idp

2025

Melbourne City Guide

Your guide to moving to Melbourne

Useful links for students arriving soon

Need assistance getting to your accommodation?

Students may be eligible for an airport pick up service from the airport to their nominated accommodation destination. Get in touch with your University and arrange an airport pickup service.

- What you can/cannot bring into Australia: Can you bring it | Australian Border Force

- Learn about driving with an overseas licence or permit in Victoria: Requirement for overseas licence holders | VicRoads

- For more information, head to the Study Melbourne website.

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Welcome to Melbourne
Australia's culture capital

Welcome To Melbourne

Your guide to moving to Melbourne

"Rated the most liveable city in the world - Forbes"

Studying in a new country is both exciting and challenging! This guide will help you get the most out of your time in Australia; from getting to know the lifestyle, fun places to visit, accommodation, how to find a casual job and more.

Our friendly IDP Melbourne Counsellors are here to support you on your study journey too. If you have questions about life in Australia, course/university opportunities or visas, we're here to help.

Don't be shy, call, email us or book a counselling appointment online.

Accommodation Options

Settling In

Accomodation

Depending on your lifestyle and budget, you will be able to find the right place to suit you. It all starts with knowing the options...

Prepare

Student Accomodation

Price range: AUD$200 - $450 per week

Pros: Live independently in self contained accommodation; have the support of other students in the building; enjoy the recreational and social events for residents & build life skills. No need to worry about separate bills, internet etc.

Cons: Students will need to arrange their meals if these are not already offered

Home Stay

Price range: AUD$250 - $350 per week

Pros: Valuable cultural experiences in a local host family; available for both short term and long term; can be relatively affordable; receive support and maybe even home cooked meals.

Cons: Less independence, Curfews might apply, sharing a space with a family.

Choosing a place to live is an exciting part about studying overseas

Living on campus

Price range: AUD$200 - $450 per week

Pros: Universities impose strict guidelines to create a safe environment; convenient and easy to get to class; easy to socialise with other students; get the full university or college experience

Cons: Could be more expensive (paying for convenience) could be more rules regarding social activities, noise levels, guests, and usage of shared spaces and equipment/ appliances.

Private Rental

Price range: AUD$180 - AUD$440 per week

Pros: Live independently, enjoy your own space and freedom with fewer rules; more accommodation options to choose from.

Cons: Arrange furniture and utilities; a more significant commitment and extra responsibilities

For information on accommodation and providers, view the IDP website.

Overseas Student Health Cover

Settling In

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Why do I need Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)?

OSHC provides essential health insurance for international students while studying in Australia. It helps cover the cost of medical services, including doctor visits, hospital stays, ambulance services, and limited prescription medicines. The Australian government requires international students to have OSHC as a condition of their student visa (Subclass 500). Additionally, many Australian universities require students to have OSHC before they can enrol or access campus medical services.

GP/Doctor or Specialist visits (e.g X-rays and blood tests)

Emergency ambulance services

Hospital visits

Some of the cost of prescription medicines

If you have a medical emergency

If you have a life-threatening medical emergency, go to your nearest public hospital emergency department or call 000 (Emergency Services) immediately for help. All public hospitals have a
24-hour emergency and casualty department, so you will always be able to get help.

If it's not an emergency, locate your nearest GP by visiting the official website of your OSHC provider, book an appointment with a doctor by phone or online. The doctor will treat you and determine if you need medicine or need to see a specialist. Alternatively, you can also visit your university's clinic.

Learn more about Overseas Student Health Cover in Australia from these commonly asked about topics at our website.

Australian Health Care system

Common healthcare words

Getting started with your Student Health Cover

Health and safety tips

Banking

Settling In

One of the most important things to do when you arrive in Australia is to open a bank account. Learn how to make international money transactions, pay bills and manage everyday expenses.

Getting started >

1. Choose your bank

Australia offers various banks for international students to choose from

2. Choose an account

1. Everyday Account

The most common bank account type, used for day- to-day expenses.

