

Social Work Residential Handbook 2026

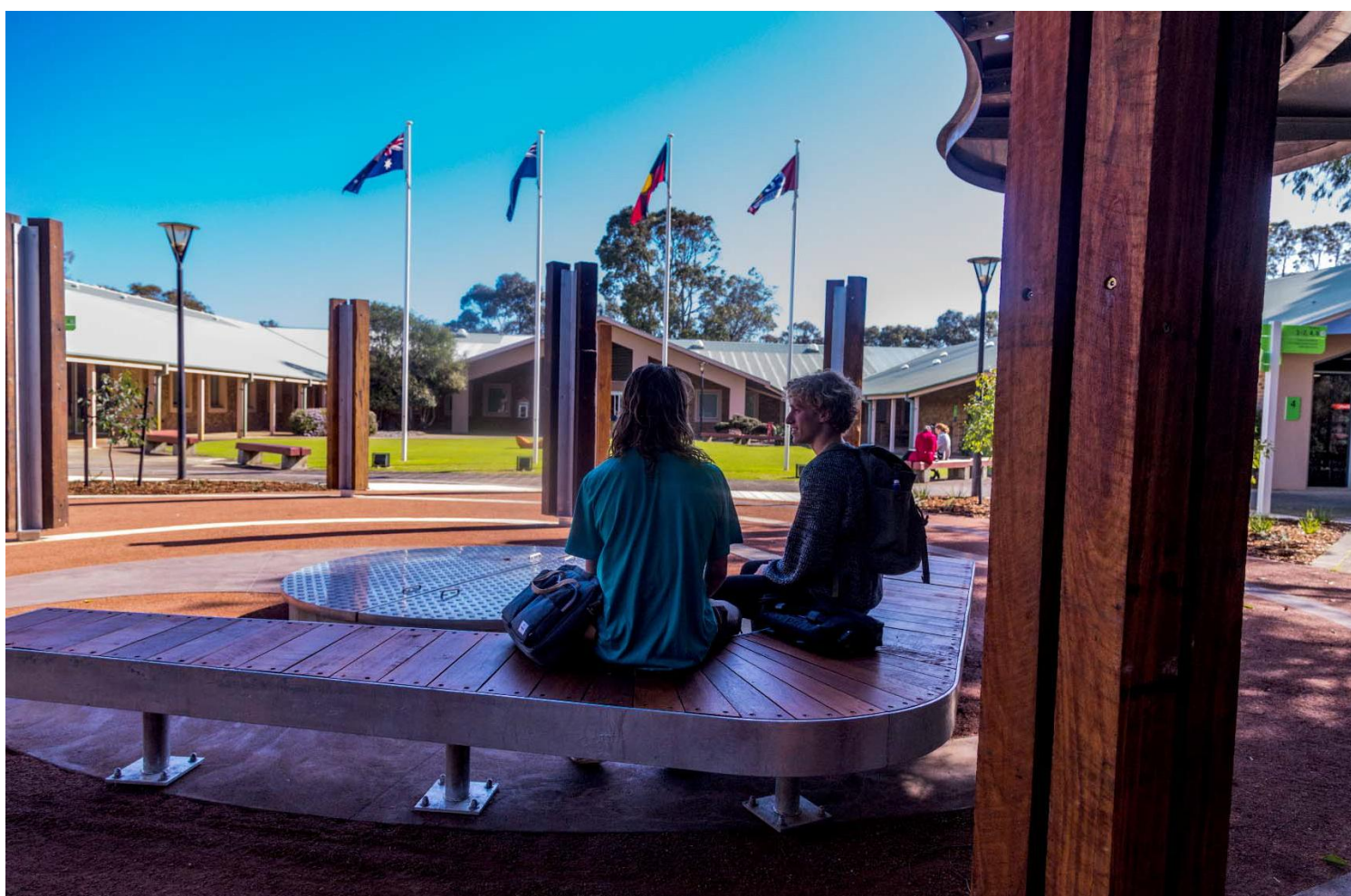


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Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that all ECU campuses are located on Noongar Country. ECU acknowledges and respects the continuing relationships with Noongar peoples, the traditional custodians of the lands upon which its campuses stand. Kurongkurl Katitjin, ECU's Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, plays a vital role in assisting the university to meet its commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Introduction

This Residential Handbook is for Social Work students studying the **online mode**. It explains the purposes, scope, and scheduling of the residential component of your studies and includes detailed information about transport, accommodation and the ECU Bunbury, and Joondalup campuses. As you may gather, forward planning for your residentials is essential and this handbook will assist you with this task.

