



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT **PROSPECTUS**

The International Student Prospectus should be read in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government's Study NT International Student Handbook

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STUDENTS CHECK OUT THE STREET ART IN DARWIN'S CBD | CREDIT: TOURISM NT/GEORGE FRAGOPOULOS

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# NT PROVIDER WINS GOLD AT AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

The Institute of Skills and Training Australia (ISTA) has been awarded the gold award for Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2023 Australian Training Awards.

This win comes after ISTA was named the NT Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2023 NT Training Awards, before being shortlisted to the top 3 in Australia for the Australian Training Awards. ISTA celebrated a consecutive win for Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2024 NT Training Awards.

"We are thrilled to have won this prestigious award," said Kathryn Stenson. "It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our small yet extremely passionate team, and the quality of training we provide to our students and the employers we work with".

The Australian Training Awards are the peak national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, recognising individuals, businesses, and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia.



# WELCOME TO THE INSTITUTE OF SKILLS AND TRAINING AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Institute of Skills and Training Australia, part of the GTNT Group and one of the Northern Territory's leading training organisations. For 35 years the GTNT Group has been providing employment and training services in Australia's Northern Territory, and we are proud of our close ties with local businesses, apprentices and trainees.

At Institute of Skills and Training Australia our students' happiness and success are our top priorities, and we take an immense amount of pride in making sure they achieve their maximum potential while truly enjoying their time in Australia.

Our strong ties across the Northern Territory's key industries, employers, educators and student bodies allow us to facilitate a holistic and immersive learning environment.

I hope that this prospectus will equip you with the essential information you will need to flourish as an International student in Darwin. If you need any further assistance at anytime, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff.



**Kathryn Stenson**  
**Chairman**  
**Institute of Skills and Training Australia**





# KEY INFORMATION

As a Registered Training Organisation, Institute of Skills and Training Australia (ISTA) seeks to maintain the highest standards of competency-based training that is effectively targeted at building individual and organisational capability.

Institute of Skills and Training Australia wants to make your study experience in Australia worthwhile and beneficial to your future career in the global environment that we live in. Studying with us will expose you to a variety of experiences and challenges and our courses will provide you with a mix of theory and practical training. We will work closely with you to ensure that you have a good understanding of how to work and live in Australia and to fit in with the Australian business culture.

Participants entering these programs may obtain recognition of prior learning for previous relevant experience and study using the Institute of Skills and Training Australia recognition process.

As part of the Institute of Skills and Training Australia commitment to the delivery of quality training this Handbook is designed to provide accurate information to participants about the program that it offers as well as the rights and responsibilities of Institute of Skills and Training Australia and its participants.

As a Registered Training Organisation we have an obligation and responsibility to you the learner to ensure the quality of training and assessment delivered to you is compliant with the Standards for RTOs including the Outcome Standards, Compliance Standards, and Credential Policy and that the issuance of your Qualifications and Statement of Attainment meet the requirements of the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

**The Institute of Skills and Training Australia was awarded the gold award for Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2023 Australian Training Awards.** The Australian Training Awards are the peak national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, recognising individuals, businesses, and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia. **We also hold the title for Small Training Provider of the Year in the Northern Territory for 2023 and 2024 respectively.**

## KEY PERSONNEL

### SHAUN STENSON

Training Manager

shaun.stenson@skillsandtraining.com.au

### JESSICA PORTER

Student Liaison Coordinator

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### KIERAN REEKIE

Training Officer

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone: +61 8 8980 0600

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## COURSES & QUALIFICATIONS

### **BSB40920 Certificate IV in Project Management Practice | CRICOS Course Number: 115430M**

52 weeks, 40 weeks of face to face training, 4 terms, 20 hours per week

### **BSB50120 Diploma of Business | CRICOS Course Number: 115431K**

52 weeks, 40 weeks of face to face training, 4 terms, 20 hours per week

### **BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and Management | CRICOS Course Number: 107224F**

52 weeks, 40 weeks of face to face training, 4 terms, 20 hours per week

### **SIT50422 Diploma in Hospitality Management | CRICOS Course Number: 106801H**

104 weeks, 80 weeks of face to face training, 8 terms, 20 hours per week



QUALIFICATION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CRICOS CODE	COURSE TITLE	DURATION	ENROLMENT FEE	TUITION FEE	RESOURCE FEE	OVERALL FEE	SEMESTER INTAKES
115430M	BSB40920 Certificate IV in Project Management Practice	52 WKS	\$300	\$4,700	-	\$5,000	FEBRUARY AND JUNE
115431K	BSB50120 Diploma of Business	52 WKS	\$500	\$7,000	-	\$7,500	
107224F	BSB50420 Diploma of Leadership and Management	52 WKS	\$500	\$10,000	-	\$10,500	
115432J	SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management	104 WKS	\$300	\$13,000	\$1,500	\$14,800	

BUSINESS PACKAGES

COURSE TITLE	DURATION	ENROLMENT FEE	TUITION FEE	OVERALL FEE	SEMESTER INTAKES
CRICOS: 115430M   BSB40920 Certificate IV in Project Management Practice + CRICOS: 107224F   BSB50420 Diploma of Leadership and Management	2 YEARS	\$500	\$4,700	\$13,000	FEBRUARY AND JUNE
CRICOS: 107224F   BSB50420 Diploma of Leadership and Management + CRICOS: 115431K   BSB50120 Diploma of Business	2 YEARS	\$500	\$13,500	\$14,000	
CRICOS: 115431K   BSB50120 Diploma of Business + CRICOS: 115430M   BSB40920 Certificate IV in Project Management Practice	2 YEARS	\$500	\$10,000	\$10,500	

ADDITIONAL FEES

ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Enrolment fee	\$500 (non-refundable)
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	\$400 per unit of competency
Repeat Unit fee	\$600 per unit
Late submission of assignment	\$25
Reissuance of student card	\$20
Reissuance of statement of attainment or record of results	\$25
Reassessment fee	No charge for up to 2 reassessments
Language literacy and numeracy test	\$80 (non-refundable)*

\*Taken no more than 2 years prior to the student visa applicaiton submission.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must be aged 18 years or above
2. English language test must meet one of the below:

TEST	MINIMUM SCORE
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	6.0
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	73
Pearson Test of English Academic	54
Cambridge English Test	169
Occupational English Test	Pass (A or B)



# THE ENROLMENT PROCESS

## YOUR APPLICATION FORM

All course applicants need to submit a completed application form and provide the below documentation. To obtain an application form, please visit the student resource section on the Institute of Skills and Training Australia website. Your completed application form and supporting documents will assist us in determining suitability to the qualification you wish to pursue.

- certified copy of your passport
- certified copy of your English Language Test Score
- application assessment form
- evidence of financial capacity
- Curriculum Vitae
- relevant education transcripts
- professional qualifications

## LETTER OF OFFER

If you are admitted into a qualification or course you will be sent an Enrolment Offer Letter. Your Letter of Offer will include the following information:

- course fees and other payables
- course entry information
- Terms & Conditions
- course credit information
- International Student Acceptance Agreement

Once received, you will need your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) to apply for your student visa. You will automatically receive your CoE once Institute of Skills and Training Australia has verified your International Student Acceptance Agreement and Payment Agreement.

