

## ADVICE FOR 2026 UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY STUDENTS

Each year we send a survey to the students in their first year of study in Australia or New Zealand. We ask about their university, program, life Down Under, accommodation, and activities outside the classroom.

Keep reading to get all the insider tips taken directly from the survey!

If you don't see your program listed, unfortunately no one from that program responded to this year's survey. We'll be happy to get your insights from next year's survey. 😊

## Comments & Advice about University of Sydney

| Program   | University Review                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Program Review                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Advice for Future Students                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| Dentistry | I have been fairly satisfied with the facilities and campus life over here in Australia. I believe them to be equivalent to what is found in Canada and never once I thought I was missing out on certain aspects or facilities. | I would say my time here has been everything I had ever wished for. The hands-on practical components remain my favorite aspect of the program. I have enjoyed most of my instructors and feel they all have relevant experiences to share that only enrich the learning environment. I have attended several program specific clubs and events that have been organized by our social representatives, all of in which I not only got to meet fellow colleagues but to grow closer as friends. | Moving halfway around the world involves a big adjustment period and it's not going to be easy but if this is what you really want then it does get easier with time and will be all worth it in the end. |
| Dentistry | Good initiatives to alleviate student's financial concerns, such as \$5 meals and food bank. Otherwise, food options on campus can be quite expensive. Campus can feel at bit empty at                                           | Hybrid mode provides good flexibility and time for work life balance. Substantial hands-on training in simulation clinic. Many small logistic, communication and management issues with the course. Some instructors act as facilitators rather than "teachers" and occasionally lack the                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Be open minded to new change and stepping out of your comfort zone.                                                                                                                                       |

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|           | <p>times since many students don't attend in person classes. Dislike the long 20-minute walk to get from Redfern station to campus. Merch store has very limited branded merchandise. Some facilities and buildings can be a bit old.</p>                                                            | <p>discipline/ topic specific knowledge to lead the class. Most of the in-class work is self directed, so many students don't attend class regularly, as they feel they can more effectively use their time studying at home. Lack of interaction and relationship building with instructors since lectures are pre-recorded. It's hard to tell but it feels like new curriculum seems to be oversimplified and lacking some foundational knowledge building. Don't like that summer and winter breaks are extremely short, especially in upper years, due to remediation period. Awkward timing of remediation period makes booking flights back home extremely expensive.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Dentistry | <p>The facilities at USYD are not bad but not great. The bathrooms, especially in Fisher library, are the worst I've ever seen. Can be hard to find places to study even on such a large campus as it gets really busy, but it's nice during the times only students are allowed in the library.</p> | <p>The DMD program at USYD is pretty good. Most of the educators are very helpful and nice and want you to succeed. The hands-on training starts early which is my favourite aspect of the program as we get lots of experience and practice. However, the module videos are pre-recorded from many years ago, with most of them being catered to dental students, but some of them are just pre-recorded MD lectures, so it's hard to know what information we should be taking away from those.</p>                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Try and make friends here, it makes life so much better! Also try and explore your area so you can live like a true local. It's hard being so far away from home, and these things can help you feel a little more at home here. Sydney is expensive so embrace the roommate experience.</p> |
| Dentistry | <p>Great university, beautiful old campus with deep history, and Sydney is a beautiful city. Lots of clubs and facilities!</p>                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Great program, great facilities, world class practicals and clinical experience. Only negative is the theory/didactics can be disorganized (or not as great as the clinical experience). And Sydney is a beautiful city!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Stay organized! It's a lot of work to make it through in the program, and moving can be overwhelming, so you'll need to stay on top of it.</p>                                                                                                                                               |

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| Dentistry | University of Sydney is a prestigious university. It can be daunting being a student here at first but rest assured once you get settled in, you will love every bit of this experience that will only last 4 years unless you decide to permanently move to Australia - which I think is quite likely! | The program can definitely be improved in many aspects however, it is still manageable and doable. The instructors in theoretical and practical classes are some of the most smart and driven people. They are kind and super helpful. | Study hard, enjoy, hit the gym, make friends, try Aussie food, catch a ferry to manly beach and just take the most out of these 4 years. If I can do it, you surely can do it as well. I believe in you! |
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## Dentistry

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| Medicine | The University of Sydney has a beautiful campus with old sandstone buildings and plenty of activities on campus. It's also close to the centre of Sydney so there are always opportunities to explore the city, relax by the harbour, or attend a festival or event. | The University of Sydney has great teaching staff and is very supportive. The program is rather fast paced, trying to fit majority of the preclinical content into one year but it is very manageable. The clinical staff is incredible and the early clinical exposure really helps solidify lecture content. The Sydney medical program is also very receptive to feedback and listens to suggestions from students every year to adjust their teaching in a way that helps students understand it better and get the most out of their learning. | It might seem daunting to leave everything behind and move halfway across the world, but you will quickly find your place. You'll find support and a friendly group of people be it in the clinical schools or in events. The content may seem overwhelming at times, and it definitely is a lot of information, but just taking the time with it and maintaining a good study rhythm makes it very manageable. |
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| Medicine | With SMP, a definite perk is the early clinical exposure. In first year, you're in the hospital at least 1 day per week, and you'll be trained in history taking, physical exams and clinical skills. You will even get to practice your history and physical exam skills with patients in the hospitals sometimes. I personally like this structure much better than the traditional | Don't forget your roots. |
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|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | didactic approach, where clinical experience might only start in third year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Medicine             | Great medical program, welcoming community, great support network (especially amongst the Canadians).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Well structured program, on par in my opinion with Canadian and American education.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | It's a big decision but can be really worth it if you are aware of what you are getting into and enjoy the process and steps along the way of becoming a doctor.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Medicine             | Cool                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Occupational Therapy | It's a beautiful campus with a mix of new and historic buildings. There are plenty of indoor and outdoor areas that are great for studying or relaxing, and lots of facilities. With its size and spread, it can take up to 20 minutes to cross the campus by foot, which can be annoying if consecutive classes aren't scheduled nearby, but isn't usually a major concern. | <p>The instructors are generally quite considerate and provide some flexibility with due dates and feedback. The coursework is generally engaging and the cohort of peers is super supportive and pleasant to work with.</p> <p>My main concern is the program design - I've had multiple faculty members describe it as a "condensed 4-year degree", which makes it seem like it has not been designed as a Master's program, but instead they've taken the Bachelor's program and looked for what material can be removed so they can fit the 2-year Master's timeline.</p> <p>Perhaps this is how it is typically done, but seems like a backward way of designing things to me.</p> <p>One other important note is that the MOT program at USYD is currently in its 2nd year of revision after a major restructure in 2024. Hopefully, further changes will be implemented</p> | Be ready for plenty of collaboration - most courses rely on group discussions and case studies/presentations. It's great to get experience working in lots of different groups because it allows you to practice adapting your approach in different contexts - this is a key feature of clinical practice we call "a person-centred approach" :) |

