

Advanced Education Pathway



Before your Departure

As soon as your visa is approved it is time to confirm your plane tickets and prepare for the long trip to Australia. The trip is very long. From the moment you have a shower and get ready to travel to the moment you get to your accommodation and unpack your luggage many hours will pass, with hardly any sleep and no laying down. The trip is really very exhausting.

For those who have never travelled by plane do not forget to put your name, address, phone number and any other information you might think is important inside every piece of luggage. Do the same on the outside, using the luggage labels given to you by your travel agent or airline. If possible write both your addresses, at home and in Australia. All valuables, passport, tickets, money, vouchers, camera and the keys for your bags, should be carried in your hand luggage. Do not put any valuable or important object inside the bags you check-in in case they get lost. Try not to fill your bags too much because if you have to open them for customs inspections it will be very difficult to get everything in again in a hurry. It is a good idea to put something on your bags, for example a ribbon or special label, so you'll recognize them easily and there will be no problems if bags belonging to different people look the same.

When you pack your bags choose your clothes carefully according to where you are going to live in Australia. Tasmania, Adelaide and Melbourne can get cold even in summer. In this case pack light and warmer clothes, including a coat and socks. In Australia clothes are a little more expensive than in Brazil, but you should consider taking some money to buy some there as the fashion is very different and you might want to blend in the crowd.

In Australia laws about food importation are very strict to protect the local agricultural industry from diseases coming from other countries. Most processed foods (for example chocolate, lollies, tinned fruit, jams, syrup etc) are allowed but you'll have to show them to customs officials anyway. All non-processed products, seeds (including beans), fruit, plants, meat, dairy are not allowed in the country. The Australian Embassy has a list of products you can bring or not.

The clothes you choose for your trip should be loose and comfortable. Avoid buckles as they could hurt you while sitting for a long time. Remember that airplane toilets are very small and you could have trouble with complicated and tight clothes. The ideal would be wearing your pyjamas but as this is not possible choose something similar, comfortable and easy to put on. Do not forget a jumper or warm coat, as sometimes it is cold in the plane even with the blanket you can get from the flight attendants.

Before you leave home to the airport, check you have everything you need. The essentials 4 things are:

- Passport
- Wallet containing money, international credit cards, travellers cheques, international or translated drivers license, vouchers etc.)
- Airline tickets with hotel and transfers booking if applicable
- Your bags and suitcases not forgetting the number of them you are taking including hand luggage.

You must arrive at the airport 2 hours before your flight is due to depart. Find out where your airline check in area is and present your passport and tickets. You will get receipts for each of the pieces of luggage you check in. Be careful not to dispatch your hand luggage with the other bags! You will get your passport, airline ticket and a Boarding Pass back. After checking in go to the Federal Police sector where your passport and hand luggage will be verified. Do not carry any pointy objects like scissors, nail clippers, needles etc as due to terrorist threats they will be confiscated. After going through the Federal Police will be in the international departure area. Find out what gate you'll be using to board the plane and wait until your flight is called. You'll need only the Boarding Pass to board the plane.

During your flight, when you are not asleep, try to get up every two hours and go for a little walk and stand for a while to improve blood flow in your legs. Deep Vein Thrombosis or DVT is a blood clot that can form inside your leg veins if you do not move for long periods of time. DVT is very dangerous and can be fatal if the clot travels into one of your vital organs. Do not worry too much for DVT is more common in elderly people but you'll hear about it in the plane and it is better to be aware of it. Try not to consume alcohol, as it decreases in oxygen in the blood and might make you feel unwell the next day.

Before landing in Australia you will have to complete a questionnaire about what you are bringing into the country, if you've been to a farm or specific part of the world lately and how much money you are bringing into Australia. If you have food in your luggage check Yes, do not lie about it. Do not take any food from the plane, especially fresh, dairy or meat products.

When you arrive at your destination follow the "Baggage Claims" signs and find out from where you will be collecting your bags. With your luggage go to Customs, presenting your passport and the completed questionnaire. If you are bringing food into the country go to the Red Sector of Customs, as the officer will have to check your bags and might confiscate anything that is not allowed in. In this case nothing will happen to you. Meanwhile if Customs find any forbidden product not declared by you in your luggage you might have to pay a fine of up to AUD 50,000 and will have a legal problem. Not a good way to start your stay in Australia! There are limits for the importation some articles without duty: 200 cigarettes and 1 litre of alcohol, for example. If you bring more than this amount you will have to pay duty.