- Sign and accept your International Student Acceptance Agreement
- Provide evidence of Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC)
- Submit payment for the initial invoice

## THE ENROLMENT PROCESS

**Submit your application form**

**Select your preferred OSHC provider**

**Receive Letter of Offer**

**Pay initial invoice**

**Receive Confirmation of Enrolment letter**

**Submit your visa application**

**Receive your visa approval**

**Make travel and living arrangements**

**Arrive in Darwin and begin your course**

**Successfully complete your qualification**

## STUDENT & OTHER VISA TYPES

The majority of international students have to obtain a visa to study in Australia. Other types of visa holders may also be eligible to study as international students in Australia. You can apply for a visa online or through an Appointed Education Agent. As the visa application process can be quite complex, it may be easier for international students to employ the services of an accredited agent to assist in preparing this application. To apply for a visa a valid passport, electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and any other documents requested by the authorities must be included. As the processing time for your visa can often be lengthy, make sure you apply well ahead of your course start date.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VISA CONDITIONS

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection requires students to show evidence that they fulfil the assessment criteria required to grant a student visa. This may include the following evidence documentation:

- access to funds
- proficiency in English
- compliance with visa terms and conditions
- other evidence deemed relevant for assessing your application

You can visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#) to find out more information about student visas, as well as the [Study in Australia website](#). It is imperative that you follow the conditions of your visa. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has the right to cancel your visa if you breach these conditions.

## DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

A full list of Australian embassies, consulates, high commissions and representative offices around the world can be found on the [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website](#).

## MIGRATION & EDUCATION AGENTS

Migration agents can help you to apply for your visa and communicate with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection for you. However, the migration agent cannot submit your visa application for you. International education agents are engaged to promote Australian educational programs and institutions in other countries.

All course applicants need to submit a completed visa application and such agents can assist students to make an application to study in Australia. These agents have lengthy experience in fulfilling visa application requirements for international students. A majority of them speak both the local language and English, which makes the process

of applying much easier for you. Most of these services are free, although some do charge a small fee or offer additional service cost. Education agents can help you file visa applications, but are not permitted to offer migration advice.

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Students may have existing knowledge or skills in the subject areas of their course. For this reason Institute of Skills and Training Australia has a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process, which students can access to obtain recognition for the relevant skills and knowledge that they already possess.

RPL is a process in which a student's existing skills, knowledge and experience obtained in other courses, work experience, informal training and life experiences are recognised. You may be granted an RPL if you can demonstrate relevant knowledge or skills in your subject area. More information about the RPL process can be found on the student resource section on the Institute of Skills and Training Australia website.

## TRANSFERING CREDITS

Any qualifications or certifications issued by other Australian RTOs will be accepted by Institute of Skills and Training Australia. A Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) will be granted for a specific course unit if a student has already completed the unit at another Australian college or RTO.

## CHANGING YOUR STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

You must inform us of any changes to your address or contact details within seven days of the change being made by completing and submitting a Change of Details form, available on the student resource section on the Institute of Skills and Training Australia website. Any information provided to Institute of Skills and Training Australia may be forwarded to Australian Commonwealth and State Agencies, as well as the Fund Manager of the ESOS Assurance Fund, as we are obliged to do so under the National Code and the ESOS Act 2000.

## WORKING WHILE STUDYING

During term times, students are allowed to work a maximum of 48 hours per fortnight (this does not include work recognised as part of your course). A fortnight is a period of 14 days starting on a Monday and finishing the second following Sunday.

During term breaks (holidays), you may work over 40 hours per fortnight if you wish. However, paid work cannot be started until your study course in Australia has commenced.



## SECURING EMPLOYMENT

Finding work in Australia can often be challenging at times, as there will be many Australian citizens seeking work at the same time. Finding work may be easier in Darwin due to the large transient population, and as one of the fastest-growing Australian cities, new job openings appear frequently.

## LITERACY, LANGUAGE & NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS

During the enrolment process all students will be asked to take part in a Literacy, Language and Numeracy (LLN) assessment to evaluate their reading, writing, numeracy and oral competency. The purpose of this is to make sure that the course level is suitable for the student and to provide suitable educational support when necessary.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Institute of Skills and Training Australia Student Conduct Policy applies to all students at Institute of Skills and Training Australia and can be found at the student resource section on the Institute of Skills and Training Australia website. Its purpose is to make sure that students have equal opportunities and enjoy their study experience. It is expected that students take charge of their own learning and conduct appropriate behaviour during their training and assessment.

Students who breaches this code of conduct will receive a letter detailing their alleged misconduct, followed by an appeals process prior to a decision being made. In serious cases the RTO Manager may suspend studies effective immediately.

Examples of Code of Conduct breaches include:

- harassment
- discrimination
- disrespecting students or staff
- physical assault or abuse
- smoking in designated non-smoking areas
- continuously interrupting the educator
- cultural rudeness to other students
- bullying, harassment or intimidation
- using offensive language, illicit drugs or alcohol
- sexual harassment
- acting in a manner which may constitute a safety issue
- disruptive mobile-phone behaviour

Discrimination is when an individual treats another person in a derogatory manner because they possess a certain personal characteristic and is illegal under Australian State and Federal equal opportunity laws. Grounds for discrimination may include:

- gender
- age
- race
- religion
- marital status
- disability
- nationality
- ethnicity
- national origin

Harassment refers to an action that is offensive, humiliating, unwelcoming or intimidating to another individual. Verbal harassment may take the form of inappropriate jokes or comments, insults, abuse or threats, offensive language, rumour-spreading, making negative comments about an individual's disability.

## UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER

Every student enrolled in an accredited education and training course in Australia is required by the government to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) and you must be in Australia to apply for this. Once you have entered the country using a non-Australian passport and Australian visa, you can apply for your Unique Student Identifier. During your orientation Institute of Skills and Training Australia can provide you with all the assistance that you require, should you need it.

## PAYING FEES

When signing the letter of acceptance, students enter into a payment agreement with Institute of Skills and Training Australia. Fees should be paid before the start of each term. However, you can speak to the Institute of Skills and Training Australia RTO Administrator if you are having problems with making your fee payments. Depending on your circumstances, the RTO Manager may be able to negotiate a payment plan.

Please bear in mind that Institute of Skills and Training Australia has an obligation to report to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection if you do not pay your fees.

## ORIENTATION

Orientation takes place before the start of your course. You will learn about all aspects of student life, your studies, local transportation and study facilities. Additionally, you will become acquainted with the staff and you will be shown around the premises so that you can become familiar with your new surroundings. This is also a great time for you to ask any questions that you may have. You will also take part in a wide array of important tasks (such as ID card issuance and work preparation) as well as fun activities (such as city tours and social events).

