PRE DEPARTURE GUIDE
Welcome Note from ISSS Team

Congratulations on deciding to study at the University of Canberra! It is an exciting time preparing to come to Australia, but we know it can be a bit scary leaving family and friends behind. We hope UC will become your new “home away from home” as you learn, make new friends and enjoy new experiences.

You probably have lots of questions about studying in Canberra. This guide is designed to provide you with practical advice as well as giving you tips on making the most of your time in Canberra.

The International Student Support Service (ISSS) provides a range of programs and services to enhance the transition, engagement, and overall student experience of the University’s international students. If you have a question, you can just send an email to: international.student@canberra.edu.au

For more information about the ISSS, you can visit our website at: www.canberra.edu.au/issss

We wish you safe travelling and look forward to meeting you at the University of Canberra soon!

Kind Regards
The ISSS Team
ABOUT CANBERRA

WHY LIVE IN CANBERRA?
Canberra — Australia’s national Capital — is a great city to start your Australian Study journey.
It offers you the best of city and country living. Canberra has world class sports, recreation, leisure facilities and beautiful scenery. To find more information about Canberra, you can visit the following websites:
www.canberra.edu.au/university/canberra

EASY LIFESTYLE
• Average commute time: 19.72 minutes [national: 26 minutes], no toll way and parking fee is low
• 3 fresh food markets and 12 international super markets all around the city
• Free entry to National Gallery of Australia, National Museum of Australia, Australian War Memorial, Canberra Glassworks, Floriade [Australia’s premier spring festival and a world-class floral spectacular]

CITY SCALE
• Covers 4,067 kilometres, largest inland city in Australia
• To airport: 10 minutes; To Sydney: 3 hours; To Melbourne: 8 hours. (by car roughly)
• Snowy mountain (best ski place for winter): 2.5 hours drive
• NSW coast: 2 hours drive

POPULATION:
• Population of 365,421 with a median age of 34
• 21.6% of it’s population were born overseas

FAST FACTS:
• Australia’s Capital city, home to international Embassies, large corporate and public service headquarters
• Total population with qualifications: 74.6% [national: 63.2%]
• Average median income per week: $1,525 [national: $1,322]
• Lowest unemployment rate in Australia: 3.8% [national: 5.3%]
• Lowest crime rate among all Australian cities
• World class education system and facilities including National Museum, National Gallery, National Library, Australian Institute of Sports, CSIRO
WEATHER
Canberra is a city that enjoys four distinctive seasons each with its own beauty and charm. Canberra has a relatively dry continental climate with warm to hot summers and cool to cold winters. Canberra experiences warm, quite dry summers, and chilly winters with heavy fog and frequent frosts. If you would like to check what the weather would be like prior to your trip and get an understanding of what clothes to bring, please go to: www.bom.gov.au/act/

LIVING COST
Cost—According to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), the average cost of living per year is around $18,000 for a student. The following will give you a general idea of the cost of some items in Australia but please be aware that the prices are only an indication—they should not be used as the basis of your budget for living in Australia. All prices are in Australian Dollars:

ESTIMATED COST OF LIVING

ACCOMMODATION ON CAMPUS
The range is $112 up to $324
Utility fee is $21/week
Security deposit is $600

OFF CAMPUS
Group house
Inner suburbs median weekly rent
Two-bedroom house $350
Three bedroom house $450
Outer suburbs median weekly rent
Three bedroom house $350

Homestay
Full board $250 (usually includes three meals, electricity, gas and water costs)
Part Board $165

UTILITY COSTS
Electricity and Gas: $15–$40/week

TELEPHONE
Home Phone: $12/week
Hand Phone: $30/week
Internet: $8–$20/week
Pre-Paid Overseas: $5–$10/week

HEALTH INSURANCE
Single: $420 per year
Family/Couple: $840 per year

FOOD AND GROCERIES
$75–100/person/week

TRANSPORTATIONS
Public Transport:
Bus: $2/ride
Taxi: $3/km av.
Private Car:
$70/week including petrol, compulsory car insurance, registration and maintenance

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION
Movies: $13
Eating out: $25+
Lunch on campus: $10
Lunch in a café: $10–$15
Cup of coffee: $3.50
Fast Food: $5–$10

SCHOOLING
School is compulsory, by law, between the ages of 5–12.

