Australia: All Academic Year Programs
Academic Year 2016-2017

University of Melbourne
&
University of New South Wales

Student Program Supplement

University of Michigan
Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS)
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Congratulations on your acceptance to one of the Australian universities that comprise the University of Michigan’s Michigan Global Academic Programs (MGAP) in Australia. The purpose of this program supplement is to provide you with general information about Australia and its educational system and to start you thinking concretely about your time abroad.

The purpose of this supplement is to provide you with general information about Australia, its educational system, and your time abroad. Prior to departure, you will receive detailed information from the university you will be attending. This material will supplement the information enclosed in the CGIS General Handbook and the information you receive from your host university. It is important that you read these materials carefully as you prepare to study abroad in the Australia. You are responsible for knowing the information provided by the CGIS and your host university. We suggest taking all materials, including documents from MCompass with you in your carry-on luggage.

THE AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMS

As a U-M student at the University of Melbourne or University of New South Wales (UNSW), you will be enrolled at an Australian university and taking classes alongside Australian students.

The Australian programs are unlike many of the other study abroad programs administered by the Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS) in that there are two Australian universities that are part of the overall program. Each university has its own requirements, staff, curriculum, and fee structures, as well as arrangements for providing support services for visiting American students. U-M does not have a resident director in Australia; rather, CGIS plays a mediating role, collecting applications and forwarding them to the appropriate universities and, at the end of the term (or year), receiving notification of your grades and seeing they are correctly recorded. The host university makes all decisions about class offerings, housing, and access to classes.

U-M students in Australia fall into one of two categories: you will either be a Visiting (or Study Abroad) Student or an Exchange Student. As a Visiting Student, you will not be assessed tuition by U-M, but instead you will pay tuition to the host university and you will pay the CGIS Administrative Fee. Exchange students will pay their normal U-M tuition, but will not be assessed academic fees at the host university; Exchange students also pay the CGIS Administrative Fee. Both Visiting and Exchange students will pay on-site for your housing, food and other academic expenses.

Regardless if you are a Visiting student or an Exchange student, while in the Australia, you will be a Australian student for all intents and purposes. You are subject to the same requirements for assignments and the class grading scale as well as have access to all the services and facilities at your host university as your Australian counterparts. It is therefore extremely important that you carefully read all the materials regarding housing, cost, classes, dates, and orientation programs sent to you by the host university and CGIS.

ACADEMICS: THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

American students spending a semester or year at an Australian university will find that despite a common language, there exist sharp contrasts in our two university systems. In Australia, university education is publicly funded for the most part, with each state supporting several universities within its region. Although some universities in Australia are smaller than U-M, they offer a wide range of disciplines, divided into faculties comparable to U-M’s colleges and schools. Most undergraduates enter university at the age of seventeen, for a three-year program of study, with a few remaining for a fourth year of honors work that combines coursework and a thesis.

Few Australians travel to university outside their home states and most undergraduates enroll in universities in or near where they have grown up, living at home and commuting to campus. Those with families outside the city or town live in university-affiliated residence halls (called “colleges” in Australia) or off-campus, but it is rare for a student to travel
interstate to attend university. For this reason, there is less on-campus housing in Australia than U-M or other American schools.

Students generally enter university knowing what field they intend to study--although they may change their major if they find their choice is unsuitable for one reason or another. In the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, geography, geology, psychology, etc.), there is a careful sequence of classes for first-, second-, and third-year students in each department, and students are expected to follow the prescribed program of study (referred to as a course). There is also a heavy emphasis on laboratory work in all classes, but perhaps the biggest contrast to American programs of study is in psychology, which is heavily statistical and biological in its focus. In the humanities and social sciences (combined into the Faculty of Arts at most universities), the requirements are more flexible, and often a wide range of subjects can be accepted as prerequisites for advanced classes. American students will find fewer interdisciplinary or area studies programs (such as Australian or Asian studies) than at U-M, but that classes with such a focus can be found in a variety of departments. Australian or aboriginal studies classes, for example, can be found in English, history, anthropology, and political science departments, among others.

