



Australian Government
AusAID



PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING FOR AusAID SCHOLARS

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Outline of Today's Program

What will be covered in today's Pre-Departure session:



- > Cycle of Australian Scholarship Activities
- > On track for Australia – Prepare!
- > Arrival in Australia
- > Accommodation
- > Living in Australia
- > Settling in and cultural adjustment
- > Family Entry
- > Scholarship entitlements
- > Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- > Academic Program
- > Working in Australia
- > Scholarship responsibilities and obligations
- > Contractual responsibilities of institutions

Cycle of AusAID Scholarship Activities



- > Pre-Departure Briefing
- > On-Arrival Orientation
 - > Undertaken by the education institution, shortly after arrival in Australia
- > Introductory Academic Program (IAP)
 - > Compulsory 4-6 weeks duration, prior to start of academic program
- > Regular contact between SCO (Student Contact Officer) and students
- > Annual Student Surveys (conducted annually)
- > Returning Home Program
 - > Takes place well in advance of returning home
- > Global AusAID scholarships alumni
- > Follow up or Tracer Study
 - > Conducted after students have returned home
 - > To monitor the impact of AusAID Scholarships

On track for Australia – Prepare!



Research as much as you can about Australia, your institution and local area before you leave:

- > Look up your institutions website
- > Australian federal, state and local government websites
- > Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) online at www.abc.net.au for Australian news and weather
- > Australian Bureau of Statistics for information on population and costs of living

What to bring:

- > Carry your AusAID Scholarships Letter of Offer and Contract in Hand Luggage
- > Consider 20kg baggage allowances when packing and what you can buy when you arrive
- > Prepare to arrive in Australia with at least A\$200 in cash
 - > Money can be exchanged in your home country or at the Australian international airport where you arrive. DO NOT leave the airport without Australian money

This is Australia



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DVD: This is Australia

Arrival in Australia



- > Check and know all your flight details and passport number
- > Fill in the “Declaration Card” before arrival in Australia
- > Australia has very strict Quarantine rules:
 - > declare all food, plant, medical products, animal items etc.
 - > do not bring prohibited products such as live animal or dairy products
- > Luggage may be searched by Customs Officers
- > Airport Reception
 - > Institution representative will meet students
 - > Students to advise SCO as soon as possible if they want to be collected or have made alternative arrangements (such as being met at the airport by friends or family)
- > When do you arrive? Weekend, weekday, morning or evening
 - > Many shops and services in Australia are only open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
– KEEP THIS IN MIND

Arrival in Australia



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transport>
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DVD: Arrival

Settling in and cultural adjustment



Some of the challenges you may face when settling in to life in Australia:

- > Loneliness
- > Separation - being away from usual supports
- > Status - adjusting to a new role with maybe less status
- > Social structure in Australia is less hierarchical, more egalitarian and informal
- > Language (Australian English)
- > Stress and time management
- > No sexual discrimination
- > Don't lose heart this is only temporary 😊

Settling In



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living>
study>
culture>
transport>
shopping>
health>



DVD: Settling In

Accommodation



TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

- > Institution to arrange. Student to pay for temporary accommodation.

LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

- > Start considering your options for permanent housing now
- > Your institution will provide some assistance in finding long term accommodation. You can find accommodation through:
 - > local real estate agents
 - > university notice boards or accommodation offices
 - > newspapers or the internet

Types of long-term accommodation

- > For single students on-campus halls of residence, share house/flat/unit/apartment or home-stay are recommended. Register for on-campus accommodation now
- > Families will need to rent a house/flat/apartment. Rental housing is in short supply and can be expensive.

Accommodation



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living>
study>
culture>
transport>
shopping>
health>



DVD: Accommodation

Living in Australia



- > The role of an AusAID Scholar
 - > being viewed as a representative of your country
- > Shopping
 - > Australia is a multicultural country where most foods are available
 - > NO bargaining
- > Transport
- > Communications
 - > Be careful about costs and contracts
- > Punctuality and dress code

Living in Australia



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settling>
living>
study>
culture>
transport>
shopping>
health>



DVD: Transport

DVD: Shopping

DVD: Communications

Family Entry

Logistics to think about:



- > If you are accompanied, then you are solely responsible for your family, including:
 - > appropriate housing, locating appropriate schooling/care for children, financial support
- > Wait at least six months before your family joins you in Australia
 - > some institutions make this a condition of offer
- > Families must apply for AusAID student dependant visa, requiring a letter of “no objection” from AusAID at Post
- > Please make final arrangements/preparations for your family’s travel/arrival **ONLY AFTER** a visa has been issued to your spouse and children

Family Entry

Financial and Emotional Considerations:



- > Carefully consider the extra costs
- > Effect on your studies and academic progress if family is unhappy
- > Communication problems if your family members do not speak English
- > Children's adjustment to school or being able to find suitable child care especially if you have young children or night classes
- > Once your children turn 18 you will have to pay the full cost of their schooling, which may be expensive
- > Spouse adjustment, particularly finding employment which may be more or less challenging than their job at home
- > Arrival in Australia can be a stressful experience for all family members