to improve the student experience, but there are certainly some flaws with the current setup.

**Physiotherapy** University of Sydney is a beautiful environment to learn and strive in. It is a place where you're able to constantly make new friends and creatively tackle challenges. The professors/ course coordinators go to great lengths to help students achieve success. The campus have various clubs and social events for outgoing individuals, and many facilities that students can take advantage of.

Physiotherapy is a great program to be in for students who enjoy hands on experience at the University of Sydney. They have great facilities and engaging professors to help students succeed at every step of the way. The course is well thought-out and is there to deliver an incredible experience. The course itself is rather fast paced, so be sure to fully prepare prior to engaging.

**Vet** Beautiful campus with friendly staff and students (plus a lot of clubs and events to participate in!) First couple of years are a bit more general but excited to enter the more hands-on aspects of my veterinary course.

Instructors are generally ok, not much hands-on work with animals for the first year of the BVB. Lots of labs so time management is crucial! Animal work starts in semester 2 with trips to the farms on the Camden Campus. There is a Veterinary Society to join as well :)

Stay open-minded, the first semester may seem slow and not related to animals, but stay patient and use that time to get settled in! Making friends is also crucial and not as hard as it may seem, a simple hello can start a new lifelong friendship

## **Advice about Living Down Under**

Top six themes are summarized below, followed by the specific comments for your university!

### **Prioritize Connection with Home**

- Schedule regular calls with friends and family to manage the substantial time difference.
- Use video/chat apps like Facetime, WhatsApp, or other apps for quick and constant contact.
- Remember that even short chats help to curb homesickness! Short calls or quick texts are worth the time.

### **Build Local Support Systems**

- Make friends in your program and/or with other international students. They're going through the same challenges, and you can support each other.
- Put yourself out there by talking to everyone, especially within the first few weeks of your program when everyone's looking for new friends.
- Take to others about how you're feeling and your homesickness. They likely feel the same way.

### **Participate in Activities and Try New Things**

- Join clubs and societies to meet people with similar interests.
- Attend events like orientation week, program socials, etc.
- Explore your city and nearby nature.

### **Prioritize Self-care and Establish a Routine**

- Dedicate time for self-care and hobbies outside of school so you have time to recharge.
- Establish a routine to prevent continuous low-level stress from building up.
- Be patient with your adjustment period and trust it will get better.

### **Cultural/Logistical Adjustments are Normal**

- The general lifestyle and culture tend to be similar to North American life which makes adjustment to living in Australia or New Zealand easier for many.
- Australians tend to be friendly, open, and eager to teach you about their culture.
- Be ready for minor differences. Anticipate differences like housing quality and rental processes, more limited store hours, higher cost of living, driving differences, etc.

## UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

- Stay in touch with friends and family back home as much as possible. I aim to talk to my family at least once a day over the phone if I can. Reach out and take the effort to meet new friends in your program it will be a lifesaver. Lastly, get out and explore, you may only be here for a couple years so get out and see everything this place has to offer.
- The weather is definitely warmer than Canada, you might see some spiders here and there and a lot of cockroaches on the streets at night. Other than that, Australia is a beautiful country!
- Try and call your family everyday, and stay in touch with your friends as well. We are lucky to live in a time where FaceTime exists, so take advantage.
- Make as many friends as you can here. Aussies are friendly and great to be around. Stay on campus if you can! And be sure to explore the country because AUS/NZ are gorgeous.
- Many Canadians in the cohort to support each other. Flexibility in timetable gives you opportunity to explore the city.
- Depends on where you are. Sydney is a lot like Toronto. Also, it depends on what kind of friends you're looking for and how many you're willing to handle....you'll be able to adjust accordingly. For staying in touch back home, Whatsapp is wonderful.
- stay connected with your classmates (especially the other international students), chances are you're in the same boat as others, so its a good feeling to have people you can rely on and feel supported by.
- It's great if you already know someone or have a friend going with you. You can always make friends with classmates too, but it's nice to have someone there who has a similar cultural background to you.
- Video chats with friends and family back home are a great way to stay in touch! It will be busy with classes, but you can always find time to schedule a call!
- Ensure you have a support system with family and friends back at home, and make a new support system in Australia as well! Finding people from the same country/city/background as you helps a lot too.