2. Savings Account

This is where you can store money that you don't need to use straight away.

3. Opening a Bank Account

Take your passport into the bank, as well as your tax identification number from your home country (if you have one).

Often, there are discounts available for students, make sure you bring student ID and letter of enrolment when you visit the bank to access these

commbank.com.au
nab.com.au
anz.com.au
westpac.com.au

4. Tips

Mobile banking is popular in Australia, making it easy to do online banking via mobile, like paying your friends or paying at supermarkets or cafes by tapping your phone

Common bank words:

BPAY - Popular bill paying service allowing you to pay bills online

Direct debits:

Transfers money from one account to another. Can be commonly used for paying health insurance or any kind of recurring payments internationally and online.

Food & Shopping

Settling In

Grocery Shopping

Check out Queen Victoria or South Melbourne markets for incredible, fresh produce at affordable prices. You'll find food from all over the world in Melbourne. Hot spots include Chinatown on Little Bourke Street, Abbotsford for Vietnamese and Thai, and head out west for great Indian cuisine.

There are heaps of European options too with a large Italian community in Carlton, and even a Greek food precinct on Lonsdale Street.

Important:

Throughout the Melbourne CBD, there is a lot of small local owned international grocers who sell imported products from all over the world. These grocers can be found with a quick Google search.

Major Supermarkets

Retail Shopping

Major retail locations include Melbourne Central, Emporium, The Strand, QV, Galleria, Docklands and Chadstone.

1. Major Department Stores

MYER   DAVID JONES

2. Sporting Goods

rebel   JD

3. Everyday Clothing

ZARA   H&M   COTTON:ON

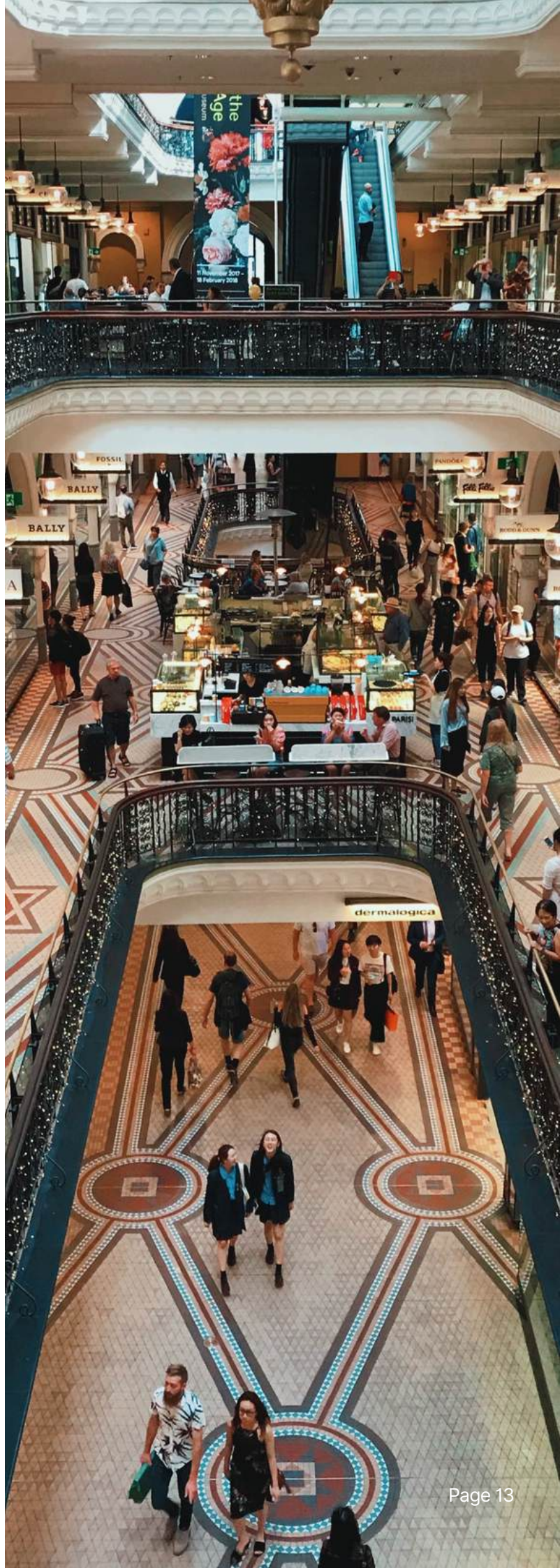## 4. Homewares (Everday Essentials)