Some important details: - **Drugs are prohibited** in Australia and there are dogs at the airports trained to sniff any drug you might be carrying in your luggage. If you are caught with drugs you might go to jail or be deported, depending on the quantity. For those who use prescription drugs it is advisable to bring the original doctor's prescription and also the medicine inside the original packaging. If you need to buy some more of the same drug you will have to go to a General Practitioner or GP who will give you a new prescription that you will present at the chemist or pharmacy. The information in the medicine box will help the GP find the same medicine in Australia.

- **Be aware of weight** limit for luggage you can take in the plane. Every airline has a different limit and might charge you a very high amount if you have excess luggage.

After your arrival



You have arrived in Australia, passed through Customs and is now at the airport's main arrival area. The first thing you must do is either change some money or travellers cheques at the Money Exchange or get some money out of an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) with your credit card. AUD 200 should be enough for a few days until you find a Money Exchange or bank offering a better exchange rate in your town. Banks and Money Exchange agents in Australia work in two ways: you will either pay commission based on a fixed amount or a percentage. Sometimes there will be no fee at all. This is why you have to use your financial expertise, choosing the best place to change your currency taking into account the commission and the exchange rate. There is not one bank that offers a better rate than others: one day a bank offers a better rate and the next it will be another one.

For those travelling overseas for the first time we suggest organising transfer from the airport to your accommodation. This will make things much easier, especially for those whose English is not very good. In the main area of Australian airports there is an Information booth offering information about accommodation, tourism, transports and reservations. You can organise transfers from the airport, book a hotel or backpacker hostel, etc. **Shuttle Services** are offered in mini-buses: the cost is between that of a taxi and public transport and it takes you and your luggage up to your accommodation door. For those willing to save some money, there are buses or trains transporting people from the main airports to the city centres and other suburbs. In this case, both your English language skills and your previous travel experiences should be helpful. Do not forget that after 36 hours travelling having to carry bags in and out of public transport could be a little tiring. Shuttle Services offer the best value.

You will probably feel jet lagged for approximately a week after your arrival: you will feel very tired and sleepy in the middle of the day and as awake as an owl in the middle of the night. This will happen especially during the first two days after which your body will adjust to the new time. The best way to get used to Australian time is not sleep during the day and try to get a normal night sleep from 10pm to 6am. The time difference between Australia and other Countries can be up to + 13 hours, depending on the state and time of the year.

Your first steps in Australia will be the most dangerous. As cars drive on the left hand side of the road, it will take you sometime to safely cross roads. Be very careful! And do not cross the road, even if it appears to be empty, before checking twice. Australian cars are not very noisy and people used to right hand driving tend to look right before crossing the road. There's where danger lays! Cars run from right to left including bicycles that are considered vehicles and run on the road. Always look right first, then left, especially on two-way streets. Remember to cross where traffic lights or pedestrian crossings are. On the pedestrian crossings without traffic lights pedestrians have priority and cars should stop.

To start your life in Australia you'll have to sort some details out first. The first thing you should do is check with the school where you are enrolled about details of your course: starting date and time, classroom and for those studying English doing a language test. Those who intend to stay longer and work in Australia the following items are absolutely necessary:

- Open a bank account
- Get a Tax File Number
- Go to the Department of Immigration and apply for a working visa.



Work for Students in Australia

Work for students in Australia can be easy or very difficult to find. The majority of students get a job after spending a certain time, after they are speaking English better. Students who already know how to speak English well, have obviously more opportunities. We know some cases that within 3 weeks the person already was employed, and other cases that took more than 8 months, and others who have never obtained a job at all.

The three more frequent questions about work for students in Australia are: 1) Will I get a job for sure? 2) How much they pay? 3) Would be possible to support me with this work? And the reply for all this questions is: I don't know! Everything depends on many factors. One thing is for sure, is very hard for somebody to get a part time job as student and save a lot of money to take back to the home country. Only Immigrants could get full time work, and even for them it can take years or even never to save much. The accounting is very simple: the time allowed to work is 20 hours per week, and the average job pays students around A\$ 15, this would make a total of A\$ 350 per week. Less the income tax, and expenses to transport to work, it would leave A \$ 280. If you consider the price of a very cheap course costing A\$ 200, it would leave A\$ 80 to pay the rent, electricity, telephone, transport, entertainment, clothes, books, food, personal hygiene, and a infinity of other small things. That means it is impossible. As you can see, the permission of the Government of Australia to allow students to work 20 hours per week is of great value to help to finance the studies, however far from providing total financial survival without depending on other sources or better salaries.