Both partner universities are members of the Australian Group of Eight. The Group of Eight (Go8) is a coalition of leading Australian tertiary institutions, intensive in research and comprehensive in general and professional education.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE

The second oldest university in the country, the University of Melbourne was established in 1853 and has enjoyed an excellent academic reputation throughout its history. The main campus, which contains most of the administrative, academic, and residential facilities, is in Melbourne’s suburb of Parkville, a short walk or tram ride from the city center. It offers courses in a full range of disciplines, spread among such faculties as Arts, Science, Economics and Commerce, Engineering, Education, and Music.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY

Although a relatively new university, UNSW is fast becoming one of the leading educational institutions in Australia. Founded in 1949 as a technical school, its traditional excellence in engineering, science, and technology has been augmented by strengths in social sciences, Asian studies, business and commerce, and now courses in a wide range of disciplines. The main campus in Kensington, an inner southeastern suburb of Sydney, is modern and urban and boasts extensive recreational and sporting facilities.

COURSE SELECTION

In general, the subject offerings at Australian universities are similar to those available at American universities but spread across several faculties—what we classify as schools or colleges. LS&A humanities and social science departments are part of the Faculty of Arts at Australian universities, while science departments are part of the Faculty of Sciences. For the most part, course offerings in the various disciplines are similar to what is available here, and U-M students may select their classes from one or more faculties.

Most classes are a combination of lectures and tutorials, roughly comparable to our system of lectures and discussion sections. Introductory classes may consist of two lectures and one tutorial per week, while advanced courses may require one lecture and two tutorials per week. Although students are expected to come to tutorials having done the readings and prepared to participate in the discussions, class participation may not be factored into the final grade to the same extent as in the U.S. and instead written work may count more heavily.
ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The seasons are, of course, reversed in Australia, and the academic calendar reflects this. Semester 1 of the academic year begins generally in late February to early March and continues through June. Semester 2 begins in July and concludes with exams in December (although most visiting and exchange students will be finished by Thanksgiving); with the summer break lasting from January through mid-late February. U-M students who study abroad during U-M fall term, therefore, will be arriving in Australia for Semester 2, and the weather will change from cool and wet to hot and dry during Semester 2.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE


UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Calendar 2016-2017: https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/AcademicCalendar.html
Additional information: scheme/https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/AcademicCalendar.html

NOTE:
You are expected to complete all exams on your host campus. Since you will not know your exam schedule ahead of time, plan to be on campus through the end of the exam period. Please note Australian exam dates are final and non-negotiable.

GRADES & CREDITS

At the same term you are participating in classes in Australia, you will be registered at U-M as a full time student. Please refer to your CGIS General Handbook for the correct STDABRD course number for your U-M registration. You will register for 15 U-M credits per semester that you are in Australia. Grades and credits will be converted from your Australian transcript using the appropriate table found below and the listed on your U-M transcript. The grade you received for your classes will appear on your U-M transcript, and they will be calculated into your U-M cumulative GPA.

STDABRD: Melbourne: 489
STDABRD: UNSW: 468

LSA students will earn in-residence credit for your work in the program.

Non-LSA students must check with their college or school to determine its policy on Michigan Global Academic Program (MGAP) credits, grades and GPA.

Australia’s system of assessment and grading is different from that in the U.S. At U-M as at other American universities, “continual assessment” is the norm in first- and second-year classes, with students submitting material and receiving grades frequently throughout the semester. In Australia, grades are based on fewer pieces of work--perhaps one or possibly two papers and a final exam--and visiting students may find it difficult to gauge how well they
are doing. American students may also be surprised to find attendance requirements: at the University of New South Wales, for example, students are required to attend 80% of the class meetings, and a student who neglects to do so may not be permitted to take the final exam.

Australian students receive both numerical grades, based on a scale of 1 to 100, and a general ranking (equivalent to our A through D grades). “Distinction” is the highest ranking, awarded to students who receive between 80 or 85 and 100 points (depending on the university) in a course; only a relatively few (perhaps 5%) in a class may receive this mark. Grades are not distributed along a bell-shaped curve as in the U.S.; rather, the distribution of marks resembles a pyramid. In assigning marks, instructors evaluate individuals against an ideal standard rather than against others in the course, and only rarely are the highest marks given out.

