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Welcome to Flinders

This guide is designed for international student visa holders about to travel to Adelaide to commence studies at Flinders University. It contains important information about what to do before you leave home and what help the university can provide when you first arrive.

More detailed information about the university, its services and living in Adelaide will be provided soon after you arrive, and our staff and students will be waiting to help you.

If this is the first time you have moved to live in another country you probably feel excited but also a bit anxious and apprehensive. That’s normal—most students feel that way. Preparing yourself will make the transition smoother.

If possible, talk with friends or relatives, who have been to Australia, about their experiences and try to learn a little about our country. Visit a library to read books and newspapers or listen to broadcasts by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), which has short wave, satellite, cable, and FM transmissions.

The ABC’s Radio Australia service develops regional awareness of Australia and an understanding of Australian attitudes to regional and world affairs. Contact the Australian Embassy or Consulate in your country for more details or visit Radio Australia on the World Wide Web at www.abc.net.au/ra.

Of course, you can also find more about Flinders University on the World Wide Web, at www.flinders.edu.au.

Our site contains a great deal of general information, as well as specific sites for international students. Education Adelaide provides useful information about South Australia and Adelaide, so go to www.studyadelaide.com for more information. The Australian Government also provides information about studying in Australia at www.studyinaustralia.gov.au and about Australian society and the economy at www.dfat.gov.au/geo/australia.

Good luck with your preparations. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Professor Nancy Cromar
Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)
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 Flinders campus is in 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.

Flinders has three main locations across Adelaide. Spread over 165 hectares, the Bedford Park, Adelaide campus incorporates thousands of trees and areas of natural bushland and the elevated site offers panoramic views of the city centre and nearby coast. Most students study at the Bedford Park Campus, which is about 12 kilometres south of the city centre. Most University services are located permanently at Bedford Park.

There are also classes taught at the Victoria Square City Presence, and students in the Master of Accounting and MBA programs usually have all of their classes in the city. Students in the graduate Public Administration programs will take their intensive topics in the city and their core topics at either Bedford Park or Victoria Square.

From 2015, programs in Engineering and Information Technology will move progressively from being taught at Bedford Park to the new Tonsley Campus, which is approximately two kilometres from Bedford Park and easily accessible by public transport.

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 16% of our total student population and we also offer a number of offshore programs. Flinders University offers a wide range of opportunities to students from many different countries, across programs from undergraduate to postgraduate level.

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.
Pre Departure Checklist

Have I

✓ Applied for my Australian Student Visa?
✓ Booked my flight to arrive in time for enrolment and orientation (at least TWO weeks before classes start)?
✓ Booked a Flinders Arrival Briefing (FAB) session and ISS Orientation?
✓ Organised airport pickup (free meet and greet service) and received confirmation of my booking?
✓ Familiarised myself with Australian Customs and Quarantine information?
✓ Prepared an important documents file?
✓ Purchased some Australian currency?
✓ Organised temporary accommodation (for first 2-3 weeks)?
✓ Lodged my application for on campus accommodation or homestay (if required)?
✓ Organized childcare and school for my children (if required)?
**Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)**

The Australian Government’s Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) is responsible for issuing visas for entry to and stay in Australia. DIBP provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Please note that Flinders University is a participant in Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP). This means that students studying an eligible course at Flinders University will be assessed as the equivalent of Assessment Level 1 (AL1) when applying for a student visa. For further information about student visas, please visit:

www.immi.gov.au/students

**Education agents**

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with Flinders University for contact details of agents we recommend.

Refer to:
www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/recruitmentagents

Please note: Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are not licensed to provide migration advice.

**Student visa conditions**

If you are granted a student visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):

- Complete the course within the duration specified in the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for the first six calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your education provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within seven days.

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions for you and any family members that are listed as dependants on your student visa visit:

www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions.htm

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

In your home country, all matters relating to your student visa are managed by the immigration section of the Australian Diplomatic Mission (the Australian High commission, consulate or Embassy).

For a comprehensive list of Foreign Embassies, high commissions, consulates and representative offices for your home country in Australia, visit:

www.dfat.gov.au/geo/

**Migration agents**

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIBP on your behalf, but please note that you do not need to use a migration agent to lodge any kind of visa application. For a list of registered Migration Agents please refer to:


**Arranging visas**
Section 2
Arriving in Adelaide
Arranging travel

You need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. However, we provide a free meet and greet service, which you can book at www.flinders.edu.au/international/airport. Your course start date is on your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and in your offer letter from the International Centre. This is the date when you need to be here to start classes or attend compulsory orientation activities. You need to be settled in, and ready to focus on study by your start date.

When to Arrive

We recommend you arrive in Adelaide at least two weeks before your start date so you have time to find permanent accommodation. Normally the ISS airport reception service is available four weeks before your start date.

Whilst we recommend you arrive at least two weeks before your start date, in Semester 1 some students take up to four weeks to find suitable permanent accommodation. If your permanent accommodation is at Flinders Living, the Flinders Medical Centre Flats or with a recognised provider of student accommodation, please arrive in time for orientation.

Students who plan to find permanent accommodation after they arrive in Adelaide should book their temporary accommodation when they book their plane tickets. For students commencing in first semester, please note that Adelaide is the host to many annual and biannual festivals and events in February and March each year. These Festivals include Fringe Festival, Adelaide Festival, WOMADelaide and the CLIPSAL 500 Adelaide V8 Super cars race.

This is an extremely busy time in Adelaide with many international Festivals and events and many new students arriving. There are plenty of activities for you to enjoy and meet other new students at this time. Please remember that temporary accommodation and travel bookings will need to be arranged well in advance of the commencement of semester.

A full list of Academic and Critical Enrolment dates can be found at:

www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/dates/dates_home.cfm

University Orientation dates for all students can be found at:

www.flinders.edu.au/future-students/support/orientation/

PLANNING YOUR ARRIVAL DATE

Flinders University provides International Student Orientation before the commencement of classes. We work hard to make sure you will be well equipped to achieve the best possible success in your studies. As you read through this guide and the Arrival Guide, you will see that there is a lot of information for you to understand and consider as you move through your studies. The guides outline what you need to know, but it is impossible to understand and recall everything. Once you are concentrating on your studies, you will feel less stressed if you are already comfortable with the institution, its staff and its services.

Arriving early to attend orientation gives you the chance to:

• See and talk to the most important people you will need to know at the institution such as International Student Services Unit staff, International Centre staff, Course or Academic Adviser, Religious/Cultural/Ministry staff, Accommodation staff, Counsellors
• Meet and get advice from your Course Adviser
• Meet representatives of Student Associations and Clubs
• Find your way around the campus Library, Computer rooms and facilities, Recreation and eating areas, Clubs and Associations, Classrooms
• Meet other international students who may share your classes and understand your concerns or fears. Knowing another face on campus as you become more comfortable with the routines can really help you avoid any feelings of isolation.
• Find your way around public transport
• Feel as though you already know some of the things local students know before you get to meet them at orientation activities later.

ISS International student orientation activities
There are a variety of orientation activities and information sessions. We highly recommend you attend these sessions.

Following are the activities we strongly recommend you attend. In order to book any of these sessions, please visit the following link or contact ISS.

www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/services/orientation

FLINDERS ARRIVAL BRIEFING (FAB)
You must attend a compulsory FAB session. The FAB is an essential starting point so you know about campus services, more about orientation, how to obtain your student ID and your Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) card and you have a resource you can look back at during your studies if you have any concerns or issues either at university or in the community.

