Discover all that UWA and Perth have to offer before you leave home.
## Pre-departure Information for New UWA International Students

### Contents

- Before you leave home: 2
- Arriving in Perth: 3
- Accommodation in Perth: 4
- Living in Perth: 6
- On campus: 12
- Tips and hints for success at UWA: 17
- Festivals and events in Perth: 18
- Perth attractions: 21
- Money and finance: 22
- Health: 24
As an international student, you are required to obtain a visa before travelling to Australia.

For a full-time course, you’ll need a student visa that will cover the duration of your academic program.

The visa application process is handled by the Department of Home Affairs (homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1) and your visa will be granted subject to certain conditions. Non-compliance could result in your visa being cancelled.

Make sure you’re familiar with your visa conditions and ensure your visa is current at all times.
Customs and immigration
Australia has very strict quarantine laws, so learn about what you can and can’t bring into Australia before you pack.


In addition to the items in the checklist, remember to bring your:
- airport pick-up confirmation email
- most recent academic transcripts of tertiary studies
- offer letter and Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)

If you are bringing school-age children, bring their:
- birth certificate/s
- immunisation records
- education records

Airport pick-up
UWA offers a free 24-hour airport pick-up service to all new international students.

We can also help you find temporary accommodation. This service is available only to new students studying at UWA for the first time.

To organise an airport pick-up and/or temporary accommodation assistance, complete the form on our website. Be sure to book your airport pick-up at least seven days before your arrival.

[study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/moving-to-perth/airport-pick-up](https://study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/moving-to-perth/airport-pick-up)
When it comes to accommodation, you have several options available.

On campus

College life is all about living and learning together. It also adds a valuable dimension to your time as a UWA student.

Approximately 2,000 college students live on campus in five residential colleges that are owned by or affiliated with UWA.

- St Catherine’s College
- St George’s College
- St Thomas More College
- Trinity
- University Hall

The colleges are all-inclusive communities, full of opportunity and diversity, and offer a distinct collegial experience.
Off campus
Crawley Village student accommodation is a group of residential houses, units and studio apartments owned and operated by the University.

All properties are next to the campus, and are offered with some furnishings or unfurnished.

Shopping and entertainment areas, including Broadway Fair Centre and Claremont Quarter shopping centre, are close by. Public transport by bus is also available to Perth city or surrounding areas such as Fremantle and the Swan Valley.

Perth city accommodation
Students wishing to live closer to the heart of Perth city have two new purpose-built student accommodation options, Campus Perth and The Boulevard, which have been endorsed by UWA. Both are located in Northbridge, Perth’s vibrant social and cultural precinct, and close to public transport.

Independent housing
Alternatively, you can choose to rent a house or room independently off-campus. This may be more expensive and we strongly suggest you view any property before signing a lease agreement.

Useful websites to search for properties include realestate.com.au and reiwa.com, as well as commerce.wa.gov.au/consumer-protection/renting-home.

Visit tenancywa.org.au for information about rental laws in Australia.

Have a question?
If you have any questions about accommodation, our helpful staff are on hand to support you.

Email accommodation@uwa.edu.au or visit study.uwa.edu.au/student-life/accommodation.
About Perth

Perth is the capital city of Western Australia and has a lovely Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters (no snow).

The city offers an inspiring study environment, with sunny weather, a relaxed outdoor lifestyle and beautiful natural scenery.

Population: 2.14 million

Language: English

Timezone: GMT +8 hours

Average temperatures: 9–18°C winter, 18–32°C summer
Getting around

UWA is situated on the Swan River and is one of Australia’s most picturesque campuses, with leafy green spaces, open courtyards, and plenty of room to study, catch up with friends or relax outdoors.

UWA is just 10 minutes from Perth’s central business district. Given this beautiful location, many of our students walk or ride bicycles to the University. UWA also has car parking if you decide to drive, as well as excellent public transport links.

Full-time students at UWA are eligible for a Tertiary SmartRider concession fare card, providing cheaper bus and train fares.

SmartRider cards are an initiative of Transperth which runs the city’s public trains, buses and ferries.

