2013 PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE
Pre-departure and arrival information for International Students
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Congratulations on choosing to study at ECU. To ensure you enjoy your time in Australia, we encourage you to read the following information to help you get ready for your arrival and stay in Perth.

About this guide
You may wish to print a copy of this guide to bring with you when you arrive. The checklist will also help to ensure you are prepared to commence your studies at ECU. The information contained in this guide, and more, can be found at Our Students.

For more detailed information on the material covered in this guide, and additional topics, please view our Student Guide.

Perth overview
Perth is located in Western Australia (WA), and is one of Australia’s most affluent cities. Situated on the banks of the Swan River, Perth is a beautiful, friendly and safe city packed with boutiques, art galleries, cafes, cinemas, nightclubs and music venues.

Perth has quickly gained global recognition for its healthy economy and dedication to ongoing, state-of-the-art development in health, science and technology. The Economist Intelligence Unit has rated Perth one of the top 10 most livable cities in the world for the past nine years.

Perth has a Mediterranean climate with hot dry summers and mild wet winters. Perth is the sunniest capital city in Australia with clear blue skies and a pollution-free environment. The summer average temperature range is 18°C-31°C and the winter average temperature range is 7°C-18°C. Even in winter, Perth still enjoys plenty of warm sunshine so it is no wonder Western Australians love the outdoors! The warm and sunny climate is perfect for sporting and leisure activities – everything from tennis to golf, through to whale watching and sailing.

For those studying at our South West campus, Bunbury is 185km south of Perth and is one of the largest regional cities in WA. Bunbury is renowned for its natural beauty, cosmopolitan downtown area and the dolphins at Koombana Bay, but it still maintains its regional and historic character.
CONTACT WITH ECU

All hours
Most enquiries you have about your studies at ECU can be answered by using the resources and links below, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

ECU website
Explore the ECU website ecu.edu.au

Ask Us
Answers for many of the queries you may have are available immediately by going to Ask Us on the ECU website and typing in your query.

After business hours
Telephone ECU Campus Security
Within Australia: (08) 6304 3333
Outside Australia: (61 8) 6304 3333

During business hours
The following services are available during business hours:

Telephone
Within Australia: 134 ECU (134 328)
Outside Australia: (61 8) 6304 0000

Email
Email your enquiry to enquiries@ecu.edu.au

Connect with us
fb.com/students.ecu
twitter.com/ecu
youtube.com/edithcowanuniversity

Visit Student Central
If you would like to speak with someone face-to-face, visit Student Central on any ECU campus, where you can receive information and assistance from a Student Advisor.

Joondalup
Building 18
270 Joondalup Drive
Joondalup, 6027

Mount Lawley
Building 3
2 Bradford Street
Mount Lawley, 6050

South West
Building 1
585 Robertson Drive
Bunbury, 6230
This checklist is a useful guide for what you need to complete prior to your arrival, and when you need to complete them. There may be additional items you need to consider which are not on this list.

Immediately
- Activate your student computer account
- Complete 2013 unit enrolment

6 weeks before you depart
- Pay for Overseas Student Health Cover (before you apply for your visa)
- Have a valid passport
- Arrange student visa
- Arrange health checks if necessary
- Know when you need to arrive in Perth
- Make travel arrangements and organise travel insurance
- Arrange temporary accommodation for when you arrive in Perth
- Collect documentation to bring to Australia
- Arrange translation of any required documentation if it is not in English
- Organise immunisations
- Organise finances
  - Consider pre-opening a bank account in Australia
  - Organise any required debit or credit cards
  - Plan to bring enough cash with you in case of an emergency or unexpected delays accessing bank accounts.
- Look through the ECU Relocating and International Students webpage for additional information
3 weeks before you depart

- Book with the Arrivial Reception Service
- Monitor the exchange rate to consider when the best time may be to transfer your money to your new account
- Visit your doctor to get copies of medical records or prescriptions if necessary
- Advise family and friends of departure date and contact details in Australia

1 week before you depart

- Check customs and quarantine regulations, and ensure items that need to be declared are easy to access in your luggage
- Confirm baggage allowance and weights with airline before travel
- Make copies of your documents to keep in a safe place
- Include the following in your hand luggage:
  - All documents
  - Enough currency for taxis, buses, phone calls etc. in the event of an emergency
  - Accommodation address
  - Spare spectacles/contact lenses
  - Camera
  - Power adaptor – electricity in Perth is 240v 50 cycles AC (adaptors are readily available in Perth)
  - Bilingual dictionary (specialist dictionaries for your area of study will be helpful)
  - Laptop computer (if you have one)
  - Phone number in Perth of friend, family member or ECU to call in case of emergency