## Australian and New Zealand Bucket List

Wondering what you should see and do Down Under? Here are recommendations from current students!

### ADELAIDE

- Glenelg Beach for food and chilling.
- Adelaide has beautiful wineries that are a must visit. The Fringe Festival which happens in February is also a huge bonus of living in Adelaide. It is a month-long festival with shows, music, food, comedy, and more.
- Visit Sydney
- Join your program's student society (at Flinders University).
- Adelaide beaches are beautiful.
- Visit the Adelaide Central Market.
- The other Canadians and I joined Urban Rec flag football team (at Flinders University). It was a great way to take a break from studies and meet new people. There are tons of run clubs around. I did the 12k City to Bat run with the other PT students and it was a lot of fun.
- Go on little day trips down to Second Valley to enjoy the warm weather, watch the dolphins swimming, and go cliff jumping.
- Lots of spots in the city to go out to eat or grab a drink.
- Victor Harbour
- Yorke Peninsula

### BRISBANE

- The markets around Brisbane are pretty nice to go to for a day out.
- Brisbane is a nice riverside city and there's many tourist locations here such as the big ferris wheel or just simply walking along the riverbank at night when all the city's lights are on is really pretty.
- Good restaurants in CBD
- Noosa Beach
- Join the Can Med UQ student club! This is a club established just for Canadian Med students--really helpful resource for getting to know people, also offers practice sessions and materials, preparing for rotations and electives back home, putting you in contact with alumni, etc.
- Go to cafes to study (most cafes in Brisbane close at 2)
- Join run clubs
- Attend UQMS events with my friends



- Travel to Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast to explore the beaches
- The footy games are really fun, lots of great workout classes & gyms (especially Pilates)
- UQ Surf Club
- They move the markets in Brisbane, but the west end markets and Milton markets on every weekend are great
- Southbank is beautiful to explore and eat some good food
- Enjoy a beautiful walk from Southbank to Kangaroo Point along the river.
- Felons Brewery is fun, they have trivia nights!
- Noosa and the Gold Coast as super close to Brisbane, few hours train ride (+ transit here is 50 cents each way!)
- Just going around the shopping centres and mall can be fun
- Brisbane River Fire
- Lots of noodle shops
- Just go out and explore your new city! Something I found really fun and exciting was picking a restaurant/cafe to eat at and then having no plans and getting intentionally lost in the city. I have found so many amazing little shops, hole in the wall places that I wouldn't have been able to find just from Google.
- In Brisbane my favourite places to eat are Felons, Regatta Hotel, Sealegs, James and Antler Cafe, & Merlo Coffee.
- My favourite beaches near Brisbane are Bribe Island, Stradbroke Island, and the Spit in Gold Coast (if you are down there you have to eat at the Holy Ship!!)
- Go to as many sport events, res club events, or even just chill in the commons to hangout with people. But in a broader sense, try going to the beach, hiking, bouldering (indoor), and other activities.

## CAIRNS/TOWNSVILLE

- Great Barrier Reef!
- Make a day trip to Fitzroy Island to go snorkelling, hiking, swimming with turtles, and do some fun activities.
- Trinity Beach
- For the Muslims, join JCUMAC - very fun, support your religion and provide lots of Muslim related events especially during Ramadan
- Visit major cities like Sydney or Brisbane on your breaks
- There are so many good restaurants here, all you have to do is walk through the city to see what you feel like.
- Rusty's Market
- Join JCUSA, JCUMSA and any clubs that interest you.
- Townsville has some beautiful areas but you will need a car to get to them.
- There is Crystal Creek, Magnetic Island which has lots of beaches and forts to explore and you may even sight a koala.

- Climb the Castle Hill, go to the Strand and get Juliette's if you like ice cream.
- Go to Billabong Sanctuary if you want to meet Australian animals and get to hold a koala and feed the kangaroos.
- There are many events in Townsville like IndiaFest and others just take a look at "What's On Townsville" website there are some great events in June.
- I went to Unisports nationals and I couldn't recommend it enough if you are an athlete join a sports you like, it is so much fun.
- There is so many events here in Cairns and clubs to join, get out there!
- Explore beaches a lot, they are beautiful! Nature isn't as scary as people say it is here!
- There are also markets every Sunday morning in Townsville which is fun.
- Join the Social Sports Club. It's just a group of people that go out and play sports, or JCU Run Club.

## CLAYTON

- The Gippsland area has so many beaches and trails which I definitely recommend checking out!
- Use the leisure centre to your advantage. You will never find a gym that is as empty as Latrobe leisure centre.
- If you're into sports you can easily book courts and play with your friends.
- Don't neglect Churchill and the many scenic spots it has to offer nearby.
- If surfing is your thing, Inverloch is a great beach and they have a wonderful instructor team to get you on your board and riding those waves.

## DUNEDIN

- Go watch rugby games with friends!
- The gym is nice and a great way to destress after class. I love the sauna (84 on Albany in the OUSA) after a long day or a good workout.
- Tons of clubs on campus you can join (go to clubs week to learn about them all!)
- Get close with your flatmates, and don't be afraid to introduce yourself to people when you're out and about - everyone else wants to make friends too. :)
- Definitely visit the clubs fair during the first couple weeks of being here. You might make some friends, find a cool club, or snag a prize from some mini games.
- During your winter break and reading week (mid-sem break), head down to nearby cities (ex. Queenstown and Christchurch in New Zealand) with friends as well as make NZ and Australian friends so you have people and places to visit.
- St Clair / St Kilda beach, Brighton beach (outside of Dunedin) (You might see seals!)