Disclaimer: Details about the residential and other information contained herein are subject to change. It is the responsibility of each student to confirm details, especially as it pertains to third party services, such as transport and accommodation.

What are residentials?

Students who elect to study online are required to attend campus for face-to-face, classroom-based activities for a minimum of 20 days (140 hours) spread over the four years of the course. This is a requirement set by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) for accredited programs that are offered online. Graduates of accredited programs are eligible for membership to AASW. ECU meets these requirements by providing residentials.

Residentials are set periods of on-campus contact where you receive support, tuition, and study opportunities on-campus. Residentials enable students to integrate skills development, gain learning support, participate in social events, connect with other social workers and agencies and complete part of their studies in a face-to-face on-campus learning environment. Most of the residentials for the social work course are held at the ECU Southwest campus, in Bunbury. **For 2026 only**, some residentials will also be available at the Joondalup campus. SWK2111 Aboriginal Histories of the Present, is only provided at the Joondalup campus in Perth by Kurongkurl Katitjin staff.

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is the national accrediting body for all social work courses in Australia. The AASW makes provisions for social work courses to be delivered in mixed mode, or off-campus delivery modes. A condition of this arrangement is that students attend regular on-campus activities. Social Work at ECU supports this principle and considers on-campus attendance at residentials good practice regarding students learning about social work, but also regarding building stronger ties and connections between staff, students, and ECU.

Who do you contact for further residential information?

Student Hub is your student information centre and the place to go with any enrolment related queries including the residential component of your Social Work course. Simply email your query to enquiries@ecu.edu.au or call on 134 328 and ask to speak to the Student Hub Team on the Southwest campus. Student Hub Southwest is located in Building 1 on the Southwest Campus.

Attendance requirements

Attendance at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year program residentials is **mandatory** for online students and is a necessary condition for completing the Bachelor of Social Work in the online study mode. This is an AASW Accreditation Requirement. Attendance expectations are outlined below.

Students are typically enrolled in either 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year level units and will only need to attend a residential when they are enrolled in designated units. These units are as follows:

Second Year

- Students enrolled in **SWK2111 Aboriginal Histories of the Present OFF-Campus** *must* attend the block component for this unit in first semester on the Joondalup campus in Perth, in order to pass this unit.

Third Year

- Students enrolled in **SWK3112 Social Work Theory and Practice 1 online mode** *must* attend the residential component of this unit on either the Bunbury or Joondalup in first semester, in order to pass this unit.
- Students enrolled in **SWK3121 Social Work Theory and Practice 2 online mode** *must* attend the 3rd year residential in Term 4 on either the Bunbury or Joondalup campus in first semester, in order to pass this unit.

Fourth Year

- Students enrolled in **SWK4111 Social Work Theory and Practice 3 online mode** *must* attend the residential block component of this unit in first semester on the Southwest (Bunbury) Campus, in order to pass this unit. **This unit is only available on the Southwest Campus.**
- Students enrolled in **SWK4121 Social Work Theory and Practice 4 online mode** *must* attend the 4th year residential block unit in Term 4 on the Bunbury or Joondalup Campus, in order to pass this unit.

If you foresee ongoing difficulties in attending the residentials and meeting the mandatory requirements set by the AASW, you may need to consider if studying the Bachelor of Social Work in online mode is suitable for you.

Important dates

Residential Dates for Semester 1, 2026

Please note that the campus location is reviewed each year. Please check for details.

Year	Dates for 2026	Details for Students
2nd Year Block Unit	Group A: Week 2 commences on Tuesday 03rd March 2026 due to Public Holiday Group B: Week 3 commences on Monday 09th March 2026	SWK2111 Aboriginal Histories of the Present This block unit is held at the ECU Joondalup campus and is organised and taught by Kurongkurl Katitjin staff. Students can select a group when they enrol in the unit. NB: Group B will only run if enrolment numbers support two groups.
3rd Year Residential	Week 4 Monday 16th March to Friday 20 th March	SWK3112 Social Work Theory & Practice 1 Advanced Interpersonal Skills. ECU (Bunbury or Joondalup).
4th Year Residential	Week 8 Monday 20 th April - Friday 24 th April	SWK4111 Social Work Theory & Practice 3 Collective Interventions. ECU (Bunbury only).