On the first day of the orientation you need to check into the Institute of Skills and Training Australia facility and complete required paperwork. You will also meet your fellow students. A timetable of the week's events will be provided in advance, alongside other important information.

## ACCOMMODATION

If needed, we can assist you in sourcing accommodation for your arrival in Darwin. To do this you should contact us as soon as you receive confirmation of your enrolment. Payment for arrival accommodation is required in advance.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need academic support, our training staff are available. Moreover, you can ask your trainer or training coordinator for assistance at any time during your course. The team are available to assist you in all areas of student life and general life in Australia.

Staff may be able to assist you with or refer you to:

- accommodation
- learning pathways and RPL opportunities
- student visa conditions associated with course progress
- legal services, counselling services and emergency and health services
- language, literacy and numeracy programs
- extra study support
- support with ICT and technological assistance
- complaints and appeals process
- assistance for special educational needs
- assistance with special cultural and religious needs
- special dietary requirements
- general help to adjust to life in Australia
- any other issues

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We are proud of our Access and Equity practices, which mean that students with special needs are given the same opportunities as other candidates. Special educational needs will be taken into account in our training and

assessment programs, and flexible methods of studying and assessment can be implemented to suit your needs if required.

## STUDENT HEALTH

You must take care of your health while in Australia. Students must inform the administrative staff as early as possible if they cannot attend their courses due to illness.

This is necessary so that we can keep accurate records of attendance. When you return to studying after a period of illness, you are required to show proof of illness in the form of a medical certificate, which should be given to the administrative staff.



RAPID CREEK MARKETS | CREDIT: TOURISM NT/SHAANA MCNAUGHT

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Australian Dollars are the only currency accepted in Australia. Please be aware that all banks are different and have varying fees, charges, levels of access to your money and security measures for accessing these funds. You can change money at the airport if you have not already done so prior to your arrival.

You are required by law to declare any cash funds over \$10,000 upon arrival in Australia, although we strongly advise against carrying large sums of money on your person. For further information, you may be able to discuss your options with your bank at home before departing for Australia.



# LEAVING HOME

Preparing to move abroad to study can be very exciting. However, it is important that you prepare for your international study in Australia carefully, since it can be easy to forget the important things that you will need.

## PREPARING TO TRAVEL

It is your responsibility to make arrangements to travel to Australia. We recommend that you arrive 1-2 weeks before your Student Orientation begins so that you have enough time to settle in, recover from jet-lag and adapt to your new environment.

The nearest airport for you to arrive at is Darwin International Airport. This airport is easy to navigate, and many transport options are available on arrival to take you to your new accommodation, including taxis and an airport shuttle

## OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER

You must arrange Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) before applying for your Australian Student visa since it will help to cover many of the medical costs that you may encounter during your time in Australia.

The healthcare system in Australia is both modern and efficient. The Australian Government OSHC largely subsidises the costs of healthcare. It is a form of insurance which can help to cover the costs of any health, medical or hospital care that you may require during your time in Australia.

You may need to see a doctor if you become unwell in Australia. A visit to the hospital is not generally required unless you have a medical emergency or a doctor has referred you. For typical illnesses, you will visit the doctor's office.

## QUARANTINE LAWS IN AUSTRALIA

Quarantine laws in Australia are strict as this ensures that diseases are kept out of the country. Border restrictions prohibit the bringing of many foods, animal and plant

products into the country, as well as certain medications. Before leaving home, please make sure you have researched the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Laws so that you understand what you can and cannot bring into Australia. You can find this information at [www.qgis.gov.au](http://www.qgis.gov.au).

You will be provided with an Incoming Passenger Card on the plane before landing in Australia. On this form you must indicate whether you have anything to declare. If you have any food, plant or animal-based products with you, you must tick yes (this includes wooden souvenirs). If you tick yes a customs officer will inspect your items. You may be fined if you fail to declare any of the aforementioned products. You can dispose of any items that you do not want to declare in the quarantine containers located in the airport terminal before proceeding through customs. Please ask the airline staff if you need assistance.

You should get in touch with your local Australian Diplomatic Mission if you are bringing medicine into the country.

## TRAVELLING WITH MONEY

Please note that you are not allowed to bring more than \$10,000 cash into Australia. Nonetheless, you will require some cash to purchase food, transport etc. upon arrival in Darwin. It is recommended that you bring at least \$250 to \$300 cash when you arrive and that you have \$1,000 to \$2,000 in easily accessible funds (such as credit/debit cards or travellers' cheques). You can use cards with Plus or Cirrus symbols in Australian ATMs, and Visa, MasterCard and AMEX credit cards are readily accepted throughout the country. You must make a declaration on your Incoming Passenger Card if you have more than AU\$10,000 cash on your person.

## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Before leaving home it is recommended that you prepare a folder containing the official documents that you need to bring with you to Australia.



SCENIC FLIGHT IN KAKADU | CREDIT: TOURISM NT/HELLO EMILY

This may include:

- admissions letter
- passport (with sufficient validity)
- student Visa
- payment receipts (OSHC, bank statements, tuition fees)
- Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)
- insurance policies
- original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- other personal identification documents (driver's licence, birth certificate, ID card, etc.)
- medical documents and prescriptions
- proof of English evidence
- proof of purchase for your laptop
- statutory declaration (if requested)

If your family members are coming with you their documents must also be provided. You should keep all documents in your carry-on bag. Be sure to make copies of the documents in case you lose the originals. You can leave these copies at home with trusted people who can send them to you if needed.

### APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Darwin is very humid throughout the 'wet' season so you should have clothing that is appropriate for hot weather. There is seldom a cold day in Darwin, as temperatures hardly ever drop below 21C (70F), even at night. The city's atmosphere is both casual and relaxed, meaning that cool and casual clothing is most suitable.

Students at our Darwin campus tend to dress casually but neatly. We take great pride in our international student community, and from time to time our students are invited to attend official government and community events, so make sure you have something suitable for such occasions.

When enrolling on work-experience placements, you should bring items that are appropriate for your field of work.

### ELECTRICITY IN AUSTRALIA

Throughout Australia, 250V is the standard electrical voltage used. We use electric plugs with three flat pins, with one being the earth pin. You can purchase an adaptor or change your plugs after arriving in Australia if needed.



## ELECTRICAL ITEMS

You can bring items into Australia that you have owned for over a year before arrival tax-free. You may be asked to provide proof of the purchase date and price. You may also be required to pay Goods and Service Tax (GST) AT 10% on computers that are under 12 months old and cost over AUD \$400. However, this will depend on your intentions to export the computer once you complete your studies.

To prove to the Customs Officer that you will take the computer with you out of the country when you leave, you must provide a statutory declaration (a declaration signed by a certifying authority in your home country) indicating that you only wish to use the computer for your studies in Australia and that you will take it with you when leaving the country after completing your course. You might also be asked to provide an undertaking under Section 162 for this purpose or a cash security deposit to Australia Customs when you arrive.

