



2026

Perth City Guide

Your guide to moving to Perth





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 Perth: [Driving in WA: A Guide for International Students](#)
- For more information, head to the [Study Perth website](#).



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Known for its beaches, parks, art galleries, and natural beauty

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Welcome To Perth

Your guide to moving to Perth

The fourth most popular city in
Australia

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 Perth 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

Accommodation

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...



University-Managed Accommodation

Shared Rooms

Price range: AUD \$220–\$350 per week

Single Rooms

Price range: AUD \$280–\$480 per week

Studios

Price range: AUD \$400–\$650 per week



Private Rentals

Shared Houses / Apartments

Price range: AUD \$180–\$350 per week

One-Bedroom Apartments:

Price range: AUD \$450–\$700 per week

Two-Bedroom Apartments

Price range: AUD \$550–\$850 per week



Choosing a place to live is an exciting part about studying overseas



Purpose-Built Student Accommodation

Shared Rooms

Price range: AUD \$220–\$380 per week

Single Rooms

Price range: AUD \$300–\$500 per week

Studios

Price range: AUD \$420–\$700 per week



Homestay

Price range: AUD \$320–\$450 per week

Homestay accommodation in Perth, Australia, offers international students and travellers an opportunity to immerse themselves in Australian culture by living with local families.

This arrangement provides a supportive environment, often including meals and other amenities, facilitating both cultural exchange and language practice.



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

A young woman with long, dark, wavy hair is looking down at a smartphone in her hands. She is wearing a light-colored plaid jacket over a white shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a wooden fence and some greenery.

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.

A photograph of three young people laughing joyfully on a city street. In the foreground, a young woman with long, wavy brown hair is laughing heartily, wearing a light pink hoodie. Next to her, a young man with dark hair is also laughing, wearing a blue denim jacket over a beige sweater. In the background, another young woman with blonde hair is partially visible, also laughing. The background shows a blurred city street with buildings and street signs.

Food & Shopping

Settling In



Food & Shopping

Shopping in Perth offers a mix of vibrant experiences, from bustling malls and department stores to unique boutiques and local markets. The city is home to major shopping destinations like Hay Street Mall and Murray Street Mall in the CBD, while suburbs like Subiaco and Fremantle boast boutique shops and artisan markets.

For luxury brands, head to Claremont Quarter, and for souvenirs and handmade goods, explore Fremantle Markets. Perth combines modern retail with a touch of local charm, making it a great destination for all shopping enthusiasts.

Hay Street Mall & Murray Street Mall:

Central locations with a variety of shops, cafes, and entertainment options.

Forrest Chase:

Popular for major retailers and department stores.

Subiaco:

Rokeby Road & Subiaco Square: Boutique shops, cafes, and markets.

Claremont:

Claremont Quarter: High-end shopping center with a mix of fashion, lifestyle stores, and eateries.

Northbridge:

Known for its vibrant nightlife, Asian supermarkets, and quirky boutiques.

Major Supermarkets



Woolworths
Australia's fresh food people



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 (Everyday Essentials)

