Information for AusAID funded students
2012

inspiring achievement
www.flinders.edu.au
Things to do before leaving home:
☐ Apply for passport
☐ Arrange student visa
☐ Arrange for immunisations and medications from my doctor
☐ Plan to bring some Australian currency if possible
☐ Arrange travel insurance
☐ Inform ISSU if you do not want prearranged temporary accommodation
☐ Check customs and quarantine regulations. Have items that need to be declared easily accessible
☐ Pack a document folder to take in your hand luggage. Include:
  • This Booklet
  • Passport
  • Letter of offer of scholarship
  • Certified copies of qualifications & certificates
  • Travel insurance policy
  • ID cards, drivers licence, birth certificate (or copy) (All in English)
NOTE: Make sure you leave the original or certified copies of important documents with your family at home.
  • Carry the Flinders University emergency numbers for international students
    +618 8201 2717 between 9 and 5, Monday to Friday and
    +618 8201 2880 at all other times. Call us if you have any flight delays or difficulties
☐ Enough currency for taxis, buses, phone calls etc. in the event of an emergency
☐ Spare spectacles / contact lenses (and a copy of your prescription)
☐ Camera, calculator
☐ Bilingual dictionary (specialist dictionaries for your area of study will be helpful)
☐ If you are bringing a computer, make sure it is part of your accompanied luggage
☐ If you have any references from previous landlords, bring them, especially if you are planning to rent off-campus accommodation
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Welcome to Flinders University and congratulations on being offered an Australian Development Scholarship (ADS).

Flinders University has a contract with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to manage the ADS program.

As the Flinders University AusAID Liaison Officer (ALO), I work closely with AusAID to ensure that your educational experience in Australia is successful. We are sure that the knowledge and skills you gain will help the development of your country when you return home.

AusAID and Flinders University hope that you find your stay in Australia rewarding and wish you every success in your studies.

Maxine Bald
Admin. Assistant (AusAID)

Elaine Kane
AusAID Liaison Officer.

October 2012
About Flinders

Flinders is everything a modern university should be— progressive and dynamic yet still friendly and accessible. We offer a vibrant and stimulating environment in which to work or study. We are committed to innovation, excellence and equity in all that we do.

The main Flinders campus is in suburban Adelaide, situated on land belonging to the Kaurna people of South Australia. Kaurna is one of more than 250 indigenous language groups that existed in Australia prior to colonisation. The word indigenous is used to describe both Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Island people.

Spread over 165 hectares, the Adelaide campus in the suburb of Bedford Park, incorporates thousands of trees and areas of natural bushland and the elevated site offers panoramic views of the city centre and nearby coast.

Flinders also has a presence in the Central Business District Adelaide. The following courses are offered in the city campus – Master of Business Administration, Master of Accounting, Master of Public Administration.

We offer more than 160 undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as higher degree research supervision across all disciplines. Many courses use new information and communication technologies to supplement face-to-face teaching and provide flexible options.

International students make up 13% of our on-campus student population and we also offer a number of offshore programs.

Research is a core activity at Flinders. We believe investigation and enquiry are essential to an academic institution and we consistently rank among Australia’s top universities on a per capita basis for research spending and for the citation of our work in professional journals.

Our approach also is distinctive. Our size and compact main campus make meaningful collaboration between disciplines a reality. This is a significant advantage in a world that now recognises that many problems are not the province of any one discipline, but are best tackled by multidisciplinary teams.

Research is carried out across all disciplines in the University’s four Faculties, which also offer support and supervision for postgraduate research students, and in a number of specialist research centres and institutes.

Flinders University offers a wide range of opportunities to students from many different countries, across programs from undergraduate to postgraduate level.

Useful links:
Flinders University (www.flinders.edu.au)
About Adelaide

Adelaide, the capital of the state of South Australia, is a cosmopolitan city of more than one million people and the chief commercial, cultural and administrative centre of the state.

It is a safe city, with a high standard of living, and is one of the most accessible cities in Australia in which to live.

Although housing in Adelaide costs less than in other major Australian cities, some students will think it is expensive, especially compared to their home country. The cost of fresh food across Australia is affected by climatic conditions and factors such as the cost of fuel. An ongoing drought has increased costs of fresh food for consumers in Adelaide.

Adelaide is a planned city and is attractively laid out on a square grid. Fringed by 32 kilometres of white, sandy beaches, it offers safe swimming and easy access to water sports. The city has a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with many highlights, including

- a thriving cultural scene with an international biennial arts festival
- a wide range of cuisines, reflecting Adelaide’s multicultural atmosphere
- world class sporting facilities
- a good public transport system
- close proximity to diverse Australian environments including wine-growing areas, scenic coastal districts and ‘outback’ desert country.

Climate

As the table below shows, Adelaide enjoys a mild and comfortable climate throughout the year. In mid-summer the temperature may occasionally reach 40 degrees. However, the hot, dry heat generally only comes in short bursts of a few days.