Residential Dates for Term 4, 2026

Year	Dates	Details
3rd Year Residential	Week 14: Monday 02nd November to Friday 06th November	SWK3121 Social Work Theory & Practice 2. A Focus on Theories. ECU Bunbury and Joondalup
4th Year Residential	Study Week: Monday 26th October Friday 30th October	SWK4121 Social Work Theory & Practice 4. Activism and Social Change. ECU Bunbury and Joondalup

Campus information and maps

For information about the ECU Southwest and Joondalup campuses, including the campus facilities and services, please visit the ECU website at <https://www.ecu.edu.au/>.

The website also contains a link to campus maps - available as interactive maps, access and mobility maps, and downloadable in PDF format: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/our-campus/campuses/campus-maps>

Meals

There are a variety of food options on the campuses. This webpage provides opening and closing times for these <https://www.ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/campus-facilities/food-cafes-and-bars>

Library

The libraries on all campuses provide excellent services for students. Please go to <https://www.ecu.edu.au/centres/library-services/overview> for further information.

Computer labs and wireless internet

You can access on-campus computing facilities 24 hours per day on any of the ECU campuses. Some off-campus students may not have organised a Student ID card if they have not yet been attending on campus activities. You can obtain an ID card by visiting the [e-Lab counters located on each campus](#)

To access the internet, choose the network eduroam and enter your ECU credentials.

Parking on Campus

It is essential that all cars parked at the campuses display a valid parking permit. Please see <https://www.ecu.edu.au/centres/digital-and-campus-services/our-services/campus-services/parking> for details about parking requirements at the campuses and where you can obtain a temporary permit.

Getting to Bunbury

Responsibility for arranging travel to the ECU Southwest campus rests with the student. This section explains some options available to students. It should be noted that bus and train combinations are possible, but students need to confirm the specific details as it pertains to third party services.

Train service

The Australind train service between Perth to Bunbury may be available in early 2026. Please check for details at this link <https://www.transwa.wa.gov.au/plan-your-journey/train-lines/australind>

Bus services from Perth to Bunbury/Bunbury to Perth

Southwest Coach Lines

Operate express coach services connecting Perth and Bunbury in the Southwest. For more information visit their website <http://www.southwestcoachlines.com.au>

TransWA

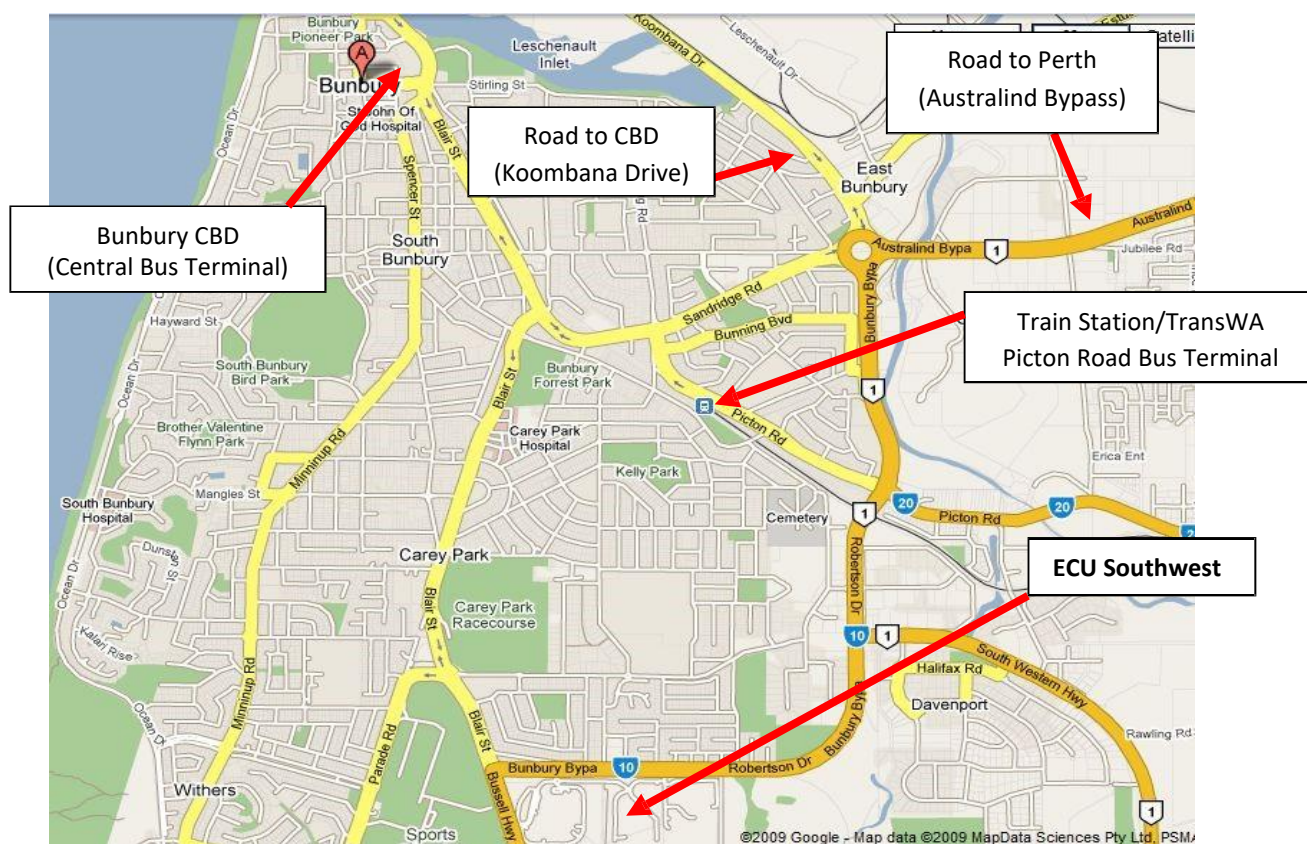
Operate a bus between Perth and Bunbury. For more information, please visit the TransWA website: <http://www.transwa.wa.gov.au/>