Kmart   BIGW

TARGET

5. Electronics, Stationery & Appliances

JB HI-FI   Harvey Norman   THE GOOD GUYS

Officeworks

6. Hardware Store (DIY)

BUNNINGS warehouse

Transporation

Exploring Melbourne

Getting Around

The grid layout of the city centre and the world's largest urban tram network make getting around Melbourne city and suburbs a breeze. There are always multiple ways to get from A to B.

🚊 Trams

Trams are frequent, safe and very Melbourne! All tram trips within the central business district are free, just remember to tap on your Myki card when you leave the free zone. Tram services run to and from many suburbs from the city.

Download the tramTRACKER app for your nearest tram stop and services.

🚆 Trains

Melbourne's train system, part of the city's public transport network, is operated by Metro Trains Melbourne. It consists of 17 metropolitan lines radiating from Flinders Street Station in the CBD, connecting the suburbs and surrounding areas. Services are frequent in peak hours, with reduced schedules in the evenings and on weekends.

🚌 Buses

If there's no tram or train line near you, chances are there will be a bus! Bus services run on major arterial roads and highways, connecting outer suburbs with limited train or tram service.

Investing in a bicycle (and helmet!) is by far the quickest way to get around the city and inner suburbs, and to and from campus depending on your location. Melbourne's grid layout and dedicated bike lanes make it the friendliest and safest city in Australia for cyclists. Just make sure you know the rules before you hit the road!

Pick up a myki (sounds like 'my key') card for use on all public transport services in Victoria. You can top it up online, over the phone, and at most train stations and convenience stores. Head over to their website to view any ongoing promotions for students.

For any inquiries regarding public transport, visit www.ptv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 007.

Popular Day Trips From Melbourne

Exploring Melbourne

1. The Great Ocean Road

🚌 **2.5 hours Via Bus**

The world famous Twelve Apostles along the Great Ocean Road offer some truly spectacular Australian coastal scenery. There are plenty of tour operators from the city. It's definitely worth the trip to explore the beautiful coastline and rock formations.

2. Penguin Parade On Phillip Island

🚌 **2 hours Via Bus**

Witness hundreds of fairy penguins emerge from the sea to search for food and shelter. The cutest attraction in Melbourne, with many tour operators from the city. You're sure to be charmed by these cute penguins.

3. Surf Coast

🚌 🚋 **1.5 hours via Bus & Tram**

Head west towards Geelong for Victoria's best surf beaches. Check out the beautiful Torquay beach and world famous, Bell's Beach, which is home to Australia's largest surfing competition; the Rip Curl Pro. Soak up this surf culture, you're sure to enjoy the relaxed vibes of these special beaches

4. Grampians National Park

🚗 **3 hours via Car**

Head out a little further west to escape the crowds at Grampians National Park. The walks are mesmerising, with varied scenery of rock formations, waterfalls, country views and wildlife to explore. Kangaroos are fond of the Grampians, too.

5. Dandenong Rangers

🚌 **2 hours Via Bus**

The Dandenong Ranges, located east of Melbourne, Victoria, are a picturesque mountain range known for their lush forests, charming villages, and scenic views. A popular destination for nature lovers, the area features the Dandenong Ranges National Park, home to towering mountain ash trees, walking trails, and diverse wildlife.

For more great day trips, check out the Visit Victoria website

Events & Festivals

Exploring Melbourne

Events & Festivals In Melbourne

Melbourne is Australia's cultural and sporting capital, with year-round festivals. There is something for for everyone in Melbourne.

