ARE YOU READY?
CONNECT:
PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION TO STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG.

This booklet offers practical suggestions to help you to prepare for your time in Wollongong and highlights some of the items that you will need to organise before leaving home. It is important that you carefully read through this information, and any other materials sent to you by the University, as soon as possible.

We wish you a safe and comfortable journey and look forward to welcoming you to the community of the University of Wollongong!

The UniAdvice Team
University of Wollongong
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THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Accept your offer of admission

Your ‘offer of admission’ letter is an official notification that you have been offered a place in a particular course at the University of Wollongong. Please read through your offer letter carefully, as it contains important information relevant to your program of study and any special conditions that may apply to your offer of admission (for example, satisfying the University’s English language requirements). Your unique 7-digit student identification number also appears in the top left corner of the offer letter. Please quote this number in all correspondence with the University.

After you have successfully accepted your offer of admission and received your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCOE) you should begin to make plans for your travel to Australia. Make sure you plan to arrive in plenty of time for the compulsory Orientation Week as this includes enrolment and other information critical to your success at UOW.

Students are normally not permitted to enrol after Orientation Week, unless written permission from UOW has been granted. If unavoidable circumstances prevent your arrival before Orientation Week, you must request an Extension Letter (permission for late enrolment) by contacting the Case Officer noted on your offer letter. If you are not sure whom to contact, email UniAdvice using the email listed in the ‘Important Contacts’ section of this booklet.

Students who arrive after Orientation Week will not be guaranteed places in the subjects of their choice – where subjects are compulsory, this could result in your course of study taking up to one year longer to complete.

Under no circumstances will enrolment be permitted after the first week of lectures for courses offered by the Sydney Business School or after second week for all other courses.

Apply for a student visa

All international students require a student visa to study at the University of Wollongong. This must be obtained before travelling to Australia.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection provides the most current information about student visa requirements and application procedures.

Arrange accommodation

One of the most important decisions you will make is where you will live during your studies in Wollongong. The University of Wollongong offers a variety of accommodation options:

> University-managed residences (catered or self-catered)
> Homestay with a local family
> Private rental in shared houses or apartments

The University Residences

If you want to live in a community with academic support, pastoral care and the chance to mix with other residents, the fully catered University residences may be the best choice. Fully
catered means that you will be provided with three meals a day, which are included in the price of the accommodation. These residences include: Campus East, Weerona College and International House.

**University-managed Apartments**

For a little more independence and small-group living with the security and support of University management you may consider applying to live in University-managed apartments. These include Graduate House, Keiraview, Kooloobong, Marketview or The Manor. This style of accommodation provides:

> Independent cooking facilities in each unit.
> Single or shared study bedroom (furnished room with wardrobe, desk, chair, bed).
> Living and dining room furnishings (residents provide their own cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery, cleaning equipment).

**Application Deadlines for University housing**

There are no application deadlines for students wishing to live at University housing. However, there is high demand for accommodation placements and therefore it is recommended that you apply as early as possible. You do not need to receive a confirmed place of admission into the University of Wollongong before you apply for accommodation. It is recommended that you complete your accommodation application when you apply for your course to increase your chances of being accepted into University housing.

> Applications should be lodged online through the following website:
  

There is a non-refundable application fee of A$60 payable at the time of application: payment instructions are outlined on the above website. Applications submitted without this fee cannot be considered.

The Accommodation Services office will notify you of the outcome of your application by email, so it is important that the email address you provide is a frequently accessed account.

If you are offered a place in one of the residences, please read through the contract information sent to you carefully as this will explain the costs, conditions and any special requirements for living in the particular residence.
Homestay
If you prefer a family oriented life-style and like the idea of living with a local family in the area, then homestay accommodation could be the choice for you. Homestay provides an opportunity for international students to immerse themselves in the Australian culture. Single rooms are available for $245 a week (including meals).

Private Accommodation
Affordable private accommodation is available in Wollongong, and this may be a good option for students who prefer more independence.

There are two styles: shared and single. Occupants of most shared accommodation will divide household expenses such as gas, electricity and internet. Typical costs for private rental are shown below (note that these are approximate costs in AUD$ and may vary):

- Unfurnished room per week: $110-$180
- Furnished room per week: $135-$210
- Apartment (unfurnished) per week: $150-$300
- House (3 or 4 bedrooms, unfurnished): $350-500

You also need to consider costs that you may be required to pay before you move into the property. This can include a bond, which you pay to the landlord as a form of security in case you damage the property. This can range from $100-$1000, and will be repaid to you at the end of your lease.

The UOW Accommodation Services Office can provide assistance to students seeking private accommodation and provides a listing of available rooms and houses for students in Wollongong. If you decide to live in private accommodation, it is important that you are aware of some basic rights and responsibilities before you sign an agreement to rent a residence. A description and explanation of Australian tenancy laws can be found at the Department of Fair Trading.

It is also important to guard yourself against scams. While scamming is rare, it can happen and can result in students losing large amounts of money. Do not pay any money or sign contracts for accommodation that you have not inspected. It’s best to start investigating properties a couple of weeks before you leave home. You can contact people who are advertising by phone or email before you arrive to exchange information and set up appointments to inspect properties after your arrival. However, as stated above, don’t send money or bank details or sign contracts before you have inspected the property in person.

If you want to live in private accommodation, it’s good to arrive in Wollongong at least four weeks before session starts. Temporary accommodation can be booked before your arrival in Australia so you have somewhere to stay while you are inspecting potential accommodation. Temporary accommodation can be viewed on our website, or it can be requested on the online Airport Pickup application form. If you request accommodation on the Airport Pickup application form, the University will book temporary accommodation for you. You will be responsible for the cost of this accommodation.

Request airport pick-up
The University has a free airport pick-up service for all new international students arriving at
Sydney Airport (International or Domestic terminals) and traveling to Wollongong. This service is available to students with an offer to UOW, or a package UOW College + UOW offer.

Visit the [Airport Pick-up services website](#) to submit your airport pick-up request and access more information on this service.

Additional family members or friends of the enrolled student may also use the service, however they must pay the appropriate fee in Australian Dollars to the driver. The service costs $60 for each additional adult and $30 for each additional child under the age of 15.

Your booking must be made no less than 72 hours prior to your arrival. If you are arriving on a Saturday or Sunday, your request should be made by no later than 4pm on the Thursday before. This also applies to any changes in your arrival schedule. Remember: if you do not let the University know when you are arriving, we cannot meet you!

See the ‘Travelling to Wollongong’ section for instructions on what to do if your arrival times change or you cannot find the driver.

**Familiarise yourself with course and subject details**

The [University of Wollongong Handbook](#) is available online and lists information about all courses, subjects, University rules and other relevant matters. Before reading the handbook, you should note that the terminology used at the University of Wollongong may be different to that used in your home country. Here are some important definitions:

- **Course**: the full degree program; for example, Bachelor of Computer Science or Master of Public Health.

- **Subjects**: the individual modules that you undertake in order to complete your course; for example, ACCY100 Accounting IA, ACCY200 Financial Accounting 2A etc. Other universities may refer to these as “units”, “modules” or even “courses” (as is common in North America).

- **Credit Point**: the value attached to each subject. For most courses, students enrol in 48 credit points per year, divided into 24 credit points in each of Autumn and Spring Sessions. Sydney Business School students would usually enrol in 18 or 24 credit points each trimester. The course structures in the Handbook show how many credit points are required to complete each course, and the value of each subject.