Book your FAB before you travel to Australia. We offer a few FAB sessions that are repeated over 4 weeks before the semester starts – You need to attend ONLY one of the FAB sessions.

www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/fab

ORIENTATION PROGRAM
It is extremely important that you attend the day long ISS orientation for international students. You will no doubt have many questions when you first arrive in Adelaide. Sign up online and attend orientation to have your questions answered and receive valuable information and tips to ensure that your transition to the University, the city of Adelaide and Australia is informed and enjoyable.

The program offers information about:

• Knowing Australia
• Student Support Services
• Accommodation and Renting
• Personal Safety
• Adjustment and Adaptation
• Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

TOURS
It can be difficult to explore a new environment alone. Sign up for and attend a Tour run by our A-Team (current students) with other students who are new to the University. You can visit the city of Adelaide on the City Tour, Marion shopping centre on the Marion Tour, Glenelg and Glenelg beach, Port Adelaide and Cleland Wildlife Park. The ISS also offers a Kangaroo Island Tour as well as a Great Ocean Road and Grampians Tour.
Before you arrive

ARRIVAL SERVICES
The International Student Services Unit (ISS) employs a team of current students who will meet you and your accompanying family members at the airport and take you to your temporary accommodation. We provide this service free of charge to commencing students, and you can book it at www.flinders.edu.au/international/airport.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION
You also need to book your temporary accommodation, and you will find a range of options to choose from at www.flinders.edu.au/living/short-term-private/temporary/
Backpacker accommodation, which can be in dormitory-style accommodation is normally the cheapest option, and may be suitable for single travellers. Australian caravan parks have on-site cabins, which can be suitable for couples or families. Hotels, motels and serviced apartments vary in price. Flinders Living offers limited temporary accommodation and it is normally only available between December and mid-February (see accommodation section for further information).

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT
After you return your ‘acceptance of offer’ to Flinders, Enrolment Services staff will admit you to your degree. You will receive an email at the address you provided on your application, including web links so you can enrol online. We encourage you to enrol early, so you have the widest possible choice of tutorial and seminar times. The links cover activating your Flinders Authentication Name (FAN)*, reading your course rule, selecting topics then enrolling in them and registering for classes.

If you are not confident in completing your enrolment online, it is okay to wait until you are in Australia to finalise your enrolment. We have a fully staffed Enrolment Support Centre located in the Central Library, and the team there will help you.

If you have a conditional offer, you will not be able to enrol until you meet its conditions and provide the required evidence to the International Centre.

* The day after you have activated your FAN, you can log into the University’s computers and use your student email and the internet.

For further information about enrolment visit: www.flinders.edu.au/enrolling/index.cfm
You need to be enrolled before you can get your student card from the library. You will need your student card to buy concession tickets for public transport and show it to your bank as evidence of your student status.

RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS
Before leaving home, or as soon as you arrive, you must set up an appointment to meet with your supervisor. Your Faculty staff will assist you with your enrolment into the program – you cannot enrol by yourself. If you are not sure, please contact ISS for assistance.

When you arrive

WHAT TO DO FIRST ON CAMPUS
Report to the International Student Services Unit (ISS). Our office is in Room B10 of the Union Building (map ref 25).

You can collect your Red Bag if we didn’t meet you at the airport. Also, if you haven’t already booked your FAB or ISS Orientation, you can do that on an ISS computer.

What should I do if I cannot arrive before my course starts?

Our experience shows that students who arrive after semester begins face a number of difficulties: they may miss classes because they are looking for a place to live; they miss out on orientation activities and don’t understand how the ‘system’ works; they can feel frustrated and anxious; and, they do not achieve to their academic potential. If you cannot arrive in time to enrol and find a place to live before classes start, you need to consider your options very carefully. If you are concerned that you will not arrive for the beginning of semester, and want to know your options, please contact your Assessment Officer and discuss the matter. Their contact details should be in your offer letter. Please note some programs do not allow late commencement under any circumstances.
Planning to leave home

Before you travel to Australia, we encourage you and your family to talk about how you will stay in touch with each other, and how your life will be different when you are a student in Australia.

In many cases, your family will be supporting you financially whilst you are in Australia. Nevertheless, Flinders University considers that it has entered into an agreement with you, and any information regarding your studies, your address or anything about you will not be revealed to a third party (including your parents, other family members or friends). Your individual rights are protected under Australia's privacy legislation.

Most families will understand this is a new phase of your life and you will be living in a very different environment from that which you shared with them. For younger students, who will be living overseas or away from home for the first time, it will take some adjustment both by you and your family, as they realise that they will not have as much influence over how you manage your time, your studies nor will they know your new friends.

Agree about whether you will share information with your family about your study results, and what you might do if you are not as successful as you had hoped. We all plan for success, but sometimes circumstances prevent us from achieving the best results.

Start planning for the ‘what if...’ scenarios before you leave home so that you and your family can discuss matters rationally and calmly, rather than waiting for a difficulty to arise.

Another matter, about which you need to think and agree, is how your family will arrange your financial support. Will they transfer money to you regularly, and what will be the limit of their support for you? It is important to understand that the University does have deadlines for the payment of tuition fees each semester, and most of you will have paid your first semester’s fees before you arrive in Australia. Sometimes, you will receive an account for additional fees in your first semester, and this can be because of exchange rate differences, bank fees or because you enrolled in more than a fulltime study load, thereby accruing an additional debt to the University.

If you have any problems at all about adjusting to study or living in Australia, or you experience financial difficulties, make the International Student Services Unit your first destination for advice or assistance.

Documents

Prepare a folder of official documents to bring to Australia, including:

- Valid passport and student visa documents
- Offer letter from Flinders University
- Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) issued by Flinders University
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- 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
- Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) if you are under 18 years of age.

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 are in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, declare it 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 Department of Agriculture webpage to find out what needs to be declared when entering Australia:


Let your family and friends know “What can’t be mailed to Australia?”

www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/mail/cant-mail

Australian Quarantine and Border Protection Service (AQBPS) screens all international mail sent to Australia. AQBPS 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 generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (20kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights and domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring. 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.

Personal effects and belongings that you have owned for 12 months or more can be brought into Australia without attracting duty or sales tax. Students can bring items such as desktop or laptop computers and similar electronic equipment duty free into Australia, provided Customs is satisfied that you will take these items with you on departure. Other goods 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. See www.customs.gov.au/site/page4352.asp for more information.

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 buy 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. Men and women commonly wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts in summer.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, 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)

- 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
- alarm clock
- bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases
- dictionary (bilingual)
- small sewing kit
- music CDs or mp3 player (iPod)
- sporting equipment
- toiletries
- umbrella
- laptop or tablet

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.

Please note: In the picture below, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.
MOBILE PHONES AND 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 Embassy or High Commission in your country will advise you of any requirements.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is compulsory for most international students travelling to Australia on a student visa. If you are a Belgian or Norwegian student, you are not required to buy OSHC. If you are a Swedish student with insurance from the Swedish National Board of Student Aid (CSN International) or the Swedish Legal, Financial and Administration Agency (Kammarkollegiet) you are also exempt from the requirement to buy OSHC. You will find more information about OSHC and other health matters in our Arrival Guide.

PHARMACEUTICAL GOODS
International students cannot use the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which allows Australian citizens to buy prescription items at a subsidised cost. If you require ongoing medication, adjust your budget.

People are allowed to bring up to three months’ supply of medication into Australia. Check the Therapeutic Goods Administration site at www.tga.gov.au/consumers/travellers.htm about which prescription drugs you can bring and in what quantities.

Declare your prescription drugs to ACBPS Officers and show your script and a letter from your doctor.

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.

YOUR HAND LUGGAGE
Your hand luggage should include a document folder; plane ticket; valuables like laptops, camera; and any necessary medicine for an existing complaint.

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, if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be very hot so wear lightweight clothing underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear.

