Wollongong Local Area Commander

I wish to extend my welcome to those who have chosen to study at the University of Wollongong. As a part of our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment, we have joined the University to produce this Safety Awareness guide.

This guide provides substantial practical information for everyone, including students, staff, and visitors. It is not meant to be an all-inclusive guide to safety; however, it is a guide to what to do in the unlikely event that you become the victim of a crime. This guide is designed to help you make informed decisions on what to do to prevent crime and to help you understand proceedings and offer further advice to you if you are the victim of a crime.

Here are some of the key topics covered in this guide:

- What is Crime?
- Reporting to the Police
- Domestic Violence
- Visas - Does Reporting an Incident Impact your Visa?

What is Crime?

Like any other country, Australia has its own rules, regulations and laws, which are designed to ensure the safety of all its people. Police work to protect the safety of all Australians and to maintain the diversity that exists within our community.

Police Powers

Police have a wide range of powers to make arrests and to conduct searches, for example, if they have probable cause to believe that a person has committed or is committing a crime. If you have any questions about the law and your rights and obligations, you can contact the Australian Law and Orderline on 1300 888 259.

Dealing with offensive comments:

On a public street if someone says something to you that you consider offensive, please consider the following:

- Report it to the police if you feel you need assistance or you feel it may be a hate crime.
- Report it to your Student Support Services if it impacts on your mental health.
- Report it to the University if it impacts on your academic performance.

Reporting to the Police

When a crime is reported to the Police you will need to give a detailed and clear statement about what happened and you will need to describe:

- any persons involved
- any make, model and registration plates
- any injuries you have suffered
- any property losses you have experienced.

Visas - Does Reporting an Incident Impact your Visa?

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is not normally notified that a student has reported an incident, and would not normally take any action against the student in such a case.

If you have been the victim of a crime or need help, this is of no impact on your student visa. However, if circumstances were to impact your course requirements, you should discuss this with the University through your academic advisor.

Help is always available through Student Central, the Dean of Students, the DIAC website or by calling 311 881.
SAFETY ON CAMPUS

UOW Security Officers patrol Wollongong and Innovation Campuses 24 hours every day.

If you need help, you can use any Security phone to get help or have the security phone numbers programmed into your mobile phone to enable easy access.

After dark safety escorts are available by contacting Security, we ask that you provide at least 10-15 minutes notice. After dark Security Officers provide safety escorts from your building to your car or the bus stop.

Wollongong Campus
If your car is parked off campus, security officers will assist you as far as Tuggeranong Road South of the Botanic Garden. Students in the first instance should seek either the North Gong or Geemyarra/Karolak Shuttles, after these services have stopped. Security Officers can help as far as North Wollongong Gwynneville/Keiraville Shuttles, after these services have stopped. Security Officers patrol Wollongong and Innovation Campuses 24 hours every day.

If you need to call a taxi in the Illawarra when not on campus call Wollongong Taxis or GKY taxi past your stop, courtesy of the UOW Centre for Digital Ecosystems.

Want to know how long till the next shuttle? Check out the new website.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

UOW Security

Trip zero “000” for Police, Fire & Rescue and Ambulance

Wollongong Taxis

NRMA Road Service

Police Assistance Line 13 14 44.

To find out more about UOW Security go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/index.html

SECURITY TELEPHONE

You should keep a record of the brand name, the model and model number and the serial number of your items and valuables. You record the date of purchase, and from whom or where. Keep any receipts and/or documents that state the value of the product when you purchased it. Consider taking a photograph of valuables that cannot be easily recorded like jewelry and other personal valuable items.

Marking and Engraving

A suggestion is to mark or engrave your property as this can make it less desirable to thieves. If your property is taken and later found, it can help Police to identify your items and return them to you.

USBs

Engrave or mark your student number onto the USB or attach a name tag. If you lose your USB on campus please contact UOW Security.

SCAMS & FRAUD

Police advise students to be aware of scams. In the past some students have experienced scams related to rental properties, money transfers, prizes, phone scams, scams that lead you to believe that you are getting a good deal and promises of great returns for very little money.

There are a number of ways students can protect themselves from these scams. Some include:

• NEVER give your PIN number or password to anyone and check your account balance regularly.
• Do not send money to someone you don’t know or trust.
• Do business with companies you know and trust.
• Read everything you might sign or agree to carefully.
• If you are contacted and advised that you have won prize money and you need to send money to cover legal costs, DON’T IT is most likely a scam.
• If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
• Beware of online purchasing. Follow the rules set by websites such as Ebay.
• Check you are dealing with a reputable company.
• If you find yourself in a situation that you feel your future and your money is not safe, talk to your local Police Station or UOW Security.

For tips and references on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam visit SCAMWATCH online: www.scamwatch.gov.au

PROTECTING PROPERTY

Be Aware

Keep your belongings close to you everywhere, all of the time.

Thieves look for opportunities. Whether on campus or off campus you need to protect your property.

Property like wallets, purses, phones, iPads, cameras, etc should be within your control at all times.