**Find out as much as you can about Australia and Australians**

This will help you to adjust more quickly after your arrival. You may find that living and studying in Australia are very different to living and studying in your own country.

The Australian Government includes useful information on its [Live in Australia](#) section of the [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au) website. You may also like to find out about local news in Australia and Wollongong by reading printed or online newspapers and magazines. The *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian* are national newspapers, while the *Illawarra Mercury* is local to Wollongong.

You can also practise listening to Australian accents by watching Australian television programs and films or listening to radio shows broadcast over the internet. The ABC is Australia’s public broadcaster, which streams both [radio](#) and [television](#) online. Triple J is a division of the ABC
which also provides a free online stream of its music radio station that is very popular with younger Australian audiences.

Before arriving in Australia, you can use the Future Students Facebook page to stay up-to-date with the latest news and events, connect with other students and ask questions about the University of Wollongong or Australia in general. The UOW Student Services website also contains further information about Australian life and culture that may assist you in your pre-departure planning.

Documents to bring with you

You should prepare a folder of official documents to bring with you to Australia, including:
> Valid passport with Student Visa.
> Offer of Admission letter from UOW
> Confirmation of Enrolment (eCOE) issued by UOW
> Receipts of payments (tuition fees, OSHC etc).
> Letter of scholarship award (if applicable).
> Original/certified copies of your academic transcripts.
> If you hope to obtain advanced standing (credit transfer) towards your UOW program for courses you have completed overseas, you must bring all relevant documents, including course and subject syllabus.
> Other personal identification documents, for example driver’s license, ID card,
> Medical records or prescriptions.
ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA AND TRAVELLING TO WOLLONGONG

You should fly into Sydney International Airport (SYD) which is the closest international airport to Wollongong. Wollongong is located 80 kilometres from Sydney and is easily accessible by road and rail.

**Australian Immigration**

When you first arrive in Australia, you will make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the airplane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed *Incoming Passenger Card* (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa. You should also be prepared to show the Immigration Officer a copy of your offer letter, eCOE and evidence that you have enough money to support yourself while studying (e.g. bank statements) if requested. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may also ask you a few questions about your plans for your time in Australia. After proceeding through Immigration, you will claim your baggage from the carousel. You will then continue through to Australian customs.

**Australian Customs Service**

Australian Customs and Quarantine restrictions are very strict: you must not bring prohibited drugs, food or plants into Australia. If you have any goods of plant or animal origin, you must declare them on the Traveller’s Statement (given to you on the plane) which acts as your Customs declaration. If you are in doubt about what to declare you should ask a Customs Officer as there are serious penalties (including large fines and jail terms) for people who make false declarations.

The [Australian Customs Service](http://www.customs.gov.au) provides further information and can also help you to plan for any foods you may want to bring from your home country. Many foods are allowable under Australian customs regulations, but all have to be declared. Australian Customs Officials sometimes use highly trained dogs to check luggage. If this is the case, follow the instructions of the Customs Officials.

**Arrivals Hall**

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall after you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, a Traveller’s Advisory Bureau and money exchange facilities. If you are arriving on a weekend, you may like to change currency at the airport as most banks are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

TRAVELLING TO WOLLONGONG

**Airport Pickup Service**

The University provides a complimentary airport pickup service from Sydney International Airport. This is available to all newly enrolled UOW International students and also to UOW College students who have a progressive offer for a University of Wollongong degree course arriving in Australia for the first time. Airport Pickup must be requested in advance: see the Request Airport Pickup section for details.
If you have requested this service, you will be transported to your Hall of Residence or prearranged temporary accommodation in Wollongong by a driver from Leisure Coast Limousines. Please follow the instructions below.

After clearing customs, you will proceed through to the Arrivals Hall. A representative of Leisure Coast Limousines will meet you at the “Meeting Point”, a designated meeting area in the Arrival Hall. The “Meeting Point” is located between the two arrival gates. As there are two exits that leave Customs, you may have to walk a little way to find the representative. The representative will have a sign with the UOW logo on it. If you have trouble finding the sign, ask staff for directions to the “Meeting Point”. The Travellers Advisory Bureau may also be able to assist you in locating the driver.

Should your arrival times change whilst you are in transit (or if you have pre-booked a pickup and there is no driver waiting for you) please contact Accommodation Services on telephone (02) 4221 5656 on your arrival in Sydney. If you have been delayed and arrive at the airport outside of office hours (9am – 5pm Monday -Friday), please contact Leisure Coast Limousines directly on (02) 4261 7393. A driver will collect you as soon as possible and take you directly to your accommodation.

**Train**

Trains connect the International and Domestic terminals of Sydney Airport with Central Station, where you can change to a Wollongong train. Wollongong is located on the ‘South Coast’ train line – destination shown as Port Kembla, Dapto, Kiama or Bomaderry (Nowra). Trains depart from Central approximately each hour and the journey will take around 80 minutes.

You will need to get off the train at Wollongong or North Wollongong train station and take a taxi to your accommodation. A one-way train ticket between the airport and Wollongong station will cost approximately A$22. Taxi fares from Wollongong to any of the Halls of Residence will be approximately A$5 – A$15. All taxis in Australia are metered and you must pay the amount shown on the meter. You are not required to tip the taxi driver.

> Visit [www.sydneytrains.info](http://www.sydneytrains.info) for train timetable information, or download the [TripView](http://www.sydneytrains.info) mobile app.

We do not recommend that you hire a taxi from Sydney Airport to Wollongong as it will be extremely expensive (several hundred dollars!).
LIVING IN WOLLONGONG

In this section, you will find detailed information about the various aspects of living in Wollongong.

Timezone

Wollongong is located in the Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) Zone, the equivalent to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus 10 hours. Daylight saving is from the first Sunday in October until the first Sunday in March (GMT plus 11 hours). [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) is a useful website for world time conversions.

Weather and Clothing

Summers in Wollongong and Sydney are hot and can be humid. Winters are generally mild, but bring plenty of warm clothing if arriving in July as most private housing will not be centrally heated and heating in University accommodation may be unavailable or not as warm as you are used to.

On campus, students usually dress casually in jeans, t-shirts and other informal clothing. Joggers or running shoes are commonly worn. In summer, it is appropriate to wear shorts, skirts, t-shirts and light footwear such as sandals. You may require a light jacket or jumper/sweater in the evenings or in air-conditioned lecture theatres.

In winter you will require long sleeved shirts, long pants, jumpers/sweaters and a waterproof jacket. It does not snow in Wollongong so you will not need alpine style winter clothing, but a warm coat or jacket is recommended.

If you will be taking any courses with a laboratory component you will require covered shoes.

You should bring at least one set of "good" clothes especially if you will be living in University accommodation. A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress or suit for women are necessary for some functions like formal dinners, graduation ceremonies and student dances. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

All types of clothing are available for purchase in Wollongong and prices are reasonable. However, if you have limited funds for your studies we recommend bringing appropriate clothing with you. Luxury items such as perfumes and moisturizers are readily available but they may be more expensive than in your home country.