Please check the website of the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#) before buying a new mobile phone or communication device that you plan to bring to Australia. In the past students have brought laptops with internal modems and have been unable to utilise them in Australia. It is essential that external or built-in modems are Austel approved, or they will not work in Australia.

## BRINGING FAMILY WITH YOU

Many things must be considered if you are bringing dependants with you, such as:

- ensuring that all persons have appropriate visas
- employment
- education
- childcare
- money

## Visas & Money

All dependants are required to have appropriate visas. Moreover, you must be able to show that you have sufficient funds to support dependants during your stay. Further details about money and visas can be found on the website of the [Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#).

## Employment for your Partner

Whilst in Australia, your partner or spouse may be employed to work a maximum of 40 hours per week. Although there are lots of employment opportunities in Darwin, your spouse may be unable to secure employment straight away. It is important that you take this into consideration when preparing your budget.

## Childcare in Australia

There are more than 20 childcare provision services in Darwin. You should contact these centres directly to ask about their vacancies. Please plan your budget carefully, since childcare can be expensive in Australia.

## Schooling in Australia

Education systems vary significantly between different Australian states and territories. Children aged 5-18 must attend school in the Northern Territory whilst you are studying. At four years old, a child can start pre-school. At approximately five years of age, a transition year (or preparatory) will occur. Children typically attend primary school from six until eleven years old, after which they go to secondary schools. They remain in secondary school until eighteen years of age (generally). Senior students (those in school years 11 and 12) are encouraged to complete a Northern Territory Certificate of Education, for which they can choose from many different subjects. Outcomes for the certificate are determined by the students' achievement in the subjects.

Under national immigration policy, all school-age dependants of international students must be enrolled in formal schooling during their time in Australia. Children must be enrolled in a school on a provisional basis prior to arrival in Australia, and school fees must be paid a semester in advance. You will be given an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment Form (CoE) by the school outlining the program and its length. This is necessary for obtaining your child's visa. You can contact your local Australian Embassy to receive a list of state schools that accept international students.

Fees must be paid for international students at all state schools, with the following exceptions:

- you have received sponsorship or scholarships from the Australian Government (such as the Australian Development Scholarship or the IPRS), or
- you have a higher institution or approved non-government scholarship. For children to be exempted from paying fees, such scholarships must be approved by the State Government.

It is your responsibility to cover the costs of school fees, equipment, books, uniform, school trips and stationery for your children. Be sure to inquire about the school's curriculum, class-sizes and extra-curricular activities when selecting a school for your child.

School fees vary from \$1,000 to \$9,000 per year, depending on the school and the age of the child.





SWIMMING AT ELLERY CREEK BIG HOLE | CREDIT: TOURISM NT/SALTY AURA



# AN INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIA

At present, Australia is the third most popular destination in the English-speaking world for international students. Its cultural diversity, fantastic education system, high quality of life and friendly people make it a popular choice!

Australia has a diversity of cultures and is a liberal country. People from all over the world have been able to settle in Australia and live together harmoniously due to national immigration policies. The country prides itself on equality, freedom of speech and democracy, meaning that no-one should feel inferior. Society in Australia is classless, meaning that aristocracy does not exist.

Most of the country's population reside in the cities, where life is largely cosmopolitan. Moreover, lifestyles are very laid-back. The country is famous for its love of outdoor pursuits, with a majority of individuals practising at least one sport. Australians are known to be very informal and are happy to speak their minds. What's more, Australian society is built upon the belief that everyone should have an equal chance to succeed, and this has largely influenced the success of the immigration policy. Most Australians are very welcoming and outgoing, and try to maintain good work-place relationships.

## AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION

The population of Australia is approximately 24 million, most of whom reside in the coastal areas around established cities. The population has been steadily increasing, rising from 10 million in 1960 to the present-day 24 million.

## LOCAL CULTURE & RELIGIONS

Australia has no official religion and encourages religious freedom. Individuals may choose to follow any religion that they wish as long as they do not engage in unlawful activities. This full religious freedom means that discrimination against any person or group due to their religious beliefs is illegal.

Approximately 30% of Australians do not follow any religion.

The remainder are diverse in their religious beliefs, including a large percentage of Christians. There are growing numbers of Muslim and Buddhist communities in the country too.

## MOBILE PHONES & SMART PHONES

The mobile phone networks of numerous countries (including Japan and the USA) are not compatible in Australia, so make sure you check this in relation to your own country of origin before you arrive. You can always purchase a mobile phone plan in Australia if needed.

A mobile phone is included with the contract/service price offered by many Australian telecommunications providers. Since services provided vary considerably, it is important to check the services offered before you enter into a contract with a provider.

If choosing a mobile plan, a mobile phone is most often included with the contract/service price offered by many Australian telecommunication providers. Securing a mobile on a plan often requires the applicant to undergo a credit check, which may be difficult for new arrivals without previous credit activity in Australia. There are many services offered by providers; it is important that you do your research on which is best suited for you.

## What to do in Emergencies

The emergency number in Australia is 000. This applies to fire, ambulance and police services. You can also call 112 for the same purposes from mobile devices. When you dial 112, this overrides your phone's key locks to save time. Calls to these numbers are answered quickly by the emergency call operators, who will ask you which service you require (police, ambulance or fire service). You should explain the emergency to the operator if you are unsure which service is required. After this, you will be connected to the relevant service. You should try, if possible, to provide the operator with the most important information such as the location of the incident (street names or closest intersection), the nature of the event, the victim and their current condition.

You may be asked to stay on the line until the relevant emergency services arrive at the location. If the event is life-threatening, you may be given instructions by the operator so that you can help until emergency services arrive. National emergency call operators are highly experienced in talking to people of all cultures, so if your English is limited, remain calm and work with the operators.

### INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access is provided by a majority of national telephone companies. Many communication companies offer discounted rates to those who buy both mobile phone and internet plans with them.

### AUSTRALIA'S WEATHER

Australian summer runs from December to February, followed by autumn from March to May, winter from June to August and spring from September to November. January and February tend to be the hottest months across the country, with June and July being the coldest.

The weather in Darwin differs from the majority of the Australia. The climate of the Darwin region is tropical with two distinct seasons, namely the 'wet' and the 'dry'.

From November until April is the wet season, where the climate is very humid with monsoon rains and storms. The temperatures range from 25°C (77°F) to 33°C (91°F), and humidity can be higher than 80%.

The wet season is an amazing time to visit, although be aware that travel may be restricted at times due to the weather conditions. There are breath-taking waterfalls, skies full of jaw-dropping natural light shows, and a lush, green landscape.

Conditions in the dry season are typically dry, warm and sunny, with cooler nights. Temperatures vary from 21°C (70°F) to 32°C (90°F), and humidity is significantly lower at approximately 60–65%.

### TIME ZONES

Australia is an enormous country, in which there are five separate time zones. Darwin operates under Australian Central Standard Time. Most states and territories apply 'daylight saving time', where the time goes forward by one hour in the spring and back again in the autumn to take advantage of natural daylight time.

### STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

The education system in Australia may be very different from what you have experienced. Private (individual) study is very much promoted through the designation of assignments,

research and self-study. This requires detailed note-taking in lectures and being actively involved in the learning process (rather than being an active learner).

At Institute of Skills and Training Australia we will help you to improve the necessary study skills. Most of our lecturers have taught many international students and understand the issues associated with adopting new study methods, and will be patient while you develop your new skills.

### WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

A visa and tax-file number (TFN) are required to work in Australia. Once you have started a job, you must complete a form for your employer containing information about yourself, including your contact details, next of kin and banking details. All employees across the country have basic rights to work, including international students. These rights entitle employees to the following:

- a minimum wage
- permission to challenge unfair dismissal from work
- sufficient breaks, and
- a safe and healthy workplace.

Your employer has a duty to ensure that you do not become sick or injured as a result of your job. This is known as Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) or Occupational Health and Safety.

Your employer is also legally obliged to possess insurance to cover you if you are injured/sick at work. This is known as workers' compensation. Any workplace-related illness or injuries are covered by this insurance, including medical costs and your wages, until you are fit to work again. All workers in Australia are entitled to this, even those possessing temporary visas.

### Tax File Number

You must contact the Australian Taxation Office to be issued a Tax-File Number (TNF) prior to starting work. This number is unique and provided to individuals as a means of helping the Tax Office to process tax, as well as to help other Australian Government systems. It is a fundamental type of identification in Australia. You can keep the number for life and you must keep it secure, as it will help significantly to defend you against identity theft. Those without a Tax File Number will be required to pay tax at 49%, far above the normal rate. It is not obligatory to have a TFN, however without one you could be required to pay more tax than normal, or be unable to receive government benefits to which you are entitled.

Your TFN is important and must not be shared with friends or online when applying for jobs. Please keep it safe!

At the end of the financial year all workers that have been employed must file a tax return to the Australian Taxation Office. The national tax year finishes at the end of June.

### Applying for a TFN

After arriving in Australia, those on permanent migrant or temporary visitor visas can apply for a TFN online if they have:

- a visa permitting work
- a visa permitting permanent migration
- a valid overseas student visa
- an indefinite stay visa

Physical proof of identity is not required when registering online for an individual tax file number. More information about TFNs can be found by:

- checking the [Tax Office website](#)
- calling 13 2861 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm Monday to Friday

### Superannuation

Superannuation is a type of retirement saving fund. International students employed in Australia and earning over \$450 per calendar month are entitled to superannuation.

Your employer is legally obliged to put money into a superannuation account for you. This money must equal a minimum of 9.25% of your typical earnings. You can choose your own super-fund if you prefer.

When departing Australia you should file an early tax return form. You should also ensure that you set in motion the procedures for accessing your superannuation. It may be possible to take your superannuation with you when leaving the country permanently.

### AUSTRALIAN LAWS & SAFETY

Our representative democracy, separation of powers and respect for the law make Australia the wonderful place that it is. When being granted your Australian study visa, you signed a document in which you agreed to respect Australian laws during your time in the country. If you do not obey the laws, including State and Territory laws, you may be fined or your visa may be cancelled. Moreover, you may be deported. Those convicted of serious crimes can face imprisonment. Don't let this happen to you! A full list of Australian laws and details about the national legal system can be found at [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au).

If you break the law and are arrested, you will be required to appear in court. To do this, it is essential that you have legal representation, since the country's legal system is complex.

### COMMONWEALTH & STATE LEGISLATION

Institute of Skills and Training Australia is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO0381) and operates in full compliance with Commonwealth and state laws. We have implemented policies aimed at maintaining compliance. The Australian Quality Skills Authority (ASQA) regulate our institution to ensure that students are provided with all information that directly impacts them.

### GETTING USED TO LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Although it is exciting to live and study in another country, there will also be some challenges. You will have to adapt in many ways to your new life in Australia, including socially, culturally and academically. These changes will be taking place whilst you are studying, potentially in a different language and you will be far away from your usual support network.

It can take a while to adapt to a new country and culture, especially if the country that you come from has values, customs, traditions and values that are very different from Australia. It is normal for the adjustment process to take some time.

### CULTURE & DIVERSITY

The multicultural society and welcoming atmosphere of Australia attracts many people. Those who wish to visit, study, live or work in a country as diverse as Australia must understand the local culture. This plays a significant role in making the most of your travel opportunity, as well as showing respect for your host country.

A wide variety of international students, workers, migrants and travellers come to Australia every year to experience its beautiful landscapes and diverse people. Although English is the national language, more than 200 different languages and dialects are spoken throughout the country, with 45 of these being Indigenous languages.

### CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Those who have lived abroad have described a feeling of culture shock. Culture shock can occur when you are exposed to an unfamiliar custom or culture in a foreign country. This can make an individual feel out of place in a strange setting where they may experience or witness behaviours that are unfamiliar. This is normal! However, it is important to identify cultural differences and unsafe behaviours and react accordingly

When you are required to live your daily life reacting to situations and behaviours that are unfamiliar to you, the initial excitement of moving abroad can quickly transform into stress, anxiety and feeling hostile towards your host



country. You may also experience intense homesickness. This is normal and most people living overseas experiencing it at some point.

### MEETING NEW PEOPLE

It is standard practice to shake right hands with someone when you meet them for the first time, regardless of gender. Typically, those who are unfamiliar with each other do not hug or kiss when meeting for the first time, nor do they discuss personal matters.

When conversing, it is common practice to look the other person in the eyes, since it is a sign of respect and many Australians look at the eyes of people they are conversing with. They consider this a sign of respect and that you are listening. However, lengthy stares without conversation may be considered rude, so be aware of this.

Usually people address each other on a first-name basis in the workplace, however, this will depend on the workplace in which you are employed. Staff and students at Institute of Skills and Training Australia always address each other using first names.

Using polite words such as 'please', 'thank you', 'sorry' and 'excuse me' when talking to others is considered normal in Australia. It is also common to use these words when buying items at shops and during other business transactions. Slang is used widely throughout Australia, and sometimes

this can be difficult to understand, even by others from other English-speaking countries.

### DRESS CODE

Dress codes in Australia vary based on situation and location. You will usually be required to follow a dress code in the workplace which is determined by the type of environment that it is. In office settings staff are typically required to dress smartly, neatly and modestly, even if the official dress code is casual. Staff working in labour or construction may be required to wear protective clothing including steel-cap shoes and hard hats for safety purposes.

The clothing choices of people in Darwin is very much determined by the weather. Since the climate is hot, especially throughout the wet season, most people wear cool, light clothes. The majority of local businesses, shops and eateries are air-conditioned. There are no specific rules or laws regarding the clothes that the general public should wear. People typically wear clothes that represent their styles or personalities, or clothes that are appropriate for the weather. In the warmer period, many Australians visit the beaches, where typical beach attire is worn. This includes swimming suits, shorts and sandals.

You are also free to wear national dress for religious or customary purposes throughout Australia.