Alternatively 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 AU$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 (See Banking and personal finance section for further information).
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 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
At the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, you may see a Quarantine Detector Dog 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 BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE
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 Department of Agriculture biosecurity officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you do not declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to a $340 on-the-spot fine, you could be prosecuted and fined more than $66,000 and risk 10 years in prison and a criminal record. 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 Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS).

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit: www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/travel/cant-take

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.
ISS meet and greet service

Flinders University offers a free meet and greet service to all new international students. We can meet you at Adelaide Airport, the interstate train terminal or the bus station.

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 Level 0. View airport map: www.adelaideairport.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.

If you are arriving at the Adelaide Keswick Rail Terminal, the A-Team member will wait for you on the platform.

If you are arriving at the Adelaide Central Bus Station, the A-Team member will wait for you in the terminal building, or at your bus arrival area.

Most new students fly into Adelaide Airport, five kilometres from the city centre and nine kilometres from Flinders. Bus and train stations are located close to the city.

**Please note, you should book at least three working days (Monday – Friday) in advance. As you receive an automatic email confirmation of your booking, please be aware that bookings made late Friday afternoon for a Monday morning pick-up can not be arranged.**

To book your arrival meet and greet service, you can go to the online form and submit your application at: www.flinders.edu.au/international/airport

If you are unable to access the online Meet and Greet Booking form please contact the ISS by email: issu@flinders.edu.au or telephone +618 8201 2717

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 welcome desk or 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.

**WELCOME DESK**

There is a Study Adelaide/ANZ Welcome Desk at the Adelaide Airport leading up to the beginning of each semester. If you can not see your A Team member, you can make your way to the desk for assistance.

**MAKING YOUR OWN PLANS?**

If you will use another service to go to your accommodation, or you are being met by friends, you can find out how to get to Flinders University, or from your temporary accommodation to Flinders University by public transport at: www.adelaidemetro.com.au/jp/plan

For your University main campus destination, please type in Flinders University, Registry Rd, Bedford Park SA 5042

**Keeping in contact**

Before you leave home, provide your family and friends and Flinders University with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. If these details change, remember to inform everyone. Once you have arrived in Australia, let your family and friends know you have arrived safely. It is important to always let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone, email or post. For more information, see our Arrival Guide.
Banking and personal finances

Please read this section carefully and discuss any Issues raised in this section with your bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.

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 AU$10,000 in cash into Australia you must declare it on the travel information form issued to you on the plane.
- You can pre-open a bank account.

Your budget

It is essential to work out a practical budget for your time in Adelaide and to allow for unexpected emergencies, or at least agree with your family what you might do if this occurs.

While you are preparing to leave your home, take time to sit down and think through all of the expenses you are likely to have. Consider factors such as whether or not you will drive in Australia, or if you plan to travel in the holidays. Be realistic about the cost of accommodation, as these prices are rising rapidly because there are few vacancies and much competition. Remember that your health insurance (see Arrival Guide) does not cover spectacles, contact lenses, dentistry; or allied health services such as physiotherapy, and only provides limited rebates for prescription medicines.

Also, let your family or sponsor know about due dates for the payment of tuition fees for your future semesters at Flinders. Tuition fees for standard first semester are due on early March and tuition fees for second semester are due on early August. Check your fee account from Student Information System to find out total due amount and due date.

A good rule of thumb is that you will need half the luggage you plan to bring and twice the money!

How much to bring

You will need between $3,000 and $6,000 to cover expenses for your first month in Adelaide. This money will be used to pay for your temporary accommodation and the costs of establishing yourself in permanent accommodation. Temporary accommodation could cost you between $30 a night in a basic backpacker dormitory to well over $150 a night in some hotels. To establish yourself in permanent accommodation you will need to pay a bond (or deposit) and two weeks’ rent in advance on your accommodation (total of four–eight weeks’ rent), plus pay phone, electricity and gas connection fees, as well as household set-up costs (see Arrivals Guide for more details). See the Managing my finance section for a clearer idea about what are the living costs involved.

You should bring between $500 and $700 in cash (include some small notes) or loaded on a cash card (to withdraw notes at an ATM) and the remainder as Travellers Cheques or transfer money to your credit card. Alternatively, you could arrange to transfer the remainder to a pre-opened bank account. Foreign currency drafts can take some time to clear and cost about AU$15 to process. It usually costs AU$7 per transaction to change travellers’ cheques.

Please note that it is not safe to bring large sums of money with you. Lost credit cards or travellers cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you—not even to someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.
Currency exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to organise some as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Adelaide, you can also change money at any bank or currency exchange. Places in the city where you can exchange foreign currency are listed in the Quick Guide. A current passport or driving licence will be required for this service.

ATMs

Automated 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 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.

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.

You are able to pre-open a bank account before you arrive.

• You need an overseas address
• Follow the instructions from the financial institution that you choose to pre-open your account. See information about major banks in Australia later in this section.
• After arrival you will need to show your passport at the Bank of your choice to verify your identity.

• You can deposit money into your bank account from overseas using BSB, account number and SWIFT code that will be provided after you apply online. It can be sent as a bank draft or Electronic fund transfer (EFT). Banks charge a fee for transfer of money.
Managing my finances

Initial expenses
This is an example of some of the expenses you might encounter when you come to Adelaide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary accommodation (seven nights in a hostel / motel)</td>
<td>$210-700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental bond (four weeks rent @ $250/week)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance rent (two weeks @ $250/week)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity connection</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone connection (landline)</td>
<td>$60-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas connection</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet connection (Set up cost/Bundle)</td>
<td>$50 - 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone and/or network sim card</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household items, e.g. furniture, crockery, etc.</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (public transportation)</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks and Educational Expenses</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance—house, car, health</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$3,220-4,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On-going expenses
Once you have established yourself in accommodation, you will need to budget for ongoing costs. This is an example of monthly expenses you may have if you live in single accommodation (costs will reduce if you are in shared accommodation):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Expense</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent (four weeks rent @ $150 to $250/week)</td>
<td>$600/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food (four weeks @ $125/week)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity (per month)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas (per month)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (per month)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet (per month)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Phone (per month)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation (per month)</td>
<td>$60 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment (per month)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational (per month)</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance—health, house, car (per month)</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected (per month)</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$1,860/2,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting up a bank account and Student Accounts

You can choose to open an account in any Bank, Credit Union or Building Society in Australia. Do your research to get the best deal. Many Banks and other financial institutions in Australia offer Student Banking Packages. These packages allow you a limited number of free transactions per month and generally have lower account keeping fees. For more information ask at the Branch before you open an account.

To open a bank account you will need:

- your passport (with arrival date stamped by Australian immigration)
- student ID card
- money to deposit into the account (this can be as little as $10)
- ask about their student banking package

Anyone who wishes to open a bank account in Australia must show several pieces of personal identification which are allotted points system. 100 points of identification is required to establish your identity as the person who will be named in the account. Your passport and proof of your arrival date in Australia will be acceptable as 100 points if you open an account within six weeks of arrival in Australia. After this time you will be required to produce additional documentation. As a student you will be able to open an account with special student benefits. Many banks have ‘Student Accounts’ which contain no or minimal fees for transactions that might normally be attached to regular savings accounts. You will also require the student ID card from your institution to prove you are a student and should have access to the benefits offered by a student bank account.

Most people in Australia enjoy the convenience of internet banking and/ or telephone banking, which enables them to manage their money, pay bills etc. from home. At the time you are setting up your account you can request these services from your bank.