- Local hikes (Pineapple track, Mount Cargill)
- Botanic Gardens
- Join any clubs you're interested in (I enjoyed a local club, the outdoors/tramping club, tennis club, and Women in Health Networks / NZDSA for more involvement in the health sector)
- The New Zealand Dental Students Association offers great support to students along with some really fun events throughout the years (such as Dent Wine and Cheese and Dent Ball).
- NZ is really known for their rugby teams, you might be able to catch an All Blacks rugby game if you're lucky.
- Drive to Queenstown by and specially during winter I recommend going to do skiing or snowboarding!

## FREMANTLE

- I joined my local RSL which is like the Legion in Canada. It was great how welcoming they were and it was a nice social activity.
- The beaches def!! The weather is very nice and will make you enjoy the country.
- Go to an AFL game! genuinely better than NFL/CFL.
- Take advantage of the beach.
- Do the tourist things in your city!

## GEELONG

- Surf Coast
- Great Ocean Road
- Tasmania
- Watch a footy game at Torquay Beach
- Join some of the many clubs at Deakin University
- Visit Melbourne
- There are lots of affordable recreational sports clubs at Deakin/in Geelong, no matter your skill or fitness level. People here are pretty laid back and relaxed so its always a positive environment.
- Lots of nature/animals to see so purchase/rent a car for the best experience.

## GOLD COAST

- Currumbin Beach
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is a must see event and try to go out watching during whaling season it's beautiful!!!
- Burleigh Heads
- Learn to surf
- Visit the beaches (there are so many!)
- Go to the farmers' markets with friends and classmates
- Rock climbing
- Movies
- Parks
- Wildlife reserves
- Bowling
- Golf
- Go for a run/jog/walk
- Beach volleyball (some beaches already have nets set up)
- If you can manage to get tickets to a State of Origin game or the AFL Grand Final, they are a lot of fun. But, it is also fun to get some friends together and watch these games on TV.
- The Bond University Student Hub is a great resource and can be a lot of fun.
- The Queensland Museum and Art Gallery are amazing places to explore and investigate.
- The HOTA market and art gallery is amazing and the gallery is free entry. HOTA markets are the perfect blend of food trucks, fresh produce and meats with some knick-knacks.
- Surfers Paradise is great spot to explore where all the action is and the market is full of jewellery shops. It also has great nightlife.
- Surfers Paradise, Byron Bay, and Sunshine Coast are all great spots to relax and socialize.
- There are plenty of concerts and festivals (Brisbane Festival, Gold Coast Film Festival, local night markets)
- Learn the Australian sports' teams (AFL, NRL, cricket)
- Join GUDSA Club at Griffith University
- Shiro and Yochi are great dessert places
- Lots of great restaurants around Nobby Beach
- Join your program's student society/an academic club and a club of your interest/for fun
- Explore Hinterland National Parks
- Hike Springbrook or Lamington
- Join uni clubs

## MELBOURNE

- There are a couple uni clubs for La Trobe.
- Nice beaches along the East coast.
- Melbourne is one of the best for restaurants, food/drink (best coffee), activities like sports/festivals/music/etc.
- In Melbourne, Republic Economica has great cheap eats and drinks, live music, and pool tables!
- The Brighton beaches are nice.
- Go to Sorrento
- Visit 12 apostles in the summer here as it is beautiful.
- There is so much to do with concerts, F1 races, cricket games, the US open.
- So many restaurants and cafes to try as well!
- Join run clubs!!!
- Run the Tan track
- Melbourne University Sport is where I spend most my free time and would recommend it, especially if you are active and in the gym often like I am.
- University of Melbourne Student Society
- Go to the trampoline park with friends
- Go skiing in the winter at Falls Creek ski resort
- Lots of cafes, brunch spots, just a variety of things to do in Melbourne, just have a search online of what things there are, and watch some YouTube videos of what some tourists do here, there's plenty of things to do!
- Mornington Peninsula has been my favourite so far in Melbourne!
- Language Exchange Club is a nice one!
- I like having lunch at the Yappari Steak house in CBD.
- Great Ocean Road is a must.
- St. Kilda
- Philip Island (penguins!!), Melbourne Museum
- Scienceworks
- Queen Victoria Market

## ORANGE

- This is the time to do the things you love; if you can, go enjoy the things you like - guitar, hiking, etc.!
- Cliche in university, but get involved with a lot of things and stick with it!!
- Visit Bondi Beach

## PERTH

- Join social sports, get involved in the student body, and talk to your professors they want to help! (University of Western Australia)
- Go to the beach or go to a national park around the city! The nature here is very enjoyable.
- Cottesloe Beach
- Swan River
- Common Bakery
- Pronto Pilates
- Rooftop Movie Theatre
- Kings Park
- Six Senses Thai Restaurant
- Daisies Café
- Perth has some pretty good beaches and bakeries
- Getting a Costco membership
- Make friends with an Australian who has a car
- The beaches in Perth are a great way to take a rest from school. Scarborough is my personal favourite but Cottesloe is much closer and is also quite nice.
- Westfield Carousel movie theater is also a great place to go and hang out with friends.
- Western Australian doesn't have as many events and stuff happening compared to larger eastern states, but WAs nature is second to none, so if you're an outdoor person or someone who likes camping and exploring, WA is a great place. Also the beaches here are one of the most beautiful.
- Go watch the footy games
- Take some time to explore the nature of WA on your time off (Albany, Margaret River)

