

Brisbane, Australia – Spring, Calendar Year 2011

IAP Program Handbook

The exchange program in Brisbane, Australia is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the University of Queensland. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from the University of Queensland as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with the University of Queensland or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

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Contact Information

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UW-Madison Information

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Madison, WI 53706
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Emergency Contact Information

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number **(608) 265-6329** between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at **(608) 516-9440**.

Embassy Registration

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country's embassy or consulate.

U.S. Embassy in Sydney, Australia

MLC Centre

Level 59

19-29 Martin Place

Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: (61-2) 9373-9200

Fax: (61-2) 9373-9125

U.S. Embassy Homepage: <http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/sydney>

American Citizens Services (ACS) Email: sydneyacs@state.gov

Program Dates

Spring 2011 (Semester 1)

Study Abroad and Exchange Orientation	February 21
General Orientation	February 21-25
Classes	February 28 – April 22
Mid-semester break	April 25 - 29
Classes	May 3 – June 4
Revision period	June 5 – 10
Exams	June 11 – 25
Semester ends	June 25

Australian Holidays

January 1	New Year's Day
January 26	Australia Day
Friday before Easter	Good Friday
Saturday before Easter	Easter Saturday
Date Varies	Easter Monday
April 25	ANZAC Day (National Day of Remembrance)
First Monday of May	Labour Day
June 12	Queen's Birthday
Second Wednesday of August	Royal Queensland Show (Brisbane area only)
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day

Preparation Before Leaving

Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages four and five of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

Immigration Documents

Passport

A passport is needed to travel to Australia and to obtain your student visa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa

You must have a visa in order to study in Australia. The University of Queensland and IAP will supply you with instructions on how to apply for your Visa. Once the University of Queensland has issued you a Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE), you can apply for your Visa. You **cannot** apply for a Visa without the Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE). The Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) will be sent to you once you return your Official UQ Acceptance Form to the University and pay for your OSHC Health Insurance.

For additional information, visit the Department of Immigration's web site:

www.immi.gov.au/contacts.

Handling Money Abroad

Australia's currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD). As of 9/30/09 the exchange rate is 1.14 AUD per U.S. dollar. Past participants have recommended that you exchange money before departure in order to have some cash available upon arrival. They suggest bringing enough cash to last a week's worth of living expenses. This will include bus, train and taxi fares, payment of temporary accommodation, and meals. Be sure to **ask for small bills** when exchanging money so you can pay for local transportation without needing too much change.

You can use credit cards in Australia for everything from drawing cash to buying dinner. While Visa and MasterCard are more widely accepted than American Express for purchases, American Express offers its card holders some very useful financial services. For each transaction, you will be assessed the wholesale exchange rate that applies to large foreign currency transactions. You can only draw from a primary (usually checking) account and you should check with the issuer to make sure your numerical PIN number will work abroad. There are some things to consider when using an American ATM card; the first is international transaction fees. Be sure to ask each company about their international transaction fees because these fees can be fairly high. Also, American ATM cards are difficult to replace quickly if lost or stolen so make sure you have other sources of money with you.

One way to handle your money is to open an Australian bank account. You can wire money from your home institution to your account in Australia. The advantages of opening an Australian account are: Australian banks currently do NOT charge a fee for the use of their ATMs, you have easy access to bank employees that can help you if there is a problem with your account or if your card is lost or stolen, and if you chose to work, you can directly deposit

your paychecks into your account. Some Australian banks also have special packages for students that make it convenient to open and easy to close an account upon entry and exit of the country. Examples of banks in Australia are Australian New Zealand Bank (www.anz.com), Commonwealth Bank (www.commbank.com.au) and Bank of Queensland (www.boq.com.au). Note: Before you can open an account in Australia, you must have an Australian address and telephone number.

Even with careful planning and strict adherence to a budget, it is very easy to overspend. Finance charges can add up quickly if you extend payments on goods or take out cash advances. Planning a budget and sticking to it can help you avoid overspending.

Packing

Pack light. Remember that Brisbane is a modern city and you can buy almost anything that you need there. You want room in your suitcase to bring home all your souvenirs! You will be limited to two pieces of checked luggage (50lbs each) and one carry-on bag (15lbs max and they WILL weigh it!) on the flight. Although the luggage allowance seems ideal, this is a lot more than you can comfortably carry. Large, hard-sided suitcases are tough to maneuver and even more difficult to store. Use duffel bags with wheels or a good, internal frame backpack. If you're going to be in a temporary accommodation during your first few weeks in Brisbane, keep in mind that you will move a lot so keep your packing light.