**Average Maximum and Minimum Temperatures (°C/°F)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.5 76.1</td>
<td>17.8 63.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.7 62.1</td>
<td>9.5 49.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.5 72.5</td>
<td>17.0 62.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2 57.6</td>
<td>8.3 46.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.0 68.0</td>
<td>18.3 64.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.8 53.2</td>
<td>8.8 47.8</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>December</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.3 68.5</td>
<td>25.0 77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.6 51.1</td>
<td>16.5 61.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.1 71.7</td>
<td>25.6 78.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.8 54.7</td>
<td>17.9 64.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.9 73.2</td>
<td>25.6 78.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.4 57.9</td>
<td>18.2 64.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Money and Banking

Currency
Australian currency is decimal with the basic unit of one dollar equivalent to 100 cents. Coins come in $2, $1, 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents (when shopping, your purchases will be rounded to the nearest 5 cents). Australian bank note denominations are $100, $50, $20, $10 and $5. The notes are different colours and increase in size according to their value.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)
A 10% tax is charged on the sale of most goods and services in Australia. The GST will be included in the advertised/ticketed price of the item.

Tipping
Laws governing the minimum wage payable to employees mean that Australian workers do not have to depend on tips to earn a liveable income. This means that the giving of tips to waiters, taxi drivers and hotel staff is optional in Australia.

Changing your Money
The exchange rate for the Australian dollar (AUD) is a floating rate depending on the foreign exchange market. There are money exchange facilities inside Sydney International Airport and you can also exchange money at a bank once you arrive in Wollongong (Monday to Friday). The National Bank of Australia and the IMB Building Society both have branches on campus and will change major currencies, if you decide to open an account with them. Coins and some smaller denomination notes may not be able to be converted, so be sure to bring larger denominations, and some currencies may require two or three days processing time. Oanda is a free website where you can check the current exchange rate, and calculate the conversion between your home currency and Australian currency.

Options for bringing money to Australia
We recommend that you carry about A$250 in cash when you arrive in Australia, as this should be sufficient to cover incidental expenses until you reach your accommodation in Wollongong. In the first few weeks of session you will require access to at least A$500 to cover personal expenses and textbooks. If you will be living in private accommodation you may need considerably more to cover your establishment costs, including money for a bond, first month of rent etc. These funds are best accessed by:

- **Opening an Australian bank account before you leave home.** You can deposit money into this account online before you leave your home country, and access it when you get to Australia. You will be able to withdraw these funds by visiting a branch of the Bank and completing an identity check. See ‘Banking’ section below for more information on the major banks within Australia.
- **Traveller’s cheques** can be exchanged for cash at banks, foreign exchange locations and selected travel agents.
- **International credit/debit cards** such as Visa and MasterCard (Note: American Express and Diners Club are not as widely accepted). Be sure to consult your home bank or credit provider before departure to find out if daily limits apply to your credit/international debit card, and what fees an international transaction attracts. These can vary significantly and be quite costly. You should also notify your bank that you will be in Australia, as some companies put a stop on the card if they find it is being used in another country.
- **A cash passport** is a pre-paid travel money card that is now available in many countries. You can load Australian dollars onto your Cash passport before you leave home and withdraw them at a bank or ATM when you arrive in Australia. You can also purchase a cash passport at the National Australia Bank or the IMB Building Society branches on campus.
Note: Australian banks can take up to 6 weeks to clear personal cheques or those drawn on a foreign bank, and wiring money can be expensive, so use your credit/international debit card to transfer money from home wherever possible.

**Banking**

There are Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) and banking facilities located on campus and nearby in the Wollongong city centre. Most bank branches are open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm (except on Public Holidays). Some larger branches stay open longer hours and may be open on Saturdays. ATMs remain open 24 hours per day.

The National Australia Bank and the IMB Building Society have branches on campus and can both handle international transactions. Both banks will issue bank drafts, cash passports and change foreign currency, as well as accepting telex or electronic transfers. Many other banks are located in Wollongong and are easily accessible by public transport. The Australia Post Office on campus also acts as a sub-branch for the Commonwealth Bank and Citibank.

Banks in Wollongong include:

- National Australia Bank
- ANZ Bank
- Commonwealth Bank
- Illawarra Credit Union
- IMB
- St George Bank
- Westpac Bank

**Fees and living expenses**

**Tuition Fees**

As an international student, you are required to pay tuition fees to the University of Wollongong for your program of study. Tuition fees are paid one session at a time and are charged each session per credit point of enrolment. You must also pay a portion of your tuition fees in advance before you will be permitted to enrol. This amount is the tuition fee deposit outlined in your offer letter, and is normally 24 credit points of tuition for your course of study. Non-award students in the Study Abroad program are charged a flat fee per semester not per credit point.

Once payment has been made to the University of Wollongong, there are limited circumstances in which tuition fees can be refunded. Refunds are only granted in exceptional circumstances, such as an offer of admission being withdrawn by the University of Wollongong or where a student is unable to continue their studies for medical reasons.

The [UOW Tuition Fee Policy](#) can be accessed online and contains further information about refunds for international students.

**Overseas Students Health Cover (OSHC)**

The Australian Government requires that all international students and their dependents be covered by Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the length of their student visa.

OSHC will help you to pay for medical (doctor, pathology, x-rays) and hospital care and will contribute towards the cost of most prescription medicines and emergency ambulance transport.

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1 Swedish and Norwegian students who are eligible for their home government insurance are not required to take out OSHC. Swedish and Norwegian students who are not eligible for their home government insurance should contact the University as soon as possible to arrange OSHC.
Expenses not covered by OSHC include dental and optical services, physiotherapy or treatment for medical conditions in existence before you came to Australia. OSHC is not general travel insurance and will not cover loss of personal items (such as cameras or laptops) while you are in Australia. Many insurance companies offer general travel insurance or contents insurance at reasonable rates in Australia, which can be purchased before leaving your home country, or after you arrive.

The University will nominate Bupa as OSHC provider to you for the first 12 months of your study, however you are free to choose other providers i.e., Medibank Private, Worldcare Assist or AHM. It is a requirement of your visa that you maintain health cover for the whole period of study.

If you choose to use the University’s nominated health fund, the first 12 months of your course (or the length of your course if less than 12 months) is organised for you, and paid to the University. The OSHC payment must be made when accepting your offer of admission to the University, and is included in the commencement fee on your Offer Acceptance and Payment Advice. An eCOE (required for your student visa application) cannot be issued until payment for OSHC is received by the University, or you demonstrate you have arranged and paid for OSHC through another provider. Subsequent OSHC payments must be paid directly to the nominated health fund or another registered OSHC provider.

Current OSHC fees with Bupa are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 3 months</td>
<td>$123.75</td>
<td>$446.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6 months</td>
<td>$247.50</td>
<td>$893.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 9 months</td>
<td>$371.25</td>
<td>$1,340.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 12 months</td>
<td>$495.00</td>
<td>$1,787.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you pay the full amount of tuition and OSHC fees owing on your account, the University will advise Bupa you have paid. Bupa will then register you as a member and issue you with a membership card, sent to your Australian address. If you do not have an Australian address, your card will be sent to UOW or UOW College.

Visit the [BUPA website](#) to read more about OSHC and what is and isn’t covered.

**Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)**

The SSAF is a compulsory charge, introduced following changes to Australian Government legislation. The SSAF funds improvements to facilities for students across a broad range of service areas, such as subsidised food outlets, childcare, student advocacy as well as sporting, recreational and cultural activities. All international students enrolled at UOW are liable for the SSAF, and will be invoiced twice yearly for the amount determined each year.

**Living Expenses**

Living costs will vary according to your lifestyle, the type of accommodation you choose and whether you are single or bringing family members with you.

