



2026

Adelaide City Guide

Your guide to moving to Adelaide



Useful links for students arriving soon

Need assistance getting to your accommodation?

Students may be eligible for an airport pick up service from the airport to their nominated accommodation destination. Get in touch with your University and arrange an airport pickup service.

- What you can/cannot bring into Australia: Can you bring it | Australian Border Force
- Learn about driving with an overseas licence or permit in South Australia: Requirement for overseas license holders | SA
- For more information, head to the Study Adelaide website



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Australia's fifth largest capital

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IDP Adelaide

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Welcome To Adelaide

Your guide to moving to Adelaide

Known for its vibrant arts and cultural scene

Studying in a new country is both exciting and challenging! This guide will help you get the most out of your time in Australia; from getting to know the lifestyle, fun places to visit, accommodation, how to find a casual job and more.

Our friendly IDP Adelaide Counsellors are here to support you on your study journey too. If you have questions about life in Australia, course/university opportunities or visas, we're here to help.

Don't be shy, call, email us or book a counselling appointment online.





Accommodation Options

Settling In

Accomodation

Depending on your lifestyle and budget, you will be able to find the right place to suit you. It all starts with knowing the options...

Student Accomodations

Shared Rooms

Price range: AUD $180–$300 per week *(depending on the location, room size, and the facilities included).*

Shared accommodation is one of the most affordable ways to live in Adelaide. You'll share a bedroom or apartment with other students, making it a great option if you're looking to save money while meeting new people.

Single Rooms

Price range: AUD $250–$450 per week *(depending on the accommodation provider, room type, and location).*

A single room gives you your own private space while sharing common areas such as the kitchen and living room. It's a popular choice for students who want a balance of privacy and community.

Studios

Price range: AUD $350–$550 per week *(depending on the location, building, and room size).*

Studio apartments offer a fully self-contained living space with your own bedroom, bathroom and kitchenette. They're ideal if you prefer complete privacy and independence.





Living On Campus

Price range: AUD $280–$500 per week
(depending on the university, room type, and whether meals are included).

Living on a university campus in Adelaide offers convenient, community-focused accommodation close to classes and facilities, ideal for students seeking a vibrant and supportive environment.

Private Rentals

Shared houses/apartments
Price range: AUD $200–$380 per week

One-bedroom apartments
Price range: AUD $350–$550 per week

Two-bedroom apartments
Price range: AUD $450–$700 per week

Homestays

Price range: AUD $330–$450 per week
(depending on the location and whether meals are included).

In a homestay arrangement, you'll live with an Australian family in their home. The host family covers utilities and internet. In certain arrangements, meals are also covered. Those craving a genuine Australian experience will love this option, as it allows you to live with locals. You'll also enjoy the extra support you receive from your host family.

That said, there is no guarantee that your homestay will be close to your education provider, so you may have to manage a long commute. Have a look at public transport options to see what your journey to campus will be like.



Overseas Student Health Cover

Settling In

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Why do I need Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)? It helps cover you for medical expenses whilst you're studying in Australia, including:





GP/Doctor or Specialist visits (e.g X-rays and blood tests)



Emergency ambulance services



Hospital visits



Some of the cost of prescription medicines

If you have a medical emergency

If you have a life-threatening medical emergency, go to your nearest public hospital emergency department or call 000 (Emergency Services) immediately for help. All public hospitals have a
24-hour emergency and casualty department, so you will always be able to get help.

If it's not an emergency, locate your nearest GP by visiting the official website of your OSHC provider, book an appointment with a doctor by phone or online. The doctor will treat you and determine if you need medicine or need to see a specialist. Alternatively, you can also visit your university's clinic.

Learn more about Overseas Student Health Cover in Australia from these commonly asked about topics at our website.



Australian Health Care system



Common healthcare words



Getting started with your Student Health Cover



Health and safety tips



Banking

Settling In

One of the most important things to do when you arrive in Australia is to open a bank account. Learn how to make international money transactions, pay bills and manage everyday expenses.