Clothing

What you will wear while in Australia will depend on what time of year you are there. If arriving in for Semester 1 (February/March-June/July), it will be very hot when you first arrive. Bring shorts, tanks and sandals. By June and July, it will be cool enough for pants, long sleeved shirts and a light jacket. You will even see some people wearing scarves! If arriving for Semester 2 (June/July-December/January), you will go through the reverse process. Bring a couple of sweatshirts or fleeces for traveling and for the winter months.

Some fashion in Australia is similar to what you're used to and some is very different. Young Australian men and women dress like to make a statement with their outfits. Do not be surprised when you see new styles, bright colors and crazy hairstyles. On campus, students tend to dress nicely but casually. Outfits include jeans, t-shirts, dresses and skirts. In summer, it is acceptable to wear shorts, t-shirts and light footwear.

For going out you should bring nice clothes--both guys and girls are required to dress nicely to get into many social establishments. Guys MUST wear pants, covered shoes, and collared shirts.

Sunscreen! Don't forget to pack a lot of the highest SPF along with a hat on those extra hot days!

Electronics

If you can help it, don't bring electrical appliances from home. The electrical current in Australia is 240/250 volts at 50Hz (cycles per second). In the US, it is 110 volts at 60Hz. You will not only need an adapter to plug in your appliance, you will also need either a transformer and adapter plug, or a dual voltage appliance which can be switched from 110 to 240 volts. Most returning students agreed that converters were a hassle and said it was best to buy a hairdryer overseas. If you want to bring one from home, try ones with dual voltage (brandnames include Krupps, Braun, or Conair).

Travel and Arrival Information

University staff will meet international students at Brisbane's domestic or international airports. This service is only available to students commencing their first semesters and bookings **must** be made five days in advance via the Accommodation Services website. Your UQ student number is required in order to book this service:

https://www.uq.edu.au/secure/accommodation/int_stud/

Temporary accommodation can be arranged and Accommodation Services. This office can help students find more permanent accommodation upon their arrival. Temporary accommodation includes hostel stays and dorms. For more information about accommodation services visit:

www.accommodation.uq.edu.au

Orientation

Orientation is designed to assist new students to settle into university life at UQ. It takes place before classes begin. Students will receive information on enrolling and obtaining student ID cards, activities, banking, safety, getting around, an overview of services and support systems, resources and facilities. Other highlights include campus tours, advice and information about specific programs and courses and entertainment activities.

<http://www.uq.edu.au/orientation/>

The Academic Program

The University of Queensland

The University of Queensland (UQ) was established in 1909 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Queensland's independence from the colony New South Wales. Its' foundation four months later made it the first university in Queensland and the fifth university in the nation. The first classes were held in 1911 in the Government House, George Street, Brisbane. The classes consisted of 83 students, including 23 women.

Development of the university was slow during WWI, but boomed immediately following the war, when demand for higher education increased. The university soon outgrew its facilities on George Street, and the long process of moving campus to a larger location began.

In 1927, Dr. James O'Neil Mayne and his sister Mary Emelia Mayne donated \$380,000 for the city to designate a 274-acre plot of land in St Lucia as the permanent location for the university. The land was lent to a Farm School until 1937, when UQ acquired enough finances to begin construction of the new university. The university's move from George Street to St Lucia was accomplished between 1946 and 1972.

In 1990, UQ merged with Queensland Agricultural College, which is now called UQ Gatton, and in 1999, UQ Ipswich opened as one of the first purpose-built, completely web-enabled campuses in Australia.

UQ St. Lucia

UQ's St. Lucia campus is renowned as one of Australia's most attractive campuses. The 114-hectare site provides a perfect study, research and living environment. The sandstone buildings,

parklands and lakes encompass world-class teaching and research facilities including state of the art laboratories and lecture theaters.

UQ Gatton

UQ Gatton is a leader in agriculture, animals and natural resources and environmental sciences. The campus offers a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and students enjoy the benefits of being close to the major center of Brisbane, while taking advantage of research opportunities and hands-on training.

Students should only take courses at one campus – either St. Lucia or Gatton. Gatton is a 1 ½ hour bus ride from St. Lucia.