[Links]
student.uwa.edu.au/experience/transport
transperth.wa.gov.au
Driving in Australia

As a student, you can only operate vehicles you are authorised to drive on your overseas licence for as long as it remains valid in the country of issue.

If your overseas licence ceases to be valid, you must apply for a WA licence if you wish to continue to drive.

If your overseas licence is not in English, you must carry an international driving permit or an approved English translation of your licence when you drive.

To drive on WA roads with your overseas driver’s licence (and international driving permit, if applicable), you must:

- carry your licence (and international driving permit, if applicable) with you at all times while driving, and show it to a police officer if asked to do so
- comply with any other conditions of your licence
- only drive vehicles you are authorised to drive
- hold a current licence that is not suspended or cancelled (you cannot drive on your overseas licence if you are disqualified from driving or your driving privileges are withdrawn)
- ensure you follow Australian road rules, and
- wear a seatbelt at all times – not using one is illegal.

### Eating in Perth

Perth has a huge array of options for eating out, ranging from fast food restaurants to casual cafés and high-end dining.

Supermarkets and grocery stores also offer foods from around the world, so you should be able to enjoy foods from your home country while in Perth.

There are many supermarkets in and around the city, including Coles, Woolworths, IGA, Aldi and smaller grocery or corner stores. On weekends, markets offer fresh fruit and vegetables.

Broadway Fair Shopping Centre and a number of food outlets are close to campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coffee Orders</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Espresso**  | (short black)  
   or  
   Single: 30ml shot  
   Double: two 30ml shots |
| **Ristretto** | Half an espresso |
| **Long black** | Hot water then a double espresso |
| **Cappuccino** | One-third espresso, one-third steamed milk, one-third milk froth |
| **Latte**     | Like a cappuccino, but with less froth, served in a glass |
| **Flat white**| Like a latte, but with a smaller amount of froth |
Clothing
Our dress code on campus is casual.

In summer, you’ll need lightweight clothes, sandals or sneakers, as well as sportswear, swimwear and a hat.

In winter, heavier clothing, including a woollen jumper/sweater, winter coat or waterproof jacket, is recommended. A pair of warm shoes or boots is also recommended.

In spring and autumn, jeans with a lightweight jacket or jumper should be sufficient.

Generally, the cost of clothing and footwear in Australia is comparable to Western countries but slightly more expensive than Asian countries. It is possible to find bargains during sales in the larger stores.

Electrics
Australian plugs have two flat metal pins shaped like a V. Some may contain a third, flat pin in the centre. Mains voltage in Australia is 230V 50Hz. Travellers from most nations in Asia, Africa and Europe should have appliances that work on the same mains voltage as Australia, so you should not need a voltage converter.

Phones, SIM cards and internet
You’ll need to arrange a mobile phone and internet during your time here. Australia has a range of phone and internet services, including public phones, fixed (landline) phones, mobiles and internet. It is fairly straightforward to organise services through the phone carriers. Our largest providers include Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.

Religion

At UWA, we celebrate people of many differing faiths, religions and belief systems.

The University keeps an Interfaith Calendar so everyone can know the festival periods of some of the larger religious bodies.

UWA is a public educational institution that recognises the diversity of backgrounds of its students and staff. It supports and encourages:
- understanding and cooperative action between different beliefs and/or religious traditions
- intellectual engagement with questions of meaning, belief and faith
- the right to freedom of belief and religion
- the freedom to believe as one chooses and to change one’s beliefs

student.uwa.edu.au/experience/health/spiritual

WHAT TO PACK

Here are some examples of clothing and personal items you could pack for your trip.

**Technology**
- 240 volt power adapter, laptop, phone

**Summer**
- Warm weather clothes

**Winter**
- Cold weather clothes

**Beach**
- Beach clothes and towel

**Toiletries**
- Hair dryer, shavers, glasses and prescriptions
Maps
Our main campus is expansive, so we suggest downloading a campus map before visiting for the first time.

The following maps are available for download:
- Main UWA campus map
- Access and mobility map
- Map of parking areas

You’ll also receive a pocket-size map at your orientation.

[web.uwa.edu.au/contact/map](http://web.uwa.edu.au/contact/map)

Lost on Campus app
You can also download the Lost on Campus app, which tells you where to find a lecture room and how long it will take you to walk there. The app is free and can be downloaded from the App Store.

