

AUSTRALIA

Language: English

Time difference: Varies between E.S.T. + 13 Hours to E.S.T. 15 hours, depending on the region.

Currency: Australian Dollar: A\$

Academic Year: February to December

Student Visa: *In mid-2016*, Australia's Student Visa requirements will be streamlined, making the application process less complicated. Until then, students must meet certain requirements to obtain a Student visa, starting with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Students must first prove they are a *Genuine Temporary Student* (GTE). This can be done through the Australian consulate or the embassy. You will then be required to fill out forms, declaring the type of temporary visa you will need. This is where it might get complicated and a visit to the *DIAC website* will help you find the right visa. You will also need a letter from the Commonwealth, stating your coursework and area of study.



Socially Speaking:

Everyone knows Aussies love a great party! So, whether the sun is up or the sun has set, the casino and bar scenes are always in full swing. Let's start with casinos... they love their games in Australia, especially the one named "Pokey." Of course they also have blackjack, roulette and other casino favorites. Place your bets and best of luck! If you'd rather hit the hotspots, the nightclub bar culture from The Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney offer some of the best clubs, deejays and pubs around. There's plenty of dancing and the fun lasts well into the night. Don't forget about Brisbane, Darwin or Perth... they have plenty to offer in the fast lane too. As for the Outback, there's a different kind of nightlife than the one offered in the city. It's more laid-back and relaxed with plenty of locals ready and willing to tell their stories. Might make for an interesting night, eh?

Theater Arts:

Whether you're hooked on the arts, dance, music or theater, Australia has a brilliant repertoire of performing arts venues. Starting in Sydney at the Sydney Opera House hosting some of the most famous names in theater music and art. The ballet, the symphony, Shakespearean Theater and tours of the famous Opera House are just some of the many offerings available...and that's just in Sydney. Explore more of the arts throughout Australia and be prepared for the best theater has to offer.

Looking for a Boarding School?

Australian Boarding School Association

PO Box 5569

BRENDALE DC

Queensland 4500

Australia

Tel: +61 7 3205 4940

E-Mail: absa@boarding.org.au

<http://www.boarding.org.au>

Can You Work on a Student Visa?

Many countries will not allow their students to work while studying abroad. Luckily that isn't the case in Australia. Students with a valid visa, are permitted to work for up to 20 hours per week while the school is

in session. When school is out of session during a recognized school vacation, there is no limit to the amount of work hours permitted.

1. **Department of Immigration and Border Protection:**
<http://www.border.gov.au>
2. **Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)**
<http://cricos.education.gov.au>

G'day Mate!

Your applications have been accepted and now you're on your way to study abroad, Down Under, in Australia! From the beaches of Victoria's Island to the Pacific Coast Touring Route, you'll discover coral reefs, fishing towns and national parks you never knew existed.

Surfs Up! And That's Just the Beginning of the Adven-cha'!

With a vast country, roughly the size of the United States, Australia boasts plenty of adventure and opportunity. There's always something going on, from one coast to another. Let's start with *the Gold Coast*, which offers some of the best surfing in the world and hosts many of the well-known competitions. If hiking is more your speed, venture out to the *Blue Mountains* for waterfalls, bushwalks or a longer hike to *Katoomba*. You can even hike underground and look around *Jenolan Caves*. Stop by local restaurants and do a little shopping or visit a retreat, while you're there. Is the *Australian Outback* calling your name? Or would you like to learn more about the *Aboriginal* culture? No matter what interests you, Australia is sure to have what you're looking for, during your international study abroad experience!

Aussie Culture

Australia has a rich culture, founded on the stories of brave soldiers, heroes, migrants, battlers and bushrangers. Australians love the great outdoors and defines itself by its vibrant mix of cultures, a thriving arts scene and of, course its Aboriginal heritage is of great importance to the Australian people.

Friendly People to Meet and Greet!

The Aussie's are some of the friendliest people in the world and are almost always ready to help, so don't hesitate to ask. Lost? Ask for directions! Australia has been listed as one of the top places in the world on the "friendly scale." If it's the social and travel aspect you're looking for off-campus, there are plenty of ways to meet people. Maybe you're interested in backpacking...then grab some friends and set off on one of the many trails Australia has to offer! On the way, you'll meet people - both locals and travelers, interested in meeting others just like you. There are also a few sites out there if you're in need of someplace to stay. Aussies are great hosts and love having visitors. Try <https://www.couchsurfing.com> and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Australia Fun Facts! Did you know:

1. The first Australian police force was made up mostly of well-behaved convicts?
2. Was one of the founding members of the United Nations?
3. It would take 27 years to visit all of Australia's beaches, if you visited one beach daily?
4. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure?
5. There's more snow in the Australian Alps than in Switzerland?
6. 70 tourists overstay their visas every week?
7. Australia is very multi-cultural, with a population of people from over 200 countries living there. Did you know over 25% of the people living there, were born in another country?
8. Over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 Indigenous languages. Aside from English, the most common languages spoken are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin?

No worries... you do now!

