So what's the point of studying in Australia?
Going to college is often a huge adjustment for lots of students. Now, imagine studying in a foreign country. Things can seem a little overwhelming at first. That's why we have created this manual. Think of it as your crash course to living in Australia. Our goal is to provide you with the information needed to understand the cultural aspects of Australia, learn specific ways Americans can interact with Australians to build successful relationships, and familiarize yourself with information needed for everyday life. Last, but certainly not least, we want you to make a smooth transition and feel at home in your new environment. So here's to new places, new friends, new experiences, and lasting memories!

A Brief History of Australia
Anthropologists believe that Australia was first inhabited by the Aborigines about 40,000 years ago. They believe that the Aborigines migrated there from Southeast Asia during a time of low sea levels, thus making land and sea travel more feasible. However, Aboriginal folklore claims they have always been there. In any case, the fact that the Aborigines were the first to inhabit Australia is not debated. The Aborigines were mainly hunter-gatherers who worked without the use of domesticated animals. They made great strides in creating "firestick farming," using dams, and spreading seeds over large amounts of land. The Aboriginal people have had a very intimate knowledge of their land and researchers have found ancient ruins of stone villages. They have developed many techniques that made them very successful in farming land that would otherwise be unsuitable for any type of cultivation.

The first European settlement was founded in 1788 by British convicts at Botany Bay. During the first century of white settlement there was a dramatic decrease in the Aboriginal population throughout the country. This decline was mainly due to diseases, social and cultural disruptions, brutal mistreatment, and reprisals for acts of organized resistance. Eventually, the British colonies grew, and in 1901 the colonies came together to form an independent nation.

Today 94% of Australia's population is of European descent. These people are mostly of British and Irish heritage. Other people of European descent accounts for 18% of the population and Asians make up 5%. Only 1.5% of Australia's current population is of Aboriginal origin.
**Official Name:** Commonwealth of Australia  
**Capital:** Canberra  
**Anthem:** "Advance Australia Fair"

### Population Breakdowns
Urban/Rural: 85% Urban, 15% Rural  
(1995 estimate)

### Largest cities:
- Sydney: 3,538,749  
- Melbourne: 3,022,439  
- Brisbane: 1,334,017  
- Perth: 1,143,265

### Religious Breakdown
- 26% Roman Catholic  
- 24% Anglican  
- 20% Protestant  
- 4% Eastern Orthodox  
- 26% Other

### Government
**Form:** Federal Parliamentary Democracy  
**Head of State:** Governor-general, representing the British monarch (appointed by the monarch in consultation with the prime minister)  
**Head of Government:** Prime minister  
**Legislature:** Bicameral legislature, with 148 members of the House of Representatives and 76 members of the Senate.

### Economy
**GDP:** 289.4 billion (1993 estimate)  
**Currency:** Australian dollar (A$)  
**Exchange rate:** AUD $1.76 = US $1.00 or US $0.57 = AUD $1.00 (December 2002)

### Climate
Varies from region to region: tropical in the north and temperate in the south.  
In Melbourne: Mild/Humid (no dry season)  
June/July coldest average: 50 F (10 C)  
Jan/Feb warmest average: 67 F (19 C)  
*Rain in winter months  
*Hot dry winds from the interior can cause temperatures to suddenly rise and bushfires to result
Deakin University is one of Australia's largest universities with more than 60,000 students, and is ranked in the top band of Australian universities, with a 5-star rating from the Graduate Careers Council of Australia. It also won the 1995 "Australia University of the Year" Award for its innovative use of information technology. Deakin has six campuses in the state of Victoria, Australia. They are located in the cities of Melbourne, Geelong and Warrnambool. For a guided tour of Deakin online, see www.deakin.edu.au/tour. Victoria is known for its spectacular coastline and its beautiful mountain areas and ski fields. Melbourne is Australia's second-largest city, with a population of 3.5 million people.

Here is some general information to help to get familiar with the school and each of the campuses. All three campuses have 24 hour security that can be contacted by phone. They also provide a chaperone service for students who want someone to accompany them around campus after dark.

**Melbourne**

Melbourne is home to more than three and a half million people. The most cosmopolitan Australian cities, Melbourne leads the way in arts and culture, entertainment, culinary experience, sporting spectacles, shopping and business. Melbourne is truly multi-cultural; more than 170 languages are spoken and the diversity of restaurants is second to none. The city also hosts large theatrical spectacles, major international festivals in the arts and entertainers from around the world.

**There are three Melbourne campuses; Burwood, Rusden and Toorak**

The **Burwood Campus** has modern teaching buildings including the new well-equipped library and nursing buildings. A $25 million major redevelopment project began in 1995 and involved the construction of new multi-level buildings, set around a large courtyard at the centre of the campus. Set on Gardiners Creek, it has walking tracks, a theatre, gymnasium, and tennis courts. Accommodation on the Burwood Campus has increased from 60 to 260, due to the recent development of a new residential facility in 1999. "The academics and other staff are very friendly and helpful... The Burwood campus is in close proximity to Melbourne (and) the library has an excellent inter-library facility." S.M. Fakruddin (Bangladesh) Postgraduate Masters in Education by Research.
The Rusden Campus offers a range of facilities, including laboratories for biology, chemistry, physical science, earth science and geography, as well as studios for film, television and sound.

The Toorak Campus is dominated by the historic 1890s mansion 'Stonnington', the former residence of several Victorian state governors. Recreational facilities include a cafeteria, theatre, tennis court, radio room and student lounge.

For a campus map, see www.deakin.edu.au/tour/hires/toorak

Geelong

![Geelong Campus](image)

Victoria's largest provincial city, Geelong has many things to do and see. Built on the shores of Corio bay, it provides a wide range of water-based recreation. Geelong has one of the best regional art galleries in the country, as well as the National Wool Museum and Maritime Museum.

There are two campuses - Geelong (at Waurn Ponds) and the Woolstores campus. The Geelong campus has specialist facilities including audiovisual production, research laboratories and a computer centre. Set in native parkland, landscaped with lawns, lakes, avenues and gardens, the campus provides an impressive range of sporting and recreational facilities.

The Geelong campus provides accommodation for 446 students in Barton, Deakin and Watson Residential Colleges. Together, they form the basis of a vibrant residential life on Campus.

