

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

*To make your study abroad and migration  
journey easier and awesome!*

**StudyNet**  
Education & Migration





**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**

*- Nelson Mandela*

## WELCOME

Congratulations! You have successfully enrolled in your desire course. Thank you once again for allowing [StudyNet Brisbane](#) to be your education advisor. It is time to get prepared for your new exciting journey!

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# About Australia

The population of Australia is 23.5 millions.

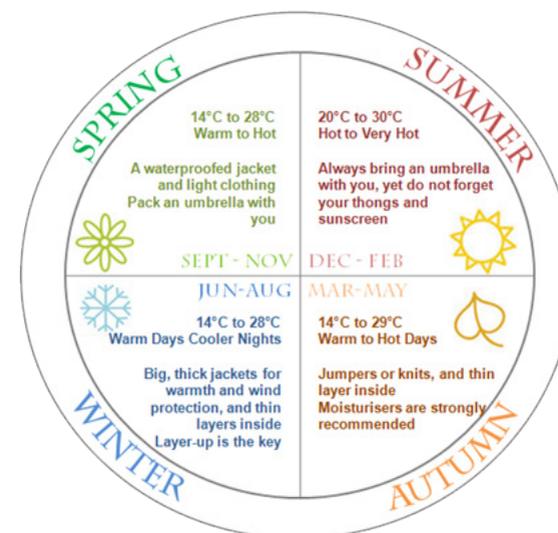
6 States (New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia) and 2 Territories (Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory).



## QUEENSLAND- BRISBANE

Welcome to the sunshine state! Queensland is the second largest region of Australia. 4.5 million Population of Queensland is evenly spread throughout the state. With the subtropical weather, Brisbane is blessed with sun and heat all the year around. Brisbane was recently ranked in the top 50 best student cities in the world.

## WEATHER





# Accommodation

There are many different types of accommodation in Brisbane. The cost of living can be expensive and varies in each type of accommodation. It usually requires paying a bond or deposit, as well as bills.

## 1 ON CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

From AUD\$500 per week

Some institutions have accommodation available on their campus. This is ideal if you want to live with other students from the same institution and close to your place of study.

These are typically multi-room residences where you are provided with a bedroom with a single bed, desk and chair and storage space. Bathrooms are commonly shared.

Three meals per day are often included in the accommodation fees. Check with your chosen institution what on-campus options it has available.

It usually has minimal weeks of stay.

## 2 SHARE HOUSE

From AUD\$120 per week

Share houses consist of two or more tenants sharing the costs associated with renting a property. More information about the rights and responsibilities of each person in share houses is outlined by the Queensland Rental Tenancy Authority.

### 3 YOUTH HOSTELS

AUD\$30-100 per day

Hostels provide budget-oriented, sociable accommodation where guests can rent a bed and share a bathroom, lounge and sometimes a kitchen. Rooms can be mixed or single-sex, although private rooms may also be available.

These can be a very good short-term option while you are settling in Brisbane and looking for temporary accommodation.

### 4 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCE/ STUDENT VILLAGE

AUD\$300 per week

These are residences specialising in purpose-built student housing for students from any institution. You will be provided with a single study bedroom and have meals provided in a shared dining hall.



### 5 HOME STAY

From AUD\$270 per week

Home stay is an opportunity to live with an Australian family and experience Australian life and culture by participating in the daily routine of the host family's life.

Host families take an active interest in their students and assist them to assimilate into their new environment. Typically, a home stay includes breakfast, dinner and a packed lunch if required. Students are responsible for the costs of washing, ironing, telephone and transport.

#### WHERE TO FIND ACCOMMODATIONS?

- [Somewheretostay.com.au](http://Somewheretostay.com.au)
- [Au.EasyRoommate.com](http://Au.EasyRoommate.com)
- [Brisbanestudenthousing.com.au](http://Brisbanestudenthousing.com.au)
- [Brisbanehomestay.org](http://Brisbanehomestay.org)
- [Realestate.com.au](http://Realestate.com.au)
- [Domain.com.au](http://Domain.com.au)
- [Gumtree.com.au](http://Gumtree.com.au)
- [Hostels.com](http://Hostels.com)
- [Thepad.com.au](http://Thepad.com.au)



# Living in Brisbane

Access to living necessities is easy in Brisbane. You can find major supermarkets brands and department stores in almost all shopping malls. However, you should take note of the trading hours as stores can close as early as 17:00 during the weekends.

## SUPERMARKET

Coles and Woolworths are 2 major supermarkets and easily be found in Australia. ALDI provides a comprehensive private labels range with lower prices. IGA is a community based grocery store which usually locates in local neighbourhood.

coles



## DEPARTMENT STORE

You can find low price daily necessities including hair dryer and furniture in the 3 major discount department stores: Target, Big W and Kmart. It locates in the city and the major suburban shopping malls.