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the year many different holidays are celebrated by Australians. Special days are often celebrated as a national holiday or a special event. It is common place for shops, restaurants and public transport to continue operations on public holidays in the bigger cities, however, such establishments are typically closed in smaller towns. There are 13 public holidays in the Northern Territory, which is slightly more than the rest of the country.

### New Year

New Year is a big celebration for most Australians, with several parties, festivals and celebratory events taking place across the country. Every year, there is a televised fireworks display that takes place at famous Sydney Harbour Bridge. Fireworks displays are held in every state across the country to celebrate the New Year. 1st January is a national holiday.

### Australia Day

Every year the 26th of January is celebrated as Australia Day. This day marks the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships in 1788 and is used to celebrate the diverse society, culture and people that make up the nation.

However, while many people are festive on Australia Day, the same date is recognised by Indigenous Australians and an increasing number of non-Indigenous Australians as marking the beginning of colonization, oppression and attempted genocide of the Indigenous population by European settlers.

### Easter

Easter is a celebration in which Christians commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. It is the one of the most important events in the Christian calendar.

As well as having religious importance, Australians also enjoy a four-day holiday weekend at this time, which starts on Good Friday and finishes on Easter Monday. During this time, Australians typically gather with family and friends to celebrate or go on a mini-holiday.

This frequently coincides with school holidays, meaning that many families with children incorporate Easter into a longer family holiday. It is the country's busiest time for domestic air travel, and a popular time for big events like weddings and christenings to take place.

### Christmas Day

Christmas Day is a Christian event dedicated to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and takes place on 25th December every year. People exchange presents, enjoy special feasts and decorate their homes at Christmas, even those who are not Christians.

Many key aspects of the Christmas celebrations have been adopted from the traditional winter celebrations throughout Europe. Nonetheless, such events have been influenced by the Australian climate and wildlife over the years, and adjusted accordingly.

### Anzac Day

Every year Anzac Day is celebrated and is dedicated to honouring the day that Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli during the First World War in 1915.

It is a day of remembrance for those who died fighting for Australia in the First World War and all subsequent wars that have taken place. The day is characterised by processions, marches and parades. There is also a special ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

## DRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

You may be required to pass a theory and practical driving test if you hold a driving license from a country not recognised by the Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR). To find out which countries are recognised, visit the [licensing section of the Northern Territory Government website](#).

You are allowed to drive anywhere in the country after receiving an Australian Driver's Licence.

### Important Information

- in Australia, we drive on the left.
- seatbelts are required (by law) to be worn at all times and by the driver and all passengers.
- driving whilst talking on the phone is illegal.
- you must stick to the speed limits, which are signposted.
- be aware of large trucks (road trains) when travelling interstate and throughout the Australian outback. These can be as much as 53 metres (176 feet) in length. Overtaking these vehicles is difficult in single-lane highways, can be dangerous and is not recommended.

## DRIVING WITH CHILDREN

There are several legal requirements to bear in mind if you will be driving in Australia with child passengers.

### Appropriate Child Car Seats

All children travelling in cars must be seated in a securely-fastened car seat that is appropriate for their size and age. This is for safety purposes, as those who are securely fastened into an approved child seat are less likely to be hurt or killed in the event of a car accident.

### National Child Restraint Laws

- it is mandatory that children under six months are seated in an approved rearward-facing baby seat.
- it is mandatory that children from six months to four years of age are secured into an approved child restraint consisting of an inbuilt harness.
- it is prohibited for children under four years of age to be seated in the front seat of a vehicle that has multiple rows.
- four to seven-year-old children must be seated in an approved, forward-facing child seat consisting of an inbuilt harness or an approved booster seat.
- it is prohibited for children aged between four and seven years to be seated in the front seat of any vehicle that has multiple rows, except in cases where the back seats are taken up by children younger than seven years and seated in approved child seats.
- children between seven and sixteen years of age who are too small to be effectively restrained by a standard seatbelt should be seated on an approved booster seat.
- approved lap-and-sash seatbelts must be worn by children in booster seats and the belts must be securely adjusted and fastened. Approved and correctly-fitted child safety harnesses may also be worn.

Children who are too small to fit into the restraint seat specified for their age must remain in their current seat type until they can safely fit into the next type. Children who are too big for the age-specified restraint seat can be moved to the level seat.

### Car Insurance

Insurance is strongly recommended for those with a car. If you are involved in an accident and it is your fault, insurance will cover you in paying damages caused to your vehicle or another vehicle.

### Speeding

Speed and traffic regulations are in place for a very good reason. The faster a vehicle is travelling, the higher the

chances of an accident occurring. This is because when driving fast the driver has less time to react, less control of the vehicle and a greater stopping distance is required. A pedestrian is much more likely to be killed by a car that is travelling at a high speed. The bottom line is speed can kill.

### Using Mobile Phones while Driving

It is incredibly dangerous to use a mobile phone while driving. Talking on phones that are not hands-free is a criminal offence. More importantly, it could be fatal. This also includes the sending and opening of text messages and answering of calls. You are nine times more likely to have a fatal accident when using a mobile phone whilst driving than when not doing so.

Police actively seek and penalise individuals who are using mobile phones whilst driving. Punishments include large fines and demerit points. You should take the time to learn about how you can legally use your mobile phone whilst driving.

### Demerit Points Scheme

Under the Demerit Points Scheme penalty points (demerits) can be issued to drivers for various driving offences. The key objective is to promote safe driving practices. The scheme is a strong incentive to drive in a lawful manner. Different offences carry a different number of demerit points.

More information about driving regulations, offences, demerit points and fines can be found at the [Northern Territory Government Driving and Transport website](#).

### Drinking Alcohol & Driving

Do not drink alcohol beyond the legal limit and drive. If you do, you are not only risking your own health and safety but those of other drivers and pedestrians. Alcohol is a contributing factor in approximately one-third of all serious driving accidents.

The risk of an accident increases as your body's alcohol level increases. You should never drive if your blood-alcohol content exceeds the legal limit. As well as being dangerous, it can incur severe legal penalties.

The severity of your fine and/ or punishment will increase the more over the prescribed blood-alcohol content level you are. Drivers must keep their blood alcohol level under 0.05 BAC.





AERIAL VIEW OF DARWIN ESPLANADE AND CBD | CREDIT: TOURISM NT

# ARRIVING IN DARWIN

Darwin is a modern and vibrant city with a youthful atmosphere. It is multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural. The city hosts a wealth of exciting festivals, cultural and social activities, and food extravaganzas.

The size of the Northern Territory is vast and the environment is very diverse. You can enjoy beach strolls, camping in national parks, fishing for barramundi and may even spot a crocodile. It is home to many ancient sandstone formations, billabongs, wetlands and native flora and fauna exclusive to the region.

Darwin is the state capital of the Northern Territory and is located approximately 12 degrees south of the equator, laying at the roughly same latitude as Quezon City in the Philippines, Bangkok in Thailand, and Chennai in India. The city has a tropical monsoonal climate characterized by two distinct seasons, namely the wet and the dry. In the dry season (May-October), days are warm and sunny, and nights are much cooler. During the wet season (November-April), evenings are typically balmy, and you will often witness impressive lightning displays and tropical rainstorms. The temperatures range from 25°C (77°F) to 33°C (91°F), and humidity can be higher than 80%.