## SYDNEY

- Macquarie has a ton of clubs to join, and I would say if you play a sport at home try to get involved in it over here.
- There are heaps of run clubs to attend (there's a website to look up local ones in Sydney).
- You have to go to the Northern Beaches in Sydney. Narabeen is my favourite spot ever.
- The Blue Mountains roughly 1.5 hours inland is absolutely stunning to hike at. You can drive or take a train to get there.
- Any beach on the coast is beautiful, Chinamans is my current favourite as it's probably the closest one to Macquarie Uni by metro.
- The food here is so diverse and sooo good there's really no going wrong.
- Definitely check out the weekend markets in the city and lots of rugby and cricket happening in the summer months!!
- There are some beautiful beaches in Sydney - Manly, Bondi, Coogee - to mention a few.
- There are also different sea life sites, such as, Sydney Aquarium.
- If you like wildlife - Toranga zoo is a good place to visit.
- The city holds a drone show in September, which is pretty nice. There are many other events that take place in the city - go attend those if you can take out time for that.
- Check out Bondi Beach, Manly Beach, The Opera House, Harbour Bridge, take the ferry to Manly Beach and go hiking at Blue Mountains!
- Check out the Sydney CBD
- Paramatta is a decent place to live! It's 1hr train from downtown. And the rent prices are cheap.
- Look for any uni specific clubs that apply to you or may interest your hobbies.
- There are a lot of events organized by dental school reps at the University of Sydney.
- Manly Beach
- There are a lot of really cool trails around Sydney that are definitely worth checking out. The Bondi-Coogee beach walk, Watson's Point to Rose Bay.
- The Australia Museum has free entry to the general exhibits and is a neat way to explore more of Australia's history.
- Sydney is full of museums and festivals and restaurants of any imaginable kind really
- Make sure you make the most the most out your breaks throughout the year. They go by quicker than you imagine but give you an excellent opportunity to explore the cities and nature of Australia be it on a trip to the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns or see the vibrant cultural and artsy scene in Melbourne.
- Sydney's Burwood, Newtown, Chatswood, CBD are all great places for great eats
- Check out Oz-ComicCon if you get the chance as well

## Accommodation Advice

The advice listed below is general advice that can apply to any students moving to Australia or New Zealand, regardless of the university or city to which they are moving. Advice specific to your university follows that list.

- Try to find accommodation before arrival as best you can. A lot of places will want you to do inspections in person only so it can be tough.
- Shared houses are a more cost-effective way to rent. Maybe get a shared house first then look elsewhere.
- Make sure it is close to bus routes if you will be taking relying on public transport. Bikes work well here, but a lot of hills. Electric bikes are very common.
- Much easier to find accommodation on Flatmates.
- I used a service to help me find my apartment, since most places require an in-person inspection. Budget accordingly, rent, groceries, drinks, etc., are all quite a bit more here than they are at home.
- Start looking early.
- Reach out to students early over Facebook to find people to flat with.
- It's difficult to find your first rental as they prefer rental history and employment in Australia. This isn't impossible, and you may need to pay for more months in advance to obtain a nice place.
- Give yourself a buffer of 2-3 weeks to find accommodation that you like. It's important you see it in person and meet anyone you may be living with before you agree. Check out the transit routes and walk ability of the neighborhood to grocery stores and other services. Feeling rushed to find a place is really stressful and you can end up regretting what you chose.
- Use Flatmates or a real estate agent.
- Bring climate gear: Some residences don't have air-conditioning or central heating. A good fan for summer and warm bedding or a small heater for winter will make a big difference.
- Shared living reality: You'll be living with multiple people (often 4-7+), sharing kitchens and bathrooms. Cleanliness depends on you and your roommates, so be ready for cooperation, compromise, and communication.
- Noise and thin walls: Australian student housing walls are often thinner than North American ones. Be prepared for sound travel (and to be considerate of others).
- Pack light, buy local: Big appliances and bulky items can usually be bought cheaply. Don't waste luggage space flying them in.
- Transportation planning: If you don't have a car, learn the bus and train schedules early. They're reliable but not as frequent as in big cities, so planning is key. A bike is also handy for shorter trips.
- Food and cooking: Shared kitchens mean shared fridge/freezer space. Label your food and consider buying storage tubs to keep your stuff organized.
- Community mindset: Residences can feel more communal than private. Get involved in social events and it makes living with others much easier and more enjoyable.



- Budget for extra costs: On top of rent, there may be cleaning fees or bond requirements. Make sure you set aside some savings.
- Use Domain, real-estate.au if you have a group to rent with or want a 1 bedroom. Flatmates is a perfect app if you're looking to move into a shared house that's already established.

## UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

**Weekly Rent  
(\$AUD with  
Utilities)**

**How Long it Took to Find  
Accommodation After Arrival**

**Suburb & Building with Reviews**

**(% of Sydney students in that type of  
accommodation)**

**Private Rental**

44% — Arranged before arrival

Min. Reported  
Rent: \$365

11% — Less than one week

Max. Reported  
Rent: \$600

22% — 1–2 weeks

Avg. Reported  
Rent: \$455

22% — 2–3 weeks

### **Glebe, Sydney**

“Glebe is a perfect suburb to live in if you go to USYD. Most places in glebe are only a short 20-30 min walk to campus, and there are many busses that run down glebe point road to campus if you prefer to bus. These busses also run to central station, and you can get anywhere from there. As you may know, the Sydney trains strike often, which can make the busses packed on those days. The nice thing that is unique about glebe, is it also has a light rail service, which never strikes, and can take you to many places in Sydney, including central station! There are also tons of cafes and restaurants on glebe point road, on the way to school. The shopping centre is also a short walk, with multiple grocery stores, a food court, and lots of shopping.”

### **Camperdown**

“Good proximity, was hard to find this place from Canada, but once you land here the process is a little easier.”