Financial Institutions

ANZ
www.anz.com.au
Bank SA
www.banksa.com.au
Commonwealth Bank
www.commbank.com.au
Credit Union Australia
www.cua.com.au
Credit Union SA
www.creditunionsa.com.au
HSBC Australia
www.hsbc.com.au
National Australia Bank
www.nab.com.au
People’s Choice Credit Union
www.peopleschoicecu.com.au
Westpac Bank
www.westpac.com.au

(Please note: This list is just a sample of some financial institutions in Australia For a comparison of accounts in banks throughout Australia see: www.banks.com.au/personal/accounts

Banking hours

Most bank branches are open from Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm (except on public holidays). Some branches have extended trading hours during the week and may be open Saturdays (check with your individual bank). ATMs remain open 24 hours a day. However, you should be aware of your personal safety if accessing cash from an ATM at night in quiet areas where there are not a lot of people around.

Bank fees

Bank fees are the price you pay for the products and services that banks offer. Different banks charge different fees for different products and services, and the best way to find out what fees apply is simply to ask your bank. Any fees that apply to your accounts are fully disclosed in information leaflets and terms and conditions that your bank can provide before you open your account. Some banks waive some fees if
you are a full-time student. The way you do your banking may also affect the fees that apply, for example: internet banking rather than walking into a branch.

If you don’t understand any fee which has been charged, contact your bank.

Banking locations at Flinders
• Bank SA Branch:
  located Flinders Medical Centre
  Monday–Thursday 12noon–4pm;
  Friday 12noon–5pm
  has a 24/7 ATM.

ATM Locations:
• ANZ and NAB have 24/7 ATMs at the Sturt Buildings
• NAB has two 24/7 ATMs—Registry Building and Union Building (Blue Duck Café)
• Bank of Queensland ATM—inside the Central Library
• RediATM—Flinders Private Hospital
• Bank SA 24/7 ATM—Flinders Medical Centre
• Australia Post—Agency for most Banks

There are many Bank Branches and ATMs at Marion Shopping Centre which is a short bus or car trip from the University.

Accessing money from my account

Bank accounts offer lots of options for accessing your money. Some of the most popular options are described below.

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES — ATMs

ATMs can be used to withdraw cash from an account by using the ATM card which is available with most bank accounts. You can also use ATMs to get an account balance and transfer money into other accounts. Some ATMs also allow you to deposit cash and cheques into your account. Using the ATMs of your bank will generally cost less money than if you use another bank’s ATMs. Fees for using ATMs can vary between banks and between accounts.

USING AN ATM AND SAFETY

You will be given a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which you will enter into the ATM to access your account. It is the key to your account and it is important that you never tell anyone your PIN. A bank or reputable business will never ask you for your PIN. If anyone does, be suspicious, don’t hand it over and report the incident to the bank and the police. Be careful no-one is looking over your shoulder when you enter your PIN.

These general rules should be followed for ATM safety, especially at night:
• Minimise your time at the ATM by having your card ready when you approach the machine;
• Take a look around as you approach the ATM and if there’s anything suspicious, don’t use the machine at that time (report any suspicions to the police);
• If you don’t feel comfortable using a particular ATM, consider continuing on to another branch or using off-street ATMs;
• Do remember that EFTPOS can be used to withdraw cash at many other places, like supermarkets and service stations;
• If you simply want to check your account balance or transfer funds between accounts, telephone or internet banking can be used instead of an ATM.

If your ATM or credit card is lost or stolen (or if your PIN has been revealed to another person), notify your bank immediately. This will enable your bank to put a stop on your card immediately so that no one else can use it and get access to your money. Most banks have a 24 hour telephone number for reporting lost cards—it is a good idea to keep a record of this number handy at all times, just in case. If you don’t know the number, ask your bank.

(Source: Australian Bankers’ Association Inc.)

EFTPOS

Short for ‘Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale’, EFTPOS terminals can be found where goods or services are sold, for example: supermarkets, service stations, restaurants, doctors’ surgeries and gymnasiums. You can pay for goods and make payments through EFTPOS using your ATM card, rather than paying with cash. At some stores, when you use EFTPOS you can also withdraw cash from
your account at the same time. Some retailers put limits on how much cash you can withdraw with your purchase.

When paying by EFTPOS, you also use your PIN to access your account. The same rules apply about keeping the PIN confidential and never handing it over to anyone. Be careful no-one is looking over your shoulder when you enter your PIN. (See using an ATM and Safety above)

TELEPHONE BANKING
You can use telephone banking to transfer payments to and from accounts, get your account balances, get recent transaction information and pay bills. You need to register to use telephone banking and you will be given a password or an identification number allows you to access your accounts over the phone. Never give your password to anyone else.

INTERNET BANKING
Internet banking allows you to view and check your accounts, review recent transactions, apply for loans and credit cards, or transfer money and pay bills—all online. Most banks offer internet banking facilities, but you will need to register with your bank to gain access. You will then be given a password that allows you to use your accounts online. Never give this password to anyone else.

There are security issues that need to be considered when using internet banking. It is recommended that you install and keep up-to-date antivirus software and a firewall, update security patches and be suspicious of emails requesting you to hand over confidential information such as your internet banking logon password.

Your bank will never ask you for this information, especially in an email.

In addition, many banks publish security guides on their websites and this provides important information on precautions that you can take to protect your information online. Never supply your personal account information if asked by email or other electronic communication. If you are unsure about any approach that appears to be from your bank to provide personal information, refuse to provide that information until you can attend your nearest branch to discuss the request over the counter with bank staff. There is no charge for discussing your banking options at a branch.

OVER-THE-COUNTER SERVICE
You can also go into a branch of your bank and, with the assistance of bank staff, conduct transactions including withdrawals, deposits, transfers, and account balance checks. If you do not have a branch close by, you may be able to visit an agency of your branch, such as an Australia Post outlet, to conduct certain transactions. Bear in mind that over-the-counter transactions usually incur higher fees than electronic transactions.

PAYING BILLS
Most bank accounts offer lots of easy options for paying bills. Transaction accounts with cheque book facilities allow you to pay bills by cheque, and most transaction accounts and savings accounts allow you to pay bills electronically (e.g. using facilities such as telephone banking, internet banking) and using direct debits.

A note of caution on direct debits—they are a convenient way to pay everyday bills, but always make sure you’ve got enough money in your account to cover the cost of the debit. If your pay or allowance goes into your account on a certain date, make sure your direct debit payments are scheduled to come out of your account after your pay goes in, or you might end up with an overdrawn account or a dishonoured payment — both can cost you money.

ACCOUNT STATEMENTS
Most banks will provide regular statements for your accounts (just how regular can depend on the type of account). On request, banks will provide statements on a deposit account at more frequent intervals, but this may attract a fee. Bank statements are your record of everything that has happened in your account over a given period—the withdrawals, deposits and transfers that were made, and any bank fees and government taxes you were charged. Telephone and internet banking can make it easy to check your statements, and some banks even offer ‘mini statements’ through their own ATMs.

Check your statements regularly to make sure you’ve got enough money in your account to cover your expenses and keep track of your spending, as well as make sure that all transactions made in your account are legitimate. Refer to your statements to see what fees you are paying on your bank accounts and why, and to see whether a few simple changes to your banking habits could help you to reduce the fees you pay (for example, using your own bank’s ATMs)
instead of other banks’ ATMs).
(Source: Australian Bankers’ Association Inc.)

Safety when carrying money

The first and fundamental rule of safety when you carry money is “Do not carry large amounts of cash!”

The second is “Do not advertise the fact that you are carrying money!”

- Divide your cash into different locations on your person (front pocket, coat pocket, shoes, etc.).
- Keep your wallet in one of your front pockets at all times.
- Do not carry cash in a backpack or back pocket.
- Divide your bank/credit cards and keep them in separate locations.
- Do not place money or valuables in lockers.
- Be very careful how you carry your bag, and never leave it open for someone to slip their hand inside.