## TRADING HOUR

Most of the retailers are open between 09:00 to 17:30 from Monday to Friday, 10:00 to 17:00 during the weekend. Westfield suburban shopping malls open until 21:00 every Thursday for late night trading. Friday shopping night happens in the city with the stores open until 21:00. All the retailers are closed on public holiday.



# Transportation in Brisbane

Tips: Do you know that travelling with a Go Card is 30% cheaper than buying a single travel paper ticket?

## TRANSLINK

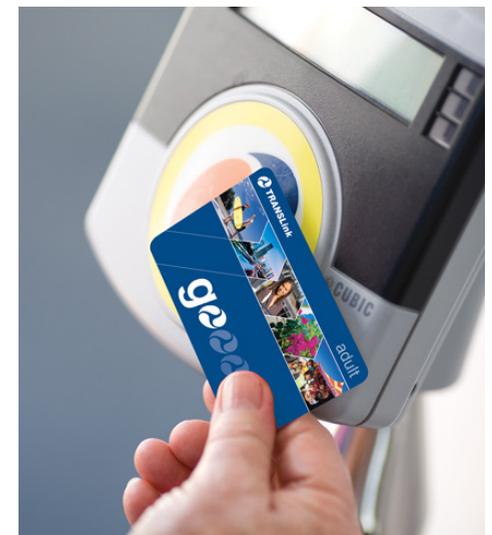
TransLink is a Queensland Government providing public transport services covering Brisbane and South East Queensland. It provides integrated ticketing options that allow you to travel seamlessly between trains, ferries, buses and trams.

## GO CARD

To travel within Translink public transport network, you will need Go Card. Go card is available at over 625 locations, including any 7-Eleven store, many Queensland Rail and G:link stations, some busway stations and selected newsagents where you see the 'buy' symbol.

Go Card provides cheaper fares than buying paper tickets at the station, and applying for student concession through the Translink website can provide students further discounts.

With Go Card, you can travel on train, bus and ferry. It is important to remember to always touch onto the card reader at the beginning and touch off at the end of each trip onboard, or you will be charged a fixed amount which is displayed next time you touch on.





## TRAINS

Brisbane's speedy network of electric trains covers the broadest reach of greater Brisbane with frequent services.

## BUSES

Brisbane's bus network runs throughout the city, connecting the inner suburbs and outer suburbs.



## FERRIES

Ferry Service runs daily from 24 terminals along the Brisbane River.



## TAXIS

2 main taxi service providers in Brisbane- Yellow Cabs and Black & White Cabs. Fare Estimators are available online, you can get a quote before you order a taxi.



## GETTING A DRIVER LICENSE

You can apply a learner licence if you are 16 or over. To get your learner licence, you need to pass a written road rules test and be medically fit to drive.

For more details, please visit <http://www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/driver-licensing/applying/learner/index.html>

## WHERE TO BUY CARS?

You can visit car dealers or online car sale website to search for used cars.

- [Gumtree.com.au](http://Gumtree.com.au)
- [Carsales.com.au](http://Carsales.com.au)
- [Carsguide.com.au](http://Carsguide.com.au)
- [Motorama.com.au](http://Motorama.com.au)
- [Carzoos.com.au](http://Carzoos.com.au)

## TRANSFERRING TO QUEENSLAND DRIVER LICENSE

To apply a Queensland driver license, you need to complete an application form and get your foreign driver licence to be translated by a recognised English translator.

For more details, please visit <http://www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/driver-licensing/overseas/transfer/index.html>





**Commonwealth**Bank

<https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/can/student-banking/overseas-students.html>



<http://www.anz.com/personal/bank-accounts/banking-for-life-changes/international-students/>



<http://www.nab.com.au/personal/banking/opening-a-new-personal-account>



<http://movingtoaustralia.westpac.com.au/banking-in-australia/banking-for-international-students>

# Banking

The big 4 banks of Australia: Commonwealth Bank, ANZ, Westpac and NAB (National Australia Bank). You can apply online to open a bank account with one of those banks before you leave your country, so you will be able to access to your fund as soon as you arrive Australia.

## HOW TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

You can also open a bank account after your arrival. You only need a passport as a proof within the first 6 weeks in Australia. Other identifications may be required if you are in Australia more than 6 six weeks. In addition, please be aware of the occurrence of account keeping fees.

However, most of the banks can waive the fee for student bank

accounts, talk to your bank staff in regards of this.

If you are using an overseas issued bank card, extra charge may occur every time when you withdraw money or pay with your card.

Online banking is available for all the major banks in Australia. It allows you to manage your account at your fingertips.

## TRANSFERRING MONEY FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY

When you have opened an account, you should advise whoever is transferring money from overseas of your banking details.

The banking details required include the 6 digit BSB (Bank State Branch) code. Your bank will provide you with this code and many have it on their website.

## AUSTRALIAN MONEY

Australian banknotes are recognised by its colourful appearance and polymer texture. The notes come in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. The coins have 2 different colours: silver and gold. Gold colour coins come in \$1 (the bigger one) and \$2 (the smaller one). Silver colour coins come in 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents and 50 cents.