Although Adelaide does not have snow in winter, the wind, rain and high humidity make it quite cold, so pack, or budget to buy warm clothing. Central heating and double-glazing are not common in Australia, so houses are often quite cold and damp in winter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Av. daily min (°C)</th>
<th>Av. daily max (°C)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Useful links:

Adelaide South Australia (www.southaustralia.com/Adelaide.aspx)
Study Adelaide (www.studyadelaide.com/)
## Important dates for 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Academic Program</td>
<td>16 January – 17 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Week</td>
<td>20 – 24 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1 [week commencing]</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 1 – 14</td>
<td>27 February – 15 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Semester Break</td>
<td>9 – 20 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>18 – 29 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Year Break</td>
<td>2 – 20 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Academic Program</td>
<td>12 June – 13 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 2 [week commencing]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeks 1 – 14</td>
<td>23 July – 9 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Semester Break</td>
<td>17 – 28 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>12 – 23 November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More information can be found at the following link: [www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/dates](http://www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/dates)
The following information refers to some of the most frequently asked questions by new AusAID students:

Getting a visa

- Will I need to apply for my visa?
The AusAID Post for your country will advise you about the application process for your visa.
- What about my family’s visas?
Please see the Family Matters section for further information.

Arrival & temporary accommodation

- How will Flinders University know my arrival and temporary accommodation details?
The AusAID Post in your respective country will provide me with your flight details. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will arrange airport reception and temporary accommodation for you.

The cost of the temporary accommodation is Australian Dollars (AUD) $57.00 per night (for single students only). You will be responsible for paying for this accommodation.

- What if I want to make my own arrangements to be met at the airport?
I am happy for you to arrange to be met by friends, but you must notify me before you leave your home country whether you will require transport to your temporary accommodation. You will also need to make arrangements to collect your arrival pack and appointment letter.

PLEASE NOTE: You must advise your AusAID Post if you do not want us to arrange your temporary accommodation.
If you cancel before you travel, there will be no charge. If we book temporary accommodation and you change your mind when you arrive, you must pay a fee of AUD$57.00 (the cost of one night’s accommodation).

- Information for Indonesian Students
The Indonesian Australian Student Association (PPIA) works closely with the ALO to arrange low cost temporary accommodation for new Indonesian students. This means that they will arrange for you to stay with one of the current Indonesian students studying at Flinders. Unless you advise us that you do not want to use this service, your details will be provided to PPIA to help them arrange your temporary accommodation.

This accommodation arranged by PPIA is extremely low cost. In 2012 the cost for temporary accommodation arranged by PPIA will be AUD$110 to 120 per week with no meals included. This compares with the Flinders Housing temporary accommodation, which costs AUD$57.00 per day with no meals.
• **What if I want to stay with friends?**

I am happy for you make your own arrangements for temporary accommodation, but you must advise me in writing as soon as possible so that we do not book temporary accommodation for you. Please let me know the address and telephone number of the temporary accommodation you have arranged.

**You can contact me on:**
Email: issu@flinders.edu.au
Fax: +618 8201 3261
Telephone: +618 8201 2717

• **What should I do if my flight is delayed?**

If you encounter any problems during your travel (for example if you miss your connecting flight in Sydney), or upon arrival in Adelaide please contact me on (08) 8201 5072 during business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). **If you need to make contact outside these hours, please telephone Flinders Security on (08) 8201 2880 or my mobile phone (hand phone) which is 0412 266 736.** I have enclosed my business card, showing my contact details, which will be easy to carry with you.

**Finding permanent accommodation**

• **How will I find permanent accommodation?**

Support services will be provided to help you find permanent accommodation. However it may take some time to find accommodation that suits your budget, is in a suitable location and is the type of housing that you like (for example, share house, unit, house etc).

**Please note:** previous intakes of students have taken an average of four (4) to six (6) weeks to find suitable permanent accommodation so it is advisable to bring extra money with you to cover the cost of extended temporary accommodation.

Flinders Housing will provide information on accommodation options, rental agreements and information about the local rental housing market. Members of our support team will be available to help you arrange appointments with landlords or real estate agents and to help you find information on accommodation vacancies. They will also assist you to look at properties.

Please refer to the pages on Accommodation in Adelaide commencing on page 14 of this booklet for an overview of the accommodation options available to you. You will also receive more detailed information on arrival in the Flinders University *International Student Handbook 2012* or you can access this online at www.flinders.edu/international/handbook

• **What if I want to live on campus?**

Flinders University provides on-campus student accommodation that is accessible to all parts of the campus. This accommodation is suitable for single students or students who do not intend to be joined by family members. For more detailed information about the facilities offered please refer to the pages on Accommodation in Adelaide commencing on page 13 of this booklet. Your institution information kit includes information sheets and application forms for on-campus accommodation. On-campus accommodation is very popular however and you need to be aware that your application may not be successful.
Health insurance
• What do I need to do about health insurance while I am studying in Australia?

