

ADVICE FOR 2024 UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA STUDENTS

Each year we send a survey to the students in their first year of study in Australia and New Zealand. We ask about their university, program, life Down Under, accommodation, and activities outside of the classroom.

Keep reading to get all the insider tips taken directly from the survey for a smooth transition to studying at University of Western Australia!

COMMENTS & ADVICE ABOUT UWA

Program	Why do you <i>like</i> and what do you <i>dislike</i> about your university?	Why do you <i>like</i> and what do you <i>dislike</i> about your program?	What advice do you have for future Canadian or American students coming into this program and university?
Dentistry	Like the practical work in first year. Professors suck.	I like the practical portions but the professors are bad and communication is terrible.	Talk to students and ask them their experiences.
Medicine	Pretty campus, nice classmates. Older facilities (very small tables and chairs in lecture halls), services close earlier than office hours.	Like: based on canmeds, early anatomy labs. Dislike: large class size.	Consider finances and specialities. There are other HCP roles to consider (SLP, RN, etc).
Medicine	The campus is amazing and we have great pathology labs & cadaver labs.	Smaller class size compared to some other universities is a big bonus, instructors are great and I feel really well supported by the dean of medicine & international sub-dean.	The rental market is tough at the moment so consider college accommodations for the first year.
Medicine	Teaching is quite good, but I don't always appreciate the lack of clarity on scheduling.	Learning materials are for the most part excellent.	Studying in Australia is a great way to see another place (beaches in Western Australia are stunning) while taking steps forward to an excellent career.

Medicine	Well structured program, beautiful city, good class to instructor ratio. Dislike: no family housing only single living allowed in 1 bedroom suites (weird, they are big enough for 2), no free gym membership at uni despite high fees, administration is slow to respond and can be sneaky with fees.	Like: class sizes, instructors, teaching methods. Dislike: not learning the hands-on stuff yet in first year and equipment seems outdated, however that may change in 2nd year once we are on the wards.	Understand the financial burden and that these universities really want your money. Our international MD4 lead was able to change the fee structure and reduce fees for all in the next few years, so change is possible if they want high quality students to stay and keep coming. You will be home sick and a bit frustrating with how long their training path takes here to become a specialist. You will also be a bit shocked to have 19 year olds in your class whom are not all there yet maturity wise.
Medicine	Like: class size, city, curriculum. Dislike: new curriculum so changing and notice of changes/important dates is a little relaxed here which I am not used to.	Like: teaching methods and course materials - they are pretty straight forward about it! Dislike: A little disorganized in terms of scheduling.	Research early and reach out to current students!

Medicine	Campus is well maintained and student activities are constant.	Enthusiastic professors and good mix of lectures/labs/small group workshops. The lecture/assessment schedule could be revised as workload fluxes quite a bit during the semester, making for some light weeks and some stressful weeks.	Used spaced repetition to keep on top of content, go to the WAMSS social events, play a sport or join a club, and schedule in beach days.
Other (Master of Marine Biology)	Like the landscape and architecture it's beautiful. Dislike how expensive food is.	Love my classmates and small seminar class size, dislike how some of my profs are disorganized and don't get marking back to you in a timely manner.	Build connections, get familiar/comfortable in the ocean and look for opportunities to go out in the field as much as possible.

ADVICE ABOUT LIVING DOWN UNDER

The advice below is segmented by university, although some of the suggestions apply to anyone moving to Australia or New Zealand, regardless of which program or university they will be in.

BOND UNIVERSITY

- Try to keep yourself busy and talk to your family often.
- Make friends and remember to enjoy your time. Explore this wonderful country.
- Get your living situation sorted before you arrive, or at least have an Airbnb close to the university you can stay at while you look. Set up your bank, phone, and Gocard day 1.
- Rental crisis on the Gold Coast, living and rent is expensive and difficult to find.
- Australia is tropical Canada. Very comfortable.
- You'll make friends!!
- Get your bank account and phone plan right away, everything else will come with time. Lot and lots of summer clothes and grab your sunscreen here.
- It can be challenging at time. It comes in waves where you are happy to be here and then times when you are struggling. If you know that coming in, so you can set your own expectations, that is really important. But also, as much as FaceTime is not the same, it is the best option, and I really use it all the time. If you need help or just someone to talk to, the counsellors on campus are EXCELLENT.
- Manage your time with school but branch out and make connections.
- Make friends with your cohort. They will be your family Down Under.

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

- Always keep in touch with family even if it is for a few minutes. It can get to you really bad in the beginning but as you establish friends it gets easier and as school gets more heavy you kind of forget about certain things. My number one advice is take care of your health, especially eating properly. Grocery prices are expensive but I found I did not prioritize eating consistently and let me tell you, you will get really tired really quick if you don't. Also make time for the gym as I can't stress taking care of your mental and physical health as school can burn you out.
- Find a group of friends asap! They will make your life much easier and better. Making sure you do your best to go out and explore your city!