Many people coming to study in Australia has the illusion that they will get more money than that. It could happen, but usually only to a few numbers of people. The numbers are real, and students must be prepared for this reality. Therefore we advise that it's better to come with money sufficient enough to live and then complement your budget with work, or for jobs paying less than mentioned above (and this is common).

The most common work for International students are in tourism and hospitality industries, such as restaurants and hotels. Working hours for qualified students are the same as schedule of commercial offices, as the working hours are the same as the courses. That's why many Engineers, system analysts, etc, work in cleaning or as waiters. The most common jobs offered in the hospitality sector are: dishwasher, kitchen hand, handy person, waiters and general cleaning. There are some opportunities in take-away shops as store clerk, attendants, and Pizza delivery (need to own a car). Of course you can get other types of work, but those are the easiest to find. For those students desiring to work in farms harvesting during the school holidays, Backpacker Hostels have a magazine with a list of all places in each state of Australia.

The procedure to get the Working Visa is, after having initiated the course in Australia, go to **DIMIA** (department of Immigration) in your city, with a letter of the school testifying your enrolment and attendance plus passport, pay the tax of approximately A\$ 60 and you will get a stamp which allows you to work for 20 hours a week.



How to get Work in Australia

How to get it: Have the sweetest of dreams, and wake up early on Saturday. (5:30 am is good!) Run to the corner shop and buy the newspapers. Run back home and throw everything out but the work section. Read everything, mark the ones you want, and check if the phone is around you. Recheck again the jobs, and once you find the job of your dreams...Call them using light speed. Statistics say that the first to call has a 95% chance of getting the job. For those who call the next day, chances is less than 1%. If a resume is required, put a CD on, take a deep breath, and start writing the best CV you've ever done! Check everything that you have written, do a spell check (In Australian English!), and send it by fast mail.

Make sure your mobile phone is fully charged and take it with you everywhere you go! (including the toilet...) If you receive an answer from the employer asking you for an interview, PLEASE, do no get there late. (You are in Australia!) Congratulations, you may get that job.

Other tips: If the Employer asks you if you know how to do something, answer yes, and tell him that you are keen to improve, and brush up on your knowledge about that subject. Also tell him that you are a fast learner and hard worker. If you say no, you may have a "Goodbye" as an answer. At least if you get fired later because of incompetence, you made some bucks and learnt something new. (*Please...please....make sure you turn off your mobile phone during interview*)

- Never, but never, sit down in front of your boss. Only if your work is informal. Also don't hang against walls or show any symptoms of the following: tiredness, hang over, cold, hemorrhoids, or tooth ache. Australians are the type who can die of fever, but die standing up!
- If you got a NO and are really enthusiastic about the job, go back there and persist with the boss. Australians admire tough people, and we know about a case 15 X 1, meaning; the person went 15 times to the shop but finally got the job as a Video Rental Assistant.
- Observe personal hygiene, clean clothes, good smell, hair combed, baby butt shaved, and a breath of flowers in the field. If you going to get a job in the kitchen, remember, mechanics nails are not really appreciated when dealing with food.
- Smile without terrorizing the boss. Australian employers prefer happy people, and people with a sense of humour, but please do not force your happiness or you may be taken as Bozo the Clown.
- **Referees** are very important and asked for upon application for jobs in Australia. You must present a letter from a person (people) or company (professional references, not personal) about your work quality and your character, punctuality, etc. Many employers will not consider your application if you don't have some reference letters or telephone numbers for checking.



Where to look for Work in Australia

Employment Agencies - There are plenty of Job placement agencies in every major Australian City. The Yellow Pages telephone directories have a list of all of them.

Centrelink computers - You can use the Centrelink computers to find jobs anywhere in Australia. They are linked with major employment agencies, and the use is free.

Also, the Yellow Pages have the list of all Centrelink locations in every town. Normally the computers are near the entrance, and they are "touch-screen". You can search by city, type of work, and professional expertise, and you can print out the results to call (also free) the employer by phone. You can also use other computers to print out your CV or Resume. Everything is free.

Note: "Centrelink" is a Government Department whose main job is to pay social benefits for retirement, unemployment benefits, family assistance, etc...

Newspapers - Saturday is the best day to look for jobs.

Shop Windows - This method is used by shop owners to hire casual workers. They advertise the position in the shop window telling you what kind of job is available. Just pay attention to shops and restaurants, or walk in and ask.

