INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**Student Visa Requirements**
An international student is a person who is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident, and is enrolled at an Australian education institution, with a temporary residence status. All international students applying to study in Australia must have a student visa, which can take up to six months to process. For all visa inquiries and applications, please contact the Australian Embassy or High Commission.
The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires that: “to be granted a student visa, you must provide evidence that satisfies the assessment factors applicable to you. Assessment factors include your financial ability, English proficiency, likely compliance with the conditions of your visa and any other matters considered relevant to assessing your application”. Additional information on student visas are available on DIAC’s website: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).

**Overseas Student Health Cover**
International students are required to obtain private health cover by joining a private health insurance scheme. The premium cover must be paid before a student visa is issued. It covers the cost of medical and hospital care which international students may need while in Australia and will also pay for most prescription drugs and emergency ambulance transport.
MCIE can arrange health cover for you before you come to Australia, if you choose to pay the health cover charges with your tuition fees.
Please be mindful that MCIE does not take any responsibility if you do not pay or make prior arrangements for your overseas student health cover. Remember that you will also need to maintain it throughout your stay in Australia.


International students may choose from the following providers:
- **BUPA Australia OSHC**: [www.overseasstudenthealth.com](http://www.overseasstudenthealth.com)
LIVING IN AUSTRALIA & RESOURCES

Living Costs in Australia
Australia is a modern, welcoming and affordable country, which enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world. A single student should budget approximately $18,000 per year, or about $350-$400 per week, for living expenses. The cost of living in Melbourne varies greatly, depending on your personal needs and tastes. Exchange rate fluctuations may also affect budgeting. The living costs below are based on two people sharing an unfurnished two bedroom apartment, flat or house. The amounts are in Australian dollars (A$).

Remember to add your program fees and airfares to get a realistic total.

- Bond (refundable security deposit) $400
- General (furniture, connection fees, etc.) $1000
- Overseas Student Health Cover $380
- Rent per person (weekly $150; annually $7,800)
- Food and drink (weekly $50; annually $2,600)
- Travel (up to 10 km from city) (weekly $22; annually $1,144)
- Telephone (weekly $10; annually $520)
- Gas, electricity, water (weekly $15; annually $780)
- Books, stationery, photocopying (annually $500)
- Personal expenses (clothes, entertainment) (weekly $40; annually $2,080)

Accommodation Options
- Home stay $200–$300 a week
- Home stay offers students the opportunity to experience everyday Melbourne living in a family home. Hosts are normally welcoming and helpful which makes it a popular choice for younger students and those studying short-term English courses. Meals are usually included in the cost. Single or shared rooms may be offered, with rent priced accordingly. Self-catering home stay, if available, can be particularly economical.
- Hostels and guest houses $140–$240 a week
- Hostel living in Australia, a convenient and cost-effective option for students, is operated by organisations such as Youth Hostels Australia and the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA). Generally, students share kitchen and bathroom facilities.
- Rental/Share accommodation $50–$160 a week/$70–$350 a week
- Students at The Institute who choose to rent accommodation with friends or fellow students usually have to provide their own furniture. Landlords require a security bond equal to one month’s rent as well as one month’s rent in advance.

Food
Markets and supermarkets sell a variety of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables as well as rice, breads, spices and other ingredients. Melbourne’s restaurants and cafes offer a wide variety of foods from around the world, including Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Greek, Indian, Thai, Vietnamese, French and Indonesian.

Shopping
Central Melbourne and its suburbs have many large shopping centres, department stores, discount stores, markets and supermarkets that can be reached easily by public transport.

Transport
Melbourne has an extensive public transport system of buses, trains and trams. Cars travel on the left side of the road. Drivers can use their home country licenses for three months from the date of entry to Australia. An international license can be used providing the license from the country of origin is also valid.

The following websites may help you get around in Melbourne:
www.whereis.com.au
www.street-directory.com.au
www.ptv.vic.gov.au
www.victrip.com.au
(Provides information on the public transport system in Melbourne, including costs and timetables)

Employment
To be eligible to work in Australia, international students must apply to DIAC for the right to work after the commencement of their studies. International students should not expect to cover the costs of their tuition fees and living expenses from casual or part time employment. Holders of a student visa with work rights are entitled to work up to 20 hours per week and full time during study period breaks.

For more information on visa conditions please visit: www.immi.gov.au.