Despite being considered relatively small by world standards, Darwin has some spectacular attractions, exquisite dining places and beautiful sunsets. There are plenty of public transport options, theatres, sporting events, hospitals, medical centres, etc.

The city's multi-cultural setting lends itself to an array of cultural events, as well as famous markets where you can buy foods and goods from many different cultures.

Follow [this link](#) to find a local multicultural service or community group.

### AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION

You will be provided with an Incoming Passenger Card on the plane before arriving in Australia. You will be asked whether you have anything to declare. After landing in Darwin you will proceed through Australian Immigration (follow the 'Arriving Passengers' signs after exiting the plane). You will be asked to provide your completed Incoming Passenger Card, as well as your passport and proof of student visa. These documents will be checked by an immigration officer. You may be asked several questions regarding your plans in Australia.

### DARWIN AIRPORT

Darwin airport is quite a small airport, which means it is fairly easy to navigate. All areas of the airport are (including directions to arrivals) signposted. After completing the immigration checks you will proceed to the baggage reclaim area. Make sure you check all of your belongings for any missing or damaged items. You can talk to the baggage counter staff if you have any issues with your luggage, or if you have lost or received damaged baggage and wish to make a claim.

### DETECTOR DOGS

Quarantine detector dogs are a common feature around the baggage carousels and immigration queues. They are used to identify food, plant and animal products in passenger luggage. You should place your bags on the floor in front of you to be inspected if you see the dog working close by you. These dogs are purposefully trained to smell odours and are not a threat to humans. If the dog senses a target smell in your bag, it will sit next to the bag. They can occasionally identify food that have previously been transported in your bag and left a slight smell. You may be asked by the quarantine officer to present the contents of your bag so that they can verify that you have no items on you that pose a quarantine risk to Australia.

### CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE

Australian Customs and Quarantine Services are very strict, and this often takes students by surprise. It is recommended that, if you are unsure about whether your goods are allowed or not, you declare it on the Incoming Passenger Card. Many students have been issued instant fines for failing to declare items. You should check this with your airline before departure.

### BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Typically, international economy passengers are allowed to bring 1 piece of checked luggage (20-30kg) and 1 carry-on bag (7kg).

For domestic travel, the baggage allowance is usually 20kg maximum. You should consider this carefully when packing your bag, particularly if you will need to fly domestically within Australia to reach your final destination. Most items can be bought once you have arrived in Australia, however, bear in mind that they may be more expensive than buying them in your own country.

After collecting your baggage you will need to proceed through customs, where all of your bags will be screened and x-rayed by the quarantine officials. There is a high likelihood of being caught if you do not declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or if you make false declarations. Besides on-the-spot fines, perpetrators can be fined over \$60,000. All international post is also screened.

Some products in your possession may need treatment to make them safe. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will seize and destroy any items that are restricted due to the risk of pests and disease. Further details about bringing animals, plants and food (and relevant derivatives) into Australia can be found at [www.daffa.gov.au/aqis](http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis).

### GETTING TO & FROM DARWIN AIRPORT

Those who have arranged an airport pickup should follow the instructions given to them by Institute of Skills and Training Australia staff. For those who have not arranged airport transport in advance, taxis and shuttle buses are available to take you to your accommodation. Taxi fares are calculated on a meter and are extremely safe. The journey from the airport to the Darwin CBD should cost between \$25 and \$30. The Shuttle Bus fare varies from \$20 to \$25 and you can buy a ticket at the airport.





BULLO RIVER STATION | CREDIT: TOURISM NT

# LIVING IN DARWIN

Darwin is a very liveable city and many consider it to be one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Australia. It is very diverse, with more than 60 nationalities and 70 ethnicities living here. The city is host to many ethnic cultural festivals, with weekly food and craft markets being a key highlight. It is Australia's fastest-growing state capital and has a constant influx of new arrivals.

## Darwin Facts

- the city's population is around 136,000
- the city was founded in 1869
- 18% of the population were born overseas
- English is the main language

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

In Darwin, as is the case throughout Australia, English is the official language. However, there are many languages spoken in the city as there are people of many different nationalities who live, work and study here. As a whole, the Australian accent is relatively easy to understand, although some of the local slang may be confusing.

## FINDING ACCOMMODATION

Many different types of accommodation are available during your stay in Darwin, including the UniLodge, private rentals and homestays.

## UniLodge

UniLodge is a student residence situated within the Casuarina shopping district. It can be found right next to the Casuarina Bus Interchange, making it easy to travel to anywhere in Darwin and to the immediate surrounding areas.

## Private Rental Accommodation

Private rentals are also available, and many people rent out their spare rooms to students.

## Local Homestay

If you choose to live with a homestay family, you will have plenty of opportunities to integrate into an Australian way of life and to enhance your English. You will usually have your own bedroom in homestay accommodation, with study desk and access to a bathroom (ensuite or shared). The family with whom you are staying will provide you with two meals per day during the week and one at the weekend. Students are required to pay homestay fees directly to their host family, and such fees vary.

## Staying With Friends or Relatives

Living with someone you know is an excellent way to settle into Australian life. Friends and relatives may be able to provide you with much needed support during your first few days. Please note that approval from the education provider is required for anyone under 18 years of age.



### Accommodation Security Bond

The purpose of paying a bond (security deposit) is to reassure property owners that tenants will take good care of their home. If the tenant fails to do so and leaves it in a bad state, the security can be legally withheld by the landlord. However, if it is left in good condition the landlord is obliged to pay back the security deposit within a month of the tenant's departure from the property.

### SHARING AN ACCOMODATION

It is important that you choose your room-mates or house-mates carefully since this can largely impact the quality and effectiveness of your international study experience in Australia. When choosing a room-mate, try not to panic, take your time, and make sure you do not compromise on things that are important to you.

### Bills & Expenses

It is important to decide many things when choosing room-mates, such as who will pay for groceries, including groceries shared by everyone.

You may wish to split these costs. If you respond to an advert for a room-mate, make sure to ask what is included in the rental cost. Are bills included, or will these be paid separately? You should also decide who will pay them and a system for ensuring that they have been paid in a timely manner. A useful way of keeping track of bills could be to have a small notebook signed by everyone after paying their share and by the person who issues payment.

### HEALTH & MEDICAL CARE

Abundant medical facilities can be found throughout the Northern Territory, with both public and private facilities being available. A Critical-Care Centre and Trauma Response Centre are located in Royal Darwin Hospital, which is Northern Territory's primary medical hospital. Patients covered by private health insurance can use the Darwin Private Hospital.

You can find medical professionals throughout Northern Territory, including general medical practitioners, dentists, specialists and allied healthcare professionals including physiotherapists, optometrists and pharmacists. If you wish to see any medical professional you should make an appointment. You can do this by searching online or in a phone book to find the relevant phone number. You should also confirm the costs of the appointment when making the reservation since fees can vary considerably.