Support for International Students

The University provides an integrated, professional service for international students in several key support areas. A range of free and confidential facilities is available to UQ students at each campus. In addition to individual sessions, Student Services runs an extensive program of group seminars and workshops.

Each UQ campus has a student center that assists you with administrative matters. If you ever need someone to talk to about any issues you have while living in Australia, Student Support Services is the place to go. Student Support Services provides International Student Advisors, Financial Advisors, Personal Counselors, Learning Advisors, and more. International Student Advisors are particularly helpful; they are available to help you settle in and adjust to life in Australia, introduce you to the social, cultural and recreational life on campus, and assist you with any problems you may encounter.

For more information on these services, visit <http://www.uq.edu.au/studyabroad/student-services>.

Course Information

Classes

UQ offers 6,000 courses in more than 400 different programs. UQ is the only university in Queensland that offers programs in agricultural science, food technology, speech pathology and veterinary science.

Class Schedules

Classes are typically held for two hours a week, with an hour long tutorial (discussion) held once a week. However, the lecture times are more random than the Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedules that are common at UW-Madison. Some lectures start late and finish early and have a 5-10 minute break in the middle. Classes are typically more laid back at UQ than they are in Madison, but don't mistake that for meaning classes are easy. Students are expected to do more work outside of class.

Exams

At UQ, grades are heavily based upon research papers and final exams. Unlike Madison, it is rare to have midterms. Classes with a lab or "practical" usually account for about 20% of your final grade. Although class may seem informal, you are expected to do a lot of work on your own outside of class. You have a week off before final exams begin as a study period.

Classes Available

Like Madison, UQ offers programs in a broad range of subjects. While studying in Australia, you can take courses ranging from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to Zoology. Courses such as Coastal Management and Marine Science may be of particular interest since they are not offered at Madison. Further information on undergraduate programs and course offerings can be found online at <http://www.uq.edu.au/study/>. You can also search the different faculties' courses online at http://www.uq.edu.au/study/search.html?action=course_form.

Libraries

UQ has 14 branches of its library system, including branches at St Lucia, UQ Gatton, UQ Ipswich, the major teaching hospitals and the Dental School. UQ St. Lucia has the state's largest library. The library is dubbed "Cybrary" to describe its integration of traditional library services with modern technology and web access. Library hours depend on the library, but the hours for the Biological Science Library are pretty standard.

Biological Sciences Library hours:
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Along with more than two million books, library collections include videos, journals, electronic journals, networked databases, microfilm, and manuscripts. There are over 1100 computers available to students to use for school or email, as well as copy machines and printers. You can find more information about UQ's libraries online, at <http://www.cybrary.uq.edu.au/>.

Library Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
*Hours are significantly reduced during holidays

Computers

Computers have become an integral part of student life at UQ. All libraries have computer facilities available to students and some schools and faculties have individual computer labs for their students' exclusive use. Computers located in the library are only accessible during library hours. All UQ students are issued a free UQ email account, which is a primary means of communication with the university and is thus important to check regularly.

Registration

When you apply to the program, you will need to specify courses you intend to take on your application. Keep in mind that it is always better to select more courses you are interested in than you will actually take. This will give you some backup options in case a course you select is not approved. You need to be sure you are choosing courses that are offered in the Australian semester in which you will be studying abroad. The Australia Calendar is a bit different from the US Academic Calendar. The Australian Semester 1 (S1) is the US Spring Semester and the Australian Semester 2 (S2) is the US Fall Semester.

For a list of all courses available for study abroad students, visit www.uq.edu.au/study and select 'Advance Course Search'.

Course Equivalent Requests and My Study Abroad

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

Credits

Conversions

University of Queensland Credit Points	UW Credit Scale
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
6	12
8	16

Limits and Load

Undergraduate study abroad students at the University of Queensland must take between 6 and 10 credit points to be considered full time. A normal full time credit load is 8 credit points.

Please note that students must be bringing back a minimum of 12 UW credits and a maximum of 18 UW credits.

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

Grades and Grade Conversions

University of Queensland Grades	University of Queensland Description	UW-Madison Grade
7	High Distinction	A
6	Distinction	A
5	Credit	B
4	Pass	C
3	Fail	D
2	Fail	F
1	Fail	F
P	Non-graded Pass	Pass
N	Non-graded Fail	Fail

Living Abroad

Australia

Australia is slightly smaller than the lower 48 continental states. It is the only nation in the world that is also an entire continent. The country is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Indian Ocean to the west.