### **Ashfield, Sydney**

“My neighbourhood is a rather quite one but a safe d clean one too. The park just a few minutes from my house is perfect for morning runs and I live within several minutes walking distance to all the major shops and both a train line and a bus line. The train station in Ashfield is very

convenient and has many express train to campus or to the centre of the city. It is a little less convenient to get to my clinical school requiring both a train and a bus and is rather a long commute to the beaches in the east, though.”

#### **Forest Lodge, Sydney**

“Right next to the main campus, Forest Lodge and Glebe are great suburbs for students attending the University of Sydney. There are plenty of shops nearby, both for groceries and other products. It's quite easy to walk wherever you need, but there are also plenty of buses, light rail, and trains/subway(metro) if you need to go further.”

#### **Auburn, Sydney**

“The main thing I enjoy staying all the way in Auburn is a lively community along with proximity to the train station. Living so close to the train allows me to easily travel to campus and anywhere else in the city.”

#### **Canterbury / Parramatta**

“For my first semester, I live in Canterbury which was about 25 minutes by bus to the main campus. I then moved to Parramatta which is a modern and vibrant suburb. There is huge mall 5 minutes away from my apartment and the trains are just a short stroll away. It takes me about 22 minutes to go to the Sydney Dental Hospital where we do our periodontics and prosthodontics practicals. It takes me about 35 minutes to get to the main campus (22 mins train + 10-13 mins walk). I definitely recommend Parramatta. It has everything that you need and is not that far away from the main campus. Parramatta is especially great for 3rd and 4th years students who might choose to do their placements at Westmead Hospital.”

#### **Burwood**

**Student-purposed  
Privately Managed**

100% — Arranged before arrival

**Sydney University Village, Newtown, Sydney**

“Newtown is a great area with lots of university students and young people. Lots of restaurants and shopping right by campus. SUV itself is standard and a bit pricey, but they have pretty good support and lots of fun events.”

Min. Reported  
Rent: \$630

Max. Reported  
Rent: \$630

Avg. Reported  
Rent: \$630

**On-Campus  
College / Dorm**

66% — Arranged before arrival

**St. Paul’s College**

“It's a very specific environment so I wouldn't recommend St. Paul's for everyone. It worked for me because I enjoyed the busy social calendar, but it can be a lot (also interviews are needed to get a spot). But there are non-college dorms on campus and those are great for most people.”

33% — 2–3 weeks

Min. Reported  
Rent: \$1000

Max. Reported  
Rent: \$1000

Avg. Reported  
Rent: \$1000

**Camperdown, Sydney**

**General Accommodation Advice for University of Sydney Students**

- Don't be afraid to have roommates, it's a LOT cheaper, but Sydney is still very expensive compared to Canada (I would say even more than Vancouver). Also, most places don't come with fridges or washer/dryers, which was definitely a culture shock.
- Share with classmates for cheaper rent and expenses.
- Come to Australia earlier if you can to give time to make good decisions on accommodation and get acclimated to the transport system.

- Flatmates is your best friend in finding accommodation. Make sure you talk to individual people renting out a place be it the homeowner or someone looking for a roommate. Majority of the accommodations are managed by rental companies and the places they show are usually not the greatest. Also important to note than in Australia rent prices are weekly so they might seem fairly cheap for someone used to paying monthly rent but don't be tricked.
- Try to arrange beforehand as much as possible. You should do a physical inspection to ensure you actually like it (photos can be misleading), but if you can arrange to have the inspection in your first few days then it will make the transition smoother.
- The housing market is quite aggressive here, so be prepared to make quick judgments (or make a checklist for yourself).
- Flatmates, Domain.au, and Realestate.au are generally good sites. Your uni may also have a page for landlords to post their rentals on, so you can check there too.
- It's not easy and you may not always find exactly what you're looking for but start early. The earlier the better.
- Check there websites: Flatmates, Realestate, and Domain. Facebook marketplace is also there is an alternative. Make sure to do a virtual inspection of the place or if you know someone who lives here, it'd be best if you get them to do an in-person inspection on your behalf.
- Make sure to plan and apply early! Dorms are great for settling in.
- Sydney is expensive and competitive so be prepared!

## Advice About Working While Studying

The tables below segment respondents' jobs by their program.

### CHIROPRACTIC

- I just got started at the Macquarie Ice Rink, it is just finished up being renovated, and we reopen on November 14, 2025. I will probably work around 16 hours per week during the school year, and this would have been perfectly manageable with the schedule in first year. It was very difficult to find a job personally, however I would suggest bringing in resumes and hand them to people in person, along with your online application. My wage will be \$30/hour and \$33/hour when I become a supervisor.
- I transferred from Lululemon Canada to Australia. This allowed me to have work immediately. I work 10-15 hours/week.

### DENTISTRY

- I am an international student ambassador for the school. It's a casual position but has been fun.
- I work two part time jobs! I work between 5-10 hours a week on average. It's super manageable with school, if you have good time-management! One is at a golf course and one is at a golf simulator! (I love to golf and have worked at golf courses a ton back home). I make ~\$25 an hour, and it definitely helps to sustain myself with groceries and weekend trips!
- Private online tutoring which is just 1 hour per week and is CAD\$40/hour.
- I work part-time in the faculty (at University of Otago), doing graphic design for the "sustainability in dentistry" group.
- \$23.50/hour at a restaurant. I work cash and make food at the back. I'm casual, so ranging from 2-8 hours a week.
- Dental assistant, 1 day a week, \$30/hr.

