

Guide to Preparing for Life in Australia

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she/her

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Arts + Social Sciences › Psychology

Study Abroad › Exchange

the end of June.

Although their healthcare is free, you do have to pay a \$20 fee if you go to the doctor each time you go.

If you are tight with money but want to travel, I recommend looking ahead of time and trying to (ng4Bi)(ng4Biou

within 5 months while your bank account is crying. It is also easy to take the train to other cities as it is often cheaper.

Previous Experience

I have never been to Australia before so this was a whole new ballpark, and I was worried about the bugs and snakes before going, but there was nothing to be scared of.

Financial Preparation

Before leaving for Australia try to apply for as many scholarships, nurseries and grants you can find. SFU provides quite a lot of options and so does the government of Canada.

When it comes to credit cards or having a bank account, you are totally fine with using your Canadian card (TD/ RBC visa/mastercard etc) unless you are going to have a job there. As well, when you have a group of friends and you need to pay someone back, the Canadian e-transfer system is not the same, so the best bet is to set up an app like PayPal or one that the rest of your peers are using.

Travel and Transportation

When looking at flights I would suggest booking a round trip ticket and basing the return date on the last day of your stay. It is often cheaper to book a round trip ticket than a one-way ticket. Also, if you are going to be in Australia for a long time, it is worth considering a multi-city ticket. This allows you to visit multiple cities in Australia and return to your starting point. This can be a great option if you are interested in seeing different parts of the country.

will pay for your travel expenses.

Importantly, make sure you have enough money to cover your travel expenses. This includes transportation, accommodation, food, and other necessities. It is also a good idea to have a contingency fund in case of emergencies.

oughly, you should have enough money to cover your travel expenses for the duration of your trip.

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I will be responsible for my own travel expenses.

in the event of an emergency, you should have a contingency fund.

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Accommodation and Living

My accommodation was called Student Village North Ryde, which was previously known as Macquarie University Village but changed during my stay there. It was a great option because it allowed me the most freedom and was right across from campus. This is where I met most of my exchange friends because everyone lived so close to one another. The village would host a bunch of movie nights, barbeques, and other small events for you to meet people not only at the beginning of term but throughout. When you go on the host university website you will be given a list of a lot of different accommodations which include or don't include a meal plan and are varying distances from campus with different room sizes and the number of roommates. The good thing about where I stayed was that I could cook what I wanted to and when I wanted to, I had a living room area and a decent size room with a private bathroom which was necessary for me. But I did have to buy my own plates, pans, silverware, cups, bedding, fan etc. I would try to get accepted into a Facebook page before you go and see if anyone is giving away their stuff so you don't have to buy it. Something to keep in mind is that the university is roughly an hour away from the city or beaches by transit so if you want to move closer you would have to look into separate living accommodations which will be more expensive.

Learning and Adaptation

You will find that the majority of the classes you take, unless it is a language course, will consist of 2-3 assignments that will make up your entire grade. There are pros and cons to this. A pro is that you are not stressed every week and aren't trying to cram to hand things in, but a con is that when you do need to hand something in you cannot slack off. Lucky enough for us we only need to pass our classes and take the credits since GPA is not transferred or applied to courses at SFU. A lot of class formatting will be one-hour lectures and one-hour tutorials throughout the week, the lectures are not mandatory but the majority of the tutorials are. Any exams or assignments will not be on the day you have classes, so do not feel intimidated if you have multiple lectures the same day in fear of potentially having multiple tests or quizzes. They provide a mix of online and in-person lectures, as well with tutorials so class size varies. The grading system is not numeric but goes by HD- high distinction, D- distinction, and so on.

Accomplishments and Challenges

One of the challenges was making friends from my classes. Macquarie is a commuter school just like SFU so most of the time people leave right away, don't show up regularly for lectures and live a decent drive away making it hard to make plans and build a relationship. For this main reason, I would suggest staying in a university housing community and joining on-campus clubs or sporting activities. Another challenge was budgeting because once you get there you will automatically be spending more money in the beginning then towards the end, because you don't know the prices, you will need to buy things to settle in, you'll want to explore Sydney and the food it will have to offer, etc. Once you get the hang of how much your phone bill is monthly, along with groceries you might buy or the cost of eating out, gym membership or planning trips, it will get easier.

