering Australia and obey your visa conditions during your studies. Have a hard copy of your visa in case required by airlines and customs inspections.

COE

You will need your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) including Letter of Offer and the receipts of your tuition payments.

PLANE TICKET

Book your tickets, so you arrive a few days before Orientation Week. This way you can fight the jetlag and adjust to the climate and new surroundings.

OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is a requirement for entry to Australia, so make sure you have your health cover policy arranged before you leave home. The policy must cover the full length of your visa duration. Once you arrive in Australia, make sure you update your insurance provider with your details in Australia to validate the cover. AHIC's preferred OSHC provider is **BUPA**.

BORDER CONTROL

When entering Australia, you must declare all goods which are subject to the restrictions imposed by the Department of Immigration and Border

Protection. For a full list visit the **Home Affairs website**.

IMMIGRATION CARD

You will need to fill this out before entering the country of Australia. You will receive this card at the end of your flight, and it is wise to fill it out whilst on board before you disembark. Please fill this card out carefully and accurately, and you will be asked to give it to an immigration official who will direct you from there.

OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

You should also have electronic copies and certified copies of your previous academic transcripts and certificates ready in case further academic approval is required.

PHONES

SIM cards can be purchased at the airport without a lock-in contract. Please see page 3 for more information.

STUDENT GUIDE

A free international student guide can be found at insiderguides.com.au

TRANSPORT WITHIN SYDNEY

You will need an **OPAL card** (public transport smart card) to travel via public

transport within Sydney. These can also be purchased at the airport.

ATMS/ CASH

Automated teller machine (ATMs) are located throughout the terminals if you wish to withdraw cash (Australian dollars). You will also find currency exchange companies at the airport.

TRANSPORT OPTIONS FROM THE AIRPORT

- **Airport pick-up:** For your first time arriving as an international student of Harbour College, we offer an **airport pickup service** to new students for nominal cost. Please submit the form at least 5 working days before arrival.
- **Taxi:** You can access taxis when you arrive at the airport. You'll find taxi ranks at the front of all terminals – simply follow the signs to the nearest taxi ranks.
- **Train:** Sydney Airport is located just 13 minutes by train from the city. **Airport Link** offers a fast and convenient way to reach the city and suburbs, with trains running approximately every 10 minutes. You will need an Opal card to use this service.



Life on the cheap

LIVING COSTS

Estimated minimum living cost AUD 21040 annually*

Rent: AUD165-AUD 570 per week

Meal: average lunch AUD16 Transport: average AUD 50 per week

*For a full list visit the [Home Affairs website](#)

FOOD SHOPPING

- Shopping at the end of the day allows you to pick up bargains.
- Use reward cards and check the unit prices to save some money.
- Take advantage of a freezer by freezing meat you bought on sale, buying frozen vegetables and freezing left-over bread.

HEADING OUT

- Midweek is a prime time for student discounts such as cheap movie tickets and pub meal specials.



Accommodation in Sydney

There are accommodation providers on or around the campus

RENTING PRIVATELY – HOW TO RENT A PROPERTY

- Inspect the property
- Upon decision, you will need to hand in the following documents:
 - References
 - Bank account details with funds
 - Copy of passport
 - Copy of driver licence
- If your application has been successful, you will have to put down a bond (usually 2 – 4 weeks of rent)
- Fill out a condition report, photograph and mark existing damage on the report
- Carefully read the contract. Make and keep a copy of contract. Learn who is responsible for utilities
- Pay attention to details, eg length of lease etc.
- Useful websites :
 - [flatmates.com.au](#)
 - [gumtree.com.au](#)
 - [realestate.com.au](#)
 - [domain.com.au](#)



Internet and WiFi

PRIVATE

Below are the popular network providers in Australia: Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, Virgin, Lycamobile

ON CAMPUS

You will be able to access AHIC's wireless network for free while on campus, using your ID and password. It allows multiple devices to be logged in using the same ID details.

MOBILE PHONES PREPAID VS PLAN SIM CARDS

Make sure your mobile phone isn't locked to your current provider and unlocked for international use. Simply ask your local provider for details. If your phone is unlocked, you can choose either a prepaid or plan option from one of the 3 major telecom providers: Telstra, Optus and Vodafone Australia.