### MEDICINE

- I'm coaching kids chess for \$60 an hour for about 1-3 hours a week. Pays for groceries.
- Physiotherapist. 20 hours a week and \$35 an hour.
- I work at Bakery's Delight (in Adelaide) once or twice a week and make about \$30 AUD an hour.
- I work as a casual relief teacher (I was able to convert my teaching degree from Ontario).
- I tutor the MCAT, I work from home, approximately 15 hours a week.
- I work at Specsavers as an optical assistant working about 8 hours/week and as a casual I make \$35/hour.
- I work as a part time tutor at a tutoring centre and as a private tutor. I work about 10 hours a week. My wage for the tutoring is \$40/hour.
- I work at a medical clinic as a receptionist, and I work approximately 20 hours a week and I am paid \$32 an hour on a casual basis.

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

- I coach gymnastics once a week. I also tutor online a girl from home.

## **OTHER**

- I work casual in homecare. I have 4 years of experience back in Canada. This sector is in need of staff so if you have experience in this area I highly recommend applying! I work about 20 hours a week and earn about \$1000/week.

## **PHYSIOTHERAPY**

- Very low hours as a first aid responder with a soccer club.
- I work at a middle eastern restaurant as a cook. I work roughly 8 hours a week and my wage is \$32/hour on weekdays and \$36/hour on weekends.
- I work at Lululemon as a sales associate. I work x2/week. My wage is \$33.19/hour.
- I work as an allied health assistant at a physiotherapy clinic. I'm in the hydrotherapy pool helping patients rehab after different procedures. I work 10 hours a week, getting paid between \$38-57/hour.
- I am a soccer coach.
- Support worker.
- Currently an RA at the dorm I'm staying at (at University of Melbourne).

## **VET SCIENCE**

- Work casually with a puppy yoga company and also at a cat shelter, around 10-20 hours a week with wages around \$25/hour.

## Advice about Transferring Money

The points below detail the advice provided by respondents about transferring money, grouped by topic. If a point was mentioned several times, such as using Wise, it is only listed once but noted that several students provided that piece of advice.

### General Advice about Money and Transfers

- Don't depend on the bank transfers unless you don't have another option. 3rd party apps like XE Converter often offer a significantly better conversion rate.
- Find the one with the smallest amount of cost. And if you do choose to do the international transfer make sure you send it in large sums.
- Get an Australian bank account, wire money from your CAD bank to AUS account.
- How I transfer money to Australia is through TD bank and Wise. I've setup direct deposit between the two accounts, and whenever I need money I send it to TD bank, withdraw with Wise, wait until the exchange rate is good, and bring money over. There is a bit of a bottle neck for sending tuition money, and I used Remitly for that instead.
- I did it through my bank, I know some people used Wise but I saw that there was some issues with it. Going directly through my bank allowed me to have the money almost instantly.
- I find Bank Transfers are the easiest for my family and I. There are online transfer systems like WISE which have better rates
- I have an Australian bank account but many Canadian credit cards will give you good foreign exchange rates so you can just spend from your Canadian accounts for most smaller things.
- I personally have found success using a credit card that accurately matches the dollar exchange rate (CAD to AUD). I make 99% of purchases with my Canadian credit card and thus pay it off with my Canadian bank account. You are definitely able to open a bank account here and transfer money from Canada/America to Australia/NZ (although will incur a fee). I would eventually set up an account here especially if you plan on working or needing to take out cash. It is a pretty seamless process. As far as transferring money, many banks have free/cheap transfer rates or you can look into third party apps like "Wise" which makes the process very easy as well.
- I would recommend setting up an Australian bank account within the first week you arrive. That way you can transfer funds to your Australian account and reduce international fees.
- Make sure you double, even triple check the account numbers and SWIFT codes for the account you are transferring to. Also, there are often fees for accepting international transfers so make sure you plan accordingly when sending any funds.
- Open an Australian bank account and get your transfer limit highest you can.
- Some banks have a cheaper fees. Also try to transfer on days where the Canadian dollar is strongest.
- Sometimes third party transfers are not cheaper than transferring with your own bank. Make sure to compare and read the fine lines before you choose which bank or service to use.
- The easiest thing is to open a personal bank account here and transfer through them.

- The money transfer is actually quite fast - usually, when I transfer money from Canadian account, it reaches my account in Australia on the same day. I would suggest having a family member keep the some of the loan money in their account and work out with them as to when to send you the amount you need every time.
- There are options for sending direct wire transfers through your bank outside of using Convera - although it's strongly recommended to use it, it's not necessary and you don't need to be afraid to go with another option if it means saying quite a bit!
- Transfer in bulk to save on transaction fees.
- Start moving money early as you can only move 10K a week or something like that.
- Apply for OSAP or whatever your provincial loan is, if you qualify it really helps with rent! I am supporting myself entirely through this process (i.e. no parental or family financial support) so working two jobs while I am here, as well as working full-time while I'm home has been necessary - but it's doable!
- Make sure you get a bank account that can utilize wise as a payee. This will save you hundreds of dollars maybe even thousands over the course of your time here.
- Get a New Zealand bank account. BNZ is the best, ANZ is also good. Transfer from your home bank to Wise, then transfer to your NZ bank as needed. This gives you the best exchange rate.
- Be sure to have enough cash. Australia charges for credit card fees.
- Using a platform like Wise allows you to transfer the money quite easily, can make a traditional bank account in Aus (recommended long term) or use an online financial institution like Revolut.
- Get comfortable with paying stupid fees to use your card here and they don't have e-transfer here either it's bank account to bank account.
- Yes, use Wise and open an Australian bank as well. Can ask students for a referral code!