"I have had a great time in Australia, in particular Geelong where I got involved in a few extra curricula activities like cricket and footy. I represented Deakin University Cricket team and have the distinction of scoring a century during my first season." Krishna Prasad (India) Master of Science Engineering

The Woolstores campus, established in a historic building, is home to the School of Architecture and Building, an impressive library for academic and community use and a new $4.5 million Great Hall, used for University and ceremonial purposes, cultural performances and community functions.

For a campus map of Geelong, see www.deakin.edu.au/tour/hires/geelong

Warrnambool

![Warrnambool Campus](image)

Warrnambool, a commercial, cultural and intellectual centre for south-west Victoria looks out over the Southern ocean. It is a major summer tourist resort, with miles of spectacular beaches, good surfing beaches, a Maritime
Museum, whale watching (May to November), and Music festivals in neighbouring towns. The Warrnambool campus is one of the most beautiful in Australia; it is planted with many native trees and flowering shrubs and has a nine hole golf course, tennis and squash courts. Facilities include modern purpose-built lecture theatres, tutorials and seminar rooms, studios and computer rooms.

The Student Residences at Warrnambool accommodate 280 students in a variety of settings. All are fully furnished, heated and carpeted, and equipped with kitchen and laundry facilities.

For a campus map, see www.edu.au/tour/hires/warrnambool

**Applying for a Student Visa**

You will need to apply for a student visa as early as possible. Below is a list of some important information on how to obtain a student visa:

**Conditions of Student Visa**

Listed below are some of the conditions of the Student Visa you will need to abide by:

- The Australian Government will ask you to sign an agreement that you are seeking entry in Australia for study purposes only and will return home when you complete your course of study;
- People entering Australia on student visas are unable to apply for permanent residency;
- Students sign a declaration of awareness when they sign the Confirmation of Enrolment Form from Deakin International;
- Students must study full-time while in Australia;
- You must meet normal health and public interests requirements for entry. Most applicants will need to undergo medical and radiological (X-ray) examinations before a visa is given; and
- You must tell the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) if you change your original course of study. To do this you will need to first go to Deakin International. They will give you a new Confirmation of Enrollment Form which you must send to DIMA. The University will also inform DIMA if you discontinue your studies. If you are studying at another institution in Australia and you would like to study at Deakin University, you must inform DIMA immediately. There is no provision to allow family unit members of applicants from non-gazetted countries undertaking courses of less than 12 months duration (40 weeks) and who are not government sponsored, to enter as dependants.

**Extending your Visa**

If your visa expires before the end of your course of study at Deakin University, you must: apply for an extension to cover the extended period of time; go to DIMA four to six weeks before the expiry date of your visa; and take the following documents with you:

- Confirmation of Enrollment Form
- Passport
- Evidence of payment of Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Application for a Student (Temporary) Visa (157Y), available from your International Student Advisor (ISA)
- Pay A$280 (in a bank cheque) for the application fee.

The cheque is to be made payable to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

* The application for visa extension should reach DIMA four weeks before the expiry date of your current visa. You can contact DIMA in Melbourne on (61-3) 9235 3999.
Family Unit Members
For international students the term ‘family unit member’ covers a spouse, de facto spouse or unmarried dependent children under 18 years of age. Family unit members (dependants) can stay with you, while you are studying in Australia, if their names are included on your student visa application. Family unit members who are not included in your student visa application, and who would like to come to Australia later, need to apply separately for visas. Their type of visa will be in the same class as a student visa and will have similar conditions to those outlined previously. In Australia, schooling is compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Children accompanying a parent who has a student visa are required to pay full fees at the school they attend. If you have children of school-age accompanying you to Australia you could please contact the Deakin International office, giving details of the number of children and their ages.

Work Rights
Work rights will be explained when you are given a student visa. Some of these rights are listed below for your information: Fee paying, full-time students are allowed to work to a maximum of 20 hours per week during semester. Students may take full-time work when the institution is not in session. Family unit members of undergraduate students are generally allowed to work in Australia for up to 20 hours a week (but not where the student is from a 'non-gazetted' country and undertaking a Category B course). There is no work restriction on family unit members of postgraduate students. You will have to pay tax on income earned in Australia. For more information about taxation refer to the Banking page.

Deakin’s Services to International Students
Pre-departure seminars
Pre-departure seminars are held in some major cities overseas during January, and are very valuable sources of information for students about to undertake studies at Deakin. Much initial information about moving to Australia to study is provided at these sessions. Also, there is often an opportunity to meet other commencing students, and talk to peer support students who are home on vacation and usually attend these seminars.

Orientation Programs
Attendance at the Enrollment and Orientation Program for International students is compulsory. This is where you find out more about your course, and do your formal enrollment.

The Programs:

- inform you of the facilities and services within Deakin University and the local community;
- help you to adjust to the Australian way of life and the academic system and Deakin University; and
- enroll you in your course.

For new students commencing study in First Semester, the Enrolment and Orientation Program normally takes place the week before the University's Orientation week. For students commencing in second semester, it is held in the week before the commencement of the semester.

Student Services
Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these resources. Student Services provides career counselling, personal and educational counselling, study and language assistance, health services and support for students with disabilities.

Study and language advisers can help you with problems with English - pronunciation, reading, writing or listening. Assistance is also available on how to manage your time, take notes, approach assignments, write essays and prepare for exams.

Educational and personal counsellors can help you with difficulties related to studies or personal concerns. Medical care and health advice is provided by medical practitioners and nurses based on campus.
Academics: Courses and Classroom Expectations

Deakin University is a very large university with extensive course offerings that may fit your major course requirements. As Robert Morris University students, you will need to get approval from the department heads at Robert Morris to substitute particular Deakin courses for RMU requirements on your checksheet. For course listings and descriptions, see the Deakin Undergraduate catalog or online listings at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook

Teaching Styles in Australia

Many American students have difficulties with the Australian approach to teaching.

Teachers in Australia believe that it is the student's duty to analyze and study the material being taught. They encourage students to question what they learn and ask questions. Australian educators often look for signs that the student is thinking on their own and have a grasp of the information. They also look for participation from students, especially international students. If students need any extra help they can make appointments with their teachers or acquire a tutor. Study guides are also available.

"The style of teaching here is more accessible than in my country. Here, students can approach the teacher and ask questions or complain if the subject is not clear. In fact we're encouraged to think and question. It's more open. If I don't know something, I just ask my teacher or classmates - they're always helpful and friendly." Cho Dijah Suroso (Indonesia), Bachelor of Commerce

One of the most difficult things for first year students is managing study time with little guidance from teachers. It is important to plan carefully so you have enough time in a week to spend studying each subject and then for each new assignment that has to be finished.