Accommodation

Quick facts

- Flinders University does not book temporary accommodation for new students.
- Depending on your campus (Bedford Park main campus, CBD campus, Tonsley Campus) decide where you would like to live.
- Marion Holiday Park is near the University’s Bedford Park Campus. The cabins are very expensive for single travellers but useful for families or groups travelling together.
- Glenelg has backpacker and motel accommodation and is on a direct route to the University’s Bedford Park and City campuses. Allow 30 minutes travel for the journey.
- City accommodation is often on a direct bus route to the University, Bedford Park campus. Allow 40 minutes for public transport to get to the Bedford Park campus.
- Web searches for accommodation are:
  www.flinders.edu.au/living/
  www.myhousing.com.au
  www.expedia.com.au
  www.wotif.com
  www.needitnow.com.au
  www.lastminute.com.au
  www.agoda.com

Temporary accommodation

If you have not arranged long-term accommodation in Adelaide, it is essential to book temporary accommodation before your arrival. Please make your own temporary accommodation arrangements and bookings, as the University does not run a temporary accommodation booking service.

Information on temporary accommodation options can be found on the Flinders Living website at:
www.flinders.edu.au/living
— it is arranged into: ‘budget, backpackers and YHA’; ‘caravan parks’; ‘hotels, motels and serviced apartments’ and, ‘Flinders University Hall’.

Flinders University Hall is situated on-campus, but books out quickly for temporary accommodation, so you will need to apply early to ensure you have a confirmed booking. Marion Holiday Park is close to Flinders University Bedford Park campus and is listed under ‘caravan parks’. Many other students have chosen to stay in temporary accommodation in Glenelg (check both backpackers and serviced apartments) as it is a very popular beachside suburb. Options within the city centre are also worth exploring, as there are a number of direct bus routes from the city to Flinders.

If you have difficulty gaining access to the temporary accommodation website, please email: flinders.living@flinders.edu.au to receive the information in an alternate format. You can also request this information by sending a fax message to Flinders Living on +618 8291 6006.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?
The cost of temporary accommodation varies considerably. If you are happy to stay in a backpacker hostel, you might pay between $26 and $35 per night for a bed in a shared dormitory. It might cost between $90 and $200 per night to stay in an apartment. This charge may be for one or two persons, and the surcharge for a third person might be small. Most apartments have minimum stays of at least three nights and some offer discounts for stays of seven or more nights. Students starting their studies in Semester 1 will be arriving during the ‘high season’, so please be aware that many accommodation providers will be charging premium rates for their rooms.

WHEN SHOULD I BOOK?
If you are commencing study in Semester 1, you must book your temporary accommodation as soon as possible.

If you are commencing study in Semester 2, try to book your temporary accommodation at least two weeks before you travel to Adelaide.

FOR HOW LONG SHOULD I BOOK ACCOMMODATION?
We recommend that you book your temporary accommodation for at least a week. However, our experience is that students can take up to four weeks to find permanent accommodation, especially at the beginning of the year. You might want to consider booking up to four weeks of temporary accommodation.
**Long-term accommodation — on-campus**

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

**FLINDERS ON-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION**

If you want to apply for accommodation on campus through Flinders Living, or in the Flinders Medical Centre Flats, you need to apply before you come to Australia.

**ACCOMMODATION MANAGED BY FLINDERS LIVING**

Students can apply to live in University Hall or the University Village in either the townhouses or the units. Flinders Living’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 Living, you need to apply online at: www.flinders.edu.au/living/on-campus/applications

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 Living accommodation.

**FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE (FMC)**

Flinders Medical Centre has very limited short and long-term accommodation available. This is a short walk from the hospital.

Hospital staff receive highest preference for these flats, followed by medical and nursing students, then any other students. Competition for places is intense.


Email your completed form to: sonya.mausolf@health.sa.gov.au or fax: +61 8 8204 5396, marking it ‘Attention: Manager, FMC residential Flat’.

**Long-term accommodation - off-campus**

If you plan to live in off campus rental accommodation, we recommend that you do not sign any agreement before you come to Australia and have seen the property for yourself. Detailed information about off campus accommodation can be found at our Arrival Guide.
Bringing my family

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants and you should check your individual circumstances with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Family members include your spouse and your dependent children. Before bringing your spouse or children to Australia, you will have to prove that you can support them financially. The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high. You may have to consider and discuss many issues with your family.

Quick facts

- Children from five to 18 years must go to school full-time.
- You will pay school fees for your children—$4,160 a year at primary school and $5,160 a year at secondary school (See schooling for any exceptions).
- Childcare in Australia is not subsidised for most international students.
- Childcare places are limited and many centres, including the University and Flinders Medical Centre Childcare centres, have long waiting lists. You can expect to pay at least $80 a day in a childcare centre or if you use family day care, the minimum rates are between $5.00 and $11.50 per hour.
- You must provide immunisation records for your children before they attend school or childcare.
- Arrange for translations of birth and marriage certificates by an official translation service.

Issues to consider

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

- The additional cost of Overseas Student Health Cover
- 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 childcare centres; and
- Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family or to all come at the same time.

If you are planning to bring your immediate family members (spouse and children) with you to Australia, you need to know how much extra funding you will require. You may be asked to show the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) that you have access to sufficient financial resources to support your family. Please remember that there is no guarantee that either you or your spouse will be able to find employment in Australia.

For more information see the DIBP website at: www.immi.gov.au/students

At this site you can check information on additional costs that you will need to meet if you bring your family to Australia. It is important to include all eligible family members on your original student visa application whether they intend to travel to Australia or not.

If you, your spouse or partner gives birth to a child in the period between lodging your student visa application and the visa being granted, you must advise DIBP immediately as having an additional dependant will affect DIBP’s visa assessment process. You should also let DIBP know if you marry or can show evidence of a de facto relationship in between the application being lodged and your visa granted.

If you plan to bring your family to Australia, even if they are not going to travel with you initially, we recommend you commence their visa application process before you leave home. The granting of visas to your dependants can take from one to
four months after application, or longer in some countries.

It may take some time to find suitable accommodation for a family as well as arrange schooling or childcare while you settle into your studies.

Consider whether travelling to Adelaide by yourself and arranging for your family to join you later would be a better arrangement than everyone travelling to Australia at the same time.

**EMPLOYMENT**

If you are on a student visa and enrolled in a doctoral or masters-level program, your dependants can work full-time. If you are in an undergraduate program, graduate certificate or graduate diploma, they can work 40 hours in a two-week period. During the orientation program you will be given more information about employment conditions in Australia.

**COST OF LIVING**

DIBP asks you to show that you have $18,610 a year for your living expenses. If you are coming with family members, for DIBP purposes you must show an extra $6515 a year for a spouse, $3720 for a first child and $2790 for each additional child. DIBP advises you that you need an extra $8000 a year for children between five and 18 to cover schooling expenses. See: www.immi.gov.au/students/student-visa-living-costs.htm

**CHILDCARE**

Although Flinders University and the Flinders Medical Centre both operate childcare centres, they are very popular and do not give priority to the children of international students. It can take a long time to find a suitable childcare centre with a vacancy. Childcare is not subsidised unless you hold an Australian Government scholarship and it costs approximately $80 a day. Please note the subsidy will not cover all the costs.

**IMMUNISATION RECORDS**

If your child will be attending childcare 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 from your home country for when your family travels to Australia.

**SCHOOLING**

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.

**SA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

In South Australia’s public school system, children of international students studying award courses are required to pay fees unless the parent holds one of the following scholarships:

- Australian government scholarships (e.g. Australia Awards, or International Postgraduate Research Scholarship)
- South Australian government scholarships
- South Australian university scholarships
- Some scholarships awarded by the tertiary student’s home country, provincial or state government, or multilateral agency (e.g. United Nations, World Bank or Asian Development Bank).