The majority of Australia, including the entire central region, is semi-arid or desert and known as the 'Outback.' Over 40% of the landmass is sand dunes. The country's population is concentrated on the eastern and southeastern coasts, where the climate is subtropical and temperate, respectively. The southwest corner is also temperate, while the northern region is tropical. The world's largest coral reef, the Great Barrier Reef, is located off Australia's northeast coast.

Australia is divided into six states and two territories: New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia; Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

Australia's population is just over 20 million people, and the population growth rate is currently less than 1%. It has the lowest population density in the world - only two people per square kilometre. The majority of Australians are Caucasian (92%) while only about 1% of the population is Aboriginal or native peoples.

In Australia, people tend to say things in a humorous way and enjoy teasing, or 'rubbishing,' people, especially Americans. Australians expect punctuality for any appointments or engagements; if you are going to be late, be sure to call immediately. Even though Australia is similar to the United States, do not expect it to be exactly the same. Look for the small differences in Australian culture and learn from them rather than get frustrated over them and how it is not the same as home.

Food is much more expensive in Australia than it is here in the United States. For example, in Australia a half gallon of milk costs \$3. Beef is the most common meat eaten in Australia, while chicken is relatively pricey. In the International House especially, the dining facilities serve some sort of lamb multiple times a week. Seafood is also common and very delicious in Australia.

Australia's restaurants reflect its multicultural society. Restaurants can be found for all tastes, although they are generally not cheap. Tipping policies are different from the United States'; you only tip in recognition of exceptional service.

A wide variety of religious beliefs are practiced in Australia, with no particular religion dominating all others. Catholicism is the most prevalent religion, with just over one-fourth of the population sharing Catholic beliefs. About one-fifth of the population consider themselves Anglican while the same amount practices other Christian religions. Small Buddhist and Muslim populations live in Australia, at about 2% and 1.5% of the population, respectively. Finally, over 10% of the population is unspecified regarding their religion and about 15% do not practice any religion.

Brisbane

Brisbane (pronounced /'brɪzben/^[4]) is the state capital and largest city of the Australian state of Queensland. With a population of approximately 2,000,000 it is also the third most populous city in Australia, behind Sydney and Melbourne. The city is situated on the Brisbane River on a low-lying floodplain between Moreton Bay and the Great Dividing Range in south-eastern Queensland. The local indigenous people knew the area as Mian-jin, meaning 'place shaped as a spike'.

Brisbane has a humid subtropical climate with hot, humid summers and dry, mild winters. From late Spring through to early Autumn, thunderstorms are common over Brisbane, with the more severe events accompanied by large damaging hail stones, torrential rain and destructive winds.

The Australian Census in 2006 showed that 1.7% of Brisbane's population were of indigenous origin and 21.7% were born overseas. Of those born outside of Australia, the three main countries of birth were New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Brisbane has a growing live music scene, both popular and classical. The Queensland Performing Arts Centre, which is located at South Bank, consists of the Lyric Theatre, a Concert Hall, Cremorne Theatre and the Playhouse Theatre. The Queensland Ballet, Opera Queensland, Queensland Theatre Company and other performance art groups stage regular performances in the different venues. It is also the major performing venue for The Queensland Orchestra, Brisbane's only professional symphony orchestra and Queensland's largest performing arts company. Along with Beijing, Berlin, Birmingham and Marseille, Brisbane was nominated as one of the Top 5 International Music Hotspots by Billboard in 2007. There are also popular entertainment pubs and clubs within both the City and Fortitude Valley.

Gatton

Gatton is a thriving town of 6000 people and is situated in the heart of the Lockyer Valley. It is just 2 miles from UQ Gatton and 45 miles west of Brisbane. The town of Gatton offers a range of services and facilities including supermarkets and shops, accommodation, visitors' information center, a hospital and other medical services, a civic centre, restaurants, banks, public library, recreational facilities, a showground, golf course, and football club. The small town atmosphere makes it an ideal location for getting to know Australians and learning about the culture.