Families



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DVD: Families

Scholarship Entitlements



- > Establishment allowance
- > Fortnightly contribution to living expenses (CLE)
- > Institution tuition fees
- > Return airfare
- > Health cover (OSHC)

ADS (only)

- > Tutorial assistance up to \$1000/year
- > Where applicable:
 - > Reunion airfare: contribution to airfare cost of \$1500
 - > Fieldwork airfare
 - > Pre-Course English

Scholarship Entitlements



ALAS (only)

- > Study Enrichment allowance up to \$2000 per year of award, including:
 - > tutorial assistance
 - > fieldwork
 - > reunion airfare
- > Leadership training course
- > Mobilisation allowance

Establishment Allowance

To assist in the beginning:



- > For both ADS and ALAS, A\$5,000 is paid on arrival to help with initial costs of setting up your temporary home in Australia
- > This is paid only once
- > Items you may need to use the Establishment Allowance for:
 - > text books
 - > study materials
 - > furniture
 - > computer (if required)
 - > rental bonds and rent in advance
- > NOT a large sum of money

Fortnightly Allowance

Contribution to Living Expenses (CLE)



- > A\$ 23,008 (ADS) or A\$26,009 (ALAS) per annum to assist with meeting living expenses such as:
 - > food
 - > accommodation
 - > transport
 - > electricity, telephone bills
 - > entertainment
 - > text books and other study materials
- > This allowance is paid fortnightly (every two weeks) into your Australian bank account in arrears
- > Day of pay depends on your institution
- > You will need to budget carefully
 - > Budget savers include purchasing second-hand books and furniture (if possible)

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)



- > Your institution will arrange OSHC for you
- > You are NOT permitted to change your individual cover over to family cover without paying the additional family rate
 - > family cover must be gained and paid for by the student

What is covered by OSHC:

- > Students from the time they arrive in Australia
- > Visits to doctor
- > Most prescription medications
- > Ambulance (emergency)

What is NOT covered by OSHC:

- > Pre-existing medical conditions or treatment arranged prior to arrival in Australia
- > Dependants
- > Dental, physiotherapy, optical, hearing services

Academic Program



- > Different types of delivery of academic programs
- > Australian education provides an emphasis on developing students' analytical skills and capacity for independent thought
- > Plagiarism or copying another student's work could result in being excluded from the institution
- > AusAID policy does not permit candidates to request upgrades while on award
- > Candidates are expected to complete the degree they originally nominated and return home on completion
- > Variations will only be approved in EXCEPTIONAL circumstances by institutions and AusAID
- > Students may require a computer
- > Be on time for all lectures/tutorials

Study



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living>
study>
culture>
transport>
shopping>
health>



DVD: Study

Working in Australia



- > Your visa includes a work permit, allowing you to work up to 20 hours per week during semester and full time during official institutional holiday periods
- > However, it is strongly recommended that students do not work during term time
 - > carefully consider your study work-load before deciding to undertake part-time work
- > Dependents of undergraduate students can work up to 20 hours/week
- > Dependents of postgraduate students have no limit on the hours they can work.
- > Part-time work is often not in a professional field

Scholarship Responsibilities and Obligations

What does your contract say?



- > Study full time in specified course
- > Pass rate in 80% of classes in first year of academic program
- > Seek early assistance if you are experiencing problems
- > NO CHANGE TO VISA STATUS (no application for permanent residence)
- > Abide by Australian laws
- > Behave in a manner appropriate to an AusAID scholarship holder and represent your country appropriately
- > Successful completion of your scholarship
- > Return home (via most direct route) on completion of studies for at least two years to contribute to your country's development

Your Contract



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living>
study>
culture>
transport>
shopping>
health>



DVD: Your Contract

Contractual Obligations of Institutions

Institutions are required to provide the following services:



- > Student Contact Officer (SCO) to assist all AusAID students with any academic and personal issues. Students must initiate assistance if experiencing difficulties
- > Preparatory Programs, such as:
 - > pre-departure information
 - > on-arrival orientation
 - > Introductory Academic Program (IAP)
 - > possibly a return home program
- > Arrival support services, such as:
 - > arranging airport reception
 - > temporary accommodation
- > Providing and maintaining high quality teaching standards and educational resources

Contractual Obligations of Institutions (cont.)

Institutions are required to provide the following services:



- > **Managing and monitoring academic monitoring**
 - > Arrange and monitor appropriate assistance
 - > Make recommendations on academic progress
- > **Financial and administrative services**
 - > Pay CLE allowances
 - > Arrange payment of academic fees and OSHC on behalf of students
 - > Arrange home travel at the end of the award
 - > Arrange field work if required
 - > Pay tutorial assistance if required

GOOD LUCK

Best wishes and make the most of your experience in Australia!



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study>
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