Australian educators usually believe that knowledge is something a student should analyze and challenge. They want students to question what they learn, to evaluate facts and to criticize the work of experts. Students who think independently and give an opinion as well as show they can remember facts, often get the highest marks. If you are having difficulty understanding what a lecturer or tutor expects, you can make an appointment to see a member of the academic staff. Ask the staff member when they are free or check with the departmental secretary. Sometimes staff will pin notices on their doors telling students when they are available. The important thing to remember is that if you are having difficulty, talk to someone before it is too late. Student Services also has Study and Language Advisors who can help with any problems you may have with study skills. Study guides recommended by Deakin University which may help you include:

[Also, for Robert Morris University students, your Blair Handbook and other preparation from your Communication Skills classes will help you a great deal.]

Written Assignments. Assignments and essays must be submitted on or before the due date. You will be given advance notice of the dates to hand in assignments. If you have any difficulties handing your work in on time, ask your tutor/lecturer for an extension. It is best to talk to someone if you have difficulty understanding lectures or what is expected from you in written work. Try to talk to other students first, then speak to your tutor/lecturer. Australian academics usually look for evidence of critical analysis and independent thinking in students' essays. For example:

- Compare and contrast the theories of Erik Erikson and Anna Freud concerning adolescence. (Psychology).
- The similarities between the two parties are more significant than their differences. Do you agree? (Political Science).
If you are not familiar with this type of essay-writing, refer to one of the suggested books for help or speak to a tutor, lecturer or the Study and Language Advisor in Student Services. It is also important for you to understand the basic format for academic essays and the style of presentation, including the style of referencing required.

**Note Taking.** Taking lecture notes is similar to taking notes from resource material; the skill is to be able to identify the important points. Good lecturers usually emphasise the points they want you to understand and write down. There may also be material handed out to help you, especially in first year courses.

**Participation.** University classes include:

- lectures, where the teacher addresses a large group of students;
- tutorials, where a tutor meets with a small group of students for a discussion of course topics; and
- laboratory sessions, where students do experimental work with the help of lecturers and laboratory assistants.

International students may consider Australians to be rude at first because they question and challenge their teachers. They may also find it confusing that teachers ask questions without giving the answers. However the differences you will experience are mostly cultural. Australians are generally very polite people who respect the opinions of all people, but are also prepared to challenge opinions which they do not understand. Australian teachers have sometimes described international students as 'passive' or 'too respectful'. It is these culturally different ideas about education which may cause misunderstandings. To get the most from university classes in Australia, it is important to ask questions and express your opinion.

You can prepare for tutorials by writing down some questions you could ask and by writing down your own opinion, based on your reading, before the class.

**Travel to Australia**

You will need to book your own flight to Australia (after receiving approval from the International Office at RMU.) Many students have found special student rates through STA Travel, which also allows you a flexible return schedule. However, you are free to shop around for the best rates. Just be sure that you read all the fine print, and realize that if you buy a non-refundable ticket, you will not be able to change your schedule.

New students who notify the Deakin International Student Advisors of their date, time of arrival and flight details (on the Notification of Arrival Form), will be met at Melbourne airport by a Deakin Airport Reception Officer and transport will be arranged to your Deakin campus or to temporary accommodation. Reception officers are current or former students who can answer many of your questions about Deakin.

Arriving early will give you the opportunity to become familiar with the University and meet with fellow international and local students. It will also enable you to have more time to find satisfactory longer-term accommodation and to settle in before orientation. Late arrivals will be disadvantaged. It is possible that the faculty may not allow you to commence studies if you arrive after the commencement of semester. If you are likely to be arriving after semester commencement date, you must contact the Admissions Manager for permission before departing for Australia. Admissions Manager Telephone: (61-3) 9244 5093 Fax: (61-3) 9244 5094 Email: du.info@deakin.edu.au

Please arrange to arrive at Deakin at least a week before the International Student Orientation program starts.

At Melbourne airport The Coordinator, International Student Services (CISS) arranges the reception of all new international students. New students who notify the CISS of their date, time of arrival, and flight details on the Notification of Arrival Form, will be met at Melbourne airport and transport will be arranged to the Deakin campuses or temporary accommodation. So that you can benefit from the University's airport reception service, your Notification of Arrival Form must be posted or faxed in time to arrive at the CISS office two weeks before your date of arrival. Reception arrangements will be confirmed if you provide your fax number or your agent's fax number. If no fax number is provided confirmation will be made by mail if time permits.
So that you can be easily identified by the Deakin Reception Officer when you arrive at the airport, you should place the Deakin University sticker, issued with your Acceptance Advice Form, on your lapel or luggage before leaving the customs area. If any emergency should arise on arrival at Melbourne Airport, please use the emergency contact numbers in your Emergency Card.

When you pass through the exit doors from the customs area, you should locate the Travellers Information Desk directly ahead. Look for Deakin's Reception Officer who will be carrying a Deakin University sign or ask at the Desk. Your Reception Officer will meet you in the arrival hall near the Travellers Information Desk. If you are unable to make contact with the Reception Officer, ask at the Desk for the mobile phone number of the Reception Officer.

Unaccompanied luggage: Please note that Deakin Reception Officers cannot collect cargo (i.e. unaccompanied luggage) from the airport cargo terminal or from cargo agents. No cargo collection service is provided. It is preferred that students bring all their luggage with them. The luggage allowance is 20 kilograms, plus one piece of cabin luggage up to five kilograms in weight, i.e. total 25 kilograms. Luggage in excess of this allowance is charged an extra A$32 per kilogram. If you wish to post personal effects to the University prior to departure from your home country, please fax/email the CISS on your campus to make specific arrangements. Alternatively, students can arrange to have luggage sent later to their own address once their accommodation is settled. As a guide only, unaccompanied luggage costs can range between A$2.30 per kilogram from New Delhi and A$6.30 per kilogram from Saigon.

Getting from the Airport to your Campus: Most of the Airport Reception Officers are current or ex-students of Deakin and can answer many of your questions about Deakin. They know that you are usually tired after your flight and don't mind if you have a sleep on the way from the airport. After you arrive on campus, the Campus Reception Officers and volunteer peer support leaders and students will work together to help make things easy for you. You can make contact with them through CISS.

