



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2012-2013

Program Guide

University of Western Australia
<http://www.unimelb.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 West Australian*: <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

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. In the past BC students have often used student travel agencies such as STA Travel at www.statravel.com. These agencies generally offer competitive rates and open-ended tickets allowing you to leave Australia whenever you want (as long as your visa does not expire).
- 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 Perth is by way of Sydney from Los Angeles. We recommend that you wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and take as little carry-on luggage as possible.

Academics

• Academic Calendar

Please consult the acceptance materials that you receive from The University of Western Australia for the dates of the orientation. Plan to stay until the last exam date; you must remain for all of your exams. As of now, the semester dates are:

Fall Semester 2012 (Semester 2)

7/22-29	Arrival and Orientation
7/30-11/2	Teaching period
9/24-10/1	Mid-semester recess
11/6	Study Period
11/10-11/25	Examinations (subject to change)

Spring Semester 2013 (Semester 1)

TBD	Orientation (Mandatory)
2/25-5/31	Teaching period
4/1-4/7	Mid-semester recess
6/8-6/24	Examinations (subject to change)

- The Study Abroad Office provides an orientation program for all study abroad and exchange students. The orientation covers general information about the local area and the university.
- During the orientation you will complete your course enrolment and meet your academic advisor. You are advised to take courses about aspects of Australian culture within the academic departments.
- Refer to the following website for more information about the academic system: <http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/study-abroad-and-exchange/courses>
- Course selection information at your host university is available at: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/az/faculties.html>.

- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>
- Information about BC's academic policies may be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/academics.html>

Housing and Meals

- There are five Colleges affiliated with or owned by UWA and they are located adjacent to the campus. Living in a College provides you with a unique experience and opportunity to live with Australian and other international students. There are few places for study abroad students and acceptance is quite competitive. Be sure to look at UWA's housing website: where you will find information about the Residential Colleges. Students are encouraged to consider St. Thomas More, a Catholic residential College across the street from the Crawley campus.
- If you decide to live off-campus, the Housing Office <http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/unilife/accommodation/offcampus> maintains an online database for UWA international students which you may access as soon as you have received an offer and even before you have enrolled. The Housing Office provides support to students looking for off-campus accommodations as well as advising about renting or leasing.
- Regardless of the type of accommodations that you choose, please remember that **you are responsible for paying housing fees directly to the provider.**
- Fall and Year students should apply for housing shortly after receiving the acceptance materials from UWA. Spring semester students should apply beginning around October 1.
- Be sure to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you're settled. Australian universities do not have meal plans as universities do in the United States. There are a number of dining facilities on campus and you may dine on a pay-as-you-go basis. If you are living at a Residential College at least some of your meals will be included in the fees.

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. HTH insurance does not replace your domestic medical insurance. 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. OSHC is required in addition to your domestic medical insurance and HTH.
- 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
- In addition, UWA offers cost of living information on the following website:
<http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/unilife/costs>
- 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 Perth: http://www.australianexplorer.com/perth_information.htm
Transportation around Perth:
http://www.australianexplorer.com/transport/western_australia/perth/index.html
News about the latest events in Perth: http://www.australianexplorer.com/perth_events.htm

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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