Getting started >



1. Choose your bank

Australia offers various banks for international students to choose from

2. Choose an account

1. Everyday Account

The most common bank account type, used for day- to-day expenses.

2. Savings Account

This is where you can store money that you don't need to use straight away.



3. Opening a Bank Account

Take your passport into the bank, as well as your tax identification number from your home country (if you have one).

Often, there are discounts available for students, make sure you bring student ID and letter of enrolment when you visit the bank to access these

commbank.com.au
nab.com.au
anz.com.au
westpac.com.au

4. Tips

Mobile banking is popular in Australia, making it easy to do online banking via mobile, like paying your friends or paying at supermarkets or cafes by tapping your phone

Common bank words:

BPAY - Popular bill paying service allowing you to pay bills online

Direct debits:

Transfers money from one account to another. Can be commonly used for paying health insurance or any kind of recurring payments internationally and online.



Food & Shopping

Settling In



Food & Shopping

Check out the iconic Adelaide Central Market for incredible, fresh produce at affordable prices.

You'll find food from all over the world in Adelaide. Hot spots like Chinatown which is conveniently nestled in the vibrant on Gouger Street. World renowned for its international cuisine, Adelaide's Chinatown boasts some of the most diverse and traditional gourmet foods – an amazing blend of five-star restaurants, food courts, cafes, wine bars and pubs.

The variety of Asian cuisines are endless, such as; Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Malaysian and Indian.

Major Supermarkets

coles

Woolworths
Australia's fresh food people

IGA

ALDI

COSTCO WHOLESALE

TONY & MARK'S
EST 1970
A FAMILY TRADITION

Major Department Stores

1. Major Department Stores

MYER DAVID JONES

2. Sporting Goods

rebel JD

3. Everyday Clothing

ZARA H&M COTTON:ON

4. Homewares (Everday Essentials)

Kmart BIGW

TARGET

5. Electronics, Stationery & Appliances

JB HI-FI Harvey Norman THE GOOD GUYS

Officeworks

6. Hardware Store (DIY)

BUNNINGS warehouse





Transporation

Exploring Adelaide

Getting Around

Adelaide offers a range of transportation options that make getting around the city and its suburbs convenient. The Adelaide Metro card can be used for all public transport, like buses, trams, and trains. Students can avail Adelaide Metro concession cards at discounted rates. Visit the Adelaide Metro website for more information.

Here's an overview of the city-specific transportation details:

Buses

The primary public transport system in Adelaide, offering extensive bus routes throughout the city and suburbs. You can check routes, schedules, and fares on the Adelaide Metro website or app.

Free City Connector: A free bus service that operates on two loops (98A and 98C) around the central business district (CBD) and North Adelaide, making it easy to get around key areas of the city.



Trams

Glenelg Tram Line: Runs from the CBD to the beachside suburb of Glenelg. It passes through key locations such as the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Rundle Mall, and Victoria Square. Travel within the city centre zone is free.

Trains

Adelaide Metro also operates a network of train lines connecting the CBD to the northern, southern, and eastern suburbs. Key train lines include the Gawler, Seaford, Outer Harbor, and Belair lines.

Available on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play



Popular Day Trips From Adelaide

Exploring Adelaide



1. Barossa Valley

1.5 Hours Via Car / Bus

One of Australia's premier wine regions, the Barossa Valley is known for its world-class wineries, gourmet food, and picturesque landscapes.
Highlights: Wine tasting at renowned wineries like Penfolds and Jacob's Creek, gourmet dining, and exploring charming towns like Tanunda and Nuriootpa.