[telstra.com.au](#)

[optus.com.au](#)

[vodafone.com.au](#)

BANKING IN AUSTRALIA

There are four major banks in Australia: NAB, ANZ, Westpac and The Commonwealth Bank of Australia

SETTING UP AN ACCOUNT

You will need to provide the bank of your choice with photo ID, proof of enrolment and proof of Australian address (eg lease agreement). You can set-up an Australian bank account while you are still offshore.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

Electronic payment (bank cards, credit cards etc) and cash* are both widely accepted by businesses in Australia. *AUD 10,000 cash or more needs to be declared to the Australian customs.

TRANSFERRING FUNDS

Making a transaction is easy. Simply ensure you have all the required codes and the correct account numbers.

INTERNET BANKING

Monitor and manage your funds regardless of your location. All 4 banks offer apps through which you can manage your banking too.

What should I pack ?

Australia's climate is variable and has four seasons. These seasons are:

Autumn (March to May)

Autumn is mild to cool. You can expect an average temperature range of 11–20 degrees Celsius with between 10–13 hours of daylight.

Bring: light jumpers, jeans, waterproof shoes and jackets, plus an umbrella.

Winter (June to August)

Winter is usually cold and relatively wet with a day temperature range averaging 6–18 degrees Celsius and approximately 10 hours of daylight. At night, the temperature can drop to near zero degrees in certain areas. Of all the cities, Melbourne and Canberra are likely to be coldest.

Bring: warm jumpers, thick waterproof coats, scarves, gloves, jeans/warm trousers, warm waterproof shoes, and an umbrella.

Spring (September to November)

Spring is mild and usually wet. The average temperature range is 10–22 degrees Celsius with 12–14 hours of daylight. This is usually the wettest season of the year.

Bring: light jumpers, t-shirts, light casual trousers and jeans, water proof shoes and jacket.

Summer (December to February)

Summer is the hottest season. The average temperature range is 14–30 degrees Celsius with 14–15 hours of daylight. However, the temperature can get above 35 or 40 degrees from time to time, especially in February.

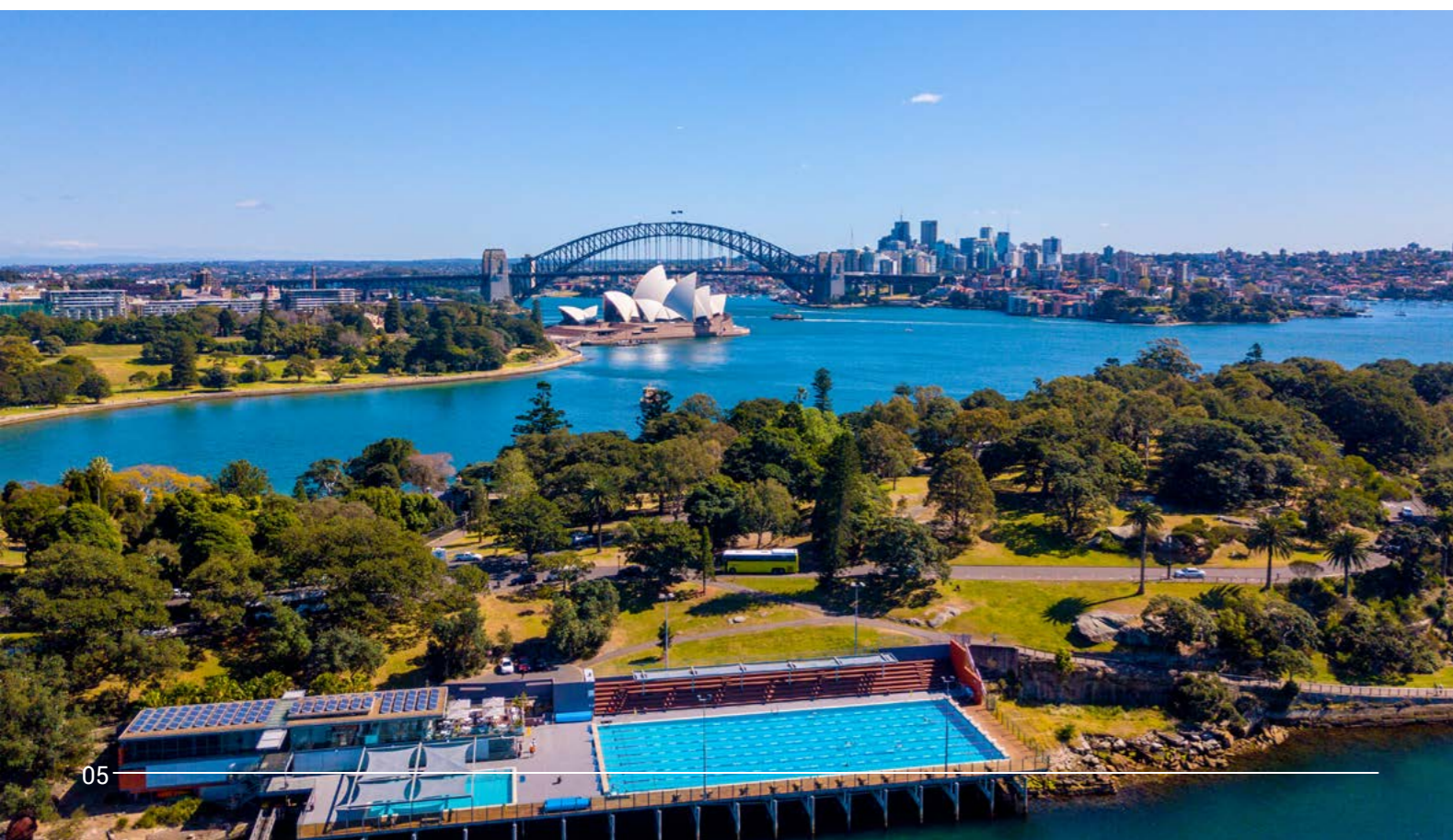
Bring: light summer shirts and jumpers, shorts, light casual trousers, sandals and water proof shoes. Wear sunscreen with Sun Protector Factor (SPF) 30+ for protection against UV rays and skin cancer. The Australian sun is very harsh and you can burn quickly (even on a cloudy day). It is really important that you cover up and wear sunscreen.



