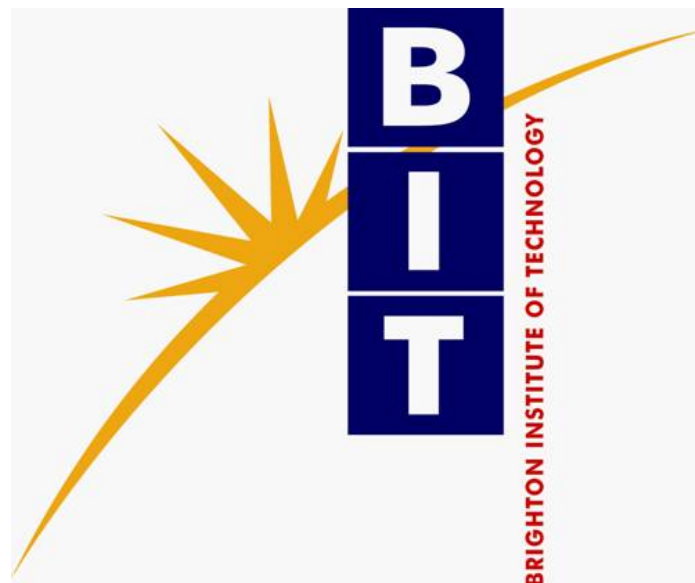


Pre-Arrival Guide



Brighton Institute of Technology, 380 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic 3000 Australia T: +61 3 9642 1770
F: +61 3 9642 1778 Web: <http://www.bit.edu.au> CRICOS No: 02552G-RTO No: 21438

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Application Step-by-Step Process Model:

STEP 1: Student enquiry and application (Via agent, exhibition, email, phone or fax)

STEP 2: International admissions issues; 'letter of offer'

STEP 3: Student acceptance; return signed forms and fees of first semester in full

STEP 4: International admissions issues electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) and schedule health insurance (OSHC)

STEP 5: Student finalises visa conditions with Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

STEP 6: Student makes travel and/or accommodation arrangements (alternatively, you can consult Student Support Services prior to or after arrival to arrange accommodation)

STEP 7: Student arrives in Australia (Tullamarine-Melbourne Airport)

STEP 8: International student registration and ID Cards

STEP 9: Student registers for OSHC card and sets up bank account, mobile phone, etc.

STEP 10: Faculty orientation program (approximately 2 days in main campus)
Including introductions to Melbourne, BIT, Staff, VISA requirements including course progress, Student Support Services, uniform fitting, toolkits & guided tour to the campuses, health care cards, ID cards & timetables.

STEP 11: Classes begin!

Introduction to Australia

Geography

Australia is both an island and a continent; it is the largest island but smallest continent in the world. It is about thirty seven hundred kilometres from north to south and four thousand kilometres from east to west. It has an area of nearly 7.7 million square kilometres and is the sixth largest nation on earth; it is the lowest of all the continents with the highest point at only 2228 metres. The landscape variety more than compensates for the lack of height. Climatic zones range from tropical rainforests, to deserts, and cool temperate forests to snow covered mountains.

Language

In Australia over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 indigenous languages. The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.

How do we greet 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 at the eyes of the people they are talking with. 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.

A common and distinctly Australian slang word for saying hello is "g-day" (pronounced guhdaai)

Introducing Melbourne



Melbourne is Australia's second largest capital city and home to some of Australia's best cafes and restaurants. Melbourne has great events and has a passion for food and wine. Melbourne is located on Port Phillip Bay in Australia's South East and has a population of 3,634,200. There are some 3500 restaurants and cafes in Melbourne

Melbourne Central Business District (CBD)

One glance at a map and it's obvious that Melbourne is a planned city: a tidy, balanced grid of neatly angled streets. But beneath this sense of everything in its place restraint lies a restless creative energy constantly pushing back at the city's seeming conservatism. The CBD is made up of precincts - distinct enclaves each with its own flavour and charm. Some are just a lane or two, while others cover the banks of the Yarra River or a busy CBD street.