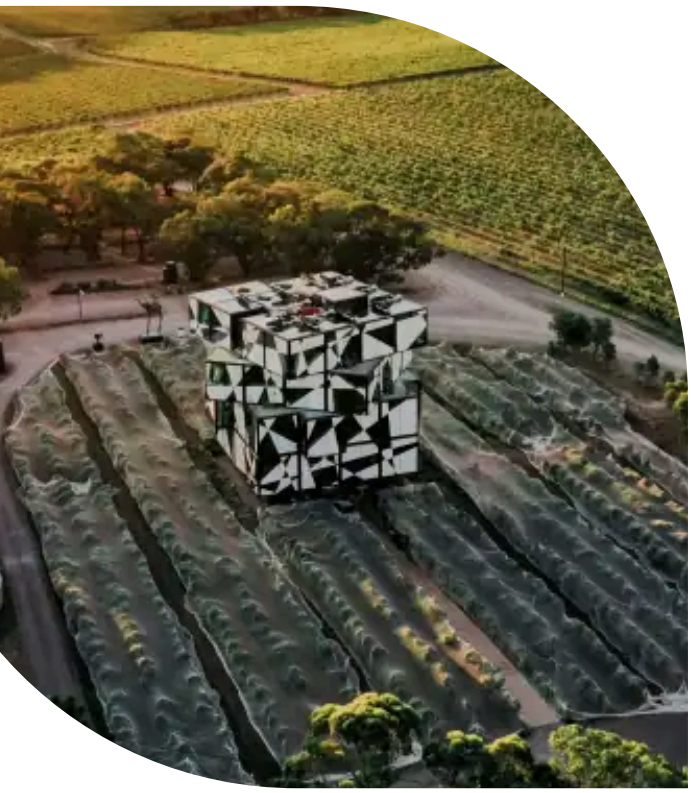


2. Kangaroo Island

1.5 Hours Via Car

A wildlife haven, Kangaroo Island is famous for its stunning beaches, diverse wildlife, and natural beauty.

Highlights: Seal Bay Conservation Park, Flinders Chase National Park, Remarkable Rocks, and Little Sahara sand dunes.



3. McLaren Vale

50 Mins Via Car

Another top wine region, McLaren Vale is known for its boutique wineries, stunning vineyards, and olive groves.

Highlights: Wine tasting at wineries like d'Arenberg and Wirra Wirra, dining at local restaurants, and exploring the Shiraz Trail.

4. Adelaide Hills

30 Mins Via Car

A scenic region just outside Adelaide, the Adelaide Hills offer rolling landscapes, charming villages, and a cooler climate.

Highlights: Visiting the German village of Hahndorf, exploring Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, Cleland Wildlife Park, and enjoying local produce and crafts.





Events & Festivals

Exploring Adelaide

Events & Festivals In Adelaide

Adelaide is known for its vibrant cultural scene and hosts various events and festivals throughout the year. It is also known as the festival capital of Australia.





Adelaide Fringe & Adelaide Festival

February - March

Adelaide hosts two major arts events: the Adelaide Fringe and the Adelaide Festival.

The Fringe is the largest open-access arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere, featuring diverse performances in comedy, theatre, music, and more. Simultaneously, the Adelaide Festival showcases world-class events in theatre, music, dance, literature, and visual arts, attracting international and local talent. These festivals together transform Adelaide into a vibrant hub of creativity and culture.



Tasting Australia

April - May

Tasting Australia is a culinary festival that celebrates South Australia's food and wine culture. It features masterclasses, food and wine tastings, and special dining events with top chefs. It's a must-attend event for food enthusiasts.



Adelaide 500

March

The Adelaide 500 is a major motor racing event held on the streets of Adelaide. It features the Supercars Championship and includes support races, concerts, and family-friendly activities, making it a thrilling event for motorsport enthusiasts.



OzAsia Festival

February - March

The OzAsia Festival is Australia's leading contemporary arts festival engaging with Asia. It includes theatre, dance, music, film, and visual arts from Asia and Australia. The Moon Lantern Parade and Lucky Dumpling Market are popular highlights.



Adelaide Cabaret Festival

June

The Adelaide Cabaret Festival is the largest cabaret festival in the world. It showcases a diverse range of cabaret performances, including music, comedy, theatre, and burlesque. The festival draws international stars and local talent, offering a mix of glamour and entertainment.



WOMADelaide

March

WOMADelaide is an annual world music, arts, and dance festival held in Botanic Park. It showcases performances by artists from around the globe, along with workshops, food stalls, and a vibrant marketplace. It’s a celebration of cultural diversity and artistic expression.