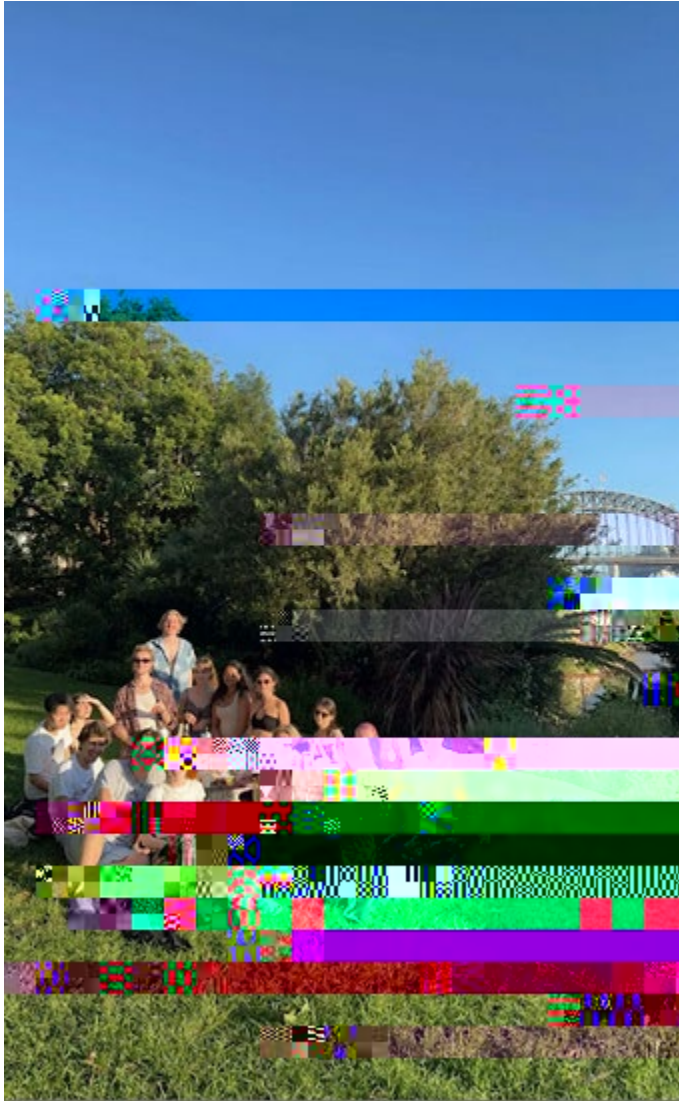
The accomplishments I have are the trip itself and the friends I made. Traveling across the world



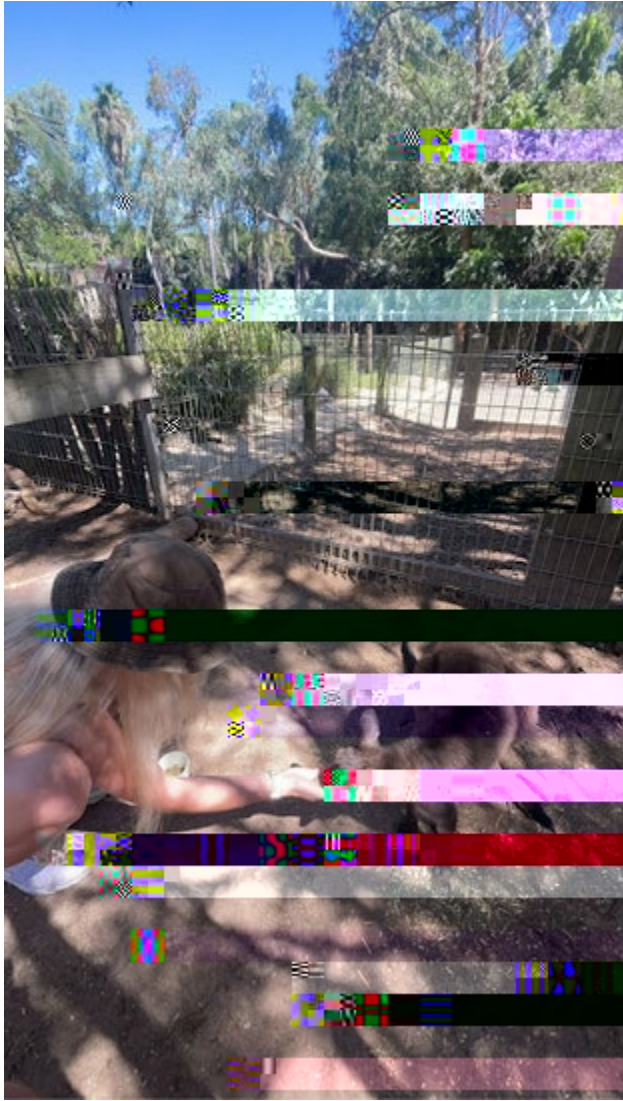
Darling Harbour



Shelly Beach



Picnic at Milsons Point



Wildlife zoo