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

- Bring a friend.
- Important to have a strong support network while making the move and for the first few months.
- Try to push yourself to make friends.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

- Plan ahead with friends and family on times to call and visit (due to the nature of the course it can be tough for us to go home). To make friends you definitely need to put yourself out there and say yes to as much as possible! Try to get involved in different aspects of the course and in the city.
- Get excited to live in a tropical country and make sure you explore your surroundings, make good friends and connections with other students so you have good support.
- Talk to everyone during orientation week!
- Very easy and adaptable living.
- Put yourself out there and be willing to try new things.
- Video call family and friends weekly, make friends with fellow international students, and find a group.
- Make friends and socialize with everyone. Medicine becomes cliquey very quickly. Make friends outside of school as well.
- Not challenging at all. Very similar to Canada.
- Make friends that you can be yourself with.
- Budget to plan to come home sometime in the year.
- Homesickness will typically sink in after a few months so try to stay in touch with your friends and families as much as possible while keeping the time change in mind. Try to connect with other international students since they are going through the same tradition.
- I lived across the country during my undergrad and had new issues. But don't be scared to swallow your pride and lean on your family as you will, masters programs are intense. Take the support where you can get it.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

- I think overall it's pretty similar to Canada in terms of culture, but Gold Coast is less diverse than bigger Canadian cities, so that does come with pros and cons (i.e. food, people, etc.). Also, Queensland is known to be one of the more racist states, that is something to keep in mind that you may have to deal with outside of uni.
- Make one or two good friends whom you can trust and can help each other, spend your time wisely and stay in touch with the family.

- Make friends as soon as possible.
- Culturally it's VERY similar to Canada. I try to talk to my parents every day, but that amount will change for everyone, but it's important to very consciously make the effort.
- Get your accommodations figured out as soon as possible and keep in touch with family at home. Also, make friends in your program!
- Immerse yourself with the Aussies, some people found good friendships in the Canadian group but I wanted to become part of the community and make mostly Aussie friends.
- I was very homesick for the first 2-3 weeks I was in Australia due to the large culture shock. I would recommend joining communities and clubs to meet new people and make new friends, that helped me alot. I would also recommend staying in touch with your family and friends back in Canada (ex. video calling everyday). Also avoid staying at home too much, going outside every once in a while helps refresh your mind and improves your mood.
- Australia is a lot similar to Canada than I thought it was. Adapting won't be an issue, although it is a struggle to start driving in opposite direction.
- Adapting to life in Australia or New Zealand as an international student can be an exciting but challenging journey. Here is some advice to help future students make a smooth transition:

1. Research and Prepare: Before departure, research the local culture, customs, and lifestyle. Understanding the basics will make the initial adjustment easier.

2. Visa and Legal Requirements: Familiarize yourself with visa requirements and ensure all necessary paperwork is in order. Be aware of visa conditions and deadlines.

3. Accommodation: Arrange accommodation well in advance. Whether it's on-campus housing, off-campus rentals, or homestays, consider proximity to your university and budget constraints.

4. Budgeting: Create a budget to manage your finances effectively. Understand the cost of living and plan your expenses accordingly. Look for opportunities to save money, like student discounts.

5. Healthcare: Familiarize yourself with the healthcare system in your host country. Obtain the necessary health insurance and know how to access medical care if needed.

6. Cultural Sensitivity: Be open-minded and respectful of local customs and values. Embrace cultural differences and make an effort to engage with local communities.

7. Stay Connected: Stay in touch with family and friends back home, but also make an effort to build new relationships with fellow students and locals. Join clubs, attend events, and socialize.

8. Time Management: Balance your academic responsibilities with personal time and exploration. Effective time management will help reduce stress.

9. Explore and Travel: Take advantage of your time abroad to explore the country. Both Australia and New Zealand offer stunning natural beauty and diverse landscapes. Travel when you can.

10. Seek Support: Universities often have support services for international students. Don't hesitate to reach out if you encounter challenges or need assistance.

11. Stay Informed: Stay informed about any changes in regulations, university policies, or important updates related to your student status.

12. Stay Safe: Be mindful of your safety. Familiarize yourself with local safety guidelines and emergency contacts. Keep your belongings secure.

13. Language Skills: If English is not your first language, work on improving your language skills. Effective communication will help you feel more confident and integrated.

Remember that adapting to a new country takes time, and it's normal to face challenges along the way. Embrace the experience, be patient with yourself, and seek support when needed. Your time abroad can be incredibly rewarding and transformative.

- I personally make sure to call my family everyday to stay on touch and make sure I don't feel too alone. I would also recommend getting involved in activities on campus.
- Do your research about accommodation and things like food and transportation costs, but also know that once you get here, you will just have to take things one day at a time. When dealing with homesickness regarding things you miss from home, try to find little places that resemble home, whether that be a shop, a cafe, a park, etc. It's important to find things in our new city that remind us of home, so that they can comfort homesickness, and also create a new "homey" feeling as well. When it comes to missing family and staying in touch with them, calling and texting them is the best option. I know it's not the same, but it really will help keep you connected. Send them pictures that make you happy, or if you use social media often, add your family to your close friends list and post your adventures on Instagram/Facebook for them to follow along and live through you!
- Being able to call family with set times, planning when to go back, make friends.