OTHER EXPENSES:
Every now and then you will incur other expenses like haircuts, postal charges, gifts, and on-going costs associated with your course.
Completing the Application Process

STEP 1 - COMPLETE APPLICATION
Complete the online application form:
www.canberra.edu.au/application-portal

STEP 2 - ACCEPT OFFER
Sign the acceptance of Offer Declaration form
Provide evidence that you have met all the conditions as outlined in your offer letter
Pay your fees for the First Semester in Australian Dollars either directly to the University or through your Local representative assisting you with your application

How to Apply for Your Student Visa
To apply for a Student Visa, you must:
1) Accept your offer and
2) Pay your university fees (www.canberra.edu.au/int-future-students/accept)

Once we receive a signed acceptance form and confirmation of payment we will send you an Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCOE). This form confirms your acceptance at the University of Canberra. You will need to supply your eCOE to the diplomatic mission in order to obtain your student visa.

Applications and processing of Student Visas can take some time — up to several months in some instances — so please ensure you allow ample time to obtain your Student Visa before your studies commence. You will also be required to pay a visa application fee which is charged by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

The Australian diplomatic mission in your country will explain the requirements that you must meet to obtain a student visa. If you have applied through one of our overseas representative’s offices, those representatives will also be able to assist you with these procedures.

For further information on student visas, you can go to: www.immi.gov.au/students/students/chooser/
YOUR STUDENT VISAN
CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS
It is the responsibility of all international students holding a Student Visa to know
and abide by the conditions of their Student Visa as set by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC):

- Program duration: You must complete your program within the duration stipulated on your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).
- Academic progress: You are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress by attending classes and meeting prescribed course requirements.
- Enrolment: You must maintain a full time enrolment for the duration of your studies.
- Change of provider: You cannot change provider within the first six months of studies unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Deferral: You cannot interrupt or defer your studies, except for compelling or compassionate grounds.
- Health insurance: Student visa holders are required to maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of your studies. For more information about OSHC, please go to: www.oshcworldcare.com.au
- Address update: Please make sure you advise the University immediately of changes to your Australian address and contact details.
- Working on a student visa: Holders of a Student Visa with work rights may work up to 20 hours per week during semester time and full-time in the holiday breaks, but you cannot start work prior to the commencement of your course. If you are travelling with dependents, they may also be allowed to work up to 20 hours per week. You can find more information about on: www.immi.gov.au
- Overseas health Cover: Under the terms and conditions of your Student Visa, international students are required to have and maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the entire duration of their stay in Australia. For more information on OSHC and how to order a card, please go to: www.canberra.edu.au/seasu/intl-student-support/coming-here/health-cover & www.oshcworldcare.com.au

OSHC representatives are On-Campus on Mondays and Wednesdays 9am–12noon & 1pm–5pm

Please Note: It is your responsibility to make sure that your CoE, visa and passport are valid while you are in Australia.
The University of Canberra offers a number of accommodation options for future and current students. You can choose to apply to live on campus or to arrange accommodation out in the Canberra community.

Please remember that at certain times throughout the year, especially at the beginning of each Semester, it can be extremely difficult to find and secure accommodation in Canberra, it is therefore very important you start your search early.

There is a variety of accommodation options you can choose from:

**ON-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION**

By living on-campus at the University of Canberra Village or Arscott House, you will become a member of a diverse and stimulating community. Experience the excitement of living in a truly multi-national community! More information about on campus accommodation is available at:


The University will offer new accommodation for more than 200 students from the start of 2012 following an announcement in the ACT Budget last week. The budget includes a $6 million grant and a $23 million loan to assist the University to purchase Wing 5 of Cameron Offices in Belconnen and convert it into accommodation for between 210 and 220 students.