All international students are required to have health insurance whilst they are studying in Australia. This is called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), and single person visa length OSHC is paid by AusAID as one of the benefits of your scholarship. Flinders University currently uses OSHC Worldcare as their provider of OSHC.

Please refer to the OSHC Worldcare website on www.oshcworldcare.com.au/about_OSHC.aspx for information about your entitlements under OSHC.

Please see Family Matters (next page) about OSHC for your family members.

Support services
• What other support services are available?

As a student enrolled at Flinders University you will have access to a wide range of support services on campus including the International Student Services Unit, Health, Counselling and Disability Services, Student Learning Centre and Flinders Campus Community Services which provides a range of services including financial counselling, advocacy and employment assistance.

As a resident in Adelaide, there are also many support services within the local and broader community. Once you have settled into your long-term accommodation, you can contact your local Council to obtain detailed information covering the support services offered to residents. Such services might include Migrant Resource Centres, Community Centres, Neighbourhood Houses, country specific organisations, etc.

Family matters
• What if I don’t bring my family?

If you are eligible for a Reunion Airfare entitlement (as stated on your scholarship offer) Flinders University will assist you to arrange your Family Reunion travel when you have successfully completed your first year of study.

• What if I want to bring my family?

All students are responsible for covering the cost of any eligible family members who join them in Australia on a dependant’s visa. Further information about eligible family members is on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) ‘how to apply link’ (see Page 6). There is further information on the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au/students/students/576-2/eligibility.htm but you may also want to speak to an officer at your nearest DIAC Office if you are unsure about these requirements.

Please note: it is important to include all eligible family members on your original student visa application whether they intend to travel to Australia or not.
• Bringing my family - issues to consider

Before making a decision to bring your family to Australia it is important to consider the following issues:

• The cost of airfares for your family to and from Australia;

• Possible higher rent for a larger home;

• Limited employment opportunities for your spouse;

• Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities;

• The effect on you and your studies if your family is not happy in Australia;

• Whether your children will adjust to school in Australia;

• Waiting lists for child care centres; and

• Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family, or to all come at the same time.

• What about OSHC for my family?

Why do I have to pay OSHC for my family?

Your family will be in Australia as your dependants, and they must have the same basic medical cover as you do for the length of your visa, which will be achieved by them having OSHC. You are responsible for making this payment, and the DIAC regulations require that you show proof of having paid for visa length Family OSHC before your family members’ visas can be granted.

How much will visa length Family OSHC cost?

The legislation relating to the payment of OSHC has been changed and there will now be two levels of Family OSHC policies:

• Dual Family – which will cover a student and their spouse OR a student and their dependent children

• Multi Family – which will cover a student and their spouse and dependent children

An example of the cost for Family OSHC is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dual family</th>
<th>Multi family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 month</td>
<td>$990</td>
<td>$1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 month</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
<td>$4,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 month</td>
<td>$3,290</td>
<td>$6,830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most students choose to wait until they have arrived and settled in before bringing their families out to Australia to join them and this is our preferred option.

Exceptional cases such as students who are breast feeding a baby or single parents who have no-one else to care for their children at home will be approved to bring their family with them on arrival.

In other cases approval depends on whether you have friends or colleagues here in Adelaide who are able to provide temporary accommodation for you and your family and who can support and assist your family members while you are attending the IAP which is compulsory.

NOTE: If you marry, or your spouse gives birth to a child in the period between lodging your student visa application and the visa being granted, you must advise DIAC immediately as having an additional dependant will affect DIAC’s visa assessment process.
In either case you will need to contact the AusAID Liaison Officer on elaine.kane@flinders.edu.au to request a confirmation of approval from her.

If you are approved to bring your family with you on arrival, you will need to arrange for Family OSHC and schooling for your children in order for them to get their visas.

**How do I pay for Family OSHC from off-shore?**

In order to obtain a quote you need to send an e-mail to Student Finance Services on fees@flinders.edu.au with a copy to jenny.meacham@flinders.edu.au providing your name, scholarship details and Flinders Student ID number plus the full names and dates of birth of all your family members who will travel to Australia as your dependants and your estimated date of arrival in Adelaide.

When you receive the quote you need to make a payment to the University through a direct credit into the University’s bank account.

Details are:-

- **Bank:** NAB (National Australia Bank)
- **Branch:** 22 King William St., Adelaide
- **Account Name:** Flinders University
- **BSB:** 085-458
- **Account No.:** 86-589-5181
- **Swift/BIC code:** NATAAU3305A

Once you have paid, please send an e-mail to eft.remittance@flinders.edu.au advising your name, scholarship details, Flinders student ID number, amount paid and date of payment.