Geelong campuses. Travel to the Geelong campuses takes about one hour by car or one and a half hours by bus. The Deakin Reception Officer will either drive you to your temporary accommodation in Geelong by car, or escort you to the Gull Airport Bus Service. Large numbers of students arriving at once may be transported by special bus. If you catch the Gull Bus, you will be met by a Deakin Reception Officer when you reach Geelong. This direct service runs regularly between the airport and Geelong every day of the week. The bus operates between 5.55 am and 10.10 pm, with pre-bookings necessary on some early and late services. You can obtain a student discount by informing the bus driver that you are a new Deakin University student. You will need approximately A$16 if you use the bus. A bus timetable is available at the Travellers Information Desk at Melbourne Airport. The bus stop is directly outside the international arrivals on the ground floor (cross the road at the traffic lights and the bus stop is on the left). Students arriving independently may also wish to travel to Geelong via the Gull Airport Bus Service.

Melbourne campuses. Travel to the Melbourne campuses takes about one to one-and-a-half hours. Depending on the number of students arriving at any one time, students will be driven to their accommodation either by car with the Deakin Reception Officer, or by special bus. Students arriving independently can travel to the Burwood campus on the Airport Bus Eastside to the corner of Burwood Highway and Middleborough Road, Burwood-cost A$16-and then a short ride by Tram 75 back along Burwood Highway towards the city to the front of the Deakin campus. The bus service operates Monday to Friday 7.55am-7.00pm, Saturday 8.45am-4.15pm. There is no service on Sunday. The tram service operates every day.

Warrnambool campus. Travel to the Warrnambool campus takes about four hours from the airport. The Deakin Reception Officer will escort you to Spencer Street Station, Melbourne, and arrange for you to travel to Warrnambool by train. The train fare is approximately A$65.00. If you catch the train, a Campus Reception Officer will meet you at the station in Warrnambool and drive you to your accommodation on campus. If there are many students arriving in Melbourne on the same day, a special bus will be organised to take you to Warrnambool from the airport.

International students.
When you have settled in, Peer Support Students will show you around, help you with practical things such as shopping and transport, go out to dinner with you and arrange some social functions with Australian and other international students.

"At every stage of the process, Deakin took care of us and supported us in a personal way. Deakin answered our faxes, helped us locate our lost luggage or looked after our luggage for us until we arrived. They also helped us with whatever problems arose, whether academic or personal." Agnes Cheuk (Alumni of Deakin University, Hong Kong)

Money and Finances

Exchange Rates
Exchange rates vary on a daily basis. To look up today's currency exchange rates on the internet, go to www.xe.com/ucc or a similar currency converter site.

As of August 3, 2005:
1 US Dollar = 1.29733 Australian Dollar
1 Australian Dollar (AUD) =0.770883 US Dollar (USD)

Approximate Cost Worksheet (as of 2005). Robert Morris University's Australia Program: Budget Estimates for One Semester (five months) at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia in US$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong> (pay at Robert Morris; 4 course maximum)</td>
<td>Same as RMU Tuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong> (prices vary for on-campus or off-campus from $200-$300/month)</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food</strong> ($250/month X 5 months)</td>
<td>$1,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Airfare</strong> (STA Travel 412-683-1881)</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spending Money</strong> ($300/month X 5 months)</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Books</strong> (for 4 courses)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Passport</strong></td>
<td>$97.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Health Insurance</strong> (2004 costs)</td>
<td>$130.00 (6 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$244 (12-months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Student Visa</strong></td>
<td>$325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Additional Expenses</strong> (other than tuition)</td>
<td>$6602.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers are cost approximations; they are subject to change.

You will need to obtain some Australian dollars in cash before leaving home. Bring enough to cover expenses for the first few days. Between A$500 & 600 should be enough for this period. Apart from this, other funds carried with you should be in the form of a bank draft to be drawn in Australian dollars from an Australian bank. Alternatively, you can have money sent by electronic transfer to your bank account which may take 3 to 4 days. It is advisable to transfer funds electronically when depositing large sums of money into fixed term deposit accounts. Extra information on the banking system is available. You will also be provided with more detailed information during the Deakin Orientation Program.
Students are given assistance with banking soon after arrival, and will be able to establish a bank account and to deposit a bank draft if they have brought one from home. Branches of the ANZ Bank are located on both Geelong and Warrnambool campuses. In Melbourne, banking is off campus. It is advisable to set up a bank account during the first days of arrival and discuss with the bank ways to send money to and from Australia. The usual way of sending money from overseas is by electronic transfer to your bank account which may take 1-2 days. However, you may also arrange to have money sent from overseas by bank draft which may take five working days and mail transfers. Bank charges are made to all accounts in Australia, but students do not have to pay for them all. Talk to your bank to apply for exemption from bank charges.

You must provide proof of identification when opening a bank account in Australia so take your Passport and at least one other piece of identification with you. The savings account is very popular with students. An access card that can make the automatic teller machine (ATM) available 24 hours, is useful for deposits and withdrawals when the banks are closed. However, there may be a limited number of transactions per month via the ATM, without attracting a fee. Make inquiries about your banking needs at any bank or ask the International Student Advisor on your campus. Normal banking hours are: Monday to Thursday 9.30am-4.00pm Friday 9.30am-5.00pm. Most banks are closed during weekends.

**Taxation.** It is important to apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) when you arrive in Australia. Staff from the Taxation Office will be available on campus during the Enrolment and Orientation Program to assist. If you do not have a TFN, any income you earn will be taxed at a higher rate (48.25%). This may include any interest earned from your bank account. Students who arrive after orientation will have to obtain an application directly from the Australian Taxation Office. Telephone: 13 28 61.

**Living Expenses**
Deakin materials recommend that, when planning finances, students should allow between A$13,000 and A$14,500 per year for accommodation, meals, transport, books and other basic expenses. See below for estimates for one semester in American dollars.

**Living in student residences**
Cost for 38 weeks (for the academic year based on one person)
- Fees for residential accommodation A$5200 [for one semester A$2600]
- Books, materials, stationery A$500

**Weekly expenses for food and spending money on-campus:** estimated A$140
- Food and beverages - 80
- Transport fares - 20
- Personal spending - 40

**Sharing a flat or a house**
Cost for 52 weeks (based on full year):
- Books, materials, stationery - 500
- Bond [Deposit] on room (refundable) - 240
- Establishment costs i.e. minimal furniture, blankets, kitchen equipment etc. - 500
- Telephone connection - 50

**Weekly expenses for rent, food and spending money living off-campus:** A$225
- Rent (average rent for one person) - 80
- Telephone rental and charges - 15
- Contribution to food and fuel - 70
- Transport - 20
- Personal spending - 40
The example given is intended to provide a general guideline for students. The figures are estimates and are subject to inflation. The cost of living will also vary depending on location and lifestyle. Melbourne, for instance, is more expensive than Geelong. Warrnambool is the best option for those on a tight budget. Please note: This list does not include tuition fees, the General Service Fee, the cost of field work and excursions, or airfares. It also does not include social functions, entertainment, newspapers, dry cleaning, hobby expenses and cigarettes.