In addition to tuition fees, a single student living in Wollongong will require at least A$12,000 to A$16,000 a year for living expenses to cover accommodation, food and local transport.

Here are some examples of estimated costs per year you should budget for during your stay in Wollongong. You should note that prices, particularly for food and clothing, can vary between different shops and depending on the time of year. You can make considerable savings by comparing prices and shopping wisely.
### Accommodation, per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University accommodation (catered)</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University accommodation (self-catered)</td>
<td>$9,500 (plus food $3,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private accommodation</td>
<td>$6,000 to $9,500 (plus food $3,500)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Incidental Costs, per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books, stationery and other study materials</td>
<td>$500 (depending on degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses (e.g., transport, entertainment)</td>
<td>$3,000 (depending on lifestyle)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>$1.50 per litre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>$2.50 loaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>$3.50 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>$2.00 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant Noodle</td>
<td>$0.50 packet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken, whole</td>
<td>$8.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>$2.00 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>$3.00 dozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>$1.50 per litre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>$2.50 loaf</td>
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<td>$2.00 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>$3.00 dozen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clothing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-shirt</td>
<td>$15 - $30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirt</td>
<td>$20 - $70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeans</td>
<td>$50-$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumper/Sweater</td>
<td>$40 - $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes</td>
<td>$40+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Miscellaneous

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (local calls from a public phone)</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema (student concession)</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniMovies</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage (standard mail within Australia)</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cup of Coffee</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza (large)</td>
<td>$9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo (400ml)</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Haircut</td>
<td>$12-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Haircut</td>
<td>$20-$35+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transport

**Free Bus Service**

Three [free shuttle services](#) connect the University and many parts of Wollongong, including the city centre, the beach, North Wollongong train station, various residences and surrounding suburbs. The [UOW Shuttle](#) smartphone app provides a timetable for these shuttles, and can track the current location of each of the buses.
Buses
The University bus stop is on Northfields avenue and buses run direct to the University from all areas of Wollongong and surrounding towns and suburbs.

Trains
The nearest railway station to the Wollongong campus is North Wollongong station. Concessions for self-funded international students on the NSW state public transport system (including the rail network) enable you to save 35% on some 90-day and 12 month Multi-Pass travel in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. In order to activate this discount, you must receive a 10 digit code from the University, and then enter this code when ordering your tickets online. You can access this code by emailing UOW at askuow@uow.edu.au, calling +61 2 4221 3555 or visiting Student Central after you arrive. Australian Government sponsored students and students involved in formal reciprocal university exchange programs are entitled to full transport concessions.

Return fare by train from Wollongong to Sydney:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel type/time</th>
<th>Full-fare</th>
<th>Concession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peak times</td>
<td>$17.20</td>
<td>$8.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off peak times (Weekends &amp; after 9am Mon-Fri)</td>
<td>$11.80</td>
<td>$8.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Day Rail Pass</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
<td>$30.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A comprehensive guide is available on the UOW website regarding public transport to UOW and around Wollongong city, including maps and links to timetables for buses and trains.

Cycling
Bicycles are a cheap alternative method of transport. There are dedicated cycle paths located around Wollongong and surrounding suburbs, as well as bike racks on campus and in the city centre. Second-hand bikes are available from bicycle stores, or from other students as advertised on notice boards around campus. It is compulsory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Helmets cost approximately A$50 from department stores like Kmart or Big W.

Driving
In Australia, we drive on the left hand side of the road. To drive a car you must be over 17 years of age, have Third Party Insurance Cover and have a licence to drive in Australia. If you are in Australia on a student (temporary) visa and you do not intend to become a permanent resident, you will be regarded as a visiting driver and will be permitted to drive on your home country licence. If the licence is not written in English, an International Driving Permit, or an English translation must also be carried with the licence when driving. Further details on driving in New South Wales, including licence requirements and road rules, can be obtained by contacting the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS).

Electrical goods and connections
Domestic electricity supply in Australia is 230 – 250 volts, AC Hertz (cycles/second). Electrical goods from other countries usually need a conversion adaptor.

Three pin plugs are fitted to domestic appliances, so 110 volt appliances, such as shavers, hairdryers and contact lens sterilisers, cannot be used without a transformer. Transformers can be purchased in department or travel stores, although some appliances are relatively cheap to
purchase when you arrive. The Unishop on campus sells adaptors for various international electrical connections and transformers for 115 to 240 volt appliances.

**Telephones**

**Emergency Services**
In Australia, dial 000 from any phone for all fire, ambulance and police emergencies. [Do NOT dial 911 in Australia as this is NOT the number for emergency services].

112 is the GSM international standard emergency number which can only be dialled on digital mobile phones. 112 can be dialled anywhere in the world with GSM coverage and is automatically translated to that county’s emergency number. However, whilst in Australia you are advised to always dial 000 first as this is a direct connection to emergency services and can be dialled from any type of phone.

**Calling Home**
One of the first things you may want to do when you arrive in Australia is call home. There are three main options for making and receiving telephone calls internationally:

- Public telephones
- Buying a new mobile phone
- Using your existing mobile phone

**Public Telephones**
Phone calls can be made from any public telephone. Public phones are located on-campus, at most railway stations, in shopping centres, and in other public areas. Local phone calls cost 50 cents. Long distance (STD) and international (IDD) calls can also be made from these phones.

There are coin payphones, phones that use phone cards and credit card phones. Phone cards are available from newsagents, convenience stores and post offices, and can be used both on public telephones and fixed line phones. The UniShop and Post Office on campus both sell phone cards in a range of denominations (usually $5, $10, $20 and $50). The staff here will be happy to recommend the best card for you based on the country you are calling, the type of phone you are calling from and the length of your calls.

**Buying a new mobile telephone**
Mobile telephones (cellular phones) are one of the most popular forms of communication in Australia today. Many international students choose to purchase a new mobile phone upon arrival to avoid the high cost of international roaming. ‘Pre-paid’ mobile phone packs can be purchased upon arrival in Australia. These are available from the UniShop or Post Office on-campus and include a basic handset (if needed), a SIM card and a specific amount of calling credits. You can then purchase additional calling credits as needed. Pre-paid services are popular with students as there are no bills, contracts or minimum monthly commitments. An alternative option is a fixed-term contract where a set monthly fee is paid over a specified period of time (usually between 12 and 36 months) in return for a certain number of phone calls and access to services like voicemail. A handset may also be included.

> The following telecommunication provider websites provide detailed information on products and plans available:

- [Telstra](#)
- [Virgin](#)
- [Optus](#)
Using your existing phone in Australia

If your existing mobile phone provider has an 'International Roaming Agreement' with a network in Australia, you can use your phone to make and receive calls in Australia just as you do at home. Calls made in Australia will be charged to your account at home in your local currency. You may also be charged for incoming calls. The caller will pay usual phone rates. Your home network provider will be able to give you further details about charges for International Roaming. This service can be quite expensive, so it is important for you to be aware of all charges that may apply.

You should also check that the technology and handset that you currently use are supported by mobile phone networks in Australia. The two most common types of mobile phone technologies are GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) and CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access). The majority of phones in Australia are connected to GSM networks which operate on 900MHz and 1800MHz frequencies. Many international phones that use CDMA providers will not work in Australia. Your home network provider will be able to advise you whether your phone is compatible with networks in Australia, or you can visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Making a phone call
To make an international phone call from within Australia:
Dial the International Access Code (0011) + the country code + the area code (if required) + the telephone number. Country Calling Codes is a free website that provides a full list of country codes and area codes.