Housing
St. Lucia Campus
Accommodation Services

Tel: 61-7-3365-3419

Email: info@accommodation.uq.edu.au

Web: www.accommodation.uq.edu.au

On-campus housing

During your stay in Australia, you can choose to live either on or off campus. St Lucia campus has 10 residential colleges (dorms) that house more than 2500 students. University housing is in high demand, so if you want to live on-campus be sure to get your application in early. Most colleges accept applications until the end of October. Applications and more information about each of the colleges are available online at www.accommodation.uq.edu.au.

Colleges generally provide individual bedrooms with shared bathrooms, meals, internet connections, phones, laundry facilities at an extra charge, and common social and recreational spaces. Living on-campus is more expensive, but the colleges offer many opportunities to meet other students, including cultural, social and sporting activities. Many residential colleges have a religious affiliation; however, all colleges accept applications regardless of religion, although priority may be given to those with the college's religious beliefs. All colleges provide 21 meals per week.

Residential Colleges

Men Only

Kings College 245 Residents United Church of Australia	www.kings.uq.edu.au	Gym, study rooms, beach volleyball courts, common rooms.
St Leo's College 164 Residents Roman Catholic Church	www.stleos.uq.edu.au	Sports and cultural activities, volunteer community projects, fitness consultant.

Women Only

Duchesne College 150 Residents Roman Catholic Church	www.uq.edu.au/duchesne	Pastoral care and support, gym, outdoor entertainment area.
Grace College 180 Residents Uniting/Presbyterian	www.uq.edu.au/grace	Sporting, cultural and social activities.
Women's College 188 Residents Non-denominational	www.uq.edu.au/womens	Fosters women as leaders, promoting advocacy and leadership. Self-catering option.

Men & Women

Cromwell College 251 Residents* United Church of Australia	www.cromwell.uq.edu.au	Provides student leaders and tutors, sports facilities. Self-catering option.
Emmanuel College 336 Residents	www.emmanuel.uq.edu.au	Rigorous academic support programs for international

Uniting/Presbyterian		students.
International House 238 Residents Non-denominational	www.internationalhouse.uq.edu.au	Diversity of backgrounds, cultures. Hosts cultural festivals. Self-catering option.
St John's College 254 Residents Anglican Church	www.uq.edu.au/stjohns	Choral and instrumental groups, formal dinners.
Union 334 Residents Non-denominational	www.uq.edu.au/union	Twilight concerts, invitational dinners and a range of cultural/sporting activities.

Off-campus housing

Two different options are available for off-campus housing: student housing and rental housing. Off-campus student housing is offered by independent providers; it is not university housing. The student housing is houses or unit complexes that are custom-built for students; some are arranged like a residential college. You can apply for off campus housing online, through the direct provider. Contact Accommodation Services for more information.

Renting houses or apartments are the most common type of student housing at UQ. Most houses and apartments are unfurnished, but furnished or partly furnished housing is available at higher rent. Sharing a house or apartment is often the least expensive way to live, but past participants recommend that if you decide to live off-campus, you should live with Australians.

If you decide to live off-campus, you will have to wait until you arrive in Brisbane to find housing (unlike living on campus, which will be all set up before you arrive). **It is recommended that you arrive at least a month before the first day of classes to allow adequate time to arrange housing.** UQ does offer free temporary accommodation to those who choose this option. UQ St. Lucia campus provides information sessions, which cover off-campus housing basics such as prices, what utilities to look for, length of leases, etc. Remember, new students are competing with each other for the better housing so plan ahead.

Getting to/from Campus

Depending on where you live, you can either take the bus, ferry, bike or walk to campus. If you live off-campus you may have a 30-minute walk or a 5-minute bus ride to UQ.

Gatton Campus

UQ's Gatton Campus is about an hour drive from St. Lucia Campus. Faculties located at Gatton Campus focus on agribusiness, agriculture, horticulture, animal studies and environmental management.

UQ-Gatton has three residence halls: Pitt, Thynne and Riddell. Each residence hall has separate A, B, and C blocks and 2 floors. When applying for a residence hall, you can request a certain hall and letter block. Pitt Hall tends to be the most social hall and Riddell is the least social hall (past participants do not recommend Riddell Hall for social types). Thynne Hall attracts academic-oriented people. All halls have single rooms, furnished with a bed, desk, bookshelf and ample closet and storage space, and a phone. Phone calls made to numbers outside the university are not included in the housing costs. Housing costs for the semester are about AU\$1400. There is an additional cost of AU\$1500 for food for the semester, which

includes three meals a day at the campus dining hall. Housing is also available relatively cheaply in the town of Gatton or the nearby town of Forest Hill. However, a car is necessary for transit back and forth to campus (about a 5 minute drive from Gatton and a 10 minute drive from Forest Hill).