In summary, Deakin estimates that the total living expenses for one year (includes housing, books and supplies, food, local transportation, telephone, and personal spending) will average A$14,100 for on-campus residents and A$12,990 for off-campus residents. Dividing that in half, and converting to American dollars at the exchange rate of 12/13/2002, that would come to approximately US$7962 for on-campus and US$7336 for off-campus living. Keep in mind that "your mileage may vary" depending upon your personal spending habits; however, this is a reasonable estimate.

University residences

In some University residences, five evening meals are included in the fees during term time; however, students will have to buy food for breakfasts and lunches. Lunch can be bought at the Union cafeteria Monday to Friday, and breakfast, weekend lunches and dinners can be prepared in the kitchens. University residences have incoming telephones in each unit for which there is no charge, but all outgoing phone calls have to be made on public phones.

All rooms include a bed, desk, desk lamp, chair, closet, bookshelves, drawers, trash can, and heater. Phones are also included in each room. Laundries are available to all residents including; iron, ironing board, and vacuum cleaner.

Off-campus living

Off-campus living usually involves sharing with other students, and quite often the sharing of food. This can be a relatively cheap form of eating as long as all concerned share in the purchasing and preparation, and have similar tastes. Be careful with some low cost housing. It often looks suitable on arrival, during Australian summer months, but may be unsuitable during the cold winter months. Heating costs could be a considerable extra expense. Bear in mind that gas for cooking and heating is cheaper than electricity, especially during winter.

Food

The cost of some food items are shown below to give you some idea of living costs. Of course, these prices may vary due to market fluctuations. The bulk purchase of food is cheaper than buying as needed. Items including rice, flour, pasta and other non-perishables can be bought in bulk from some supermarkets and specialist food shops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost in A$ (from 2002)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>$5 to $8 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewing beef</td>
<td>$7 to $9 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>$1.40 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>$2 to $5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburger mince</td>
<td>$7 to $9 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bananas</td>
<td>$2 to $4 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>$1 to $2 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>$5 to $8 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>$1.25 Litre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>$2 loaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>$1.80 500g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>$2 to $4 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>$2.50 to $2.85 doz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>$1.30 whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>$1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>$1.10 250g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study costs

Tuition fees are payable in advance on a semester basis. Robert Morris University students pay their tuition to RMU and RMU pays Deakin.

Text books can be very expensive and may be purchased more cheaply overseas. Book lists are distributed before courses commence. Make sure you buy current editions. A second hand bookshop is operated by the student association on each Campus. This can reduce the costs of text books for students.
Clothing and bedding
You will need to either bring warm clothes, towels, sheets and pillowcases with you, or buy them when you get there. Reasonably priced winter clothing and bedding can be bought at discount stores such as Target, K-Mart, Safeway and Woolworths while cheaper clothes can often be found in the markets. The best known in Melbourne is the Queen Victoria Market (Vic Market) which specialises in clothing and footwear on Sundays. Opportunity shops sell cheap second-hand clothes, especially winter coats and jackets, scarves and gloves.

Item costs in A$ (note difference between purchasing items in shops vs. markets) (2002)
- Feather & down quilt/doona - A$100-150 shop; 75-125 market
- Wool blanket - 80-100 shop; 50-100 market
- Single sheets - 30-50 shop; 15-30 market
- Jeans - 80 shop; 40 market
- T-shirt - 20 shop; 10 market
- Shirt - 50 shop; 25 market
- Jumper (sweater) - 80 shop; 40 market
- Shoes - 80 shop; 40 market
- Dress - 60 shop; 20 market
- Windcheater - 40 shop; 20 market
- Raincoat - 60 shop; 30 market
- Overcoat - 120 shop; 80 market

Public transport
If you use public transport regularly it is cheaper to buy weekly or monthly tickets. Taxi fares are charged by the kilometre and include an initial charge (flag fare) of between A$2 & $4. This is an expensive form of travel, although costs can be reduced if three to four people share a taxi. Taxis can be useful if going out at night to movies, restaurants and night clubs. Check bus, tram and train timetables, as you may be able to travel on public transport. Even though it may be seen as saving public transport costs, students are strongly advised, for their own safety, not to hitchhike anywhere - especially travelling between the city and country campuses. If train travel at night is necessary, avoid empty carriages and sit in the first carriage close to the driver's compartment.

Driving licence
If you have a licence from your own country you may use it to drive in Australia for three months only. If you have an international licence you can use it with your licence from home until one or the other expires. International licences can only be renewed in the country of issue. [Note: If you intend to drive while in Australia, you may obtain your International Driver's License in Pennsylvania at a AAA office or other locations.]

Student loans
Deakin University provides funds for international students to borrow if they are in financial need. Loans are available to assist with living expenses and study. However, they are not granted for tuition fees or government charges. Loans are short term (up to 12 months), interest free and have a limit of A$500. In your first semester of study you must have guarantors who are employed, Australian citizens, not students and over 21 years old. To obtain a student loan, go to Student Services to discuss your eligibility and the terms of the loan. Emergency Loans for fees may be available in exceptional circumstances from Deakin International.
Health and Safety Issues

Health history

It is important to know your own health history. Please ask your doctor exactly what medications you have received in the past and, in particular, what preventative immunisations or medications you have been given. It is a good idea to have this information in writing in case you become ill while you are in Australia.

Health insurance

The Australian Government requires all international students (and any dependants accompanying them) to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) provided through Medibank Private, an Australian government health fund. The health cover provides for medical and hospital care within Australia from the date of your arrival until the expiry of your student visa. You may purchase health care by the month; however, it is recommended that you buy coverage for the duration of your visa to avoid price increases. You must renew your OSHC if you stay longer than twelve months. In 2001, the fee for OSHC is A$155 for a single person for six months and A$295 for twelve months. Upon arrival, you must complete an OSHC Form. Deakin International will arrange the first year of OSHC for you. Family coverage is arranged for an additional cost. Government sponsored students must complete the form and forward it to Deakin International on their campus in order for their OSHC to be renewed. Do not to let your OSHC lapse or you will be breaching your visa regulations. If you do not renew your OSHC the University will not be held responsible.