For these scholarships, you must:

- study at Flinders University, the University of Adelaide or University of South Australia
- reside in South Australia for the duration of your studies
- be studying a higher degree by research (visa subclass 574)

If you are the holder of a relevant scholarship and have school-aged dependants, please go to the website: www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au

Click on the subheading ‘Children of International Tertiary students, then click on ‘Children of South Australian Government endorsed scholarship holder’. Download the new application form for dependants of eligible scholarships as well as the Tertiary Scholarship Verification form.

Only International Student Services Unit staff are authorised to complete the Declaration by Authorised Tertiary Institution Signatory on your behalf. When you come into ISS to ask for this to be signed, please bring evidence that you hold a scholarship. This is especially important in cases where your sponsor pays money directly to you and you pay your own University tuition fees. If you are planning to bring your family please send the Tertiary Scholarship Verification form and evidence.
of your scholarship to: issu@flinders.edu.au If you are not the holder of a relevant scholarship as stated above and have school-aged dependants, please go to the website: www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au subheading ‘Children of International Tertiary students’, then click on ‘Children of a full fee paying international tertiary students’.

Download the new application form for dependants and follow the steps.

For non-scholarship holders, the fees are $4160 a year for a child at primary school and $5160 a year for a child at secondary school. For each child attending school there is also an annual administration fee of $300 per year/ per child. The application and administration fee is $600 per family if all applications are processed at the same time.

A Letter of Offer will be sent to you detailing the initial fees payable. These fees must be paid before you enrol your children in school.

Either before you travel to Australia or on arrival in Adelaide, you will also need to contact a primary or high school near you and enrol your child in that school. Contact details for South Australian state and private schools, both primary and secondary, can be found by clicking on the A–Z listing at the following web address: www.decs.sa.gov.au/decs_search/pages/locs

Most government schools are zoned according to location. You can find a South Australian government school for your children based on the zone in which you will be residing.

Primary schools that are close to Flinders University Bedford Park Campus are Bellevue Heights, Clovelly Park, Darlington, Blackwood, Eden Hills and Marion. Secondary (or high) schools that are close to Flinders are Blackwood, Australian Science and Mathematics School, Brighton, Seaview and Pasadena.

Indicative additional costs at schools for a year are:
- Stationery—$150
- School Excursions—$50—$100
- School Camp (if offered)—$100-$300
- School Uniforms—$250-$500, but second hand ones may be less

Children under 18 attending tertiary institutions are required to pay full tuition fees.

In addition to the fees charged by the department on behalf of the Government, some schools charge an additional amenities fee, which is set by the school council. While this is a yearly fee, it can be levied on a term basis.

Parents are expected to pay for the stationery their children require, as well as their school uniforms.

Private schools

There are a number of private schools in Adelaide and most of them are affiliated with a religious group. Private schools charge tuition fees and usually the dependants of international students will be charged fees at a higher rate than local students will pay. This is because private schools do not receive any funding from the State Government for the dependants of international students and as the private schools are part funded by Government they need to raise sufficient money to cover all of their costs.

If you are interested in finding out more about sending your child (ren) to a private school in Australia, please make direct contact with the school. Flinders is located in the southern region of Adelaide. You can search for private schools in Adelaide at www.privateschoolsdirectory.com.au

Education expenses for children

As well as tuition, there are other expenses such as school books, subject levies, uniforms and school outings which must be paid for. Most schools also expect you to pay an annual contribution. This amount varies from $110 to $920 per annum and is payable directly to the school.
**English language needs**

If your child(ren) do(es) not speak English as their first language, some principals may recommend that your child(ren) spend(s) up to a year in a new arrivals program, where intensive specialist English language support is provided. Bellevue Heights Primary School and Clovelly Park Primary School, which are both very close to the University, run programs for new arrivals.

**Bellevue Heights Primary School**
7–19 Vaucluse Crescent,
Bellevue Heights, SA, 5050
Phone: (08) 8278 7182
Email: bellevue.ps891@schools.sa.edu.au

**Clovelly Park Primary School**
1 Renown Place,
Clovelly Park, SA, 5042
Phone: (08) 8276 5366
Email: info@clovellyps.sa.edu.au

If your child(ren) will be entering secondary school, the nearest New Arrivals Program is based at Adelaide Secondary School of English in Croydon — this is a significant distance from the University and would usually require that your child(ren) change(s) buses to reach the school from the southern side of the city.

**Adelaide Secondary School of English**
253 Torrens Road,
West Croydon, SA, 5008
Phone: (08) 8340 3733
Email: adenglish@adseceenglish.sa.edu.au

A number of secondary schools also offer Intensive Secondary English Course (ISEC) programs, which students can enter for between 10 and 40 weeks before transferring to mainstream classes in the same school. For more information contact the schools listed above or telephone:(08) 8226 2756

**2015 term dates**

**AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Term 1: 27 January–10 April
Term 2: 27 April–3 July
Term 3: 20 July–25 September
Term 4: 12 October–11 December

*Please note: private schools have different term dates.*
Section 3
Living in Australia
Adjusting to life in Australia

While living and studying abroad may be an exciting adventure, it can also present a range of challenges. Having decided to study and live in Australia you will be undertaking adjustments in many areas of your life including cultural, social and academic. It is also important to remember that while these changes are occurring you will be embarking upon a new semester of study (for many of you in a different language) and be away from your usual supports, networks and resources. Adjustment to a new country and culture is a process that occurs gradually and takes time. The values, beliefs, traditions and customs of your home country may vary greatly from those in Australia and adapting to the Australian way of life may take some time. This advice may help:

Listen, observe and ask questions
Adjustment to a new culture and way of life takes time. Allow yourself time to observe those around you and patterns of both verbal and non-verbal communication. Don’t be afraid to ask questions if there are things you do not understand as this will reduce the chance of confusion or misunderstandings.

Become involved
Make an effort to meet people and become involved in groups both on campus and in the wider community. Maintain an attitude of openness to new situations and experiences. Establishing friendships and joining groups is the best way to experience and learn about Australian culture and will certainly mean you have a richer and more enjoyable time here.

Try to maintain a sense of perspective
When confronted with difficulties remind yourself that living and studying abroad is a challenge and it is normal to feel stressed, overwhelmed and out of your depth at times. Try to recall or make a list of the reasons you wanted to study abroad in the first place. Also, listing positive events or changes within yourself that have occurred since you arrived may also assist with getting things in perspective.

Maintain some of the routines and rituals you may have had in your home country
This can include small things such as continuing to drink a certain type of coffee or tea or eating specific foods. It may also include maintaining involvement in bigger events such as celebrating a national day in your country of origin with a group of friends.

Keep lines of communication open with those at home
Communicating with those at home regularly about your experiences of study and life in Australia, through emails, telephone and letters is vital. Not only does it help to keep you connected with important social supports, it also assists your friends and family to understand your experiences which will smooth the transition when you return home.

Sense of humour
Importantly, remember that living in a different culture means you will inevitably find yourself in a range of unusual and often confusing situations. Being able to laugh in these situations will remind you that it takes time to understand different cultures and that it is OK to make mistakes.

Ask for help
Don’t be afraid to ask for assistance or support if you need it. In addition to the Counselling Service there are many organisations set upon campus to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable time in Australia.

Finally, relax and enjoy the journey!

(Source: Macquarie University)
Culture shock

Culture shock is the feeling of being out of place in an unfamiliar environment. The initial excitement of moving to a new country often subsides when your usual behaviour produces unexpected reactions in the local setting due to cultural differences. The potential stress of dealing with these persistent challenges can result in feelings of hostility and frustration with your host country as well as a profound longing for home.