Travelling to Bunbury by road from Perth

Bunbury is approximately 180kms south of Perth. Depending on Perth traffic, car travel from Perth to Bunbury takes approximately 2 hours via the south-bound Kwinana Freeway Extension – Forrest Highway. As you head into Bunbury via the Australind Bypass, turn left into Robertson Drive. The ECU Southwest campus is on Robertson Drive and the location of the campus and key travel points are

outlined in Figure 1 on the next page.

Figure 1: Location of ECU Southwest Campus and key travel points



Please note that when searching for the ECU Southwest campus using Google Maps or some GPS devices, the location provided is not always correct. Please use the above map as a guide.

Getting Around Bunbury

Bunbury Taxis and Airport Shuttles

Taxis services in Bunbury run 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Contact details for Taxis in Bunbury:

Bunbury City Cabs: 9721 5558

Bunbury Taxis: 13 1008 <https://www.bunburytaxis.com.au/>

Herbies Shuttles: 0497 354 100 <https://herbiesshuttles.com.au/>

Public transport in Bunbury

TransBunbury is the local public bus service and for more information visit their website at:

<https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/using-transperth/regional-services>. You will need to click on the TransBunbury link and download the 'Southwest Campus' timetables. Simply look for the 'Bunbury Health Campus' or 'Southwest College' stops as these are located either side of the ECU Southwest (Bunbury) Campus.

Accommodation

The responsibility for arranging accommodation rests with the student. This section explains the accommodation options available to students. Some students may not need these options as they may reside in the location where the residential or block unit is happening and therefore can travel to and from the campus each day. This information is for those students who live outside the area in which the residential or block unit is being held and therefore need accommodation options.

Student accommodation at the ECU Southwest and Joondalup Campuses

There may be limited accommodation options available at the campuses. For more information, please visit the On-campus Accommodation webpage: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/campus-facilities/accommodation>

Low-cost accommodation

Both the Southwest and Joondalup campuses have a range of low-cost accommodation available in the surrounding areas. It is recommended that students who need to utilise accommodation services for their residential attendance contact the local visitors centre in Bunbury <https://visitbunburygeographe.com.au/> or Perth <https://www.experienceperth.com/page/perth-visitor-information-centres>. Students may also wish to utilise [AirBnB](#) or similar webpages to locate appropriate accommodation.

Nearby childcare centres

The Southwest campus has [creche](#) facilities which offer short-term care for children 2 months to 5 years of age – costs are around \$5 per child per hour within a minimum booking time of 1 hour. For other childcare options nearby the campuses. Please check the following webpage for details <https://www.ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/campus-facilities/childcare>

About Bunbury

The ECU campus is located on Wardandi Country. Wardandi Country encompasses the land from Bunbury through to Cape Leeuwin and the Geographe Bay.

Bunbury is a coastal city, situated approximately 175km away from Perth in Western Australia and is the third largest city in Western Australia after Perth and Mandurah. Bunbury boasts beautiful beaches and a Mediterranean climate and for more information about Bunbury, please visit the [Bunbury Visitor Centre](#) website

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