What are you not covered for? OSHC will not pay benefits for any of the following: - pregnancy related treatment - treatment for conditions or disabilities, existing before your arrival in Australia, during the first 18 months of membership - assisted reproductive services such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF) - treatment arranged before arrival in Australia - treatment needed while travelling to Australia - treatment covered by compensation and damages provisions - additional charges for single room accommodation in a public hospital - treatment for any of your children over 18 years - dental treatment - glasses - contact lens - physiotherapy - pharmacy items including prescriptions - ambulance cover. If you wish to cover yourself for these items you should take out Ancillary Cover and pay an additional fee. Ancillary Cover (dental, optical and extras) Separate insurance can be taken out with any private medical insurance fund (ie Medibank Private) to cover expenses such as dental, optical and chiropractic. If you wish to take out insurance to cover dental costs you should compare what each private medical insurance fund has to offer and then decide if the cost is worth it for you.

No Dental Service: There is no dental service on campus. You are strongly advised to have a dental check-up before you depart for Australia. Ambulance cover: The OSHC premiums covers emergency ambulance cover only. For more regular use, students are strongly advised to consider taking ambulance cover as the cost of ambulance transportation in Australia is high. Contact the Ambulance Association direct to arrange membership. Geelong: (03) 5528 2828 Melbourne: (03) 9840 3500 Warrnambool: (03) 5562 6441

Doctor’s fees: The University doctors charge what is called the 'scheduled fee' for a consultation. This is the recommended fee set by the Government. You can claim the entire cost of your consultation back from Medibank Private. Some doctors choose to charge patients at a higher rate. If you are charged anything more than the 'scheduled fee’ you must pay the difference. Ask the doctors before you see them if they charge the 'scheduled fee’ (also called ‘bulk billing’). Your Medibank Private covers you 100 per cent for a bed in a shared/private ward of a public hospital and all treatment if it is charged at the scheduled fee. Private hospitals can set their own fees. If you choose to be treated in a private hospital and it charges more than the scheduled fee, you must pay the difference yourself. Health history

Before you leave for Australia please ask your doctor exactly what medications you have received in the past and in particular, what preventative immunisations or medications you have been given. It is a good idea to have this information in writing in case you become sick or have an accident while you are in Australia. It is strongly recommend that you have another card in your wallet or purse with "Medical Information" written boldly across the top. On this card you should list your blood type, and any medical conditions or allergies from which you might suffer (a copy of this information should also be forwarded to the International Student Advisor (ISA) on your campus).
Climate and Clothing
The weather in Victoria is temperate. You will need to have a range of clothing to cater for the fluctuating climatic changes. During summer, light cotton clothing is most suitable. A warm day can, however, change quickly and a sweater or windproof jacket should be carried at all times. During the warmer months you will need to protect yourself against the sun by wearing sunscreen and a hat. During winter you will need warm clothing such as woollen sweaters, thick socks and a warm wind and waterproof coat. Warmer clothing may be more readily available in Australia than your home country, but good quality winter clothes may be more expensive in Australia. Students on-campus usually dress casually in t-shirts, jeans, sweaters, shorts, windcheaters and comfortable footwear.

Weather
Summer - December, January, February January and February are the warmest months. The average temperatures fall between 25 & 30 degrees Celsius. On a hot day the temperatures are between 35 & 40 deg Celsius.

Autumn-March, April, May - Most days are pleasantly mild with average temperatures of 18 & 25 deg C

Winter-June, July, August - Most days are cold and windy with average temperatures around 12 deg C

Spring-September, October, November - Days are slightly warmer. On a fresh day, temperatures fall between 15 & 20 deg C

Electrical goods
International students often bring to Australia radio cassette players, walkmans, rice-cookers, hairdryers, cameras and computer accessories. Electrical goods in Australia operate on 240V and you should ensure that electrical equipment can be adapted. Some electrical goods are expensive to buy in Australia.

Computers
Computer laboratories are available on each campus, with a variety of software, printing and email facilities. On the Geelong campus these are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students who wish to use the facilities late at night can be provided with an escort to and from the computer centres, to on-campus student residence and car parks.

Computer facilities are available on each campus, with a variety of software, printing and email facilities. Computing facilities for students are managed by Information Technology Services. Individual email accounts are given immediately upon processing of your enrollment form. To use any of the facilities, students are required to have their Deakin University student identification card with them. Students are required to purchase diskettes for their own use and there is a charge for laser printing. If you wish to use the facilities late at night a security escort can be provided from the computer centres to on-campus student residences and car parks. (dial 222)

Telephone Calls: Costs
Local calls from Pay phones cost 40 cents. Local calls from private phones cost 25 cents; long distance calls are charged at increments of approximately 25 cents.

Phone cards may be bought in A$5, $10, $20 and $50 amounts from the post office, Deakin's Computer Shop and the Campus Shop.

0800 numbers are charged at local call rate. FREECALL 1800 numbers are not charged.

Overseas direct: dial 0011 00 to find out whether your private phone has IDD (International Direct Dial) access. Off-peak rates are available.
Check phone directly for current rates, times and codes for IDD calls and for operator connected calls.

**Passport Renewal and Diplomatic Representatives**

It is your responsibility to ensure that your passport is current. You can renew your passport at your Government's consulate or embassy. It can often take several months to renew a passport so it is advisable to submit your application for renewal at least two months before the expiry date. Australian immigration officials cannot issue visas beyond the expiry date of your passport. There is a list of embassies and consulates in The Manual for Living and Learning at Deakin University. The Embassy of the United States of America is at: 21 Moonah Place, Yarralumla ACT 2600 (in Canberra). Telephone: (02) 6270 5000. Fax: (02) 6270 5970. The Consulate-General's Office of the USA in Melbourne is located at: 553 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004. Telephone: (03) 9526 5900, fax (03) 9510 4646.

**Emergency Telephone Numbers**

Emergency Telephone Numbers are on the inside front cover of your Manual for Living and Learning at Deakin University. They will vary depending upon which campus and community you live in. Numbers for Deakin International Student Advisors are:

**Geelong Campus**

Office hours: (03) 5227 1261; emergency after hours: (03) 5256 1051

**Burwood and Rusden campuses**

Office hours: (03) 9244 6709; mobile: 0417 594 713; emergency after hours: (03) 9555 0589

**Toorak campus**

Office hours: (03) 9244 5095

**Warrnambool campus**

Office hours: (03) 5563 3486; emergency after hours: (03) 5562 6151
What to Bring

Clothing: You will need to bring a variety of clothing for the year. Remember to bring your sunscreen and a waterproof coat. Students on campus usually dress in t-shirts, jeans, sweaters, and comfortable shoes.