To make a phone call from within Australia to a number in another area of Australia:
Dial the area code + the telephone number. See area codes below:

Australian Capital Territory & New South Wales: 02
Victoria & Tasmania: 03
Western Australia, South Australia & Northern Territory: 08
Queensland: 07

Receiving a phone call
Your family and friends cannot call you on a public phone. However they can contact you on a landline or a mobile phone. They will need to dial the International Access Code (this varies in each country) + Australia’s country code (61) + 2nd digit of the area code + your phone number. For example, as the area code for New South Wales is 02, to dial the number 4221 3218 in Wollongong from overseas would require: International Access code + 61 2 4221 3218

Australian Postal Services

During your time in Wollongong you may want to post letters or goods home and receive mail from your family and friends. It is important to note that all international mail is screened by Australian Customs and Quarantine to ensure that nothing is mailed into Australia that may be harmful. Outgoing mail from Australia may also be screened by your home country. Weapons, plants (or products that contain plant derivatives, such as seeds), alcohol and food are commonly restricted. Australia Post provides a full list of items that cannot be posted from your home country on its website.

The cost of your mail will be based on weight. Addressing envelopes may be different from your home country. In order for your mail to be sent, it must be addressed in the format below. Be
sure that you put the recipient on the front of the envelope, and your address (sender) on the back.

Name
Street Number and Name
Suburb, State/Province, Country
Post Code

You can visit the Post Office on campus if you have any queries regarding sending and receiving mail.

**Computer and Internet access**

Australia is a country that faces unique challenges in telecommunications services. It is the world’s largest island nation and, with a population density of just 3 people per square kilometre, has the 3rd lowest population density of any nation. (Although Australia’s cities are densely populated, desert areas in the centre have a very low population density.) Internet speeds in Australia are not slow, but may not be as fast as you are used to in your home country. As a guide, average advertised internet speed in Australia according to the [OECD Broadband Portal](https://www.oecd.org/industry/ict/22576207.pdf) is 36,480 kbits per second. This can be compared, on the one hand to countries with the fastest average download speed –132,280kbits per second – and those with the slowest average download speed – 5,120 kbits per second. (Advertised speeds are typically the theoretical maximum for the employed technologies. Users commonly have lower actual speeds and often only parts of a country have been upgraded to the fastest speeds.) If you are used to very fast internet speeds, be prepared to wait a few seconds longer for your download, and remember the popular Australian saying, “All good things take time”.

You can check international comparative broadband services and speed at the [OECD Broadband Portal](https://www.oecd.org/industry/ict/22576207.pdf).

**The National Broadband Network**

The Australian government has commenced building a [National Broadband Network](https://www.nbnco.com.au) (NBN), which will connect premises to a high speed fibre network. Construction has begun in Wollongong and some of the city’s suburbs are already connected. An [interactive map](https://www.nbnco.com.au/) is available online and can be used to check-out when each suburb in Sydney or Wollongong will be connected to the NBN.

**Getting on-line when you arrive**

After you enrol and receive your student user account, you will be able to use computers in the eight student computer laboratories on campus, and will also have access to the on-campus wireless network. However, *before you enrol and receive your account*, you may want to connect with friends and family using one of the pre-paid [Internet Cafes](https://www.unishop.com.au) on campus. You can also purchase pre-paid mobile broadband internet packages from the Unishop on campus or from telecommunications shops in Wollongong.

**On-line on campus**

Enrolled students on campus can connect to the Internet from one of many student computer laboratories, or use their own device to connect to the UOW wireless network. Most faculties have their own student computer laboratories and you will also have access to the Central Student Computer Laboratories and computer rooms in the Library. The University’s catered
halls of residence also have computer rooms available, and some have access to the University wireless network.

If you connect to the internet via one of the student computer laboratories at the University, your usage will be monitored and you will have an internet quota which you cannot exceed. Internet resources are divided into two categories – “on-net” and “off-net”.

> “On-net” includes all sites contained on the UOW website, such as Library-subscribed electronic databases and other resources, ‘mirror’ sites and local portals. There is no quota restriction on the use of “on-net” sites.

> “Off-net” includes all sites not classified as “on-net”. Undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students are assigned a quota to access “off-net” sites, currently 3GB per session. Postgraduate research students do not have any quota on “off-net” usage. The University provides assistance in minimising “off-net” usage by providing considerable academic resources “on-net”. Youtube is also considered “on-net” and will not contribute to your quota. The “off-net” quota (for undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students) should be sufficient to meet the educational needs of most students, however students who use their quota in a given session may apply to their Dean of Faculty for a quota increase which may be granted if it is determined that an increase is necessary for educational purposes. While there is no “off-net” quota for postgraduate research students, usage is tracked and may be restricted where usage is deemed inappropriate.

The Central Student Computer Laboratories
The Central Student Computer Laboratories (Level 1, Building 17) provide students with access to email, the Internet, Applications Software and Laser printers. In addition to these services, the teaching laboratories contain special purpose software for tutorials run by individual departments. When there are no tutorials in progress the teaching laboratories may be used by any UOW student.

Wireless Network
The UOW main campus and most satellite campuses are covered by a wireless network, called Freedom@UOW. This means that if you have a laptop or PDA with an appropriate wireless network card (many now have this built in) you can connect to the University data network anywhere on campus. Wireless laptops and network cards are available for loan from the Library. You may also purchase a wireless network card from the UniShop. Once you enrol and receive your student user account, you will be able to access this service via your laptop, mobile phone or other handheld device. There is no quota restriction on this service, however usage is monitored in accordance with the UOW IT Acceptable Use Policy.

IT Support
Staff in the IT Service Centre (located in the Central Student Computer Laboratory) can give you assistance with laboratory equipment and software, advice on using the internet and information about training courses available to students. ‘Roving helpers’ are also available in the computer laboratories during session to help you with any computing problems that you may have. Information sessions are held during Orientation Week to provide an introduction to IT services and support on campus.

Accessing the Internet off-campus
Limited dial-in access to the University’s IT network is available to postgraduate research students. All other students will need to sign up with an external Internet Service Provider (ISP) in order to access the Internet or read email off campus. There are a number of ISPs in Wollongong offering Internet connection. If you are living at a University Residence, the residence can assist you in setting up Internet in your room through a nominated Internet provider. You should budget $30 to $40 for this service, per month. There are also many mobile
phone and data packages available in Australia, both pre-paid and post-paid. For example, if you bring a compatible unlocked phone from your home country, you can purchase a month-to-month prepaid internet and phone package which will allow you to use 3GB a month and unlimited calls for approximately $60 a month from leading Australian providers. You can also buy a handset in Australia, with prices ranging from $50- $500+.

**Shopping and food in Wollongong**

You will find a range of department stores, specialty shops and boutiques in the Wollongong City Mall (also known as ‘Wollongong Central’). There are also several large air conditioned shopping centres located in the suburbs of Corrimal, Figtree, Shellharbour and Warrawong.

Most stores are open from 9am to 5pm between Monday and Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. Some stores stay open until 9pm on Thursdays for ‘late night trading’. Others may be closed or have reduced trading hours over the weekend.

Wollongong is a multicultural city with a wide range of available cuisines. The UniCentre provides a range of food outlets on campus, with a range of cuisines including Asian and halal food. For more information, check-out the UniCentre website, which provides an online description and map of on-campus dining options. The Wollongong City Council has also produced a Traditional Foods Directory, which lists sources of traditional foods in the Wollongong region.