**U-M GRADE CONVERSION SCALE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>80-100</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>50-54</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>C+</td>
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A semester load at Melbourne consists of carrying a total of **50 credit points**, which equates to **16 U-M credits**. Most undergraduate classes are worth **12.5 credit points** which equals **4 credits at U-M**, and students take four per term. Students in the Faculty of Science should confirm enrollment at an early date (before leaving Michigan), as spots in these classes are limited. Students indicate which courses they would like to take during the application process, and those courses are confirmed by the University of Melbourne during the admission process. When you attend your Enrollment session after arrival, you’ll receive an enrollment pack, or a Student Advisor appointment, and further advice on selection courses and completing enrolment. Enrollment is normally done online.

**U-M GRADE CONVERSION SCALE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>85-100</th>
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<tr>
<td>81-84</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-80</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-74</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>35-39</td>
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<td>68-71</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>60-64</td>
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Students must register for a minimum academic load of **24 UNSW credit points per semester (usually 4 classes)**, which equates **16 U-M credits**. Most undergraduate classes are 6 credit points at UNSW, (4 credits U-M). Some General Education classes are 3 credit points (2 credits U-M.) Acceptance letters from UNSW list course enrollments, although choices are not finalized until the Final Registration period at UNSW.

**HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS**

All housing arrangements are made before departure through the study abroad/exchange office at the host university.
Check the materials provided by your host university for details, deadlines, and costs. Please remember, it is your responsibility to apply for housing on your own and adhere to any deadlines. Here are some pointers and suggestions:

1. Apply for housing as soon as you decide to accept the offer from the particular school. Please read carefully the requirements for applying for and accepting housing at your host institution. Some schools may require a deposit and some may assign housing on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces may be in especially short supply for Winter term applicants.

2. Decide whether “self-catered” or “catered” accommodation suits you best. In catered accommodation, students are expected to take their meals in the dining hall and kitchen facilities. Where you might cook for yourself, will likely be minimal. Self-catered accommodations generally indicate that there is a shared kitchen space and this option works well for students who want a greater amount of independence as regards meals.

3. Most rooms in the residence halls are singles. In the newer halls, with self-catered arrangements, six to eight students may be assigned to an “apartment” with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities; bedrooms in these apartments are singles. Some rooms even have “en suite” facilities—their own toilets, sinks, and showers.

4. Prior to your departure, verify before you go if you are expected to provide your own sheets, blankets, and towels. You may want to bring them with you, or decide to purchase them upon arrival. You should also check to see when and where you are able to pick up your room keys after you arrive.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

*Exchange and Visiting (Study Abroad) Students* may apply for housing in one of the *Residential Colleges* on campus. The advantage to this option is greater social integration with Australian students. The Residential Colleges serve as academic and social centers, each with its own academic advisors, social and athletic events, and dining facilities, where meals are served to all students in the college. An application needs to be submitted as soon as possible, as housing in the Colleges is limited. The offers are made by the colleges themselves, and students who cannot be accommodated will need to locate housing off-campus upon arrival. For information and application for all types of housing available at UNSW is available at: [www.housing.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.housing.unsw.edu.au/)

*Visiting and Exchange Students* may also apply through UNSW’s Study Abroad Office. Here is a link to the Study Abroad website for more information on these housing options: [http://www.studyabroad.unsw.edu.au/index.cfm?page=192](http://www.studyabroad.unsw.edu.au/index.cfm?page=192)

UNSW recognizes that housing is an important issue for exchange and visiting students. The International Student Housing Service provides information and assistance to help students to find suitable accommodation as soon as possible after arrival. Students needing off-campus housing may arrange in advance to stay in temporary housing (up to five nights) when they first arrive and are looking for a place. The International Student Housing Service maintains extensive listings of available apartments and houses, and will take students to view up to three places before making their decision. Most students locate suitable housing within days of arrival, and the ISHS will help explain housing options, where nearest shops are, etc. Here is a link to that office (other important housing links can be reached from this page as well): [http://www.housing.unsw.edu.au/housing/index.php](http://www.housing.unsw.edu.au/housing/index.php)

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Both exchange and visiting students, may apply through the International Centre for on-campus housing, in one of the twelve *Residential Colleges* owned by or affiliated with the university, or off-campus accommodations located near campus. The Residential Colleges serve as academic and social centers, each with its own academic advisors, social
and athletic events, and dining facilities, where meals are served to all students in the college. Spaces in the Residential Colleges are limited, and students wishing to live in a college should apply as soon as possible. In off-campus housing, fellow residents are likely to be older and have greater autonomy than in the residential colleges, where many first-year students live and where they are subject to various regulations. Off-campus housing has a high proportion of international students, so students hoping to make Australian friends may wish to either apply for a place in a residential college or opt to look for shared housing in a private flat or apartment upon arrival. The campus has an office that can acquaint students with the local housing market.