Intake Dates

YEAR 2020*					
Term	Start Date	Mid Term	End Date	Term Break	Credentials Release
1st	Jan 20	Feb 24	Mar 16	4 Weeks	Apr 18
Holiday	Mar 23 - Apr 13			4 Weeks	
2nd	Apr 20	May 25	Jun 21	3 Weeks	Jul 25
Holiday	Jun 22 - Jul 12			3 Weeks	
3rd	Jul 13	Aug 17	Sep 13	4 Weeks	Oct 17
Holiday	Sep 14 - Oct 11			4 Weeks	
4th	Oct 12	Nov 16	Dec 13	5 Weeks	Jan 22
Holiday	Dec 14 - Jan 17			5 Weeks	

*The dates mentioned are subject to change. Please visit www.ahic.edu.au for updates



Orientation

REGISTRATION PROCESS

The registration process lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes, where the students are asked to fill-out forms and are registered officially in the Student Database Management System.

The registration process consists of the following:

- Filling-out a Student Declaration Form.
- Registration for Unique Student Identifier (USI), if the student doesn't have one already.
- Photo taken for Student ID card.
- Timetable and Units of Competency allocation.
- Computer and Learning Resource Management (LRM)/Moodle access.

MAIN ORIENTATION

We assign a certain day for Main Orientation a week before the beginning of the Term. There is a total of 4 main term and 4 mid-term orientations every year. Students will receive an email about the details of the orientation event a week before the event.

During the orientation process, which lasts for about 2-3 hours, students are provided the following information:

- Australian Harbour International College Policies and Procedures.
- Australian Culture and Lifestyle.
- Student Life and Academic Expectations.

Understand your visa

COURSE DURATION, STUDY LOAD AND PROGRESSION

You are required to complete your course within a set period of time indicated on your eCoE. This means you must be enrolled for a full time study load unless you have special permission, and you must maintain a 'minimum rate of progress' = 50% pass of units.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CONTACT DETAILS

Always update your details with the Student Support Department.

PART-TIME JOB

While on a student visa, you can work up to 40 hours a fortnight during the session and unlimited hours during session break.

More information on visa conditions can be found online and/or you can contact our Student Advocacy & Support Team on-campus. homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud

WORKING IN AUSTRALIA TFN (TAX FILE NUMBER)

Getting a TFN is very important. This ensures you get taxed at the correct rate for the amount of work you're doing. You can have more information here.

JOB BOARDS ON EXTERNAL SITES

- Recruitment Agencies (you don't pay a fee)
- Newspapers (local and national)
- Professional Associations
- Personal contact
- Visit one of the following websites to find jobs online:
 - seek.com.au
 - au.indeed.com
 - spotjobs.com.au

– au.jora.com

Career and Employment Service

SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Resume writing, interview skills, online applications, etc.

E: dipesh@ahic.edu.au

Getting work experience

BOOST YOUR EMPLOYABILITY FROM DAY 1

Be aware that Australia has laws guaranteeing basic workplace rights, including minimum pay.