Arranging Visas:

Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a student visa. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may be better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your country.

In order to apply for a visa you will need a valid passport, an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) and any other documentation required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application.

You must ensure to allow enough time for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

The Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm for the latest information.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

As well as links from the DIAC website the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website www.dfat.gov.au/embassies has a comprehensive list of Australian embassies, high commissions, consulates and representative offices around the world.

Migration Agents

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIAC on your behalf, but please note that you do not need to use a migration agent to lodge any kind of visa application.

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. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend.

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

Visa Conditions:

If you are granted a 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 specific in the CoE
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of mandatory and discretionary student visa conditions please visit www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students

What is IELTS?

IELTS is a test designed to assess an applicant's English language ability. It has an academic test and a general training test - applicants only need to take the general training test unless advised otherwise by a registration or licensing body. IELTS examinations are available worldwide. Information on fees, available test dates and application forms are available on the IELTS website.

On 1 April 2009, the government announced an increase to the minimum English language requirement from IELTS 4.5 to IELTS 5 for all Subclass 457 visa applicants in the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Major Groups 4 to 7 occupations and chefs and head chefs (ASCO 3322-11 and ASCO 3322-01), as one of the immediate measures to improve the integrity of the Subclass 457 visa program.

The measures were developed through 2008 following the commitment by the government in last year's Budget to implement a package of longer-term reforms to the Subclass 457 visa program in 2009 to improve both its integrity and ability to deliver the skills needed in the economy.

The change to the English language requirement from IELTS 4.5 to IELTS 5 is effective from **14 April 2009**. This new requirement will apply to all Subclass 457 visa applicants who are nominated for an occupation in ASCO Major Groups 4-7 or chefs and head chefs (ASCO 3322-11 and ASCO 3322-01) who lodge their application on or after 14 April 2009.

Note: Applicants who lodged Subclass 457 visa applications before 14 April 2009 as chefs and head chefs (ASCO 3322-11 and ASCO 3322-01) that were not finalised, were previously advised to provide evidence that they had successfully been tested as having English proficiency at IELTS 4.5.

As at 2 June 2009, applicants in this situation no longer need to meet this requirement. Subclass 457 visa applicants in this position may wish to contact their relevant case officer for further information. This change in the English language threshold was introduced to address concerns about the exploitation of workers from non-English speaking countries and to align the Subclass 457 visa English language requirement with the minimum migration requirements for the employer sponsored permanent visa programs such as the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

IELTS preparation kits are available from the following shops:

- **Foreign Language Bookshop**

Centreway, 259 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 Tel: 9654 2883 Fax: 98194511

- **Tesl Books**

19-21 Claremont Avenue, Malvern Vic 3144 Ph.: +61 (03) 9500 8933
FAX: +61 (03) 9500 8944 info@teslbooks.com <http://www.teslbooks.com/>

- **Languages Direct Group Pty Ltd**

30 McLennan Drive, Kensington Vic 3031 Ph: +61 3 9376 3388
kerrie@languagesdirect.com.au

- **Academic & General Bookshops**

City Store- 259 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000 Tel: (03) 9663 3231 Fax: (03) 9663 7234
Melways: Page: 1B - N3

Ascot Vale Store- 363 Mount Alexander Road, Ascot Vale, 3032 Tel: (03) 9375 7570
Fax: (03) 9375 7554 Melways: Page 28 - K9

Changes to Trades Skills Assessments for offshore skills assessments

Some trade occupations on the Skilled Occupation List have both Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) and Vocational Education Training and Assessment Services (VETASSESS) listed as the assessing authority. Currently VETASSESS, working in a consortium with a number of Australian registered training organisations, is the assessing authority for certain skilled trade occupations if the applicant is a resident of the United Kingdom, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa or the Philippines.