OVERCOMING CULTURE SHOCK

Once you realise you have culture shock, getting over it and moving onto better adjustment with the host culture will depend on you. It is you who must take some positive steps to feel better, and the sooner you take them, the better!

1. Recognition:
   First, you should remember that culture shock is a normal part of your adjustment and that you may have some of the symptoms. Some of your reactions may not be normal for you; you may be more emotional or more sensitive, or lose your sense of humour. Recognising your culture shock symptoms will help you learn about yourself as you work your way through it.

2. Be objective:
   Second, try to analyse objectively the differences you are finding between your home and your host country. Look for the reasons your host country does things differently. Remember that host customs and norms are (mostly) logical to them, just as your customs and norms at home are logical to you.

3. Set goals:
   Third, set some goals for yourself to redevelop your feeling of control in your life. These should be small tasks that you can accomplish each day. For example, if you do not feel like leaving your room, plan a short activity each day that will get you out. Go to a post office or shop to buy something, ride a bus or go to a sports event. If you feel that language is your problem, set daily goals to learn more: study fifteen minutes a day; learn five new words a day; learn one new expression each day; watch a TV program in your new language for 30 minutes. Each goal that you achieve will give you more and more self confidence that you can cope.

4. Share your feelings:
   Fourth, find local friends who are sympathetic and understanding. Talk to them about your feelings and specific situations. They can help you understand ideas from their cultural point of view.
   
   (Source: Rotary International Youth Exchange)
Australian culture

Social customs

GREETING PEOPLE
When meeting someone for the first time, it is usual to shake the person's right hand with your right hand. People who do not know each other generally do not kiss or hug when meeting. When you first meet someone, it is polite not to talk about personal matters.

Many Australians look into the eyes of the person to whom they are talking. They consider this a sign of respect, and an indication that they are listening. Do not stare at the person for a long time.

You can address a new acquaintance using their title and family name. You may use their first name when they ask you to or use it in the introduction. In the workplace and among friends, most Australians tend to be informal and call each other by their first names.

CLOTHING CUSTOMS
The types of clothing that people wear reflect the diversity in our society just as much as the variation in climate. There are no laws or rules on clothing, but you must wear certain clothing for work situations. Most workplaces have dress standards.

Outside of the work situation, clothing is an individual choice; many people dress for comfort, for the social situation or the weather. Clubs, movie theatres and other places require patrons to be in neat, clean clothes and appropriate footwear.

Many Australians live close to the beach and the sea. On hot days, they may wear little clothing on the beach and surrounds. This does not mean that people who dress to go to the beach or swimming have low moral standards. It means that this is what we accept on and near our beaches.

People from other countries can choose to wear their national dress. They may be religious or customary items and include monks’ robes, a burqa, a hijab or a turban. As a tolerant society with people from many different cultures, clothing is a part of cultural beliefs and practices that is encouraged.

POLITE BEHAVIOUR
‘Please’ and ‘thankyou’ are words that are very helpful when dealing with other people and buying goods or services. When asked if you would like something, such as a cup of tea, it is polite to say, ‘yes please’, or just ‘please’ if you would like it, or ‘no, thank you’ if you do not. When you receive something, it is polite to thank the person by saying ‘thank you’. Australians tend to think that people who do not say ‘please’ or ‘thank you’ are being rude. Using these words will help in building a good relationship.

Sometimes a sensitive issue may come up in conversation. Not to talk may seem rude. It is more polite to say ‘sorry, it is too hard to explain’ than to ignore a question.

Australians often say, ‘excuse me’ to get a person’s attention and ‘sorry’ if we bump into them. We also say, ‘excuse me’ or ‘pardon me’ if we burp or belch in public or a person’s home.

You should always try to be on time for meetings and other visits. If you realise you are going to be late, try to contact the person to let them know. This is very important for visits to professionals as you may be charged money for being late or if you miss the appointment without notifying them before the appointment time.

Most Australians blow their noses into a handkerchief or tissue, not onto the footpath. Spitting in public is also unacceptable. Many people will also say, ‘bless you’ when you sneeze. This phrase has no religious intent.

RESPONDING TO AN INVITATION
- What could I be invited to? If you get an invitation to lunch, dinner, barbecue, party, wedding, birthday, or any type of event you will usually respond with a letter or phone call. The midday meal is called lunch, and the evening meal is called dinner or ‘tea’. ‘Tea’ can also mean a cup of tea or ‘cuppa’. If invited for tea, the time of the event is a good sign of whether your host means dinner or just a cup of tea. An invitation to tea, for any time after 6 pm (1800 hours) usually means dinner.
- How are invitations made? Invitations can be written or spoken. Written ones usually ask for RSVP, (which is ‘respondez s’il vous plaît’ in French) and means ‘please reply’. You should reply whether you intend to go or not. The invitation will tell you how to reply and when the reply is expected. Your host may be specific about how many people are invited. If your host invites the whole family, you should tell your host how many people would go. Usually a family is the parents and their children.
- What if I do accept an invitation? When you accept an invitation to a meal, it is also usual to tell the host what you cannot eat. It is perfectly okay to
say that you are a vegetarian and do not eat meat or that you are Muslim or Jewish and do not eat pork. It is not polite to arrive late and you should make a telephone call to your host to explain if you are going to be late.

• What if I cannot accept an invitation? You may not always be able to accept an invitation. The best way to refuse is to say, ‘thank you, unfortunately I/we have other plans at that time’. To say that you are too busy may seem extremely rude, even if it is true. Once you accept an invitation, you should only cancel if something arises where you cannot go. You should also explain the reason to your host. To cancel because you got a better invitation from somewhere else can seem very rude, and can affect new friendships. Sometimes it is best not to accept an invitation right away, and to ask your host whether they would mind if you check your plans and reply to them later.

(Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection)

TIPPING
Tipping is not generally expected or practiced in Australia. This is because throughout Australia, service industry staff are covered by minimum wage laws and therefore do not rely on tips for their income. However, it is acceptable to leave a small amount (perhaps 10%) should you feel you have received exceptional service.

ALCOHOL
It is common for Australians over 18 years of age to enjoy alcoholic drinks in social settings. You will probably find yourself at a friend’s house, a BBQ or a luncheon where people have drinks such as beer, wine or spirits. You should not feel obliged to accept an invitation to have an alcoholic drink. Simply saying, "no thanks" or "something non-alcoholic will be fine, thank you" will suffice and people will not take offence.

There are heavy penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol. It can cost you thousands of dollars and you can lose your licence and even go to jail.

BARGAINNING
Bargaining is not generally used in Australian shops. The prices marked are the prices at which goods are sold. Shop around as prices do vary. Australians usually bargain for items that are expensive (like a car, a sound system, furniture, etc). You can also bargain at “garage sales”.

EQUITY
In Australia men and women are considered equal. Wealth and position are not regarded as justification for treating another person differently.

RACISM
You may find some people are not willing to be friendly or to accept you because of racial or cultural differences. Unfortunately, such people exist in every society and should not be regarded as typical Australians. Try not to be offended by seemingly stupid remarks or questions about your country or customs. Australians have much to learn from people from other countries and usually appreciate the opportunity.

There are laws in Australia that apply to people who make racist comments. They can be fined a lot of money or be given other penalties depending upon the severity of the offence.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OLDER PEOPLE
In your country there might be acceptable forms for displaying respect by the younger to the older person. In Australia people of different ages tend to regard each other with a much greater sense of equality. If you are a mature postgraduate international student you may be initially conscious of this. For instance, the son or daughter of an Australian friend or neighbour may call you by your first name. No disrespect is intended.

SERVANTS
It is important to realise that there are virtually no servants in Australia. Australian children are taught to be self-reliant. Most husbands assist their wives with household chores. Students are expected to shop, cook and clean for themselves, especially if they are living in a share-house.