Safety and security
It is your right to feel safe while you are living and studying in Perth.

If you’re studying late in the library or at your faculty, you can request a uniformed UWA Security Officer to escort you to your car or nearby residential college. Simply contact UWA Security 30 minutes before you need your escort.

+61 8 6488 3020 (all hours)
+61 8 6488 2222 (emergencies)
[security.uwa.edu.au](http://security.uwa.edu.au)

If you are off campus around Perth and experience an emergency or life-threatening situation, call triple zero – 000 – for police, fire or medical assistance.

Call 131 444 for police assistance or attendance if not an emergency.

Student experience

Your first few weeks at university can be overwhelming, from making new friends and managing your resources, to getting help with your course or just finding the correct lecture room. UWA offers a wide range of student services dedicated to helping you get your studies off to the best start.

study.uwa.edu.au/student-life/student-support

Transitioning

Our Transition Services team can help you get used to UWA life, providing programs, support and social activities. The ConnectMe program offers help to commencing international and domestic students by matching you with a UniMentor prior to your arrival at UWA.

student.uwa.edu.au/new/unimentor

SPEAKING AUSTRALIAN

Arvo.........................Afternoon
Avo................................Avocado (we love this smashed on toast!)
Barbie.........................Barbecue
Brekkie.......................Breakfast
Brolly.........................Umbrella
Brunch.........................Not quite breakfast, not quite lunch. Ideal at 11am
Cuppa..........................Cup of tea
How’s it going.............How are you?
Loo..............................Bathroom
Mozzies........................Mosquitoes
No worries..................No problem/you’re welcome
Reckon.........................think/assume
Servo..........................Service station/gas station/petrol station
Thongs.........................A form of footwear

See more at study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/life-in-perth/culture
ON CAMPUS

International Student Support
This team helps you settle in to your new environment and is available to assist with any issues and concerns relating to your welfare throughout your studies. Email help-international@uwa.edu.au.

Student Advising Offices
Your allocated student advising office is your one-stop shop for course-related queries. The team can check your enrolment or create a study plan with you. Staff can also advise on global and extra-curricular experiences, as well as special consideration, credit transfer, approved leave, academic progression, graduation eligibility and other requests. For more information such as office locations and opening hours, visit ask.uwa.edu.au.

UniAccess – Disability Services
If you have a disability, medical or mental health condition that affects your ability to study, the UniAccess team can assist you according to your individual needs.

Services include alternative exam arrangements, establishing reasonable adjustments that you may need due to your medical condition/disability, providing library resource rooms, and assistance with orientation and access. All services are free.

For more information, visit student.uwa.edu.au/experience/health/uniaccess.

Counselling services
Free and confidential counselling from psychologists is available for students with academic or personal concerns.

To book an appointment, visit student.uwa.edu.au/experience/health/counselling.

Sport and exercise
Becoming a UWA Sport member gives you access to more than 50 group class fitness classes a week, state-of-the-art equipment, multiple training zones, qualified instructors and free tickets to our popular masterclasses.

Immerse yourself in the opportunities available through sport and make your time at university unforgettable.

Visit sport.uwa.edu.au for more information and to get involved on campus.
Orientation

Orientation Week (also known as O-Week) runs the week before the start of classes. It’s important to attend O-Week because it helps with a smoother, more enjoyable transition to your life at UWA.

Participate in campus tours and familiarise yourself with your faculty and course requirements. You’ll also meet classmates and staff, and join some of the clubs on campus. O-Week also showcases the student support that is available while you’re at UWA. Download your individual program.

[link]

Study smarter not harder

Our STUDYSmarter programs help UWA students get more out of their study, including topics such as communication, maths, English language, writing and research abilities.

Improve your skills through our interactive WRITESmart and (ma+hs)Smart workshops, drop-ins, and GETSmart online services.

[link]

Library

Our Library aims to provide services that make us a leading global institution. It’s not just a place where information is gathered and accessed, but where ideas are formed, inspired and shared through innovative and engaging physical and digital spaces.

[link]

Careers Centre

This team offers career advice through appointments, employability workshops, résumé and cover letter reviews, an online jobs board, career fairs and more. Get in touch with them for any career-related help.