From 15 May 2009, applicants from other countries who are willing and able to be assessed in one of these five countries can choose to be assessed by the VETASSESS consortium, or can continue to apply to TRA for their skills assessment.

What to Bring

Documents

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

- Valid passport with Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from BIT
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by BIT
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- 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

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 copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

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

- Read "**What can't I take into Australia?**"
- And also let your family and friends know "**What can't be mailed to 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, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination.

Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

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. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February. If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive.

Clothing

On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or "running shoes" are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

Most primary and secondary school students will be required to wear a school uniform to classes and other school activities. You should check with your education provider what is included in the uniform package.

Other Items You Might Need to Include (most can also be purchased in Australia)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alarm clock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific or graphics calculator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> camera |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dictionary (bilingual) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> micro recorder for lectures |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small sewing kit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spare spectacles or contact lenses |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music CDs or iPod | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> your optical prescription |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sporting equipment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photos of friends and family |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> toiletries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swimming costume |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> umbrella | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small gifts from home |



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

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

Bringing Your Computer

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

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

Mobile Phones & Laptops

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

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 light weight 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.

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

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

Australian Customs and Quarantine

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn't have. You must **declare ALL** food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has **strict quarantine laws** and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU\$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

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

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

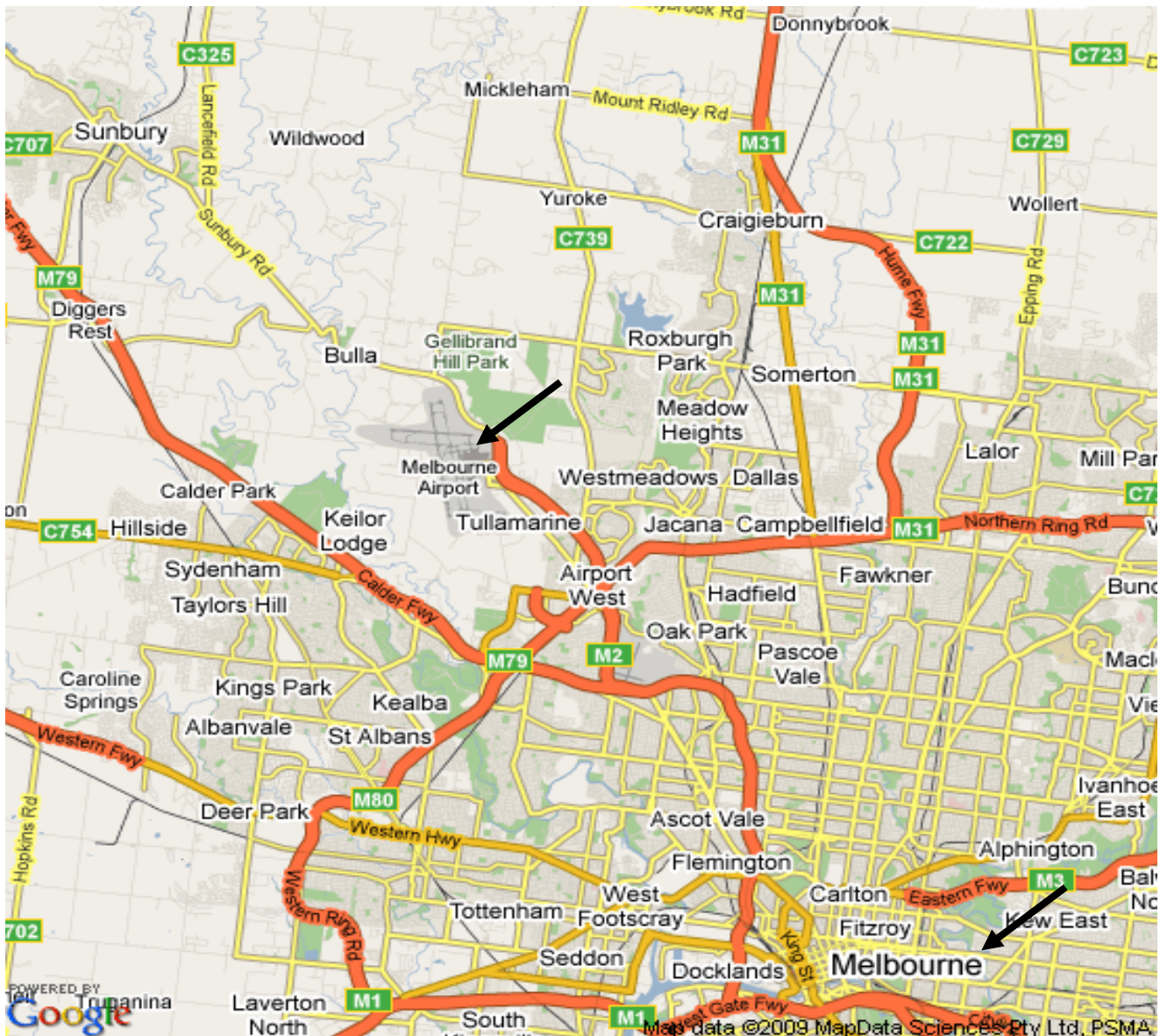
Arrivals Hall

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

Getting From the Airport:

Arranging Travel:

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least 1-2 weeks before the start of International Student Orientation to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet-lag. You should fly into Tullamarine (Melbourne International Airport) which is the closest international airport to Melbourne. Visit <http://www.melbourneairport.com.au/index.asp> Melbourne City is located 20 KM from Tullamarine Airport.



Public Buses:

Public Buses operate from the terminal, to various areas in Melbourne. Information on destinations and schedules can be obtained from the information desks within the airport, or on the numbers listed below.

Shuttle Buses:

Skybus offers a shuttle bus service from the airport to Melbourne CBD and city hotels. This service operates 24 hours, 7 days. Buses run every 10-15 minutes throughout the day and every 30-60 minutes overnight.

Skybus Hotel Shuttle operates from the city 0600-2200 Monday to Friday and 0730-1830 Saturday and Sunday.

- Adult one way tickets cost \$16 / \$26 return
- A family ticket (2 adults and 1-4 children) \$36 one way / \$56 return
- A family flexi ticket (1 adult and 1-4 children) costs \$22 one way / \$36 return
- A child ticket costs \$6 one way
- 10-trip ticket costs \$120
- Purchase and print your ticket online.

For more information Skybus can be contacted on (61 3) 9335 2811 or by visiting: <http://www.melbourneairport.com.au/To-From-the-Airport/Skybus/Overview.html>

Taxis:

Taxis are available from the ground floor level of Melbourne Airport, outside the International Terminal and both domestic Terminals. Expect a taxi fare of around A\$35 to A\$40 for a return trip between the CBD and Melbourne Airport.

Keeping in Contact:

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and BIT with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. (Do not change these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have arrived safely. It is important to **ALWAYS** let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by post.

Banking:

You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the 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. Below are some of the larger and more recognised banks in Australia.



How much money to bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately **AU\$1500 to AU\$2000** available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money as either **Traveller's Cheques** or on an international credit card. Traveller's cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

Please note that it is **not safe to bring large sums of money** with you! Lost credit cards or traveller's 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 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 do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Melbourne, you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at any of the following addresses:

- **Currency Exchange, Melbourne** (03) 9654 2768
109 Collins St MELBOURNE CBD VIC 3000
- **Custom House Global Foreign Exchange, Melbourne** (03) 8622 8800
10/ 224 Queen St MELBOURNE CBD VIC 3000
- **Dahabshiiil Australia Pty Ltd** (03) 9689 9688
Suite 19 144 Nicholson St FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011
- **Forex Commercial Australia Pty Ltd** 1300 283 655
Level 8, 350 Collins Street MELBOURNE CBD VIC 3000
- **Xpress Money Services** (03) 9620 1433
43 Elizabeth Street MELBOURNE CBD VIC 3000