The large chain supermarkets Coles and Woolworths sell a wide range of food products from around the world and there are many independent delicatessens and Asian supermarkets in Wollongong. Discount supermarket chains like Aldi, Bi-Lo and Franklins are also popular with students. Most supermarkets are open from 8am to midnight between Monday and Saturday, and from 8am to 10pm on Sunday. Leisure Coast Fruit and Deli is conveniently located on the free bus route in Fairy Meadow. It is popular with international students for its wide range of fruit, vegetables and deli products from countries and cultures around the world. There is also a huge variety of restaurants and fast food outlets, with a selection listed on the Tourism Wollongong website.
Working in Australia

You should prepare sufficient funds to cover all expenses before you leave your home country. You should not rely on working in Australia to cover your tuition fees or living costs. Although working part-time can provide an avenue for meeting new people and some extra spending money, it should never be considered more than an ‘added bonus’. Your student visa gives you permission to work up to a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight during the session (any volunteer or unpaid work also counts towards this limit). During session breaks or holidays, students can work full-time or unlimited hours. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection can provide you with more information about applying to work in Australia under your student visa.

Tax File Number (TFN)

If you decide to work, you will be required to pay tax on your earnings in Australia. The amount you will pay is determined by how much money you earn during the financial year (1 July to 30 June) and the applicable rate of tax set by the Australian Government.

You will need to apply for a tax file number (TFN) after arriving in Australia if you would like to work. This is a unique number issued to each taxpayer by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Your Australian bank and employer will ask you to provide them with your tax file number when you open a new account or start a new job. If you do not provide them with this number, your bank will be required to tax your interest at almost 50% and your employer will be required to take almost 50% of your wages in tax.

Safety and Security

General Safety

Wollongong and the surrounding areas are generally safe, but you will still need to exercise normal caution as you would in any unfamiliar city, especially at night.

General Safety Tips:

> Do not carry large amounts of cash
> Do not walk alone at night in strange areas, especially along dark streets
> Do not leave valuable items lying around unattended
> Always stand or sit in well-lit areas if waiting for a bus or train
> Always lock your room – when not at home and when sleeping
> Be careful when crossing the road - remember that driving is on the left hand side in Australia. Always “Look to the right, look to the left, and look to the right again”.
> Be safe on the beach. Always swim with someone else (never swim alone) between the red and yellow flags- they indicate a safe swimming area. Be sure to obey the water safety signs and lifeguard instructions, and supervise your child around the water.

University of Wollongong safety

There are security officers on campus 24 hours a day and they provide a security escort service on campus after dark. Contact the UOW Security Office UniCentre (Building 11).

UOW Safety Tips:

> In case of emergency call 4221 4900 or dial #1 from any campus security phone
> For security escorts or general enquires call 4221 4555 or dial #3 from any campus security phone
> Download the Safe Zone application. This is a free app for all students and staff, that connects you directly to the university security team when you need help while you are on campus.

The University Security Service can also assist international students in emergency situations either on or off campus, and will liaise with relevant authorities if required.

University Services and Facilities

The University of Wollongong offers a comprehensive range of services to international students to ensure the best possible student experience. These include academic, technical, welfare, advocacy, personal and social support services and programs to assist you during your time at UOW. Find out how to make the most of student services at the Orientation.
ORIENTATION AND ENROLMENT

Orientation

A compulsory orientation for all new international students is held in the week immediately before the start of session. This will be your official introduction to the University and will give you the opportunity to make new friends and to settle into Wollongong before lectures commence.

Orientation Week is designed to familiarise you with the campus, staff and facilities. Your faculty will hold an Orientation Faculty Session within this week, which will incorporate information sessions and group discussions on a large range of topics including:

- Services and facilities available on campus.
- Study skills and essay writing.
- General information about living in Australia, local customs and attitudes.
- How to stay safe and legal in Australia.
- Campus tours.
- Selection of subjects and determining your program of study.

Orientation week also incorporates the formal Enrolment process, which includes registration in individual subjects, lecture and class times, obtaining your student card and other formal administration relating to your enrolment at the University.

Full details of the program of activities will be available before the start of each session on the UOW Orientation and Enrolment webpages.

Orientation for Study Abroad and Exchange Students

Study Abroad and Exchange students (enrolling at UOW for just one or two sessions and graduating from your home university) will be sent information about Orientation and enrolment procedures via email before your arrival in Wollongong. A package of information containing more details about the Orientation program will also be waiting at your Hall of Residence or in the Study Abroad Office for students staying in private accommodation. The Orientation program for Study Abroad and Exchange students will be available from the Study Abroad website.
Session dates

The UOW academic year extends from February to November, with a summer break from December to January. There are two main academic sessions, from February to June (‘Autumn Session’) and July to November (‘Spring Session’). A ‘Summer Session’ also operates from late November/December to January/February each year, with a limited number of subjects available.

The Sydney Business School operates on a different system – the academic year is divided into three trimesters, commencing in January, May and August.

Examinations can be held on any date during the formal examination period: as the examination timetable is not released until the middle of each session, you should not schedule any travel during the examination period. To view specific session dates visit our Session and Key Dates webpage.
SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS BRINGING FAMILIES

Bringing Family to Australia

If you intend to bring your family (spouse or children) with you to Australia, there are a number of additional arrangements that you will need to make and additional expenses that you will need to account for. This document is designed to provide information, links and resources on some of the primary areas to be considered before bringing family to Australia.

Things to consider

The decision to bring family to Australia is a personal decision, and many individual factors relating to you and your family situation need to be considered. These include:

• Do you have sufficient funds to pay for airfares, OSHC, accommodation, food, schooling, clothing etc for your family?
• Will your family be able to adjust to life in Australia?
• Will your family come to Australia with you, or after you have already arrived? It may be wise to arrive in Australia by yourself, to allow time to settle in and make preparations for your family's arrival.
• How will your family impact your study, especially if family members do not adjust to school or employment?
• There are long waiting lists for child care centres
• If your family do not speak English, what problems may they face?
• What challenges will your children face to adjust to the education in Australia/ or when they return to your home country?
• Will your spouse be able to gain employment in Australia? Note that most visas restrict Dependants to a maximum of 20 hours per week.
• Will your spouse’s career in your home country be disrupted?
• What will your family use for transport? Will your spouse want to travel while you are studying?

Please note: for immigration purposes spouses include someone you are married to or someone with whom you are in a de facto relationship (including same sex partners).

Visas

When you apply for your student visa, you will also need to apply for each member of your family to accompany you. Eligible family members (this includes your partner and you and your partner’s dependent children) can be listed as dependants on your student application, allowing them to obtain a Student Dependant visa. If you are going to bring your family as dependents, you can either include them in your student visa application, or apply for them to join you after you have started your course in Australia. Note that you should declare ALL family members on your application, even if they do not plan to travel with you to Australia. If you do not do this, your family members will not be eligible to apply to join you after you have started your course in Australia. You can apply for a dependent visa through the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).
If your family is planning on visiting you for a short period of time (less than 12 months), they may be eligible to apply for Visitor visas. They’ll need to apply directly to the Australian High commission or Embassy in your country, or online if your country is allowed. Eligibility requirements and further details can be found at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

**Australia Award Students**
Special conditions apply to Australia Award students when it comes to bringing their family to Australia. Please see SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR AUSTRALIA AWARD STUDENTS below for more information.