Kmart **BIGW**

TARGET

5. Electronics, Stationery & Appliances

JB HI-FI

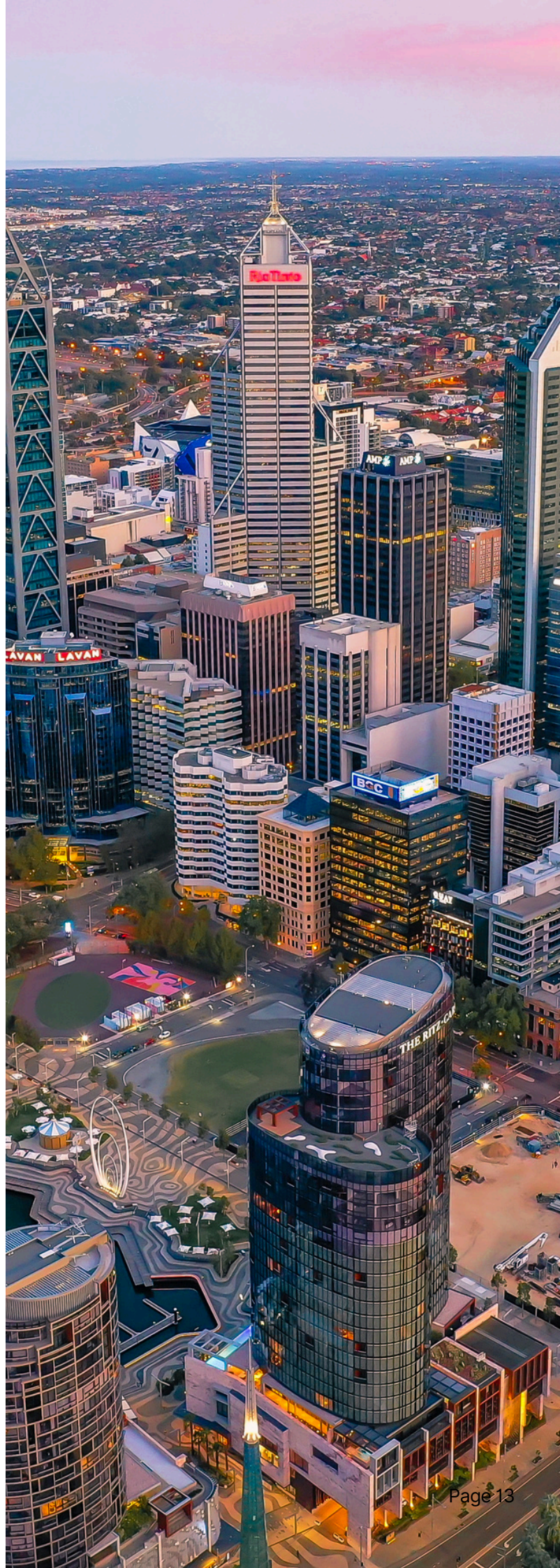
Harvey Norman

THE GOOD GUYS

Officeworks

6. Hardware Store (DIY)

BUNNINGS warehouse





Red CAT
Matagarup Bridge 2

Transportation

Exploring Perth

Getting Around

Perth's public transport, run by Transperth, includes trains, buses, and ferries, with free CAT buses in central areas. Taxis, rideshares, and cycling are also convenient options.



TransPerth

Manages buses, trains, and ferries. Tickets can be purchased via SmartRider cards for discounted fares.



Buses

Extensive network covering Perth and surrounding suburbs.



Trains

Four main lines (Joondalup, Mandurah, Armadale, and Midland) connect the city to outer areas.



Ferries

Services operate between the CBD and South Perth.



Bike Lanes & Paths

Perth is bike-friendly with dedicated cycling paths, including along the Swan River.



Free Bike Hire

Some local councils offer free bike hire programs.



Ridesharing

Uber, DiDi, and Ola are available in Perth.



Taxis

Can be hailed on the street, booked via phone, or through taxi apps.



Car Rentals

Available from companies like Hertz, Avis, and Budget.



Car Sharing

GoGet and Flexicar offer car-sharing services.





Popular Day Trips From Perth

Exploring Perth



1. Rottnest Island



30 Mins Via Ferrie

Famous for its beautiful beaches and friendly quokkas. Activities include snorkeling, cycling, and exploring historic sites.

2. Swan Valley



30 Mins Via Car

Known for its wineries, breweries, and gourmet food. Great for wine tasting tours and visiting local artisans.





3. Fremantle



30 Mins Via Train

A historic port city with heritage buildings, markets, and the Fremantle Prison. Also, enjoy cafes, breweries, and the waterfront.

4. The Pinnacles (Nambung National Park)



2 Hours Via Car

Unique limestone formations set in a desert landscape. Explore the Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre and the nearby coastal areas.





Events & Festivals

Exploring Perth

Events & Festivals In Perth

Perth hosts a variety of events and festivals, from music and arts celebrations like Perth Festival to cultural highlights such as Fringe World and community events like Twilight Hawkers Market. There's always something happening year-round.



Perth Festival

February - March

A major cultural event featuring international and local arts, including theatre, music, dance, and visual arts.



Fringe World Festival

January - February

A large open-access arts festival with comedy, cabaret, theatre, and street performances.



Sculpture By The Sea

March

An outdoor sculpture exhibition along Cottesloe Beach, showcasing local and international artists.



WA Day Festival

June

Celebrates Western Australia's culture and heritage with free events, live music, and activities.



Kings Park Festival

September

A month-long festival celebrating wildflowers and native plants, featuring garden displays, guided walks, and family activities.



Perth Royal Show

September - October

An annual agricultural show with livestock competitions, rides, showbags, and entertainment.



Make New Friends

Exploring Perth



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.

A young man with dark hair and safety glasses is looking upwards and to the left, gesturing with his right hand. He is wearing a grey turtleneck sweater. In the background, there are large, blue, mechanical components, possibly part of a robot or a large machine. To his right, another person wearing a striped shirt is partially visible, looking at a laptop.

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.



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 Perth Team

IDP Perth

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 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

IDP Perth is now fully digital.

Book your online consultation: <https://idp-education-perth.appointlet.com/>

08 9267 3790

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.](#)