[link]

UWA Student Guild

University life is about so much more than just study. We have a host of clubs and societies so you can take part in activities you already enjoy or get involved in something new.

The UWA Student Guild runs more than 180 clubs and societies with about 15,000 members between them. It also organises hundreds of events each year.

[link]
**Perth Festival**
Perth Festival is Australia’s longest-running cultural festival, held annually in Western Australia from February to March. The program features contemporary and classical music, dance, theatre, opera, visual arts, large-scale public works, Lotterywest Film Festival and the Perth Writers Festival.

**Fringe World Festival**
Fringe World Festival is an annual multi-arts festival held in Perth during summer in January and February. It is recognised as the third-largest Fringe Festival in the world.

**Sculptures by the Sea**
Australia’s largest annual outdoor sculpture exhibition began in 1997 at Bondi Beach in Sydney. Featuring sculptures by both Australian and overseas artists, the event now also takes place at Cottesloe Beach on Perth’s coastline in March.

**Kaleidoscope Festival**
Kaleidoscope Festival is a vibrant feast for the senses, combining exceptional illumination, installations, music and food. The festival is free, family-friendly and accessible for everyone. It runs in November at Joondalup.

**Winter Arts Festival**
The City of Perth Winter Arts Festival hosts exciting cultural experiences to suit all tastes, spanning theatre, music, comedy, cabaret, dance, film, literature, family and visual arts. Held annually from June to August.

**Australia Day**
The City of Perth is proud to deliver a well-loved tradition for the people of Perth – the Australia Day Skyworks on 26 January. Celebrating our diversity, our culture and our country, this traditional event brings the community together on the banks of the Swan River.
Perth Attractions

Cottesloe Beach
A short bus ride from UWA takes you to breathtaking white sandy beach and stunning sunsets. If it’s too crowded, head further down the coast (towards Fremantle) to Leighton Beach.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden
Bigger than New York’s Central Park, this is one of the largest inner-city parks in the world and receives more than six million visitors a year. Stroll along the Federation walkway or the ‘glass bridge’, climb up the 101 steps of the DNA tower, admire the 750-year-old boab tree, or reflect at the State War Memorial Cenotaph precinct. For the best view, look out over the Perth city skyline at night.

Blue Boat House
Every tourist comes to take a photo of this iconic Perth spot. It’s just down the road from campus and you can run, ride or walk along the river to see it.

The Swan Valley
A vast highway of wineries, chocolate factories and stunning rural sights.

Caversham Wildlife Park
A great destination to interact with all kinds of animals. Roam around and find kangaroos to pat and feed.

Serpentine Falls
An hour’s drive south of UWA, this makes a great daytrip through Perth’s rural landscape. Pack a picnic and relax by the waterfall or set out along one of the walk trails.

Hillarys Boat Harbour
This marina is lined with eateries and stores, so you’re sure to overindulge in delicious food or retail therapy.

Fremantle Weekend Markets
As one of the main attractions in Fremantle, these markets are definitely worth a visit. With so much on offer – from fresh fruit and veg, local clothing and gifts, to natural soaps and food stalls – you’re sure to walk away with something.

Rottnest Island
A small island about 20km off the coast of Perth, Rottnest is accessible by ferry. There is plenty to do here, whether you swim or snorkel, hire a bike, explore the beach or just settle down at one of the cafés or the pub. It’s a rite of passage to get a selfie with the quokkas, the island’s native marsupials.
**Cost of living**

When you’re moving to Australia, it’s important to remember that your tuition fees will not be your only expense. You may need to find accommodation, pay for travel to and from university, and buy supplies such as pens, notepads and books. You’ll also need to consider the cost of food, entertainment and socialising.

The annual cost of living depends on your lifestyle and the type of accommodation you choose, but AUD$450 per week is generally sufficient for most students to live comfortably. This does not include tuition fees, medical insurance, textbooks or any airfares.


**Budget**

We recommend bringing about AUD$4,000 to take care of your initial expenses and cover at least your first month in Perth.