**Fees and Expenses**

The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high and it is important to ensure that you have sufficient funds to support your dependents financially. Standard costs can include:

- Airfares to and from Australia.
- Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities.
- Overseas Student Health Cover.
- Schooling and childcare costs.
- Additional accommodation costs, as you may need a bigger home.

**Overseas Student Health Cover**
The Australian Government requires that all international students AND their dependents be covered by Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the length of their student visa. See Overseas Student Health Cover in the Fees and Living Expenses section for more information and family prices.

**Schooling for children**
Members of your family aged between 5 and 18 years must attend school in Australia if they are on a Student Dependant visa residing in Australia for more than 3 months. They will not be granted a Student Dependant visa unless they have applied for placement in a NSW Government school and all relevant school fees have been paid. Some visa sub-classes and sponsored student groups, such as those who have a full scholarship from Australia Award or dependants of post graduate research students, are exempt from school fees.

The education fees for dependants for 2014/2015 on a 12 month period (40 school weeks) can be seen below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa Subclass</th>
<th>Years K-6</th>
<th>Years 7-10</th>
<th>Years 11-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S73</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that if your child holds a Student Dependant visa, the fees will vary depending on the visa subclass you hold. Fee’s for non-government schools vary greatly.

When your child is applying for a dependant visa, the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) will require evidence that schooling arrangements have been made. You will need to receive a Confirmation of Placement document from the Temporary Residents Program to prove that schooling arrangements have been made. To obtain this Confirmation of Placement, you need to submit:

- A Temporary Residents Program Application Form
- A copy of your Confirmation of Enrolment for UOW
• A copy of your scholarship letter for UOW, if applicable
• Payment of the Temporary Residents Program Administration and Education fee.

These forms and payment options can be accessed on the DEC international website.

Once your dependant has arrived in New South Wales, you need to contact the New South Wales government school that is closest to your residential address. A school search can be conducted at the DEC international website below. You will then need to visit this local government school with your Dependant of International Student Confirmation of Admission document, which you will receive with your Confirmation of Placement document. You also need to take your child’s passport and visa with you.

You and the principle must then complete the Dependant of International Student Confirmation of Admission document and forward it, along with certified photocopies of your child’s visa and passport. These documents can be posted, faxed or emailed as an attachment to the Temporary Residents Program using the contact details below:

Temporary Residents Program
Locked Bag 7004
Wollongong, NSW 2520
Australia
Fax: +61 2 42249074
Email: tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au

Once this is completed, an Authority to Enrol document will be issued to the school by the Temporary Residents Program, after which your child may enrol. For more information, please visit the Department of Education and Communities.

If your child comes to Australia on a visitor visa, they can still attend school. The application for your child can only begin once they have arrived in Australia, after which they must visit their local government school with their passport and current valid visa. A Temporary Residents Program Application Form must be filled out with the principle of the school, which then must be posted, along with payment of the Temporary Residents Administration fee and certified copies of your child’s passport and visa, to the Temporary Residents Program, using the postal address above. Note that your child must reside with you during any period of enrolment, and they are not eligible to receive English as a Second Language (ESL) support.

Once this is completed, an Authority to Enrol document will be issued to the school by the Temporary Residents Program, after which your child may enrol.

The 2014/2015 fees for a child on a Visitor Visa are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>K-6</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>K-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$250 per school week</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3250 for 13 school weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7-10</td>
<td>$300 per school week</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3900 for 13 school weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 11-12</td>
<td>$337.50 per school week</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4387.50 for 13 school weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who hold a Visitor visa are restricted to a maximum period of 3 months study (13 school weeks) for the duration of their visa. It is important to note that these fees do not cover the provision of school uniforms, the costs of school excursions, student medical expenses or subsidised travel.
Childcare
Childcare facilities are available on campus for children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years, as well as before school and afternoon care for school-aged children. Waiting lists can be long (up to one year for certain age groups) and places are limited, so it is important that you plan well in advance to secure childcare on campus. Before arriving in Wollongong, contact:

The Director
Kids' Uni
Post Office Box U100
University of Wollongong
NSW 2500 Australia
Phone: +61 2 4221 8035
Email: kids_uni@uow.edu.au

If your child secures a place in Kids Uni on campus, you will need to pay fees depending on their age and the amount of time they require care. Current fees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-5 years</td>
<td>$93.70 per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2 years</td>
<td>$98.70 per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>$42.25 per day (including shuttle bus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation Care</td>
<td>$55.80 per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you receive a scholarship sponsored by the Australian government (e.g. Australia Awards), you may be eligible for financial support in the form of the Childcare Benefit and Childcare Tax Rebate. For more information, contact the Family Assistance Office at Centrelink.

There are many other child-care centres in Wollongong. Student Support Advisors (SSA’s) on campus will be able help you find a suitable place for your child, if you are unable to do so. Care for Kids provides a full list of childcare facilities available in Wollongong.

Accommodation
You may need to budget for extra accommodation costs as a result of bringing your family. The price of accommodation will depend on how many family members you have, if you live in a house or flat, the location of your accommodation etc. If you are a postgraduate student, you might want to consider applying to live at Graduate House, a University-Managed Residence that caters for singles, couples and families.

Family Recreation
Situated between the mountains and the broad, blue waters of the Pacific Ocean, Wollongong is a great place for families. There are plenty of enjoyable things to do with your family in Wollongong and surrounding suburbs.

Local Library
As well as being free to join and free to borrow books for all ages, Wollongong City Libraries run a variety of programs to introduce your child to the world of literature and reading. Activities include finger plays, stories, songs, sing-a-longs, craft activities, magic tricks and more. These specifically designed programs range from babies to school aged children.

Beaches
Wollongong boasts 17 patrolled and pristine beaches up and down its coastline. All beaches are patrolled from September to April, with North Beach being patrolled all year round. Many
beaches also contain natural or man-made rock pools, providing safe and relaxing swimming for families away from surf breaks.

You should NEVER swim in a non-patrolled beach, and always swim between the flags.
For more information on beach safety, visit sls.com.au

**Parks, Gardens and Hikes**
Wollongong contains many lovely parks and gardens with free playgrounds and often free barbecue facilities. Wollongong is also surrounded by many well established walking trails, both coastal and through pristine rainforest. Some examples include:

- The **Symbio Wildlife Park and Gardens** is an ideal place to take the kids, allowing close encounters and hands on experience with wildlife. Located 20 minutes out of the Wollongong city centre, it is renowned as an award winning zoo and tourist attraction.
- The **Minnamurra Rainforest Centre and Boardwalk**, located 15 minutes south of Wollongong, which leads from the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre to the Minnamurra falls through subtropical and temperate rainforest areas.
- The **Wollongong Botanic Gardens** located directly opposite the University, are well renowned, stretching across 22 hectares with over 200,000 people visiting them each year. The Gardens hold regular events, such as garden tours, bird watching walks and sustainability workshops. Many of these events are free and designed specifically for children.

**Other attractions**
Wollongong is host to a wide range of other attractions and activities that can be enjoyed by children and families. These include:

- The **Jambaroo Recreation Park**, a large water park with slides, a wave pool, chair lifts and toboggan rides. There are pools designed for all ages, from toddlers to teenagers.
- The **Science Centre and Planetarium** in Fairy Meadow contains more than 100 interactive exhibits relating to various science themes, as well as laser shows, science shows and a large observatory.
- **Zoom** is an indoor play centre for under 10s, with a multi-level maze, jumping castles and themed party rooms. Zoom is split into three specific age play zones; one for crawlers, one for toddlers and one for the bigger kids aged 5-10.