UOW Security

Wollongong Taxis

NRMA Road Service

Police Assistance Line 13 14 44.

To find out more about UOW Security go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/index.html

RENTING ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking private accommodation through owner or shared accommodation should be cautious, make enquiries and obtain adequate references before agreeing to move into a property with persons you don’t know.

The University strongly recommends that students rent through a licensed real estate agent. The Department of Fair Trading provides information covering the rental of property which can be accessed at: http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/renters_and_home_ owners.htm.

Additional information about renting properties can be found on the Accommodation Services website: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/other_accomanylinks/index.html

Don’t be too quick in signing any agreements until you have had time to read them carefully and consider the cost involved. Students should be careful about visiting shared housing or private rental properties by themselves, considering taking a friend or someone who can give you a second opinion on the arrangements and accommodation.

Safety and privacy tips

• In shared accommodation do not leave valuable items unsupervised or unsecured
• Ensure the landlord provides your room with a lock
• Be aware of scams advertised on the internet for private properties where accommodation is offered if an amount of money is paid before access to the property is given.

SOURS

Australia’s beaches are magic... but they can also be very dangerous. Here are some basic precautions to help you enjoy your day at the beach.

1. Always swim between the ‘red and yellow flags’ (the flags indicate a designated swimming area – the flags indicate a designated swimming area – you enjoy your day at the beach).
2. Swim only at beaches patrolled by lifeguards and follow lifeguards or lifesaver instructions.
3. Look for and read the water advisory signs and obey lifeguards or lifesaver instructions.
4. Always supervise your child or around any body of water.
5. Always check the water depth before entering the water and do not dive into unknown water.
6. Always swim with someone (never swim alone).
7. Be aware of water conditions ask advice from the lifeguard or lifesaver.
8. If you are in need of assistance, stay calm, float, conserve your energy, call for help and signal for help.
9. Never swim following consumption of alcohol or other drugs.
10. Use the 3100 information line and be a life guard and save a life.
11. Do not swim at night, bikes are not patrolled and the risk of danger increases.

If you hold a current overseas driving licence or an International Driving Permit, an English translation must be carried with the licence. This should specify the class of your original licence.

If you wish to drive a car during your stay, it is strongly recommended that you obtain a driver’s licence and driving licences in NSW which can be found on Roads and Maritime Services website http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/ or telephone number 132 213.

If you need to drive a vehicle during your stay, it is strongly recommended that you obtain a motor vehicle licence and driving licences in NSW which can be found on Roads and Maritime Services website http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/ or telephone number 132 213.

If you have any questions ask Police attending.

• If you need advice or you are concerned about something contact one of these people within the University community.
• University Student Support Advisers
• University Counselling
• Student Control
• UOW Security
• Student Associations from your community

ALCOHOL AND BEHAVIOUR

• Take the Drink Don’t Fall To Quik. If you are asked to leave a licensed premises by staff, security or Police, you must leave and move more than 50 meters from the licensed premises.
• You must be 18 years and over to enter a licensed premises. You must have photo identification to enter or else you may not be allowed to enter
• In NSW it is an offence to supply alcohol to persons under the age of 18. Heavy fines apply.

Keeping Your Drink Safe

To avoid drink spiking, take responsibility and keep your drink in your sight.

• Don’t let a drink go unattended.
• If a person asks you to open your drink to give it to someone else, say no.
• If you become aware that your drink has not been tampered with open it yourself or go with them when they get it.
• Be aware of your drink, leave it.

Drink responsibly

• Have fun but keep safe. Avoid drinks and getting to a point of total intoxication where you are unable to control your actions and illegal behavior.
• Look after yourself and your friends.
• If someone collapses or is unconscious immediately call for an Ambulance on Triple Zero 000

Drugs

As a rule, it is illegal to use any drugs:
• That cannot be purchased or bought from a shop or chemist.
• Not prescribed by you or a doctor.

In NSW it is a crime to use or have certain drugs in any circumstances. The most common banned drugs are: cannabis (marijuna), heroin, amphetamines (speed, LSD), cocaine (including crack) and designer drugs (e.g. ecstasy).

SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Wollongong has many public transport options which you should consider using to get from and around UOW. If you can, avoid walking long distances alone after dark.

Buses & Trains Safety tips

• Sit close to the bus driver.
• On a tram sit in the carriage near the guard.
• Buses & Trains are marked with blue light.
• Wait in well lit stops or open area of railway platform.
• If you experience a problem – alert the bus driver or alert the train guard.

Wollongong Campus

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NEED ADVICE?

If you are worrying about something or just need some advice always go for help there are a range of people, you can talk to. If they cannot help you they will point you to someone who can.

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HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF CRIME

Check out the University Security’s website and go to the pdf at: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/personal-safety/index.html

If something happens to you

• Call your local Police station or the Police Assistance Line.
• On campus get help from UOW Security.
• Avoid touching property to ensure forensic evidence is obtained.
• Ask for estimated time of arrival of Police.
• If you have any questions ask Police attending.
• If you need help don’t be afraid to ask help.