VOLUNTEERING AND INTERNSHIPS

These are also a great way to gain experience. You will be able to develop soft skills, improve on your communication skills and integrate more with your new community. Your internship may also lead to employment with the organization after you graduate.

Health and Fitness

HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

Don't forget to take care of your body. A healthy body, nutritious diet and active lifestyle help a lot in making yourself productive and alert as a student.



Safety in Australia

Australia is generally a safe place to live and study. However, crime does occur, so it is important to take basic precautions in order to stay safe.

SAFETY TIPS

- If you go out at night, don't walk alone. Take a friend with you, or arrange to catch public transport or take a taxi.
- Never accept a ride from a stranger. Hitchhiking in Australia is illegal, and has been known to be very dangerous.
- If you're at a bar or club, never accept a drink from someone you don't know. Keep your drink in your hand at all times to avoid the likelihood it will be spiked.
- Monitor your alcohol intake. Drinking too much in unfamiliar surroundings can make you an easy target.
- Don't feel pressured to engage in conversation with someone who is drunk or aggressive. Avoid eye contact and remove yourself from the situation.
- Try to withdraw money from the bank during daylight hours. Keep minimal money in your wallet or pockets and never write your PIN number down.
- Look both ways before you cross the road. Australians drive on the left hand side of the road, which can be confusing for many international students.
- Take your headphones out when walking alone at night, and when

crossing the street, so that you can hear what's happening around you.

- Never leave your laptop unattended in a public space. Keep your phone and wallet safely stored in your bag, and keep laptops and tablets within arm's reach.
- Be vigilant when using your mobile phone. If your phone is stolen, call your provider to immobilise it.
- Never give your personal information, particularly your financial information to someone you don't know.
- Many burglaries happen when a door or window has been left open. Always lock up whenever you go out.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Be aware when using public transport at night and try to travel in groups rather than alone.
- Avoid sitting with your back to everyone on the train or tram.
- Keep expensive mobile telephones and other valuable items out of sight on the street. These can be stolen.
- Try to keep to areas/streets that are well lit.
- It is very unlikely that you'll ever feel threatened, but if you do, shout and scream. This will often deter an attacker. It's wise, not rude to avoid conversation or make eye contact with anyone behaving in an antisocial

manner.

ROAD SAFETY

Remember in Australia we drive on the left side of the road. Always look left and right when crossing the road and use pedestrian crossings where possible.

BEACH SAFETY

At the beach make sure you swim at lifeguard patrolled beaches and that you swim between the red and yellow flags, the Australian ocean can be dangerous to those not used to it. Check out this beachsafe website for more information about staying safe at Aussie beaches.

FIRE SAFETY

The fire services recommend this simple safety checklist to assist in keeping your home fire-safe:

- Installing an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms and testing them regularly is the first step in your home fire safety plan
- Have a written escape plan in case of fire and practise it regularly
- Make sure keys to all locked doors are readily accessible in case you need to escape
- Never leave cooking or any other open flame including candles or oil burners unattended
- Clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer each and every time you use it
- Never smoke in bed and take extra

care if consuming alcohol whilst smoking

- In winter take extra care when using heaters, electric blankets or open fires
- Don't overload power points and switch off appliances when not in use
- Always keep lighters and matches away from children and educate them that they are "tools not toys" to only be used by responsible adults. If you have a garage or shed remember to take extra care with any stored chemicals and fuels
- If you have a gas, electric or wood BBQ always check that it is in safe working order before lighting and that it is always in the care of a responsible adult when in use
- If you live in a bushfire prone area keep the ground around your home clear of leaves and other litter and remember to clean your gutters regularly.

SAFETY APPS

- Safezone app
- Get Home Safe app
- Glympse
- Emergency Plus app

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The emergency number for police, fire or ambulance is Triple Zero (000). This number is free to call from any phone.

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform Health Insurance office with your Sydney address
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Passport that has at least 6 months validity and a visa
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal documents such as Driver's licence/National ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	A laptop
<input type="checkbox"/>	A mobile phone/Viber/Skype/WhatsApp, charger and an Australian power adapter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash (Australian Dollar) for emergency and shopping
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medication (prescription is a must), if required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clothing
<input type="checkbox"/>	CoE (Confirmation of Enrolment) and class time table
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pack your own bags
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pick up on arrival and accommodation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plenty of enthusiasm and excitement



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FOLLOW US, SHARE WITH US AND ALWAYS STAY UP-TO-DATE

 AHICedu

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FOR MORE DETAILS

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