If you cannot pay by direct credit, you can pay by international bank draft or international money order made payable to Flinders University. Post the cheque to Cashiers Office, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001, Australia. Please include a covering letter with your name, scholarship details and student ID.

**How do I get a an OSHC Certificate for my family to put with their visa application?**

After you have paid your money to the University, send an e-mail to Student Finance Services on fees@flinders.edu.au with a copy to jenny.meacham@flinders.edu.au advising that you have transferred the money for visa length family OSHC cover. You must provide your name, scholarship details and Flinders ID number.

Once Student Finance Services has received this e-mail and confirmed that the payment has been received, you will be able to log on to the OSHC Worldcare website at www.OSHCWorldcare.com.au to add your family member details and print off a Certificate of membership for them. You will use this as the proof required for your family’s visa application.

**What do I need to do when my family arrives in Adelaide?**

When you arrive in Adelaide you will need to take your family’s passports to Student Finance Services to show their arrival date and to confirm that the correct amount has been paid for Family OSHC. A small adjustment may be required at that time.

**How do I pay for Family OSHC after I arrive in Australia?**

When they arrive in Australia you must go to Student Finance Services and tell them when you expect your family to arrive. They will tell you the amount you need to pay so that you have visa length OSHC cover for your family.

Once you have paid this, you will be able to log on to the OSHC Worldcare website at www.OSHCWorldcare.com.au to add your family member details and print off a Certificate of membership for them to send to your family to put with their visa application.
• **Immunisation**

If your child is under seven years of age and will be attending child care or any pre-school, kindergarten or school, you will be required to produce evidence of immunisation. Therefore it is advisable to have these records available for when your family travels to Australia.

• **Schooling**

The majority of Australian families send their children to government primary and secondary schools (state schools.) Many of these schools have staff who are experienced in teaching children from non-English speaking backgrounds. There are several government primary and secondary schools located within a reasonable distance of Flinders University, several of which provide a New Arrivals Program for children from a Non-English Speaking Background.

• **How do I arrange schooling for my children?**

If you have school-age children, you will need to make arrangements for them to attend a school in Adelaide. Although school attendance in South Australia is only compulsory for children aged between six and 16, because you are on a student visa, your children must attend school between the ages of five and 18.

As part of the Dependant’s visa application process for your school age children you need to register your children to obtain proof that they are eligible to attend a state school in South Australia. The International Education Services (IES) application forms have been included in this pack. You should complete Parts A and B and sign Part C of the Dependants of Australian Scholarship Holders Application Form on a separate form for each child who will be attending school. You should also complete the Details of Parent and Details of Dependant Children sections on the Tertiary Scholarship Verification form. Then fax these forms to ISSU on +618 8201 3261 or scan and e-mail them to maxine.bald@flinders.edu.au. Alternatively you can wait until you have arrived in Adelaide and during the IAP we will assist you to complete the necessary forms.

**Please note,** in South Australia, you do not need a letter from the School Principal to provide evidence of enrolment in an Australian school. The letter of exemption from IES is the only document that is required for dependants studying in South Australia.

The South Australian government grants fee-free education to the dependants of AusAID funded scholarship holders when they attend state government schools.

All state schools do charge activity fees, which range from $250 to $600 per year, and students are expected to pay these fees from their Contribution to Living Expenses.

• **2012 Term Dates at state schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>30 January – 5 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>23 April – 29 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>16 July – 21 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>8 October – 14 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **When should I bring my family?**

We strongly recommend that students travel to Australia by themselves and allow time to find suitable accommodation and settle in before bringing their families. Because attendance at the IAP is compulsory we suggest that families arrive after the end of the IAP, which finishes on 17th February 2012 for Semester One commencers and 13th July 2012 for Semester Two commencers.

If you have exceptional circumstances and intend to travel to Australia with your family, please contact the ALO as soon as possible to advise her of your plans. Please note that Flinders Housing cannot always accommodate families, so you need to confirm the cost and availability of on-campus or other temporary accommodation if you travel with family.
• How do I arrange childcare for my children?

Although childcare is available on campus and at the Flinders Medical Centre, there are frequently long waiting lists, and international students do not receive special consideration. Therefore you may wish to put your child’s name on the waiting list for the Flinders University Child Care Centre before you come to Adelaide. Their website is www.flinders.edu.au/childcare.

If your spouse is not able to accompany you, you need to think carefully about how you will manage your studies and child minding responsibilities. The following website will assist you with any questions you may have regarding childcare on campus:


You may find it more convenient to use a childcare centre in the community, which is close to your accommodation. Other childcare options will also be discussed in the Family Session during the IAP.

As an AusAID sponsored student, you will be eligible to apply for the Child Care Benefit (CCB) subsidy to help cover the costs of childcare centres for pre-school children or vacation care and outside school hours care programs for school-age children.