Dining Facilities

There is one dining hall on campus, where you can get your three meals per day that are included in your housing package. According to past participants, the food is decent but rather fattening. You are allowed as many trips to the serving area as you like once you swipe your card to enter the dining hall. People often spend large amounts of time at each meal socializing.

Dining Hall Hours:

Monday - Friday Breakfast: 7:00 am - 9:00 am

Lunch 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday Brunch 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Monday - Sunday Dinner 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

The Walkway Cafe is another dining option on campus. The Walkway Cafe sells pastries, fried food, sandwiches, bottled drinks, coffee, and candy. It is only open weekdays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. There are a few restaurants in town, including the Fresh Basil Thai Restaurant and the Stuffed Olive Cafe, which serves several kinds of food. There is also a KFC and a McDonald's near campus. On Tuesdays, many students drive together to the Plainlands Hotel Restaurant, which features 2-for-1 entrees on Tuesdays and also has a bar and poker machines. According to past participants, this is the place to go for steaks!

Student Life

Clubs on campus

Become involved at UQ by joining one of the 130 different clubs and societies on campus. There is something for everyone – the clubs cover a wide range of interests. Participating in a club is also a great way to meet people with similar interests. During “O” Week, (the orientation week before classes start), there will be a “Market Day” where all the clubs on campus set up booths in the Great Court at St. Lucia campus.

A sample of clubs and societies at UQ:

- Amnesty International
- Chocolate Appreciation Society
- Hip Hop Society
- Lego Club
- Overseas Christian Fellowship
- Rural Awareness Club
- Women and the Law
- and more!

For more information on student clubs and societies visit www.uqunion.uq.edu.au.

Recreational Facilities

UQ-St. Lucia has a variety of recreational facilities including an Aquatic Center, an Athletic Center, a Pilates studio, playing fields and ovals, a Sport and Fitness Center, and a Tennis Center. Unlike the fitness centers at UW-Madison, access to the gym is not free. To use the Sport and Fitness Center, students must purchase a pass, however, the pass is discounted for

students. The Sport and Fitness Center in St. Lucia also offers Group Fitness classes with over 100 classes per week.

UQ-Gatton offers limited sporting and other entertainment facilities on campus. There is a gym and a swimming pool on campus. The campus also has a few university-owned horses for recreational riding. The Lawes Club is open every weekend and some Wednesday and Sunday nights. The club has a bar and a few pool tables; occasionally, the owners set up a dance floor and play dance music. The Bosworth Club on the southeast side of campus has a movie screening room, a few pool tables, and a Play Station 2, but you have to get keys for it from one of the hall senior residents.

Sports

Rugby and cricket are very popular sports among Australians and university students play these sports all the time. The university has a club for any sport that you wish to do and participating in a club sport is a great way to stay active, have fun and meet new people with similar interests! It is also common for Australians to attend sporting events during their free time.

Shopping and Movies

There are a lot of areas to stop in and around Brisbane. Students typically travel to Toowong if they want to spend a few hours shopping. For a larger shopping adventure, students go to the city where Queens St. Mall and unique shops are located. The city is also a great place to find inexpensive souvenirs. Another great place to shop is Indooroopilly Shopping Center. Going to the movies is a popular evening activity among students. Movie tickets are discounted with a valid student ID and if you find the right theatre, tickets are very inexpensive.

Nightlife

Like in Madison, students in Australia enjoy going to bars in the city, Toowong area, or Fortitude Valley on the weekends. However, it can get expensive to take a taxi back after a night out in the city or Fortitude Valley. Buses generally run late on weekend nights and are a great alternative to taxis.

As mentioned earlier, make sure to dress nicely. Also, don't act too out of line at the bars. Due to the lack of a tipping policy, bouncers and bar tenders do not hesitate to throw you out if you are acting inappropriately - and sometimes even if you are not acting inappropriately!

Transportation

After arriving in Brisbane, be sure to get your student card as soon as possible so that you can get student discounts on bus, ferry, and train fares. Brisbane City Council is a great resource for public transportation information. You can contact them for information on fares, schedules, routes, parking, bicycle information, getting to the airport, etc. Brisbane City Council also operates a TRANSLink Hotline telephone and web site for more specific information.