In Australia there are two health care systems. The first is the national public health system that is provided by Medicare Australia and offers medical care to all residents.

The second is the private medical insurance system, which must be paid for with private health insurance.

### STAYING SAFE

In general the Northern Territory is extremely safe. However, you should be aware of the following situations.

As is the same at home, it is important to remain aware of your surroundings and avoid situations in which you feel unsafe. Try to take a friend with you when walking and always ensure that someone else knows where you are going and at what time you plan to return.

Those who plan to go walking or hiking in should go in pairs or groups and be sure to take plenty of water. Sunscreen should also be worn. In Central Australia, the climate is desert-like, meaning that the heat soars during the day, but falls very low overnight, especially during winter. Be sure to take warm clothes if visiting this area.

Occasionally natural emergencies such as floods, cyclones and bush fires can happen in Northern Territory. There are excellent warning systems in place and local news, social media and radio stations all cover such events and can be followed to stay informed. Support systems across the state are also excellent.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault in all its forms is a crime! This includes sexual harassment, indecent assault, unwanted touching and unwanted penetration of any sort. Anyone can fall victim to sexual assault. Here are some suggested measures you can take to make it more difficult for a perpetrator to target you:

- Be smart when socialising. Drink in a way that leaves you in control. Unattended drinks can be easily spiked.
- walk confidently and with purpose.
- don't walk in isolated or dark places.
- be aware of strangers, be they in cars, on foot, or at parties.
- be aware of the people around you.
- trust your gut instincts.
- shout "NO!" loudly if you find yourself in a dangerous or uncomfortable situation.

### What do in Cases of Assault

Telling someone when you have been sexually assaulted is very hard. You must remember that committing sexual assault is a serious crime, and anyone of any gender and sexuality can fall victim to it. They should contact the police or your closest Sexual Assault Service immediately.

## BANKING & CURRENCY EXCHANGE

In Australia the currency is the (Australian Dollar and comprises dollars and cents. One dollar is made up of 100 cents. Notes come in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5. Coins come in denominations of \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

In the Northern Territory there are many banks and credit unions, including the four major Australian banks; National Australian Bank (NAB), Commonwealth, Westpac and ANZ. People's Choice Credit Union, Bendigo Bank and Bank of Queensland are alternative banks available in the state.

### When opening a bank account, you will need:

- your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) Passport
- Letter of Offer from Institute of Skills and Training Australia
- other forms of identification if you have them (such as an Australian Tax file number if you have one).

### You can also change money at a bank or currency exchange in the city of Darwin, some of which are suggested below:

- Travel Money Oz (The Plaza Arcade, Smith Street Mall, Darwin, +61 1300 426 997)
- American Express Currency Exchange (Shop 1, 4 Rowling Street, Darwin, +61 1300 139060)
- Travel Money Oz (Darwin International Airport, +61 1300 299 491)
- Change Group (27/69 Mitchell Street, Darwin, +61 8 8941 7401)
- Travelex (Casuarina Square, 247 Trower Road, Casuarina, +61 8 8927 0566)

## TRANSPORT

Australia is well-known as having very high living standards, which includes public transport systems throughout the country. The public transport system is extensive and includes buses, coaches, trains, and even trams in certain cities. Additionally, there are several major airlines and a number of regional airlines. The system for using public transport systems differs between states.

### Public Transport

The public bus network in Darwin is efficient and serves both the inner city and the outer suburb areas. As a student you can take advantage of discounted travel rates! The majority of bus routes begin at the Casuarina bus interchange, after which they take different routes throughout the city. Catching the bus is easy in Darwin; simply hail the bus while waiting at a designated bus stop area and pay your fare when you get on. A cheaper alternative is to buy weekly or monthly passes.

To find out more information, visit the [transport section of the Northern Territory website](#).

Route maps and bus schedules can be found at the [transport section of the Northern Territory website](#).

### Driving a Car

Students with a valid overseas driving license are permitted to drive in Australia. Licenses that are not written in English must be accompanied by a translation.

A majority of international licences are valid for a maximum of three months from the holder's date of entry into Australia. It is important to obtain an NT driving license if you wish to drive beyond this three month period.

### Taxis & Uber

Metered taxis can be found in all major cities and towns, as well as being available at all transport terminals, big hotels or shopping centres. Metered taxis have a fixed hiring charge, on top of which you pay per kilometre travelled. Tips are not necessary. Additionally, Uber is available in most Australian cities.

### Road Rules in the Northern Territory

Information about the Northern Territory's road rules can be found on the [transport section of the Northern Territory website](#).

### Getting your Driver's License in Darwin

The Northern Territory Department of Transport is responsible for issuing and transferring licenses. Further details about changing or transferring to an Australian driver's licence whilst in Darwin can be found at the [driving section of the Northern Territory Government website](#).

### Cycling in Darwin

Bicycle lanes are prominent in Darwin and it is a safe and easy form of transport. The city has in excess of 70km of cycle lanes, and cycling is very much promoted by the local government. You can purchase a bicycle easily and cheaply in Darwin.

## FINDING A JOB IN DARWIN

Those who wish to work during their time in Darwin should go to the StudyNT website and search under the 'Work' section, as there is a great deal of information about employment. You can also look for jobs on websites such as [SEEK](#), as well as looking in the Saturday edition of the Northern Territory News. Many jobs are found in the NT through more informal channels, such as electronic and other noticeboards, direct visits to a business or through friends. Some companies post job vacancies on Gumtree or LinkedIn.



## SHOPPING

The biggest shopping centre in the Northern Territory is Northern Darwin's Casuarina Square. There are more than 200 retail stores and two major department stores here. For a more relaxed, alfresco-style shopping experience, visit the Darwin City Mall, located right in the city centre. Here you will find an abundance of clothing, sports and jewellery stores, as well as many other shop types. Those who are keen on original Indigenous art, traditional didgeridoos or fine hand-crafted jewellery are sure to find something attractive in the many shops and galleries.

## PURCHASING FOOD & RESTAURANTS

Those staying in homestay accommodation will be provided with two daily meals every weekday and three daily meals at weekends by their host families. For those who need to prepare their own meals, you can shop in supermarkets like Woolworths, Coles and IGA.

These supermarkets can be found throughout Darwin and stock all the fresh and packaged foods that you will require. Fresh produce can also be bought at the weekend markets in Parap, Rapid Creek, Nightcliff, Palmerston and Coolalinga.

Additionally, the city's famous outdoor markets sell an abundance of fresh exotic flavours. You can eat a range of dishes on Mindil Beach whilst watching the sunset on Thursdays and Sundays.

Many different pubs, restaurants and cafes can also be found in Darwin. The city is home to a range of restaurants providing cuisine from a variety of cultures. If you want to drink alcohol, you must provide valid photo identification to prove that you are over 18 years old. A passport or driver's licence is suitable for this purpose.



PARAP MARKETS, DARWIN | CREDIT: TOURISM NT



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