



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

MONASH UNIVERSITY
2012-2013
Program Guide

Monash University
<http://www.monash.edu.au/>

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize your study abroad experience, you should prepare yourself by learning about your host country, its history, and culture. You may want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper, *The Age*: <http://www.theage.com.au/>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. You will find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before you leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in your host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions you should visit the following website: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/43654/Australia/228705/Daily-life-and-social-customs>
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

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Travel Information

- To study in Australia, you must have a **passport** (valid at least six months beyond your estimated return date) and a student **visa**. You may apply for a passport at any major U.S. post office.

If you are a U.S. citizen, you should apply for an e- Visa as soon as it is appropriate to do so but remember that you may not apply more than 3 months prior to your departure. Once you have been accepted by the host university, **you must accept the offer** in order to receive a Confirmation of Enrollment (COE). You may then go to the Australian Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs website at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/> and click on the e-visa icon. You are considered “Subclass 575.” You will need to have the passport you intend to travel on, your COE details and a credit card (please note that the visa is expensive; currently the cost is \$570. Once you have submitted your application you will be given a receipt number which you will be able to use to track the status of your visa application. Within 5–10 business days, you will receive an e-mail confirmation that your visa has been granted; carry a physical copy of this e-mail with you when you travel to Australia as you will not be issued a student visa prior to your arrival. Once you arrive in Australia and are being processed by the Department of Immigration the e-mail will be invaluable in case there are any problems. Make certain that when you are applying for your visa you provide an e-mail address that you use regularly. If there are any problems in the granting of your visa you will be contacted by e-mail. If you have any problems you can contact: eVisa.Helpdesk@immi.gov.au or dima-washington@dfat.gov.au or phone (202) 797-3000. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you should follow the directions on the Australian Department of Immigration website (see above).

- Vaccinations are not required for U.S. citizens; however, you should check the Australian Department of Immigration (www.immi.gov.au/) website for recommendations.
- The flight to Australia is extremely long. From the U.S., all flights travel west. If you are departing from Boston or any other city on the East coast, you have to add 6 hours to your trip. The most common route to Sydney is by way of Los Angeles. We recommended that you wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and take as little carry-on luggage as possible.
- Monash Abroad provides a free airport reception service to new international students. Pick-up is from Melbourne airport only. To make a booking complete the form in the “Pre-Arrival Guide” (in your acceptance package) and fax it to the Monash Abroad Office at least 5 working days prior to your arrival in Melbourne. The fax number is: +61 3 9905 8334. They will acknowledge by email, receipt of your airport pick-up form.
- Please note: airport pick-up service is only available for students arriving in the evening between 6pm and 6am. For students arriving outside of these times, it is easy to organize public transport or a taxi as there are many options available during business hours. Some transport options are:
 - Airport Bus Dandenong – www.airportbusdandenong.com.au (Be sure to check the timetable as weekend services are limited, and to advise them that you are a Monash student so you can receive the special rate).
 - Sky Bus – www.skybus.com.au
 - Taxi – Approximately A\$100 to Clayton
 - More transport options can be viewed at www.melbourneairport.com.au/To-From-the-Airport/Overview.html
- Be sure to look at the following website for important Pre-Arrival Information: <http://www.monash.edu.au/study/international/preparing/>

- **Academic Calendar**

Please consult the acceptance materials that Monash sends you for the exact semester dates and dates of the orientation. Plan to stay until the last exam date; you must remain for all of your exams. **Approximate** semester dates are:

Fall Semester 2012 (Semester 2)

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| 7/7 | Housing available |
| 7/9 | Latest Arrival |
| 7/10-13 | Study Abroad Student Orientation (Mandatory) |
| 7/16-20 | University Orientation |
| 7/23-10/19 | Teaching period |
| 9/24-9/28 | Mid-semester recess |
| 10/29-11/16 | Examinations (subject to change) |

Spring Semester 2013 (Semester 1)

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| 2/11 | Arrival |
| 2/12-15 | Monash Abroad Orientation (mandatory) |
| 2/18-22 | University Orientation |
| 2/25-5/23 | Teaching Period |
| 4/4-11 | Mid-semester recess |
| 6/2-6/20 | Examinations (subject to change) |

- Upon arrival, you will participate in a comprehensive orientation program aimed at introducing you to the university system, its students and facilities. During the orientation you will be advised about course selection. You are advised not to take Australian “culture” classes that are designed for visiting students, but rather to take courses about aspects of Australian culture within the academic departments.
- Course selection information at Monash university is available at:
www.monash.edu/pubs/handbooks
- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about BC’s academic policies may be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/academics.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing

- Normally you will be housed in one of six “Halls of Residence” on the main, Clayton campus. All of the halls are within walking distance of one another. Most rooms are singles with a built in wardrobe, mirror, desk, wall shelving unit, night stand/cupboard, and bed with linens that are changed every week for you. The Halls are coed and you will share a bathroom, also coed, with your flat mates. Rooms are equipped with a telephone and, in most cases, a kitchenette area. Each floor has a “tutor” who lives on the floor and acts as the “RA.” The tutors provide academic assistance and also serve as a disciplinarian. Each residence also has a computer facility. There is also a full kitchen where you can cook, a common room where everyone gathers to watch TV, a video room where you can rent and watch movies, an area for mail, and a shop, open at specific hours during the evening where you can buy snacks and the like. Please note that you are responsible for paying for your housing. BC does not pay for your accommodations.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf

- Australian universities do not have meal plans but Monash has many on-campus dining facilities as well as off-campus restaurants, and your accommodations will also have kitchen facilities
- Information about local transportation may be found at: <http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au/>
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Melbourne. During the university's orientation you will receive information about buying a cell phone.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. You are covered by HTH insurance only during the period between the start and end dates of your program. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- The Australian government requires you to pay the Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC) fee which entitles you to use their national health service if needed.
- Visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad: http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- BC emergency contact information:
OIP: (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
BCPD: (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad: http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf
- If you are thinking of opening a bank account, you should know that Bank of America is affiliated with Westpac (found all over Australia); if you have a Bank of America account, you may be able to avoid costly transaction fees in Australia.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor, Esther Messing at: messines@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience "reverse" culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home: <http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- Suggested readings:
Bryson, Bill. In a Sunburned Country. New York: Broadway Books, 2000
Chatwin, Bruce. Songlines. New York: Penguin, 1988
- Useful websites:
Local information about Melbourne: <http://www.visitmelbourne.com/>
Travel guides for Australia: www.letsgo.com/
www.roughguides.com/
- Student and parent guides for study abroad:
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

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