For detailed information: www.services.unimelb.edu.au/housing/

Detailed information about housing options and programs/services that are available for exchange and visiting students can be found at: http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/inbound/life/long-term-housing.html

The University of Melbourne offers an optional, 4-day orientation program for international students, called The Melbourne Welcome. This program provides an introduction to the University and the city and is additional to the formal orientation to the University and to the residential colleges. The program cost includes five nights’ lodging and meals at one of the residential colleges; this cost is additional to University of Melbourne’s charges for tuition and other academic fees. The application for the Melbourne Welcome program can be found at: http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/inbound/life/melbourne-welcome.html Spaces are limited, so apply early if you are interested.

BEFORE YOU GO

ACCEPTING YOUR OFFER CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT (CoE)

Your host university will send you this document, which confirms that you have been accepted to an Australian university. You will not receive the CoE until you have formally accepted the host university’s offer, paid for the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), and sent some kind of deposit (if applicable) directly to the host university.

VISAS

IMPORTANT-PLEASE READ: Obtaining a visa and following the correct procedure is ultimately the responsibility of each student who is applying. The CGIS and your host institution will try to provide some assistance in the process, but the Australian Consulates make the final decisions regarding the issuance of the visa and whether or not you have followed the proper procedure. You are encouraged to read the general guidelines that have been provided to you by your Host University and CGIS and to carefully review the official Consulate website to be certain you are following the procedures and requirements that the Australian government has given to applicants. The CGIS is not responsible if the information we provide differs from the Australian Consulate requirements.

Students spending a semester (or a full year) in Australia are required to obtain a visa for their stay in advance of their departure from the U.S. You will be applying for a Student visa, sub class 575. Please consult the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website for information on applying for a student visa (www.immi.gov.au/students/). The application process can be completed online. Your host university will provide you with information about the visa process and you can contact them for assistance if you have questions about it.

Do not apply for a visa until you have received your Certificate of Enrollment from the host university, as the Australian Embassy will not issue you a visa without it.
Here is another website that has a lot of information about living in Australia and about the visa process. 
http://www.gostudyinaustralia.org/student-visas

People granted a student visa receive permission to work with their initial student visa grant. As a result, most student visa holders will no longer need to apply separately in Australia for permission to work. Students are generally allowed to work once they have commenced their coursework at their host university and can work up to 20 hours per week while the course is in session. However, it may be difficult to secure casual paid work so students should not depend on income from work to cover their expenses and students are often advised against undertaking work during their study abroad sessions.

Important: Student visas are subject to strict conditions. Failure to comply with visa conditions may result in cancellation of your visa. Cancellation of your Student Visa will require you to leave Australia.

To find an Australian Embassy or Consult, please visit: www.dfat.gov.au/embassies.html.


CONTACT AND VISITING INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

When you arrive your host country, register with the nearest American consulate or embassy. It is important they know where to reach you in the event of an emergency. Check the U.S. Embassy website in your host country to see if it is possible to register before you leave. It helps if you know where you will be living ahead of time, although it may be possible to update this information later. Here are links to the main websites of the U.S. Consulate General in the three cities of our partner universities. Please just select the tab at the top of the page for American Citizen Services in your area:


Here is a link for the U.S Department of State website. There is a link at the top of the page for all U.S Embassies and Consulates in case you are traveling outside of your host city: http://travel.state.gov/

GETTING THERE

CHECK-IN & ORIENTATION

All three universities offer the option of free airport pick-up. If you would like to take advantage of this service, contact the study abroad/exchange office at your host university.

You should plan to arrive at least 2 days before the mandatory international student orientation to allow for settling in and getting over your jet lag. Be sure to check when your housing is available - move in as early as you can!