**OFF CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION**

For those students who have either been unable to secure accommodation on-campus or who have decided they would prefer to live off-campus, you will need to find and secure off-campus accommodation. Where you choose to live will obviously have a significant impact on your lifestyle, budget, studies and health. It is therefore important to consider all aspects of the available accommodation [including potential drawbacks] before making a choice. Information about off campus accommodation is available at:


**TEMPORARY OR SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION**

Information about temporary or short term accommodation can be found at:

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About Canberra
Completing the Application Process and Applying for Student Visa
Arranging Accommodation
Organising Pick Up Service
What To Bring Along
Orientation: Signing Up
Important Contacts

Arranging Accommodation

Homestay
Homestay gives University of Canberra students the opportunity to live with a Canberra host family. It is most popular amongst International Students as it helps them to practice their English and gives the students an extra level of support upon first arriving in a foreign city. You can apply for homestay at:
www.canberra.edu.au/residences/off-campus/homestay
Things to keep in mind when applying for homestay:
• Homestay is a great way to learn about Australian culture and to practice your English
• Homestay allows you to live as an active member of an Australian family
• It is important to understand and accept how the family operates
• Pay rent on time
• Always talk to the host family if there are any issues sooner rather than later

Accommodation Support
The University of Canberra Student Associations’ Advocacy and Policy Officer provides information about on-campus accommodation and helps students search for off-campus accommodation. The Advocacy and Policy Officer does not place students in accommodation but does provide information and assistance to help students find suitable accommodation.
T 61 2 6201 2000
E advocacy@theucsa.org.au

Helpful Tips:
Always book in Advance — To avoid the peak season rush, always make sure you have done your research and book your accommodation in advance. It is best to book on campus accommodation early as the rooms get taken well in advance.
Research the rules and policies around renting in the ACT —
www.tenantsact.org.au/
Wanting to live close to University?? — Look for accommodation in Belconnen, ACT
If you are booking accommodation off campus, please keep in mind that it is not safe to give your personal details and deposit any money before inspecting the property to avoid any rental scams or problems.
If you would like to be picked up on your arrival in Canberra and take you to your accommodation, you will need to submit our pick up form at least 5 days before your arrival. You can access the form at: www.canberra.edu.au/seasu/intl-student-support/coming-here/meet-me/pick-up

Important tips to keep in mind when requesting pick up service:

- The booking request must be submitted at least 5 days prior to arrival
- You must have a pre-arranged accommodation for a drop off address
- Bring a copy of your pick up booking for your reference
- If you need to make changes to your original booking prior to your departure you must email us on international.pickups@canberra.edu.au

HELPFUL TIP:

Helpful tip: One of the many advantages of living in Canberra is that it is very easy to travel. If you are using private transport, it does not take very long to travel from one part to another (except during peak times). For public transport in Canberra, please visit ACTION BUSES at: www.action.act.gov.au. If you want to live near campus, look for accommodation in “BELCONNEN VALLEY”
You need to be aware that Australia’s quarantine laws are very strict and many foodstuffs, plants, animal products and some medicines may not be brought into Australia. For more details, please visit: www.daff.gov.au/aqis/travel/entering-australia/

Some important things to pack:
- Valid Passport with Student Visa
- Academic documents including offer letter and CoE.
- Travellers cheques and/or Australian currency
- Clothing for all seasons
- Medications/Toiletries etc

Orientation Week is designed to help you get your University life and education off to the perfect start, and it can be a whole lot of fun. At our Information Session for New International Students we not only cover the most important academic and administrative information but also give you heads up on what activities are best for you to attend throughout Registration and Orientation (ROW).

Week. You can find out where and when to go for your course information session; get your student and OSHC cards and lots of exciting activities...

So sign up today at: www.canberra.edu.au/orientation

If you have any questions, you can email them to: international.student@canberra.edu.au
IMPORTANT CONTACTS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISORS
E international.student@canberra.edu.au

PICKUP SERVICE
E International.Pickups@canberra.edu.au

MARKETING
E international@canberra.edu.au

ADMISSIONS
E international.admissions@canberra.edu.au

ACCOMMODATION
www.canberra.edu.au/residences/contact-details
E advocacy@theucsa.org.au

PROCESS DIAGRAM OF WHAT TO DO TO GET HERE:

STEP 1 — Apply for Offer
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STEP 2 — Accept Offer & Pay your fees
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STEP 3 — Receive CoE
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STEP 4 — Apply for Student Visa
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STEP 5 — Arrange Accommodation
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STEP 6 — Book your Flights

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STEP 8 — Sign up for orientation
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