Lunar New Year Festival

Australian Open

Australian Grand Prix

Moomba Festival

Melbourne International Film Festival

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Melbourne Fringe Festival

Spring Carnival & Melbourne Cup

AFI Anzac Day & Grand Final

Make New Friends

Exploring Melbourne

Being in a new city, away from your family and friends, you will want to meet like-minded people. Follow our tips for socialising and you will be surprised in how making friends is easier than expected!

- Sharing accommodation is a great way to make friends. In student accommodation, you'll often be living with students who study nearby or even at the same institution.

- Student clubs - Many institutions have their own clubs or societies. You can find clubs with specific interests like Harry Potter, badminton, Mahjong, debating, beauty, getting fit and many more.

- Meetup.com and Eventbrite.com.au make it easy to find people who share the same interests/hobbies. It's fun to keep up your hobbies in your new city, and even better to find friends to share the experience with.

- Volunteer in the community - Volunteer organisations are always on the lookout for eager volunteers. This is also a great way to meet other like-minded people. Go volunteer is also a popular platform to find volunteer work.

- Get recommendations from peers on Facebook - Join IDP's exclusive Facebook group to get tips from other students in your city.

Work While You Study

Build a Career In Australia

Work While You Study

As an international student on a student visa, you're able to work a certain number of hours a week in Australia.

Casual employment while studying is a good way to learn about Australian culture and meet people.

Take a look at our Careers and Employability page for more information and download a complimentary copy of IDP's LinkedIn Guide for students.

Be mindful if you have any work restriction on your visa and ensure to check your visa conditions.

- If you are a member of the family unit of a primary student visa holder, you must not work in Australia until they have started their course.

- You must not work in Australia before your course of study commences.

- Looking for a job in a new country can feel daunting, but don't hesitate to drop your resume and ask.

- The hospitality industry is a great place to start and many popular venues will welcome international students. Don't be afraid to drop your resume or ask directly at shops and restaurants.

- You can also use popular online job search websites like LinkedIn, Seek, Jora or Career One.

For more valuable advice on working in Melbourne or in Australia, check out the Study Melbourne website.

Applying for an internship is another way to gain work experience. If you're looking for an internship opportunity, speak to one of our counsellors for ongoing opportunities or visit our website.

Join IDP Thrive

Are you an international student who's recently arrived in Australia? IDP's Got You!

The Thrive Program focuses on delivering a range of support services and benefits to our students. These services provide invaluable information and skills to our students while guiding them to success at every step of their study journey in Australia.

Join the Thrive Program to gain access to a range of exciting offers including exclusive events, reward programs, internships, referrals, and network support.

Download the IDP Live App

IDP Live app features loads of helpful tips, advice, personal stories and videos from international students and institutions around the world to help you prepare for your own overseas adventure.

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Follow our socials

Migration & Visa Services

Are you an international student or migrant who dreams of studying, working or even settling permanently in Australia? If so, you are in the right place!

IDP can help you with every step of the visa application process, from understanding the requirements to submitting your application.

Scan the QR code to book a consultation with our migration agents.

We offer a wide range of visa services:

- Student and Temporary Graduate Visa
- General Skilled Migration Visa
- Partner and Family Visa
- Employer Sponsored Visa
- Other Visas

Get To Know The Melbourne Team

IDP Melbourne

Get To Know Our Local Team And Services

IDP is a global leader in international education services that helps people study abroad.

As experts in international student placements, our key services include:

- Course selection & guidance with the application process

- Visa help & assistance with preparation of necessary documents.

- Consultation with in-house registered migration agents.

- Help with choosing the right student health cover, accommodation, banking options & money transfer.

- IELTS test booking & preparation material

IDP is a lively network of students and alumni buzzing across Australia. When you arrive, get in touch with us and we'll help you settle in.

IDP helps ambitious students reach their dream destination and thrive on arrival.

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If you have questions about how to navigate through all that's happening in Australia, course opportunities or visas, speak to us.

Call, email us or book a counselling appointment online.