Electricity: Electrical appliances in Australia run on 240V. Make sure your electrical equipment can be adapted because these goods can be expensive in Australia.

Checklist before departure

1. Do you have a current passport?
2. Have you obtained the following documents needed to obtain your student visa: Medical certificate and x-ray report? Acceptance Advice from the institution? Photographs? Financial documents as proof of your financial status?
3. Have you applied for separate visas for each family member going to Australia?
4. Have you made arrangements for travel to Melbourne in time for Orientation? If not, have you contacted the university advising of late arrival?
5. Have you informed the university regarding: Accommodation required? Airport reception required? On-campus reception required? Confirmation of airport reception - by contacting CISS before departure?
6. Remember to bring the following:
   - Passport
   - International Drivers Licence/Drivers Licence from your country
   - Receipts for computers, cameras, electrical goods, etc. you are bringing to Australia
   - Health history
   - International Student Emergency Card
   - Telephone numbers of emergency contacts: relatives and family friends
   - Australian dollars
   - Deakin International Student Handbook
   - Personal papers
   - All correspondence to and from the University
   - Family photographs and addresses
   - Warm clothes
   - Remember to declare everything that is of an animal, plant or food nature before customs checkpoint. Do not carry anything that you are not sure of. See below.

Customs

Australia has very strict customs regulations to prevent drugs, diseases and pests being brought into the country. Included in your pre-departure information is a booklet entitled Customs Information for Travellers. You should read this booklet carefully before you travel to Australia, so you can familiarize yourself with Australian Customs regulations.

On the airplane you will be given a Customs Declaration Form to complete. You are advised to declare any goods you are not sure about and any articles in excess of your duty free allowance. It is better to declare goods than face the penalty for not declaring them.

If you are unsure of what you are allowed to bring to Australia, you should check with the Australian Diplomatic Mission in your country. Making a false declaration is a serious offence and could result in heavy fines or the seizure of goods.

Accompanied items

Duty/Tax Free Shopping: Each traveller can bring into Australia duty/tax free items for personal use up to A$400 in value (this includes gifts). This includes:
- alcohol: one litre (Only for travellers over 18 years of age)
- tobacco: 250 grams of tobacco products (Only for travellers over 18 years of age)
- clothing: excluding fur
- articles for personal hygiene/grooming: for example, most types of toiletries, but not perfume concentrate and jewelry
- other articles

For your own safety, do not carry goods for other people. If you do and the foods are prohibited or restricted in Australia, you will be responsible for them. For more information, refer to the Customs Information for Travellers booklet.

Unaccompanied items
Unaccompanied items are subject to duty/tax unless you have both owned and used the items for 12 months or more. This includes articles posted to Australia. These regulations will apply to personal computers which are sent ahead.

Personal Computers: If you want to bring your own computer with you, you must declare this to customs (and all other items over the value of A$400 - See Accompanied items above).

Prohibited and restricted goods: There are strict laws against bringing certain things to Australia. The penalties for breaking these laws are severe. If you are carrying any goods which you think may fall into any of the following categories you must declare them to Customs on your arrival:

- Drugs - if you are carrying any legally prescribed drugs. It will help if you have your doctor's prescription with you.
- Steroids - and similar substances is prohibited unless prior written approval has been obtained.
- Weapons/firearms - Most are prohibited in Australia. You must contact Customs before you travel with any weapons or firearms to Australia.
- Food, animal and plant products - All food, animal and plant products are subject to quarantine regulations and must be declared to Customs on arrival. Do not to bring food of any kind into Australia. Heavy fines are imposed on people bringing such items into the country. Most foods can be purchased in Australia.
Accommodations: Housing

**Temporary**
This may be needed for up to a week while you choose longer term accommodation. Costs will vary from about A$22 per day (in a University residence) to A$60-80 per day (in a motel).

**University On-Campus**
Most on-campus accommodation consists of single bedrooms and shared bathrooms, kitchen-dining rooms, laundry and recreational areas. This offers a community and social environment in which to live and study. You can easily develop a sense of belonging while participating in the life of the college and university. A Resident Coordinator is there to help you with any problems, or put you in touch with someone else. Costs vary from A$2700 per year to A $5600 per year.

You should apply for On-campus accommodation as soon as you receive your offer of a university place, by completing an Application for Residential Accommodation Form and sending it together with the Reference form to the address given on the form.

"(Staying in halls at a campus is) great! I have my own room and share communal areas. I don't like living alone, but have the best of both worlds. I have made friends around me when I want to socialise, and my room for study when I need it." Vili Caniogo (Fiji) Postgraduate International Trade and Investment Law

**Off campus**
Off-campus University hostel accommodation is available on some campuses. This consists of both shared and private rooms, shared bathrooms, with meals provided and laundry facilities available.

**Non-university**
The University Housing Service provided by the student association on each campus can help you find suitable accommodation. The Housing Service maintains a register of private accommodation options, such as full or half board, shared houses, flats or homestay (living with an Australian family).

Shared rental costs range from A$40 to A$90 per week, full private board from A$130 to A$150, and bungalows from A$80 to A$120 per week.

Renting flats tends to be cheaper than houses. Either may be furnished or unfurnished. Speak to the Housing Officer at your campus for more details.
Leisure and Entertainment
Students can find entertainment in the suburbs and in the city, so transportation may be needed. There are several public transportation options, such as taxis at late night, trams, buses, or trains. Remember to take your student card to events to receive student discounts.

Nightclubs/bands:
Thursday nights are often considered student nights and may offer free admission. Several clubs are open until 3am most nights of the week. Drink prices can be expensive; even pop can cost $A1.50 with no free refills. If a band is playing, a charge is usually required. Be sure to check the prices because they will vary depending on the popularity of the band.

Tourist Attractions in the Melbourne area:

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra
- The Melbourne Zoo, Elliot Avenue, Parkville
- Chinatown Cinema, 200 Bourke Street, Melbourne
- Queen Victoria Market, Victoria Street, West Melbourne
- Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne
- Cook's Cottage, Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne
- Old Melbourne Gaol, Cnr LaTrobe and Russell Streets Melbourne
- Scienceworks, 2 Booker Street, Spotswood
- Victorian Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
Cultural and Social Customs

In order to deal with culture shock, it is a good idea to have some sort of understanding of Australian customs so you can know what to expect. These are just a few of the customs you will experience; however, it is not all of them, so be prepared for anything.