In order to be eligible for the full rate of CCB, both parents will need to apply for an Australian Tax File Number (TFN).

Can my spouse work in Australia?

Your spouse will be able to work full time only if you are completing a doctoral or masters level program. In other cases, they will be limited to 20 hours per week.

• Can my spouse study in Australia?

Whilst your spouse is on a Student Dependant (Class 576) visa, their visa conditions allow them to study for a maximum period of up to three months during the entire length of your scholarship.

If your spouse wants to study for longer than three months, they will need to apply for a private student visa. AusAID approval is required for your spouse to transfer to a private student visa.

You are still required to return home at the end of your study program and will not be permitted to remain in Australia whilst your spouse continues studying.

For any formal study that your spouse undertakes, they will have to pay the full-fee costs for the study program.
• What activities are available for my spouse?
The International Student Services Unit runs an English conversation group on campus for the spouses of international students. These are run weekly for a minimal cost, and also provide an opportunity for spouses to meet new people. There are also low cost English conversation groups run by community organisations, and you can contact these when your family arrives.

• What if other family members (not dependants on my visa) or friends want to come and visit me?
Flinders welcomes the opportunity for family and friends to visit students whilst they are studying in Australia. We will provide a letter of invitation for them to put with their visitor’s (tourist) visa application.

Please note, they will need to take out private medical insurance or travel insurance, as they are not eligible for OSHC.

Ausaid entitlements & responsibilities

• Establishment Allowance
You will receive an Establishment Allowance of $5000 paid by cheque as soon as possible after you arrive. This allowance, which is paid only once, is to assist you with costs for setting up your long-term accommodation and other initial expenses.

Please note: previous intakes of students have taken an average of four (4) to six (6) weeks to find suitable permanent accommodation so it is advisable to bring extra money with you.

• Contribution to Living Expenses (CLE)
Your Contribution to Living Expenses (CLE) commences from the day you arrive in Australia and is paid up to the date of your departure from Australia. It will be paid directly into your bank account every fortnight.

There is only one rate of CLE, whether or not your family joins you in Australia and the CLE rate is reviewed annually by AusAID.

The current fortnightly rate of CLE is $958.47 for ADS.

• Monitoring your study progress
While you are studying at Flinders, I am responsible for monitoring your study progress and reporting regularly to AusAID.

I am also available to discuss any difficulties or problems that you may be having and to assist you to access any of the other support services available throughout the University.

I look forward to meeting you when you arrive in Adelaide and working together towards your success.
Accommodation in Adelaide

Many students choose to live on campus for at least the first year to help with their transition to life in Adelaide and if you are considering doing this it is important to apply as early as possible.

Please note: on campus accommodation is not suitable for families.

On campus accommodation

- Accommodation in Adelaide
  
  **Quick facts**
  
  - If you want to apply for accommodation on campus through Flinders Housing, or in the Flinders Medical Centre Flats, you need to apply before you come to Australia
  
  - If you plan to live in other rental accommodation, we recommend that you do not sign any agreement before you have come to Australia and seen the property for yourself
  
  - The information below gives details on applying for Flinders Housing accommodation and Flinders Medical Centre Flats, and an overview of other rental options. There is more detailed information in the Flinders University International Student Handbook 2012 which you will be given in your arrival pack or you can access this online at www.flinders.edu/international/handbook
  
  - Accommodation managed by Flinders Housing
    
    Students can apply to live in University Hall or the University Village in either the townhouses or the units. Flinders Housing's accommodation is open to all Flinders students and therefore provides an opportunity for international students to mix with Australian students from interstate and rural and remote areas of South Australia.
    
    To apply for a place in any accommodation managed by Flinders Housing, you can complete the application form included in this pack and return the completed form to Flinders Housing, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001, Australia.
    
    Apply no later than 31 October 2011 if you are seeking accommodation for first semester 2012, or 15 June 2012 if you are looking for accommodation in second semester 2012. University Hall is very popular, and there are often more applicants for accommodation than there are vacancies.
  
  Please be aware that making an application does not guarantee you a place in either University Hall or other Flinders’ Housing accommodation.
  
  The following information is based on 2011 fees. There will be a price increase in 2012.
  
  - Please note that any student who commences in second semester is considered as a single semester resident, and is required to pay an additional surcharge of $260 when they accept an offer of on-campus housing.
  
  - Normally single semester residents are required to pay the full semester fee in advance with the acceptance of an offer of housing.
University Hall
The Hall offers a communal environment for 242 students. All students have private lockable rooms with heating, a bed, desk, chair, telephone and internet connections and cupboards. They just need to provide linen and blankets. Bathrooms are shared with other students. Three meals a day are provided on weekdays (except over the Christmas vacation), and on weekends and public holidays residents make their own meals using the kitchens provided in the Hall for residents’ use. The Hall also provides resident tutors, who are available to help students with academic and other problems. The cost is $273 a week for a single room for a 40-week contract period, or $213 a week for a double room. Residents also pay an advance fee of $917, which includes a refundable $350 bond.