CULTURE & SOCIETY
To many Americans, Australia seems a place much like the U.S. but with better beaches, more sun, and peculiar animals. While this is not entirely a false picture—certainly the climate is more temperate and the ocean much closer in Sydney, Perth, or Melbourne than in Michigan—Australia has much more to offer than sand, sun, and kangaroos. Australia combines aspects of a modern cosmopolitan environment with one of the world’s last great frontiers. It uniquely provides the opportunity to study both. For the American visitor who can no longer find a frontier at home, Australia offers a substitute and one with parallels to our own history. Australians are grappling with issues which are now, or have been, singularly important for Americans as well: what it means to be a multicultural society, what obligations are owed its indigenous peoples, and what its role should be both in the region of South East Asia and in the world.

Like the U.S., Australia has a federal system of government with political and administrative power shared among the national and state governments. It has a significant native population, the treatment of which is a matter of great public concern and debate. In recent decades Australia has attracted considerable numbers of immigrants from South East Asia, changing it from a country whose citizens were almost entirely of European, and especially British, origin to a much more diverse society. It has tremendous natural resources, over which developmental and environmental forces clash. Its educational system (described in more detail earlier in the handbook) is a blend of the American and English models, but it also struggles with problems similar to ours. Its justice and legal systems also blend the English and American models, and are now confronting a rising crime rate (although violent crime rates remain far below those in the U.S.). The country’s health care system is a mixture of public and private initiative that must meet the needs of both dense urban and very remote rural populations.

A FINAL WORD

We suggest that you browse through, and perhaps purchase, a travel guide to Australia, of which there are many. Any bookstore will have a selection of informative travel guides, which contain information about both the logistics of travel (transportation, accommodations, and food) and the sights you will see once you get there. Even if you decide not to buy a guide, or to wait until you get to Australia, it’s worth browsing through one or more as you begin to think about where you’ll be living, what you might wish to bring, etc. Learn some basic facts about Australia geography—where your city is, for example, in relation to the rest of the Australia, and about regional differences in accents and attitudes. Australian Broadcasting Corporation Homepage: www.abc.net.au/; Online News Site of the Australian Herald: www.australiannews.net/

Peaceful Thoughts: Enjoy your time in Australia. You'll find you have more independence than at Michigan, which this can enable you to pursue interests and take advantage of opportunities that might not present themselves here. If there is anything the CGIS can do to make your stay easier, please let us know.

CONTACT AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

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435 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003
Phone: 734-764-4311; Fax: 734-764-3229
Email: cgis@umich.edu
Web: www.lsa.umich.edu/cgis
Ebony Ellis, Senior Intercultural Programs Advisor  
Phone: 734-764-4311  
Email: enellis@umich.edu

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency on-site, immediately call local emergency services. You should know your local address and the 911 equivalent number in your host country and carry that number with you at all times. Contact your local program director/on-site staff immediately if you are the victim of crime or need emergency assistance. Please also contact the University of Michigan Department of Public Safety, which has the following 24 hour number: (734) 763-1131. They will then contact the necessary on-campus offices, including the Center for Global and Intercultural Study, to respond to your situation. You may provide this same 24 hour number to your parents should if they experience an emergency and need to get a hold of you while you are abroad and are unable to contact you directly.

To contact HTH Worldwide in the event of an emergency or regarding insurance questions call 1.800.257.4823 or collect +1.610.254.8771 or globalhealth@hthworldwide.com

AUSTRALIA PROGRAM CONTACTS:

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
Global Mobility Melbourne Global Mobility John Smyth Building  
The University of Melbourne Victoria 3010, Australia  
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Email: studyabroad-exchange@unimelb.edu.au

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Education Abroad Advisor  
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Phone: 011 61 3 8344 7612

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Email: bprice1@unimelb.edu.au  
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Rachel Wellam,  
Study Abroad Program Manager Program Manager  
Email: rwellam@unimelb.edu.au  
Phone: 011-61 3 8344 9885

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Red Centre Building, University of New South Wales Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia  
Email: www.studyabroad.unsw.edu.au  
Web: http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/study/inbound-exchanges/formal-student-exchange/; international.unsw.edu.au
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