- Be sure you take the initiative to make new friends. Some Australian students may feel that you have your own friends and won't make the effort to get to know you.
- Australians try not to recognize class differences and feel that equal rights are very important. Any type of discrimination is frowned upon.
- Just like Americans, Australians like to be individuals and value their individuality.
- Australians openly discuss issues that may be seen as sensitive or offensive in other cultures.
- You can earn an Australian's trust through loyalty and commitment. Australians respect character.
- Tipping is not usually done, except when at an expensive restaurant.
- Smoking is not permitted in public buildings. You must go outside.
- You will commonly hear "please", "thank you", "I'm sorry", and "I beg your pardon" in conversations.
- Australians love to make eye contact when holding conversations with others. They feel it is a sign of attentiveness and respect.
- Australians don't necessarily like to stand very close to others when speaking. Usually an arm's distance away is sufficient.
- Being on time in Australia is very important. If you are unable to attend or are late, an apology is in order.
- Bargaining is not done in Australian stores. The marked price is final.
- Australians show great respect for manual labor.

Cultural Adjustment (from the Deakin University web page)

When the cultures of two countries are very different the change of situation can be experienced as something of a culture shock. There is a sense of loss of the familiar and loved environment of home and the support network it provided. What was once familiar such as language, food, climate and people's behaviour can be very different. Learning about and adjusting to the new environment can feel like hard work and you may find the first few weeks quite tiring.

Culture shock and its associated adjustment are an extra load international students carry on top of their academic pursuits. This is well recognised at Deakin and reflected in the Orientation program for international students and ongoing support services. The CISS and counsellors are always available to help you. You are not on your own.

Language

One problem commonly faced by students new to Australia is their use of slang. Slang is used unconsciously by many Australians and can take on the appearance of a completely new language. Australians also have a tendency to run words together. Here are some common examples and their translations (for more, see section on "Strine", below):

- **G'day** Good day/Hello
- **See ya later** Good bye
- **Mate** Friend
- **You right?** Do you need assistance?
- **You reckon?** Do you think so?
- **Yeah/yep** Yes
- **Good on ya!** Well done!

If you don't understand what people are saying, please ask them to explain--they won't mind. You may also find that Australians speak quickly and abbreviate or shorten words. It will take time to get used to the speed, so don't worry if you don't understand every conversation. With time the language will become more familiar and listening and speaking will become easier. If you think you might be missing significant information in lectures, make sure you seek help.
Culture and customs
Listed are some generalisations of Australian characteristics that might be considered common:

- Australians put emphasis on individuality rather than being a member of a certain class, position or group.
- Australians value equal rights. Discrimination on the basis of race, gender, marital status, education, wealth, position, homosexuality, physical and intellectual disability is not accepted.
- Certain issues, events and ideas which may be considered offensive or sensitive in other cultures are may be openly discussed by Australians.
- Punctuality in attending appointments and functions is valued. Apologies are normally made in advance in case of inability to accept an invitation.
- If you are invited to a restaurant or the theatre, you are expected to pay for your own meal or ticket. It is not customary for the host to pay unless the host indicates that he/she will pay.
- People under 18 years of age are not permitted to buy alcoholic drinks. If you are drinking in a pub (hotel) you must pay for each drink straight away and not wait until you leave. The Australian custom of "shouting" means that if someone buys you a drink, you are then expected to "shout" them back by buying their next drink. There are heavy penalties for people who drink too much and drive.
- Smoking is not permitted in public transport, public buildings, and many restaurants and shopping centres. If you want to smoke, you will often have to go outside.
- When invited to a barbeque or function, sometimes you are asked to "bring a plate" or "BYO drinks". Bring a plate = Bring a plate of food (not just an empty plate). BYO drinks = Bring your own drinks. "RSVP" on an invitation means "please reply".
- Australians tend to speak quickly. Do not be worried if you are not fluent in English language. Just ask the other person to speak more slowly and clearly. A good way to improve your English conversation is to learn from watching television, especially news, current affairs programs and local drama.
- "Please", "thank you", "I'm sorry" or "I beg your pardon" are used frequently in conversation.
- Australians like to look directly at the person they are speaking to-eye contact is considered a form of attention, directness and respect.
- Unlike some other cultures, Australians generally do not like to stand too close to the person with whom they are in conversation, and prefer a space about an arm's length from the other person.
- Bargaining for goods is not part of the Australian culture. You cannot bargain in Australian shops. Goods are sold at the prices they are marked. However, there are many weekend and street markets where you can try bargaining.
- Tipping for service is not the usual custom in Australia, except in the more expensive restaurants.
- "Being assertive" is acceptable in Australian culture because "sticking up for yourself" is considered part of life in Australia. International students are encouraged to "speak up" on how they feel and what they think. Approach your lecturer/tutor if you do not understand your lectures. Ask for assistance from International Student Services or the Study and Language Adviser or counsellors in Student Services if you have any difficulties or worries. Sometimes Australian students assume that you have your own friends and don't make an effort to get to know you. Don't be afraid to make the first move. Invite a classmate for coffee, or arrange to work on a project or study together.
Strine: Australian Slang

Australian Strine is made up of words and phrases that have different meanings than American English, were made up by Australians, and have been borrowed from the Aborigine language or from slang used by early settlers. Australians often times sound as if they are mumbling or slurring many words together. It has often been defined as a “mixture of imaginative metaphor and swearing.” If you don’t understand what people are trying to say, ask them to explain. They will be happy to help you.

Here are some examples:

**Phrases**
- "djvagudweend?": Did you have a good weekend?
- "All over the place like a mad woman's breakfast": a state of chaos
- "G'day": Good day/Hello
- "Brass monkey weather": extremely cold
- "You right?": Do you need assistance?
- "Bludioth!": Bloody oath! (Yes)
- "Good on ya!": Well done!

**Ace**: excellent

**Barney**: a fight or scuffle

**Mate**: friend

**Arse**: butt

**Beak**: your nose

**Arvo**: afternoon

**Bunghole**: your mouth

**Bullamakanka**: imaginary place in the outback

Bibliography

Deakin University, The Manual for Living and Learning at Deakin University