Deirdre Jordan Village
Flinders Housing offers an attractive range of self-catered accommodation in its townhouses and units. These are located near University Hall and have a Community Centre as the hub of the on-campus residential community.

Townhouses
The 42 village townhouses are adjacent to University Hall, and provide accommodation for 114 students in a mixture of two and three bedroom apartments. The townhouses are fully furnished and there is a kitchen, a lounge/dining room, a laundry, a bathroom and two toilets. Each bedroom has a telephone and an internet connection. Students living in the townhouses are responsible for their own cooking and cleaning. Students are also required to provide their linen (sheets and towels).

A number of the townhouses are reserved for postgraduate and senior students, and it is not common for new students to win a place in the townhouses. These cost $174 per week for a 40-week contract, plus a $850 fee, which includes a community fee and a refundable bond of $350. Students supply their own linen (bed sheets and towels). Students from the village units have access to two on-site laundromats, as well as a community centre.

• Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)
Flinders Medical Centre has very limited short and long term accommodation available. This is a short walk from the hospital and the University and includes:

• single rooms with shared bathroom and kitchen, cost $273 a fortnight
• three bedroom flats shared with two other people, cost $483 a fortnight

Hospital staff receive highest preference for these flats, followed by medical and nursing students then any other students. Competition for places is intense. Bed linen is provided when you arrive but students are expected to wash their own linen in the laundry provided.

Download an application form at www.flinders.sa.gov.au/employment/pages/accom/accom/ and e-mail your completed form to sonya.mausolf@health.sa.gov.au or fax to +61 8 8204 5396, marking it Attention: Accommodation Manager.
Private Rental Market

Set up costs
If you are planning to rent accommodation off-campus, you will need to pay between six and eight weeks’ rent in advance of which four or six weeks rent will be lodged as a security bond with the Tenancies Branch of Consumer and Business Services. If a house or flat costs more than $250 a week, a landlord can ask for six weeks’ rent as bond money.

For example, an unfurnished house may cost between $260 and $550 a week in rent, which means you (and your housemates) could be required to pay up to $4400 for bond and rent. An unfurnished flat or unit may cost between $180 and $230+ a week (depending on location and condition), thereby requiring an initial payment of between $720 and $920 for bond and advance rent.

Sometimes rooms are advertised in existing share-houses, and your cost to move in will be a portion of the overall rent, plus a contribution to the bond, as the house-mate who has moved out will need to be paid back their share of the bond. So for example, if you are moving into a three bedroom house in St Marys that costs $360 per week in rent, each housemate would be contributing $120 a week in rent, and you would be paying $720 towards the bond. Always make sure that you get a receipt whenever you make any payment for your accommodation.

Share flats and houses
Most flats have two bedrooms. Most houses have two, three or four bedrooms. Share arrangements are usually between students, but sometimes include others (e.g. employed Australians).

Good co-operative arrangements are essential. In most cases, private rental properties are unfurnished, and you will be expected to do your own cooking and cleaning, as well as share the common household expenses. Use of household utensils and appliances is usually shared. The approximate rental cost for each person in a shared household will be between $120 and $150 each week (taken from vacancies listed with Flinders Housing). In addition you will need to budget for household bills, food, transport and other personal expenses.

Rooming houses
There is a growing trend for people to buy and furnish houses, which they rent by the room. This is defined as a Rooming House, and there are some protections under law, see www.ocba.sa.gov.au/tenancies/rooming/index.html for more information.

This can be a good option for students because it means you do not have to buy your own furniture. The negative aspect of this accommodation is that you do not choose your housemates.

Furnished accommodation
Furnished accommodation is not so common in the private rental market, so it may take longer to find, and will cost you at least $20 a week more than unfurnished accommodation. There is also considerable variation in the amount and standard of furniture provided in furnished accommodation. You should expect to find a stove/cooker in any accommodation, but in addition a furnished place may have a refrigerator, washing machine, wardrobes and beds. The kitchen may have basic cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils. The lounge furniture will probably be quite basic, and you are unlikely to have a television.

Should I try to find a place to rent before I come to Adelaide?

There are pluses and minuses in trying to rent a place or finding a room in a share house before you arrive in Adelaide.

The big plus is that you have somewhere to live before you arrive, and you know how much you will need to budget for housing.
The minus is that you won’t really know the condition of the house or flat, nor have a clear idea of whether its location is convenient to the University, transport and shops. Of course, if one of your new housemates is a current Flinders student, you would hope that it is convenient to the University!