# Mobile Phone

Australia has 3 main phone providers. You can get a sim card at the airport on your arrival. You can either choose a pre-paid plan or monthly rental plan for your mobile phone service.

Monthly rental plan has a minimum monthly cost and sometimes it may require you to sign a contract.

Please read the contract carefully before you sign with any service providers.

Pre-paid plan is the cheapest and easiest way to get yourself connected if you already have an unlocked cell phone. It allows you to recharge your credit anytime and as you need.

Data allowance varies depending on the service plan, talk to your phone providers for the best plan for you.

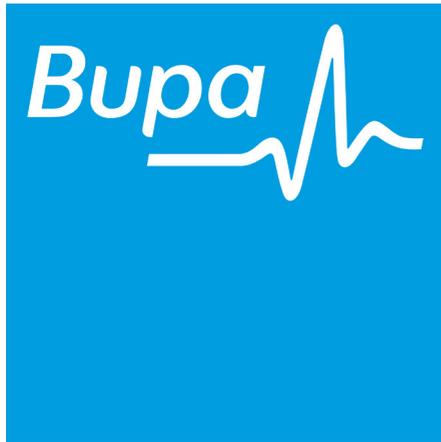


**vodafone**



# Health

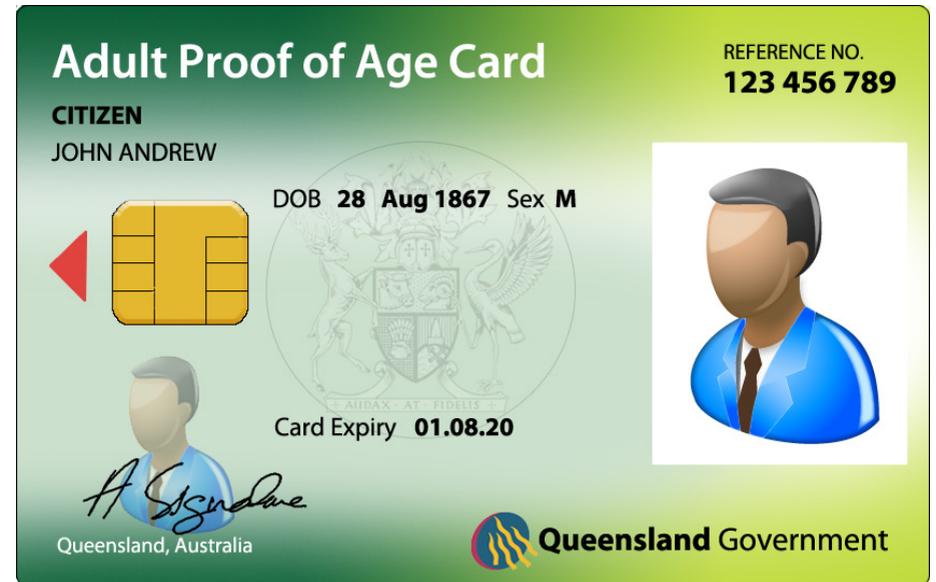
International students are required to buy Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the full period of your student visa before their arrival. It provides cover that assists international student in meeting the costs of any medical and hospital care they need while in Australia. For the successful OSHC purchase, you will get an OSHC card with your reference number once you arrive Australia. The level of OSHC can be various, please read your OSHC package for the details. If you need medical help in Brisbane, you can make an appointment with a general practitioner (GP) at your local medical centre.



# Identification

It could be unsafe to carry your passport with you all the time. For valid identification in Australia, you can apply an Adult Proof of Age Card at a transport and motoring customer service centre if you are 18 years old or older. The cost of 18+ card is AUD\$66.65. It will be issued within 14 days.

For any police, fire and ambulance emergencies, call 000.





# Working

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With your student visa, you are eligible to work up to 40 hours per fortnight.

## TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN)

Tax File Number is your personal reference number in the tax and super system.

You do not have to have a TFN, but without one you pay more tax, and also will not be able to lodge your tax return electronically.

You can apply for a TFN online via <https://iar.ato.gov.au/IARWeb/default.aspx?pid=4&sid=1&outcome=1>

The government will send your TFN to the Australian address you provide to them on your application within 28 working days. Please call the relevant department if you do not receive it by the 28th day. Translator is available if you have difficulties with language.

# Tips for Packing

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- Emergency contact list and contact details list of your family and friends
- Electrical appliance that are 240 volts only and international adapters
- Sun protection products (e.g. hats, sunscreen and sunglasses)
- Lightweight clothing for summer; Big thick jackets for winter; waterproof outerwear for rainy days
- A small set of toiletry
- Thongs



# Contact Us

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**FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE**  
Call 000.

# Checklist

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- Passport
- Visa
- Flight tickets
- Copy of your passport (either hard copy or electronic copy)
- Airport transport arrangement
- Accommodation arrangement
- Finance arrangement (please do not bring in large amounts of cash)
- Read through the information of entering Australia: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Ente>