Brisbane City Council: www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/transport

TRANSLink: Tel: 131-230 / www.translink.com.au/

St. Lucia

The St. Lucia campus, Brisbane and surrounding areas are easily accessible by public transportation. For travel between St. Lucia and Gatton, an intercampus bus runs between St. Lucia and Gatton campuses and has several pick-up times each weekday. This bus does not

run on the weekends. The cost to ride the bus is AU\$6 each way and the trip takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Gatton

Although public transportation is cheap and efficient in Gatton, it is rather inconvenient to always have to rely on public transportation or other people who have cars.

Instead of buying a daily concession ticket, students have the option of purchasing a Concession GoCard. These cards are sponsored by the Queensland Government and give students discounted fares on almost all public transportation in Queensland. Students simply scan the card before and after they get on/off various forms of transportation. It's more convenient than buying a ticket and saves money.



Bus

Public buses run throughout the city and directly to campus. There is only one bus stop located on campus. A zoning system determines the bus fare; thus, you must know how many zones you will travel through before you purchase a ticket. However, if you have a GoCard, the zoning is calculated for you. Zoning information, along with fares and timetables can be found on the TransInfo website: www.transinfo.qld.gov.au. With your student card you are eligible for 'concession fares,' which are 50% off the full fare; purchasing a 10-trip saver ticket will also save you money.

You can buy single-trip tickets from the bus driver or prepaid tickets from the Union Shop or news agents on campus. You can also buy prepaid tickets off-campus at Brisbane City Council Customer Service Centres. Money-saving bus tickets are available for unlimited off-peak travel, weekend travel, unlimited bus, train, or ferry travel for up to two hours, and other restricted travel. Brisbane has a free Downtown Loop, known by its distinctive red buses, which stop at several convenient destinations. St Lucia campus has a free Safety Bus similar to Madison's 81/82 buses, which operate on campus after dark.

Taxi

Taking a taxi from the city to the university costs roughly AUD\$18. Taxis can be more expensive on Sundays and public holidays, as well as from 8 pm to 6 am on weekdays. You can hail a taxi anywhere along the street, or wait for a taxi at the taxi ranks. There is a taxi rank located across from the university's bus stop and others throughout the city. Some taxi ranks are dark at night - if you need a taxi after midnight, it is best to call and have a taxi pick you up.

Citytrain

Queensland Rail Citytrain runs from Brisbane to its suburbs and other surrounding regions. For more information on routes and fares, see the Queensland Rail website: <http://www.qr.com.au>

Dutton Park Ferry

The Dutton Park Ferry runs from UQ across the river to the suburb Dutton Park. The fare is AUD\$1.20 each way and there is no student discount.

City Cat Ferry

In addition to the bus, City Cat Ferry is the only other mode of transportation that goes directly to the university. Like the bus, ferry fares are also calculated using a zone system. Bus tickets can also be used on the City Cat because the zone system is consistent for all of Brisbane's form of mass transportation. The City Cat is a fun and unique way to travel along the Brisbane River!

Bicycle

Campus is connected to the city via a bicycle path, which follows the river. You can also take your bike free of charge on any ferry or train and on some city buses. You can buy a bicycle on St Lucia campus for a relatively good price. Wear a helmet if you ride a bike in Australia - you may be fined if you don't. For more information about bike safety and maps with bike paths on campus, visit the UQ traffic web site: <http://www.uq.edu.au/cycling/>

Car

Although it is legal for you to drive in Australia with a United States license, we urge all students not to drive and instead use public transportation. Most cars in Australia are manual, people drive on the left side of the road, and roundabouts are commonly encountered. These differences can be confusing and thus dangerous for U.S. drivers.

Health and Safety

Emergency information

The following are important phone numbers and other contact information should an emergency arise during your stay in Australia. The University has a very good security system and hospitals are modern and clean. Do not hesitate to go to the hospital if you are sick or injured. All numbers are written as they should be dialed from Australia.

Police/Fire/Ambulance/Medical Emergency: 000 (012 from mobile phones)

University Security (Emergencies): 3365-3333

* Non-emergencies: 1-800-800-123 (free call)

*24 hour service

University Health Services: 3365-6210

Royal Brisbane Hospital (Public hospital; 24-hour emergency center): 3636-8111

Wesley Hospital (Private hospital; 24-hour emergency center): 3232-7333

Swimming

All UW students are urged to use extra caution when swimming. Currents are extremely strong and each year several visitors drown.