Upon arrival in Perth

- Contact family and friends at home to let them know you have arrived safely
- Check into your accommodation
- Visit ECU Student Central on your home campus to find out how to:
  - Check your enrolment status
  - Get student ID card
- Find permanent accommodation
- Update your new permanent address and telephone numbers through the Student Portal, or advise staff at Student Central
- Advise OSHC (Medibank) of address and order membership card (you can do this online)
- Open a bank account, if you haven’t already, or notify your bank back home of your Australian contact details
- Apply for a tax file number if seeking work
- Enrol children in school (if applicable)
- Follow the Orientation Checklist on the Orientation webpage and book for Orientation activities (bookings open approximately 3 weeks prior to Orientation)
- Attend Orientation events including compulsory attendance for My International Day
If you are yet to do so, you must activate your student account in the Virtual Information Pack (VIP). Once your account is activated you must choose and enrol into the units that you wish to study in 2013. It is important to note your ECU email address is the primary method of keeping you informed so it must be checked on a regular basis. We will be sending you more information before your semester starts so please activate your account immediately.

Please see the ECU website for further information on what to do **before you leave** home.

**Accommodation**
It is your responsibility to arrange your own accommodation. Your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) will advise you of the ECU campus you will attend to complete your course. You are advised to find accommodation close to the campus you are attending. You may like to initially organise temporary accommodation prior to leaving home, which will allow you time to review the best options for longer term accommodation after you arrive in Perth.

On-campus accommodation is available at Mount Lawley, Joondalup and South West campuses. Campus Living Villages (CLV) provide a social environment and community while you study. ECU has also teamed up with the Australian Homestay Network (AHM) to give you the opportunity to stay with a specially-trained homestay host. You can also find your own off-campus accommodation with the assistance of many organisations.

It is important to arrange permanent living arrangements as soon as possible after arriving in Perth, and it is a student visa condition that you update ECU on your address and telephone details through the Student Portal.

**Documentation**
When preparing to leave your home country make sure to pack all of your important documents. If any of your documentation is in a language other than English, you will need to get certified English translations of each document. It is also advisable to keep copies of every document in a safe place in case of loss during travel.

**Visa Requirements**
You must obtain a Student Visa before arriving in Australia. The Australian Diplomatic Mission in your home country will explain the requirements that you will need to meet to obtain your student visa.

Visit the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website for a full list of **visa conditions** you must adhere to in order to stay visa compliant while studying in Australia.

**Customs and Quarantine**
Australian Customs manages the movement of goods and people across the Australian border. There are restrictions on goods you can bring in and out of Australia. For further information on what you should not bring, visit the **Customs and Quarantine** pages on the ECU website.

If you wish to bring items to Perth which exceed airline baggage limits, there are a number of companies that can assist with the relocation and storage of your belongings when moving from your home country to Australia.

**Airport Reception Service**
You can register for our **Airport Reception Service** to have someone meet you and take you to your chosen metropolitan accommodation. You will need to book this service online at the Town Cars website.

**Money and Finance**
Before you leave home you need to ensure that you have organised your **finances**, so that you will have funding available for your **living costs** as soon as you arrive in Australia. You will need to plan how you will securely transfer funds to Australia, and how you might access those funds.

Banking varies from country to country. The Australian banking system is one of the world’s most advanced and has a long history of stable and safe banks. There are many banks to choose from that have branches in Perth which you can visit during working hours. Alternatively they all offer telephone banking, internet banking and ATMs for convenience.
Connect with ECU
When you arrive in Perth you are encouraged to visit your home campus during business hours and connect with our friendly staff. The best place to start is at Student Central where you can get assistance to check your enrolment status, organise your student ID and after hours access card, or simply take the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Orientation
Our Orientation program includes a full range of events to help you settle into ECU. It is the perfect opportunity for new students to get acquainted with their course, their teaching staff and the University support services, as well meet new people and have some fun!

You should aim to attend as many Orientation events as possible in order to receive valuable information before commencing your semester. All Orientation events are considered essential however My International day is a compulsory event that all commencing international students must attend.

For more information on what is on offer at your campus and to book your place for events, visit the Orientation website.

Note: Some Orientation programs may differ depending on course semester start dates.