**Example:**

- Cash AUD$1,000
- Bank draft or travellers cheques AUD$3,000

Before or on arrival, open a bank account using the AUD$3,000. After a few weeks, you’ll be able to let your parents (or whoever is supporting you) know how much money to send and how often.

**Banking**

Australia has many banks, building societies and credit unions. Our largest banks include ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, NAB and Westpac.

Opening up an Australian bank account as soon as you arrive in Perth means you’ll be able to earn money in Australia. Many banks allow you to apply online from overseas for a bank account. Student account packages are often available, so be sure to ask.

UWA has a Westpac Bank on campus, which can help you open an account. To do this, bring two pieces of identification to open an account (for example, your passport and birth certificate).

Banks in Australia are usually open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, with some branches open on Saturday.

To withdraw cash, use an automatic teller machine or ATM – one is available at Student Central on campus, and there are many around Perth – or you can withdraw money along with purchases at a supermarket.

Some Australian banks have branches in other countries. If there is a branch in your country, you could open an account before you leave home; this will make financial transactions more convenient once you arrive in Perth.

**Working in Australia**

Your student visa allows you to work up to 40 hours a fortnight (14 days) during the academic term, and for unlimited periods during vacations. You cannot, however, undertake work until you have commenced your studies at UWA.


[fairwork.gov.au](https://fairwork.gov.au)

**Bringing your family**

If you’re thinking of bringing your spouse and/or children to Australia, it is important to consider the financial, social, educational and cultural aspects beforehand. It’s also worth noting the conditions regarding dependant schooling before moving.

[study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/moving-to-perth/bringing-your-family](https://study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/moving-to-perth/bringing-your-family)

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**COST OF LIVING**

Perth is one of Australia’s most affordable cities and more affordable than Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2018.

- **Phone and internet**
  - $20 to $50 per week

- **Public transport**
  - $10 to $50 per week

- **Car (after purchase)**
  - $150 to $250 per week

- **Entertainment**
  - $50 to $100 per week

**Dentists**

We recommend that you see a dentist in your home country before arriving in Australia. Dentists here may be expensive and may have long waiting lists.

**On-campus dentist:**

**Matilda Bay Dentist (Guild Village)**
Shop 1.25, First Floor  
**Phone** +61 8 6488 1215  
**Email** matildab@iinet.net.au  
**Open** 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday  
8.30am to 3pm, Friday

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**Doctors and GPs**

If you are feeling unwell, visit or contact a general practitioner. GPs are the doctors to treat any medical condition that is not life-threatening. If you have a life-threatening illness or injury, visit a hospital’s Emergency Department, or phone triple zero – 000 – for emergency assistance.

**Healthdirect Australia 1800 022 222 (advice on non-life-threatening illness)**

On campus, we have a fully equipped and accredited medical centre that provides safe, high-quality and confidential healthcare to students and staff.  
**community.student.uwa.edu.au/experience/health/medical-centre**

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**Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**

If you’re applying for a student visa, you must also organise Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the same duration. Australian Government visa regulations require you to be certified medically fit and possibly vaccinated against some diseases before you leave your country. The Australian High Commission or Embassy in your country can advise you on this if you have any queries.  
[study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/moving-to-perth/health-requirements](http://study.uwa.edu.au/international-students/moving-to-perth/health-requirements)

Overseas Student Health Cover is offered by a number of providers. At UWA, we have a preferred provider agreement with Allianz OSHC where we receive a 14 per cent administration fee from Allianz OSHC. Allianz OSHC benefits are similar to the cover that Australians receive through Australia’s public health care system. Find out what you’re covered for while studying in Australia.  

To obtain health cover from another insurer, refer to the Australian Education International’s Study in Australia website.  

An Allianz OSHC representative is also located on campus at Student Central to answer any questions once you arrive.
Hospitals

Perth hospitals are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have a medical emergency, you need to attend the Emergency Department of one of the major hospitals.

Life-threatening emergencies receive priority care, so if you present with a minor problem at a busy time, your wait time may be a number of hours.

Closest to UWA

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Hospital Avenue, Nedlands
Phone +61 8 9346 3333

In Perth CBD

Royal Perth Hospital
Wellington Street, Perth
Phone +61 8 9224 2244
student.uwa.edu.au/experience/health