Make New Friends

Exploring Adelaide



Being in a new city, away from your family and friends, you will want to meet like-minded people. Follow our tips for socialising and you will be surprised in how making friends is easier than expected!

- Sharing accommodation is a great way to make friends. In student accommodation, you'll often be living with students who study nearby or even at the same institution.
- Student clubs - Many institutions have their own clubs or societies. You can find clubs with specific interests like Harry Potter, badminton, Mahjong, debating, beauty, getting fit and many more.
- Meetup.com and Eventbrite.com.au make it easy to find people who share the same interests/hobbies. It's fun to keep up your hobbies in your new city, and even better to find friends to share the experience with.
- Volunteer in the community - Volunteer organisations are always on the lookout for eager volunteers. This is also a great way to meet other like-minded people. Go volunteer is also a popular platform to find volunteer work.
- Join the IDP Student Community - Connect with current international students, ask questions, and hear real experiences about studying and living in Australia. You can get practical advice on everything from finding accommodation and part-time work to settling into student life, while building friendships before and after you arrive. Best of all, it's free to join.



Work While You Study

Build a Career In Australia

Work While You Study

As an international student on a student visa, you're able to work a certain number of hours a week in Australia.

Casual employment while studying is a good way to learn about Australian culture and meet people.

Take a look at our Careers and Employability page for more information and download a complimentary copy of IDP's LinkedIn Guide for students.





Be mindful if you have any work restriction on your visa and ensure to check your visa conditions.

- If you are a member of the family unit of a primary student visa holder, you must not work in Australia until they have started their course.
- You must not work in Australia before your course of study commences.
- Looking for a job in a new country can feel daunting, but don't hesitate to drop your resume and ask.
- The hospitality industry is a great place to start and many popular venues will welcome international students. Don't be afraid to drop your resume or ask directly at shops and restaurants.
- You can also use popular online job search websites like LinkedIn, Seek, Jora or Career One.

For more valuable advice on working in Melbourne or in Australia, check out the Study Melbourne website.

Applying for an internship is another way to gain work experience. If you're looking for an internship opportunity, speak to one of our counsellors for ongoing opportunities or visit our website.

Join IDP Thrive

Are you an international student who's recently arrived in Australia? IDP's Got You!

The Thrive Program focuses on delivering a range of support services and benefits to our students. These services provide invaluable information and skills to our students while guiding them to success at every step of their study journey in Australia.

Join the Thrive Program to gain access to a range of exciting offers including exclusive events, reward programs, internships, referrals, and network support.

Download the IDP Live App

IDP Live app features loads of helpful tips, advice, personal stories and videos from international students and institutions around the world to help you prepare for your own overseas adventure.

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Follow our socials





Migration & Visa Services

Are you an international student or migrant who dreams of studying, working or even settling permanently in Australia? If so, you are in the right place!

IDP can help you with every step of the visa application process, from understanding the requirements to submitting your application.

Scan the QR code to book a consultation with our migration agents.

We offer a wide range of visa services:

- Student Visa
- Temporary Graduate Visa
- General Skilled Migration Visa
- Partner and Family Visa
- Employer Sponsored Visa
- Other Visas



Get To Know The Adelaide Team

IDP Adelaide

Get To Know Our Local Team And Services

IDP is a global leader in international education services that helps people study abroad.

As experts in international student placements, our key services include:

- Course selection & guidance with the application process
- Visa help & assistance with preparation of necessary documents.
- Consultation with in-house registered migration agents.
- Help with choosing the right student health cover, accommodation, banking options & money transfer.
- IELTS test booking & preparation material

IDP is a lively network of students and alumni buzzing across Australia. When you arrive, get in touch with us and we'll help you settle in.





IDP helps ambitious students reach their dream destination and thrive on arrival.

Office location
- 16 Grenfell Street - 5000

Phone
- +61 8 8205 1100

Opening hours
- 10:00AM - 5:30PM

If you have questions about how to navigate through all that's happening in Australia, course opportunities or visas, speak to us.

Call, email us or book a counselling appointment online.

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