SMOKING
Australia has strict laws regulating all smoking. You can be fined for smoking in a non-smoking area. Smoking is forbidden on public transport and in many buildings, including hotel bars, clubs and the casino. In South Australia it is illegal to smoke in cars where children under 16 years’ old are passengers.
If you are at a non-smoker’s house, it is not polite to light a cigarette inside. You may ask, however, if you can go outside for a cigarette. Out of politeness they may invite you to smoke inside. It would be best, however, to refuse the offer and go out to the front or back yard to smoke.

**STATUS OF WOMEN**

Australian women may seem more independent and self-reliant than those in your country. You should not assume their moral sense is any less. This reflects the relative equality of men and women in Australia compared with many other countries. Australian women expect to be treated as equals and will resent any suggestion that you regard them as inferior. There are laws that promote Equal Opportunity in Australia.

**QUEUING**

Queuing up is part of the way of life in Australia. You will see people standing in line waiting to be served, seeking cash at an ATM, getting on the bus, in the University refectory and at the movies. You simply join at the end of the queue! It is considered very rude to join the queue anywhere else unless you have a very good reason.

**TOILETS**

Houses and public buildings are fitted with western-style toilets, and it is very rare to find squat-toilets. Please don’t try to squat on western-style toilets, because toilet seats can be damaged very easily, and you could slip and injure yourself.

**Australian Slang**

Much common word usage or ‘slang’ may seem strange to people new to Australia. Slang words start from many different sources. Some words are shortened versions of longer words. Many were expressions already used by migrants who came from the north of England. If you are unsure what an expression means, it is all right to ask the person who said it to explain. Some common expressions are:

- **Bring a plate**—when you are invited to a party and asked to ‘bring a plate’, this means to bring a dish of food to share with your host and other guests. Take the food to the party in any type of dish, not just a plate, and it is usually ready to serve. This is common for communal gatherings such as for school, work or a club. If you are unsure what to bring, you can ask the host.

- **BYO**—when an invitation to a party says ‘BYO’, this means ‘bring your own’ drink. If you do not drink alcohol, it is acceptable to bring juice, soft drink or soda, or water. Some restaurants are BYO. You can bring your own wine to these, although there is usually a charge for providing and cleaning glasses called ‘corkage’.

- **Arvo**—This is short for afternoon. ‘Drop by this arvo,’ means please come and visit this afternoon.

- **Fortnight**—This term describes a period of two weeks.

- **Barbeque, BBQ, barbie**—outdoor cooking, usually of meat or sea food over a grill or hotplate using gas or coals. The host serves them eat with salads and bread rolls. It is common for a guest, when invited to a BBQ, to ask if they should bring anything.

- **Snag**—raw sausages usually cooked at a BBQ. They can be made of pork, beef or chicken.

- **Cuppa**—a cup of tea or coffee ‘Drop by this arvo for a cuppa’ means please come and visit this afternoon for a cup of tea or coffee.

- **Loo or dunny**—slang terms for the toilet. If you are a guest in someone’s house for the first time, it is usually polite to ask permission to use his or her toilet. ‘May I use your toilet please?’ Some people ask, ‘Where’s the loo?’

- **Fair dinkum**—honest, the truth. ‘Fair dinkum?’ when used as a question means, ‘is it really true?’

- **To be crook**—to be sick or ill.

- **Flat out**—busy.

- **Bloke**—a man. Sometimes if you ask for help, you may get an answer to ‘see that bloke over there’.

- **Shout**—to buy someone a drink. At a bar or a pub when a group of friends meet, it is usual for each person to ‘shout around’, meaning buy everybody a drink. Each person takes a turn at buying a ‘round’. It is also acceptable to say that you do not drink (alcohol) by saying that you are a ‘teetotaller’. This also means you are not obliged to shout.

- **How ya goin?**—‘How are you going?’ means how are you, or how do you do? It does not mean what form of transport you are taking. Sometimes it can sound like ‘owyay goin-mate’.

Cultural adjustments

There is no such thing as an average or typical international student, so it is difficult to prescribe guidelines on cultural adjustments. However, there are a few basic principles that will help you make the most of your interactions with others.

• You don’t have to change or abandon your cultural, moral or religious values to work with or make friends with others. Studies have shown that those who work from their cultural base while being open and respectful to others have healthier and more enduring cross-cultural relationships.

• A particular behaviour, response, preference or attitude could be peculiar to a person and need not be a cultural, ethnic or national characteristic. Don’t be hasty in making generalisations on the basis of a few isolated experiences.

• Australia is an increasingly multicultural society made up of more than 150 national or ethnic groups. It is better to be open and frank about your values. Australians are generally open and frank about theirs.

• Australia is renowned for its support of freedom of choice and of expression accorded to the individual. There is almost a national respect of the individual’s right to a chosen lifestyle provided, of course, it does not adversely affect others.

• Australians respect a person’s privacy. It is easy for newcomers to mistake this for unfriendliness.

• There is no substitute for an attitude of willingness to respect, learn, understand and accept how others go about their lives.

Friendships and relationships

Some students may come from societies in which starting friendships or continuation of an on-going friendship is based on different customs or traditions than in Australia. Don’t be too disappointed if you find the more spontaneous processes you may be accustomed to in starting friendships don’t work as well here.

Australians are mostly friendly and informal in dealings with others. They respect other people’s privacy, and may be less forthcoming in making the first move in social contact than you have experienced in your culture. Don’t take this as a sign of unfriendliness. Good friendships take time to mature.

Generally, in Australia, friendships commence through sharing or simply talking about common interests, whether they be common views on environmental issues, having children at the same school, or enjoying cooking or soccer.

Friendships start because people may just want to know and be part of each other’s lives. Activities or words are less important than knowing about the other person.

Australians rarely start conversations with people they have just met by asking about personal details like age, employment, marital status and relationships, or income and expenditure patterns as this is seen as intrusive. It takes time to find the right balance, and give enough information about yourself to establish common interests with new people without either you ‘invading’ their privacy, or you giving too much information to people that they may use inappropriately. For example, we would not recommend telling people whom you meet on public transport, or in your local area, that you live alone, nor about your marital status.

Starting a conversation

Impersonal or humorous comments are usually the means to start a conversation with friends or acquaintances. Favourite topics in Australia are the weather, what you plan to do on the weekend and sport. Australians are very keen spectators (and sometimes participants) of sport, and in summer, knowing about cricket will help you in first semester (see www.baggygreen.com.au), and learning about ‘footy’, or the Australian Football League (see www.afl.com.au) will be invaluable for second semester commencers. If you are in need of information or help, it is polite to be more formal. You will be pleasantly surprised at the willing and generally good-humoured response and assistance you receive. Try not to judge the Australian culture by someone who seems offensive and ill mannered. Quite simply, there are a small percentage of people in all cultures whose demeanour will be inappropriate at times.
A Final Word

Most international students look back on the time they spend studying and living in Australia as a challenging yet rewarding adventure. Remember, getting used to anything new or different takes a while.

Try to get involved in the new experiences available to you at Flinders and in Adelaide. Be active and participate in as much as you can. Although your studies are important, there are many opportunities to expand your horizons in non-academic areas. In hindsight, you will find your time in Australia will pass very quickly.

In particular, make a special effort to meet locals and other international students. You'll carry the good times and the friends you make with you long after you've left Flinders and Australia.

There may be times of stress, difficulty and discouragement. There may be times when you feel you are not able to cope with the demands of studies. Don't wait until the last minute to seek advice or assistance with any difficulties, either personal or academic, as small problems can become big problems if they are not dealt with quickly.

Remember that there are many people and organisations willing to help you along the way. You are about to begin a life-changing journey!

Best wishes.

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