Late Arrival
If you arrive in Perth after Orientation, it is a requirement that you visit Student Central to speak with a Student Connect Officer, to receive information presented during Orientation.
Student Support
ECU provides a variety of specialised, free student support services, to assist you during your time of study. These include:

- Career Services
- Learning Support
- Student Health Service
- Counselling Service
- Multifaith Service
- Equity, Diversity & Disability Service

Visit the support section on the Student Portal for detailed information on the services offered to students.

Working in Australia
You may wish to look at doing some work in Australia whilst you study. Depending on your visa conditions you may be allowed to work up to 40 hours per fortnight and unlimited hours during semester breaks. It is important that you know and comply with these conditions.

You will need to apply for a tax file number (TFN) from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) before starting any employment.

It’s important to know that all people in Australia are entitled to a certain standard of pay and workplace conditions. You can learn what to expect from your employer with The Fair Work Ombudsman service.

When you are ready to start looking for work, you can use job search websites, newspapers and other job search services.

Health
Having Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is compulsory for all International students on a student visa. You are required to purchase cover for the full duration of your student visa. Your OSHC will help you pay for any medical or hospital care you may need while you’re studying in Australia. It will also contribute towards the cost of most prescription medicines, and an ambulance in an emergency. Standard OSHC does not cover dental or optical care. However your insurance provider can upgrade your cover to include those. You should read through the useful health information on the ECU website to ensure that you are aware of the services available to you, if the need arises.

Please also note that all ECU campuses are completely smoke-free in order to provide a healthy, clean environment for staff, students and visitors. Cessation programs to help quit smoking are available for students, and information is available at ECU Smoke-Free.

Safety
Perth is a relatively safe and secure study destination, however you should always be aware of your surroundings and take precautions for your personal safety.

In an emergency, where you or someone else is in danger or seriously injured, or if you see a fire, you should ring 000 straight away.

For non-urgent assistance or advice you can call 131 444 to talk to the police service, or visit www.police.wa.gov.au.
If for any reason you are concerned for your personal safety while on campus, you may contact our security officers immediately on 6304 3333 or use the security phones located on campus. **ECU security officers** are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist and protect our students, visitors and staff. To make the most of your stay in Perth, and to safely enjoy the outdoor lifestyle that Australians love, it is important to be sun and surf smart. If you want to experience these elements of Australian life and culture, please familiarise yourself with the valuable safety tips.

**Communication**
You will want to contact your family and friends back home after you arrive in Australia. There are many **communication services** that you can use whilst living in Perth. You should read over the information provided on the ECU website to determine the best options for your situation.

**Transport**
Australian cities have excellent public (and private) **transport systems**, making travelling around them simple. Transperth operates Perth city’s public buses, trains and ferries. The South West Campus is served by bus services provided by Veolia Transport (WA).

You can also catch taxis in Perth from designated taxi ranks, hailed from a roadside pathway or you can call a taxi company and request one.

If you will be driving in WA you should ensure that you have the appropriate license to do so, and also familiarise yourself with the rules and penalties that apply to WA roads.

Cycling is an affordable and healthy way to get around Perth. You should read through the information on safety and cycling routes on the Department of Transport website.

**Family, Community and You**
Once you have arrived in Perth, the adjustment process begins and it is important to know what you might experience during that time. If you are feeling homesick, lonely, depressed or frustrated then you may be having problems adjusting to your new country, and making that **cultural transition**.

Your student visa may allow you to bring **family members** to Australia. If you choose to be joined by family members, it will be your responsibility to support them financially, emotionally and materially. Although you may wish to have your family with you in Australia, you should think very carefully about the implications, such as: their needs and expectations; your financial situation and ability to meet family expenses; as well as the potential effects on your study.

Before making any plans you should visit the **Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)** to confirm that your arrangements comply with the conditions of your student visa.

If you intend on bringing your dependent children with you, you need to be aware that in Australia it is compulsory for school-aged children to attend **school**. Childcare and crèche facilities are available on both the Mount Lawley and Joondalup campuses. Other childcare facilities can be found with local councils and private organisations.

One of the best ways of settling into life in Australia is to become involved in your community by joining clubs or associations. During weekends and semester breaks you might also consider exploring WA and its attractions or events. Go through the information on the ECU website to find out more on getting **out and about in Perth**.

**Shopping**
Perth and Bunbury have a number of large shopping centres, department stores, discount stores and supermarkets where you can find most of the goods and services that you need. Take the time to visit the quality and cutting edge shopping centres and boutiques that WA has to offer.
Studying in Western Australia
You can obtain additional, impartial information about studying in Western Australia from Study West.

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The information contained in this brochure was correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change.
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