Communication

Telephone: When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences

www.timeanddate.com/worldclock. To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always "1") followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial "011", the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html. Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

To call Australia from the United States, your family and friends must dial the international access code, followed by Australia's country code and Brisbane's city code, and finally your phone number: 011 + 61 + 7 + telephone number

To call the United States from Australia, you will need to dial the international access code, the United States' country code, the area code and phone number: 0011 + 1 + area code + telephone number. You can buy phone cards to make international calls from your college or apartment telephone. The colleges have a 40 cent connection fee to call outside the building. If you buy phone cards, you can get roughly 120 minutes to the United States for \$10.

Skype: Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from www.skype.com and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends' Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that's required for calls to another computer.

Post Office

There is a post office on St Lucia campus. You can buy stamps and send fax, letters and packages from there. Standard delivery time for a package via airmail back to the United States is 7-10 days. Once you have a permanent place to live, you will be able to receive letters at that address. If necessary, you can use the university as a temporary address until you have permanent accommodations.

Internet

Internet is not as reliable in Brisbane as it is in the US. Internet is available on campus; however, you are allotted a certain amount of quota each month. If you use up your quota, you will have to buy more. Internet is available in the colleges, libraries and computer labs. You can also get internet in your apartment, for an additional fee. If you chose to live in an apartment, be aware that you will also have a monthly quota. Because most students are accustomed to unlimited internet time, this can be a frustrating adjustment.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are a convenience in Australia just as they are here in the United States. Cell phones are highly recommended, especially if you are searching for your accommodation. Many times, potential roommates will ask for your contact information and it is essential to have a cell phone. It is recommended that international students buy a prepaid plan and recharge when necessary. Some phone companies are: Vodafone (www.vodafone.com.au) and Optus (www.optus.com.au).

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION/WEBSITES OF INTEREST

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:

<http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov>

UW-Madison International Academic Programs

<http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu>

U.S. State Department:

<http://travel.state.gov>

Center for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Current exchange rates

<http://www.oanda.com>

Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

Travel guides & other good books about Australia

Learn as much as you can about Australia before you leave. Travel guides are helpful for providing background information on Australia's history, geography, politics, and culture as well as for assisting you if you travel to other regions of the country. Novels also provide a glimpse into Australian history, landscape, and way of life.

Recommended Travel Guides:

- *Eyewitness Travel Guide to Australia* by DK Publishing
- *Fodor's Australia 2005* by Fodor's
- *Frommer's Australia 2005* by Marc Llewellyn & Lee Mylne
- *Insight Guide Australia* by Jeffrey Pike
- *Let's Go Australia 8th Edition* by Inc. Let's Go
- *Lonely Planet Australia* by Paul Smitz et al.
- *National Geographic Traveler: Australia* by Roff Martin-Smith

Recommended Books:

- *Cold Beer and Crocodiles: A Bicycle Journey into Australia* by Roff Smith
- *In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson
- *The Songlines* by Bruce Chatwin
- *Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1,700 Miles of Australian Outback* by Robyn Davidson

Student Testimonials

The testimonials below are from past participants; they reflect various students' experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

“The best things about my Study Abroad program at UQ are that the classes are structured differently than at home and there's a lot of opportunity for field work.”

“The weather here in Brisbane is nice and so is the laid-back attitude. I feel at home and I have made close friends with the people in my program. Through the group work in our classes, we really get to know each other well and become very good friends outside of classes.”

“Studying in Australia has given me a broader understanding of literature, not only did coming here add an extra year on to my degree, it has made me become more independent and has given me a better idea of where I want to focus my study after I finish.”

‘What I enjoy most about my Australian life is my new friends and the weather – there’s always activities to do when the weather is nice! The people in Brisbane and in other parts of Australia that I’ve been to (Melbourne, Cairns, Airlie Beach, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast) – have all been so accommodating and friendly.’

“Travelling has helped me become a global thinker by expanding my awareness of environmental issues and international affairs. My priorities and beliefs have greatly changed because of what I’ve witnessed first-hand – conservation efforts, recycling programs, pollution and habitat degradation are just a few. I know I will leave Australia with a greater appreciation for nature and awareness of my impact on the environment.”