If you are thinking of renting a house or flat without having seen it, be very careful. Leases for properties are binding legal documents. This means you can’t change your mind when you arrive in Adelaide and see the property for yourself. There are penalties for breaching leases, and you should read the information put out by Consumer and Business Services on renting, at www.ocba.sa.gov.au/tenancies/index.html as failure to understand the conditions is not a defence for breaking the lease.

Will I get help finding accommodation?

Flinders Housing has an Accommodation Service to assist you to find suitable accommodation either on or off campus. The staff are experienced in working with international students to help them secure satisfactory long-term accommodation.

The Accommodation Service maintains listings of available accommodation at the following web site: www.flinders.edu.au/housing/ and after you have agreed to the conditions of use, click on Private Accommodation Listings.

As well as online computer listings, which are available all year round, Flinders Housing runs a service where staff will help you contact real estate agents about rental vacancies. You can book transport to see vacant properties in the afternoons. This service runs

For Semester 1 2012:
3 January – 20 January
3 days per week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am - 5pm;
23 January – 24 February, 5 days per week, Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm,
27 February – 9 March, 3 days per week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am - 5pm

For Semester 2 2012:
4 June – 15 June, 3 days per week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am - 5pm
9 July – 4 August, 3 days per week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am - 5pm

ISSU runs an additional service on Saturdays between 10 am and 2 pm where you can also obtain help contacting real estate agents and transport is available so you can look at vacant properties. You must book at ISSU to use the Saturday service by lunchtime on Fridays.

If you are going to be looking for accommodation in the private rental market, you might also like to search the following web sites, so that you can have an idea of the type, cost and availability of accommodation in Adelaide.

www.abelrealty.com.au
www.ljhooker.com.au
www.philmcmahonrealestate.com.au
www.domain.com.au
www.rh.com.au
www.southernrealestate.com.au
www.linandrews.com.au
www.realestate.com.au
www.toop.com.au

Suburbs close to Flinders University and accessible by public transport are Bedford Park, Clovelly Park, Edwardstown, Melrose Park, St Marys, Mitchell Park, Flagstaff Hill, Panorama, Pasadena and Sturt. Some students choose to buy a car, which broadens their options. The beachside suburbs of Brighton and Glenelg are popular.
Planning your trip

Inside the front cover you will find a checklist which we hope you will find useful in planning your trip.

Documents

You should prepare a folder of official documents to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with Student Visa
- ADS Scholarship offer letter
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver’s licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- Insurance policies

If you are travelling with your family you will need to include their documents as well. Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage. In case you lose the originals, make sure that copies can be left behind with family and sent to you.

What to bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you’re in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, declare it anyway on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) homepage www.daff.gov.au/aqis:

- Read “What can’t I take into Australia?”
- And also let your family and friends know “What can’t be mailed to Australia?”

Australian Quarantine screens ALL international mail sent to Australia. Quarantine will remove high-risk quarantine items from parcels. Therefore it is important to let your family and friends know what items cannot be sent to you in Australia. Anything they send by mail must be declared on the postal declaration label.

TIP: many of your favourite foods are available in Australia’s major cities. These foods have to pass strict quarantine conditions before they are allowed into Australia.

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are permitted only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

If your luggage significantly exceeds the airline limit it will be much cheaper to send the excess as unaccompanied baggage. Ask your travel agent or airline how to do this.
• Seasonal Considerations
Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. In Adelaide, the hottest months are January and February.
If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive.

• Clothing
On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.
A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

• Other items you might need to include (most can also be purchased in Australia)
✓ alarm clock
✓ bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases
✓ dictionary (bilingual)
✓ small sewing kit
✓ music CDs or iPod
✓ sporting equipment
✓ toiletries
✓ umbrella
✓ scientific or graphics calculator
✓ camera
✓ micro recorder for lectures
✓ spare spectacles or contact lenses
✓ your optical prescription
✓ photos of friends and family
✓ swimming costume
✓ small gifts from home

The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

Personal effects and belongings that you have owned for 12 months or more can be brought into Australia without attracting duty or sales tax. Other goods that you have owned for less than 12 months must not exceed a combined value of $900 (or $450 if under 18 years of age). This is your duty free allowance.

When you leave Australia, you will be restricted to 20 kilograms of luggage, unless you are prepared to pay a lot of money for excess baggage. Consider carefully what you will bring to Adelaide, and consider buying cheap new or secondhand electrical goods after you arrive in Adelaide.
• Bringing Your Computer

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated. Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival. This money will be returned to you in your home country by mail after you have left Australia. When you leave Australia, you must give all papers and receipts to Customs Security.

Officers can then confirm that you have left with your computer. Your cash deposit can only be returned to you with this documentation.

• Mobile Phones & Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority www.acma.gov.au before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be Austel Approved in order to function in Australia.

Health requirements

Australian health laws may require vaccination or immunisation against certain diseases before leaving your country. The Australian High Commission or Embassy in your country will advise you of any requirements.