#### **Advice About Banks and Cards**

- Don't use TD as they charge every transfer.
- I use RBC, which has free international transfer which has made it so easy, usually comes in a few days.
- Once I set up an Australian bank account it has been really easy to transfer money back and forth just through my banks with no fees (CIBC - Westpac).
- RBC currently allows you to transfer money internationally without a fee (I believe it was up to \$12,000 CAD). I am currently using OSAP and my savings to pay for school along with my loan.
- Use an international credit card that has a point system with flights (eg: avian, scene points) so every time you go to buy stuff your collecting points.



### Suggested Transfer Services

- EQ and Wise are your best bet.
- I use PayPal, I found it pretty low fee and very quick processing times.
- I use XE it's pretty good. I usually spend around \$2800 a month.
- Use Bupa.
- Several students noted using Remitly.
  - I use Remitly. My dad has access to my student loan in Canada and he withdraws from it and sends me money as I need it to my Australian account. Remitly has pretty low fees and the transfers process within a day.
  - Using Remitly has been great to get the best exchange rates!
- Several students noted using WISE.
  - I use Wise as the middle man. CAN > WISE > Aus bank.
  - I use Wise for my personal banking over here as it allows me to easily transfer to the different currencies.
  - I use Wise which is pretty good, however, you can also use OFX for larger sums.
  - I used Wise for immediate transfers, but OFX has better rates usually. Keep an eye on the exchange rates.
  - Use whichever money transfer service has the best rate at the time. For me consistently Wise has been the best overall in terms of exchange rate and minimal fees.
  - Use Wise and send it in big chunks, especially when the rates are most favourable.
  - Use Wise! easiest and cheapest way to quickly transfer money instantly.
  - Use WISE! It's a great app for cheap money conversion. Set it up BEFORE you leave Canada.
  - Use Wise, cheaper transfer and conversion fees.
  - I usually use Wise, I think the transfer rates are slightly better.
  - I would recommend using the WISE credit card, it's very convenient to send money abroad.
  - I would recommend using the Wise app as the fees are lower than directly from bank.
  - Set up an account with Wise (Wise app) as they have the lowest cost for transferring money as well as being easy to transfer money from different currencies and countries. I would also suggest looking at exchange rates between CAD and AUD or NZD before exchanging the whole tuition amount into AUD/NZD.
  - Definitely download Wise App before moving here. It is by far the easiest way to convert currency and they give you the best rates.
  - Use an app called Wise, little fees to transfer but depends on your bank it could be cheaper that way.
  - I don't know a lot, but I do know my parents do this through WISE.
  - It's better than bank transfer.
  - Use Wise app for cheaper transaction fees.
  - Use Wise as a bank card.
  - It's the cheapest in terms of fees.

- Using a WISE account was faster and easier than a bank transfer!
- Wise is a great resource and with the conversion rate using your credit card can be a great option.
- Wise is great for transferring money!
- WISE is pretty helpful for conversions.
- Wise is really good for getting money exchange rates!
- Wise is really useful for keeping track of the exchange rate, and spending is straightforward. I used it as my travel account previously but now I use it for my daily spending.
- Wise is the best.
- Wise is the best option and easy to work with.
- You could transfer money through Wise! It's convenient and has lower transfer fees compared to banks. You can also send large amounts of money relatively fast and it is safe to use. Wise is a good party account so you would have to transfer from your Canadian account to Wise and then either you can use your Wise card or make another transfer to an Australian account

## Final Advice from Current Students

Students were asked if they'd like to provide any final words of advice. Their answers are listed below.

- All the best to all of the incoming students!
- Be prepared to have new connections and experiences! Don't be shy and reach out to others in upper years and in your year.
- Do not underestimate the Aussie sun. Hats and sunscreen are your best friends.
- Don't be scared to take the leap. You will be well supported and you will adjust quite easily.
- Enjoy the city! (Melbourne)
- Dental equipment and uniform that I wasn't aware of the cost and how to find used or ones for cheaper price.
- Find the other Canadians in the school especially the upper years they will be more than happy to help you with everything. There is a large cohort of Canadians in most Australian medical schools.
- For me moving to Brisbane, I packed way too many sweaters and have now since sent them home because it's been very hot!!
- Have fun and make the most of it. Many students just stay home and study.
- Health insurance will not cover most elective surgeries for the first 12 months after arrival so if you have any medical issues you may need an operation for I would do it in Canada unless it can wait another year.
- I DONT REGRET IT AT ALL!! LIVE YOUR LIFE AND DO SOMETHING CRAZY.
- I know OzTREKK doesn't deal with Student Visas, but when you arrive in Australia, make sure to update your personal information (phone number, address, etc.) as soon as possible. There will be a lot happening when you get here, but it is important to have that up-to-date so you are always in compliance.
- It's a commitment for sure but if you're willing to make the sacrifices you will have a great time.
- It's a tough transition, but I am finally starting to feel settled in and looking to have an amazing summer here Down Under.
- Goodluck everyone!
- Studio apartments all the way for student accommodation, living in a new country with a bad roommate situation is not the way to go.
- Studying abroad can be a life changing experience but it can be overwhelming. Make sure to have a good support network!
- Take a breath, you made it to med school. Everything else will fall in place.
- This is truly a wonderful opportunity. Moving abroad was never a plan for me when I was little, but this opportunity helped me learn about myself, grow, and become independent. It made me feel confident in myself. Even though everything is new and you are missing home remember that you are brave for taking the leap to study abroad and with time you will enjoy it here.
- Totally recommend coming to Australia to study and especially through OzTREKK.
- Transportation in Adelaide is pretty convenient as there's a train station five minutes away. And the bus is also really good too. There's a mall not too far away, called Marion. It's got a bunch of stores and is my go to place to buy stuff.