**Working**
If you're an undergraduate student, your husband or wife can only work for up to 40 hours a fortnight (two weeks) after you've started studying. If you're a postgraduate student, they can work full-time after you've started studying. In order to do this they must first apply for a Tax File Number on the Australian Taxation Office website. However, employment opportunities for your spouse can be very limited. You should also consider if your spouses’ language skills might impact on their ability to work. Also note that neither you nor your partner will be eligible to commence work until after you have begun your main course of study (ie your University program at the University of Wollongong). Visit the Department of Immigration and Border Protection for a full list of visa and work conditions for family members.

Careers Central at the University is a helpful resource for international students seeking work. Careers Central provides services, programs and information on working in Wollongong, as well as running a Job Board for job listings both on and off campus.

If your spouse tries to find paid work and is unsuccessful, or they just want to stay busy for a few hours or a few days a week, they may wish to consider voluntary work. Volunteering can assist your spouse in meeting new people, and is available in a variety of non-profit associations such as health, cultural and environmental groups.
Volunteering opportunities are available on the UOW Job Board, and through Volunteering Illawarra.

Travel

If you decide to use a car for your time in Wollongong, you must make sure that your children are properly restrained in a car seat with a seat belt. If you do not comply with the laws, you may receive a fine or lose demerit points off your license.

Children under six months must be restrained in a rearward facing restraint. Baby capsules can be bought or hired for a small fee. Children under four years of age can use a forward-facing car restraint or booster seat but must still travel only in the rear seat of a car. If your car has more than two back seat rows, your child must travel in the back row. Children from four to seven years of age need to be in a car seat or booster seat relevant to their size, and with a seat belt, but still cannot use the front seat of the car.

You may be able to buy your child’s car seat second hand however they still need to be in good condition, so be sure to check the state of the seat before handing over any money.

Children under the age of three travel for free on public transport in New South Wales. Make sure that you supervise children at all times particularly on train station platforms, and lock any prams to ensure that they do not roll on to the train tracks.

Student Services and Support

Adjusting to life in Australia may present challenges for both you and your family. Student Support Advisers (SSAs) at the University can assist with a range of issues such as orientation to local area, budgeting, legal/accidents, health, family emergencies, children’s education and academic concerns.

There are English Conversation Groups available both on campus and in the community if you or your family want to practice your English language skills. These groups can also be a good way to connect with both local and other international people and families.

International Student Programs (ISP) is a collection of programs, events, activities and new initiatives that support international students in their transition to Australia. These programs include bushwalks, sightseeing day-trips to local attractions, social networking events, BBQs, picnics and many more.

Counselling services at UOW provide free and confidential individual counselling, available 5 days a week to assist you with personal, student, family or work related difficulties. This service can be very beneficial for international students who are finding it challenging to adjust to their new life in Australia.
SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR AUSTRALIA AWARD SPONSORED STUDENTS

Australia Award Sponsored students Pre-Arrival and Arrival

All Australia Award students should have received an in-country pre-departure briefing prior to arrival in Australia and all students except those completing pre-course English Language training, will be required to undertake the Introductory Academic Program (IAP). Australia Award students will meet with a UOW Australia Award Officer soon after their arrival in Wollongong, so they can complete their arrival documentation and receive their establishment grant. The Australia Awards Handbook available on the UOW Australia Awards website is also a useful tool which outlines your rights and responsibilities as a scholarship holder.

Australia Award Students and Their Families

Australia Award students should contact the Australia Award Post in their home country and the Australia Award Scholarships Officer at UOW regarding questions about bringing family to Australia and Reunion Airfares. As previously mentioned, if you’re on an Australia Award scholarship, there is no extra financial support for family members.

Australia Awards recommends that you wait at least six months before bringing your family to Australia. This gives you adequate time to settle into your new home, find appropriate accommodation and adapt to your new study load. If your family arrives, they will rely heavily on you for support in their new environment and this may have an impact on your studies.
Australia Awards Services at Scholarships and Sponsorships Unit

The Scholarships and Sponsorships Unit at UOW are committed to providing the best service to UOW Australia Award Students. If you have any queries before leaving your home country, the Scholarship and Grants team can be contacted by phone, email or fax.

E: nhan@uow.edu.au
T: +61 2 4298 1929
F: +61 2 4221 4322
**IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**

**UniAdvice** (all prospective international student enquiries and admissions)
Email: uniadvice@uow.edu.au  
Phone: +61 2 4221 3218 (International)  
1300 367 889 (within Australia)  
Fax: +61 2 4221 3233

**UOW Study Abroad Office** (all study abroad & exchange enquiries)
Email: studyabroad@uow.edu.au  
Phone: +61 2 4221 5404  
Fax: +61 2 4221 3499

**Student Central** (for enquiries from enrolled students)
Email: askuow@uow.edu.au  
Phone: +61 2 4221 3927 (International)  
Phone: 1300 275 889 (within Australia)  
Fax: +61 2 4221 4322

**Accommodation Services Office** (for university managed accommodation)
Email: accom_services@uow.edu.au  
Phone: +61 2 4221 5467 or +61 2 4221 5468  
Fax: +61 2 4221 3797

**Housing Officer** (advice & assistance about private accommodation)
Email: housing-officer@uow.edu.au  
Phone: +61 2 44215646

**Airport Meeting Service**  
Phone: +61 2 4229 9700

If you have been delayed and arrive at the airport outside of office hours (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday), you may contact Leisure Coast Limousines directly on 02 4261 7393.

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

- [University of Wollongong](http://www.uow.edu.au)  
  > [International site](http://www.uow.edu.au/international)  
  > [Study Abroad and Exchange Program](http://www.uow.edu.au/studyabroad)  
  > [Campus Map](http://www.uow.edu.au/campus)  
  > [Accommodation Services](http://www.uow.edu.au/accommodation)  
  > [Session and Key Dates](http://www.uow.edu.au/session)  
  > [Subject Descriptions](http://www.uow.edu.au/subject)  
  > [Subject Timetables](http://www.uow.edu.au/timetables)  
  > [Student Services](http://www.uow.edu.au/student)

- [Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)](http://www.immi.gov.au) (for student visa information)
- [Australian Customs and Border Protection Service](http://www.customs.gov.au)  
- [Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)](http://www.tga.gov.au) (for prescription medication details)
- [Tourism Australia](http://www.tourismaustralia.gov.au)  
- [New South Wales Tourism](http://wwwvisitnsw.com)  
- [Wollongong Tourism](http://www.wollongong.com.au)  
- [Illawarra Mercury Newspaper](http://www.illawarramercury.com.au)  
- [Sydney Morning Herald newspaper](http://www.smh.com.au)  
- [The Australian Newspaper](http://www.auditor.com.au)  
- [Lonely Planet Guidebooks](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)  
- [Trip Advisor](http://www.tripadvisor.com)
THE NEXT STEP

In addition to this booklet of pre-arrival information, an *International Student Arrival Guide* has been produced to guide you when you arrive in Wollongong and help you to settle in and make the most of your study at UOW. You can download the *International Student Arrival Guide* from the [UOW International website](http://www.uow.edu.au/international).