On the Streets - Similar to the one above, but what you do is... Print lots of cards, CV's or Resumes and choose a busy area to walk shop to shop promoting your skills. Ask to talk to the manager, and tell him/her about your job search. Leave a card or Resume with your contact phone number. You may enter 100 or 200 shops before you find something. It is not guaranteed but you know, many people have gotten jobs acting this way.

Friends and People you Know - Tell everybody you are looking for a job. Someone may know the brother of the son of the uncle of the guy who needs a hand, or maybe someone has seen a sign in a shop window advertising for help.

On the internet: www.seek.com.au – www.careerone.com.au

Tip: Many places will only contract you if you have a Bank account in Australia to deposit your wages. If you don't have one, it is very easy to open (not much bureaucracy). Go for the "Saving Account" which is better and cheaper to run. This account gives you an EFTPOS card, so that you can buy things in shops and get money from any ATM in Australia.

Where to get the "Working Visa" .

Dept of Immigration & Multicultural affairs- (DIMA)

From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - A fee of about A\$ 60 is charged - Take your passport. The visa is given in less than one hour if you are allowed to have a Working Visa - Phones and addresses are in the Phone Book of your town - Call beforehand to make an appointment.

Where to get the "Tax File Number"

A tax file number is very important when applying for a job. Note that all tax paid, can be partially returned to you before you leave the country. To get your tax file number go to any branch of the ATO (Australian Taxation Office) in your town, or you can send by mail to the nearest town. Hours 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Tip: Many Universities and Technical Courses in Australia have an employment agency inside the Campus.

Internships-(not paid) They are a good opportunity to have qualified work experience and may open doors for future employment.



Respect Rules and Regulations in your Host Country

Some of the most common problems that international students have studying in Australia are following Australian laws and [rules](#). Unfortunately there are some students who do not respect others and don't understand the basic rules whilst they are living in Australia. The laws in both Australia and New Zealand are very strict especially for things such as: drink driving, illegal drug taking, working illegally, (students) letting their visa expire, and maintaining an 80% attendance in a course. Please be aware of these rules before you enter the country – if you break the law you could be deported (sent home immediately).

If a student is to be deported for breaking Australian laws or rules, the student will be removed immediately from Australia, losing all fees they have already paid for their course (s), homestay, Overseas Student Health Cover etc. If a student is being deported, the school is not obliged to return the money if the course is not completed. Therefore, it is highly advisable to read and be aware of the terms and conditions of the contract, either with an agent, or directly with the school, and be aware of student obligations and responsibilities.

Another problem that frequently occurs is when students find out they do not like their chosen course and would like to change. Some students, who made their choices based only on price, later decide that they want to change courses or institution. Immigration states that students may **not** change their course providers for 12 months, unless there is a very good reason. In special cases, Immigration will give permission for a student to change providers, the city or the course. For such permission the student needs to present their reason for changing in writing to the Immigration Department. A "Release Letter" will need to be issued from the student's school stating why the student is breaking their contract before completing their course. The school is not obliged to provide a reason for terminating the contract, or refund any amount of money from the remainder of the course. In other words, the student will need to negotiate with the school. It is possible the school will refund your money, if the course you originally enrolled to study in, is cancelled. Therefore, it is very important to research the school and city you want to study in, because after you sign the school contract, it is almost impossible to change.

Another common problem that international students encounter, is finding a job when they get here. Students often overestimate their ability to get a job immediately. Australia has plenty of good jobs for students; however it's not always easy to get one within the first few days after arrival, and sometimes it can take a long time to find a job. If your student visa allows you to work for 20 hours a week, it is a good idea to apply for a tax file number with the Australian Taxation Department. This allows you to work legally in Australia. If you do not have permission to work on your student visa, it is advisable to contact the Immigration Department and make an appointment to change your student visa to allow you to work. Cash in hand jobs, where you do not pay tax, are not very easy to find for International students. Many students find that they use a lot more money than they thought they would, and it is very common for students to use the money set aside to pay the course, the rent and food, because they cannot find a job. I have seen a lot of students in this situation. If you do not have the money, issues will arise with both the school and the Immigration Department. If you have problems for some reason, the best thing to do is to contact the financial department of your school, and explain or negotiate the debt. The best thing a student coming to study in Australia can do is to set aside extra money to cover any eventuality, and make sure that they have access to a credit card or extra financial help if they need it.

Otherwise studying in Australia is safe and peaceful no matter which city you choose. Being informed, and following the Australian laws and rules, everything will run smoothly!