Electronic Transfers

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

ATMs

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



Credit Cards

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

Arranging Accommodation:

Accommodation should ideally be arranged before you leave to come to Australia. A popular solution is to organise moving in with a friend or relative that is already here, however, if you are under the age of 18 you must obtain approval from your education provider first. Then, once you've settled in you can take your time to move into something more permanent. Alternatively and the cheapest option would be to stay in a hostel or backpackers for a few days while you're looking for a place of your own.

Following is a list of places to stay temporarily:

- **Backpackers Travel** (03) 9654 8477
Centre 250/1 Flinders St. Melbourne VIC 3000
- **Backpackers Travel Cent** (03) 9639 9686
450 Elizabeth St. Melbourne VIC 3000
- **STA Travel** (03) 9639 0599
208 Swanston St. Melbourne VIC 3000
- **The Friendly Backpackers** (03) 9639 6057
Travel Foyer 226 Flinders La. Melbourne VIC 3000
- **STA Travel** (03) 9654 7266
240 Flinders St. Melbourne VIC 3000
- **Nomads Industry Backpackers Hostel** 1800 447 762
198 Abeckett St, Melbourne VIC 3000 -

Generally, the price you pay for accommodation will determine its quality. However, it can be expensive to stay in a good quality motel or hotel for a long period of time. Backpacker accommodation is relatively inexpensive but you may need to bring your own pillow and sleeping bag if you choose this option.

Bringing My Family

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants (check your individual circumstances with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship). Family members include your spouse, and you and your spouse's 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.

Issues to consider

Rather than bringing your family together with you to Australia, some students may find it useful to arrive first, settle into studies, find appropriate accommodation, adjust to living in Australia and then arrange for their family to join them.

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

- The cost of airfares for your family to and from Australia;
- Possible higher rent for a larger home;
- Limited employment opportunities for your spouse;
- Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities;
- The effect on you and your studies if your family is not happy in Australia;
- Whether your children will adjust to school in Australia;
- Waiting lists for child care centres; and
- Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family or to all come at the same time.

For more information visit: www.immi.gov.au

Schools

If you would like to bring your children to Australia with you, you must be aware of the following schooling issues:

It is an immigration policy that school-age dependants of international students undertake formal schooling while they are in Australia.

Children who have their fifth birthday before 1st April of that calendar year are eligible to start school.

You will need to provisionally enrol your child in a school before you leave your home country and you will normally have to pay the school fees one semester in advance. The school will issue an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment Form (eCoE) stating the program and its duration, so that you can obtain the appropriate visa for your child.

The Diplomatic Mission in your country can tell you which State schools are registered to take international students.

Fees are payable by international students at all State schools unless you:

- Are in receipt of sponsorship or scholarships from the Australian Government (e.g. the Australian Development Scholarship, IPRS);
- Hold a higher institution or approved non-government scholarship. These scholarships must be approved by the State government for the dependants to be exempt from school fees.
- You will be responsible for school fees and other costs including school uniforms, books, excursions and stationery.
- When choosing the most appropriate school for your child, it is best to ask questions about the school's curriculum, size, extra-curricular activities and the size of individual classes.

You should also take into consideration the distance from the school to BIT, the suburb in which you intend to live and the method of transport you plan to use.

For further information, please visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/>

There are two types of schools in Australia - State schools and independent schools.

Further support

It's quite a transition from your culture to Australian culture. BIT strives to achieve an excellent relationship with all students arriving from overseas and provides on campus support through its Student Support Services Program. An on campus counsellor is available to provide you with all the necessary information, support and advice required for a smooth and pleasant stay. The Student Support Services Program is available at no extra cost.