Disability support

If you have a health condition (e.g. chronic pain, depression, anxiety) or disability (e.g. learning disability, vision or hearing impairment) the Disability Advisor (DA) at Flinders may be able to provide some assistance with your studies. The DA provides a free, confidential service to all students. You must bring documentation of your disability from your home country—the DA cannot assess your level of disability or impairment. Please email disability@flinders.edu.au for further information.

Pharmaceutical goods

As an international student, you cannot use the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which allows Australian citizens to buy prescription items at a subsidised cost. Therefore, if you have any medical conditions that require ongoing medication, you need to consider these costs when planning your budget.

Usually people are allowed to bring up to three-months’ supply of medication into Australia. You must check with the Therapeutic Goods Administration about which prescription drugs you can bring and in what quantities. Information is on the web at www.tga.gov.au/consumers/travellers.htm

Declare your prescription drugs to Customs and show your script and a letter from your doctor.
Your hand luggage
Your hand luggage should include document folder; air ticket; valuables like laptops; any necessary medicine for an existing complaint; this handbook.

There are security regulations about carrying liquids, aerosols or gels in your hand luggage. Read information at www.travelsecure.infrastructure.gov.au/

On your flight
Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an Incoming Passenger Card to fill in. This is a legal document. You must tick ✔ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products. This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don’t wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don’t be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than AUD$10,000 in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is strongly recommended however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.

Entry into Australia
• Australian Immigration
When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

• Baggage Claim
Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to bag baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged go to the Baggage Counter and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

• Detector Dogs
You may see a Quarantine Detector Dog at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

• Australian Customs and Quarantine
Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn’t have. You must declare ALL food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.
Australia has strict quarantine laws and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AUD$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require treatment to make them safe. Items that are restricted because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit www.daff.gov.au/aqis

• Arrivals Hall
You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

• ISSU Reception Service
Flinders University offers a free reception service to all new international students. We train and employ a group of students, both local and international, to be our arrival team (the A-Team). You will know them because they will be carrying a sign with Flinders University on it, as well as wearing a Flinders t-shirt or sweater.

If you are arriving on an international flight, the A-Team member will wait for you at the International Meet and Greet point on Terminal Level 0. (see www.aal.com.au/air-travel/passengers/maps).

If you are arriving on a domestic flight, the A-Team member will wait for you at the baggage reclaim area.

When you arrive, please look for a member of our arrival team, who will be carrying a Flinders University sign and waiting inside the terminal at the arrivals area. Do not leave the terminal until you have been met.

If you miss a domestic connecting flight or if your flight has been delayed and there is no one to meet you, don’t panic! Approach the Information and Tourist Bookings Booth located on the ground level of the terminal opposite international arrivals and ask if they will telephone the University on 8201 2717 during business hours or 8201 2880 after hours to let us know you have arrived. We will then arrange for someone to meet you.

Public telephones accept coins of the following denominations: 10, 20 and 50 cents and 1 dollar. If you do not have any coins, please ask if you can change a $5, $10 or $20 note at an airport shop or in the Foreign Exchange Bureau.

Accessing money

Quick facts
• Australia’s currency is the Australian dollar ($)
• A dollar equals 100 cents
• Our coins are 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent, $1 and $2
• Our notes are $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100
• Do not travel with large amounts of cash
• If you bring more than AUD$10,000 in cash into Australia you must declare it on the Traveller Information form issued to you on the plane.

Usually you will be given your Establishment Allowance cheque on the first working day after you arrive. We will pre-open a bank account for you on campus and when you deposit your Establishment Allowance cheque there, you will be able to withdraw cash from it straight away.
**Currency Exchange**

Once you have arrived in Adelaide, if you need to convert any currency that you have brought with you, you can change money at any bank or currency exchange. Places in the city where you can exchange foreign currency are listed below. A current passport or driving license will be required for this service.

*American Express*

113 Grenfell Street, Adelaide
Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am-12 noon
N.B. They are closed on Sunday and on Public Holidays

*Harvey World Travel*

Shop 2004, Level 2, Marion Shopping Complex
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00am-5.30pm
Thursday 9.00am-8.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-4.00pm

*Travelex*

Shop 4, Beehive Corner, corner King William St and Rundle Mall
Monday- Thursday 9.00am-5.30pm
Friday 9.00 – 6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday 11am – 3.00pm

*Electronic Transfer*

You can transfer money into Australia by electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately 48 hours, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

*ATMs*

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.

*Credit Cards*

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that repayments to many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

Remember – additional information is included in the Flinders University *International Student Handbook* which is available online at www.flinders.edu/international/handbook
Notes:
While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this booklet, the International Students Services Unit is not responsible for any changes made by other sections of the University, nor outside organisations, after the final draft was collated in November 2011.

A PDF version of this guide can be downloaded at: www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/services/ausaid-students.cfm

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