- It's easy to connect with other international students. Going to a university with smaller classes facilitates this. Make use of FaceTime and video calls. When you feel homesick, think about the winter.
- Take opportunities to connect with people right away that will have things in common with you. Have a plan before arriving on when you will go home for a visit so that you have something to look forward to if things get tough.
- Make friend, work hard, find something you like and stick to it.
- Make friends with people outside of your program and country! Try new things.
- It is very difficult to stay away from family, but it is also a great opportunity to develop yourself and attain self-confidence and self-reliance. Living abroad will enhance your knowledge and ability to understand the world in a broader sense.
- It will take time to adjust but joining clubs and socializing with students on campus helps a lot with making new friends.

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

- Making new friends and having a good community to rely on is very important. You can't do medical school by yourself.
- Make friends, use FaceTime to chat with loved ones.
- I'd say make it a priority to FaceTime family back home whenever the time lines up to do so. As for making friends don't be afraid to talk to the people who are taking the same course as you. It's the easiest way to get to know new people.
- Homesickness and feeling like you don't belong is normal in the first sem. Just get through it and make as many connections as possible, by 2nd semester you'll find your people I guarantee it. Be ready for your mental health to be tested in that first semester and please don't hesitate to utilize all the resources at your disposal and to even need to help of professionals outside of school (I know I did).
- Everyone here is really nice, making friends in your course and accommodation will be pretty easy. I recommend staying in touch with your parents, I call mine every day if I can. And personalize your room as much as you can, make it a second home.
- Just be prepared for the heat and bring some shorts!
- Just stay busy, you'll do fine.
- Keep in contact with friends and family back in Canada by any means possible. The weather is something to get use too the heat here is no joke.

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

- Find times that work best for calls back home with the time difference it can be hard.
- Always make time for yourself and new/old friends. You will need it!
- I'm not sure. I'm very different to many people so I don't think my advice would apply generally.
- Call up your friends from home if you're feeling home sick!! Get a routine down ASAP.

- It's essential to make friends, and having friends outside of school makes it even better and makes it feel more like home. It takes time, and you will always miss home, but take advantage of the great things in Australia.
- It is pretty easy to make friends with those in the program. Make sure to plan lots of study session which can then turn into planning social events. Facetime is your best friend with staying in touch, but if not possible than an easy update text to family and friends is still great.
- Definitely make friends and don't isolate yourself at home, connect with other international students but also don't be shy to befriend domestic students!

MONASH UNIVERSITY

- You'll become close with people in the program, however for myself the majority of people I became close with are doing the end-to-end rural program so I won't get the opportunity to interact and work with them in a clinical setting which is disappointing. I did not return back to Canada during my "winter" break in June, however the majority of the other Canadian students did which they found refreshing from my understanding. It helps relieved their home sickness and feel that they could push through for the remainder of the year. FaceTime is great for communicating with friends and family back home but just get used to stark time difference when trying to connect with them, it can be challenging at times.
- Go to lots of organized activities. They are a lot of fun and are a great way to meet people.
- Making friends, staying in touch with friends and families back home.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

- Dealing with homesickness was not a big issue for me but some colleagues expressed homesickness and depression to a much higher degree, so if staying close to the family is an important factor to your lifestyle then you should make a very careful consideration when choosing to stay in Australia or NZ.
- Always call family back home. Make friends with you classmates and outside of school.
- Growing your network, staying in touch with friends family back home.
- Honestly it's very similar to Canada! I usually stay in touch via FaceTime :)
- Getting a place is quite tough in the beginning but feel reassured that you will definitely find a place to live. As well, feeling homesick is more than likely, but time goes really fast because you're so so busy!
- Make an effort to engage in your family and friends social media when you're gone to stay in touch. Do some math and figure out the best times of day to call home and facetime. Work on getting to know a lot of people before pigeonholing yourself into only 1 or 2 friendships when you don't know people well. Keep up your hobbies and things you do for self-care outside of school. Make

an effort to travel (road trips and travel between semesters) because the time goes fast and you don't want to regret not seeing the things you really wanted to see.

- Make a lot a lot of friends especially international students so you have each other during the breaks and try to travel if you can.
- Make lots of friends inside and outside of your program, explore and don't be afraid to try new things.
- Think of them as your favourite cousins with a funny little accent, they are super nice and very interesting so first and foremost focus on getting to know people, be nice, that way you'll make friends in no time. Plan little outings, enjoy the scenery take advantage of the brilliant cafe and brunch culture and visit art nooks around the city. You could do these things alone as well. Point being, learn to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of your city! Oh, and keep your loved ones in on the ride, send them pictures and videos of you having fun.
- Stay in touch with people from home so you're not too homesick but also create a community outside of that so that you can feel immersed.
- Say hi to everyone! Very easy to make friends in the first few weeks since everyone is in the same boat and have come from different places. Don't just stick to the Canadians in your program!!!
- Go to the farewell dinner/party that OzTREKK hosts back in Canada. I met my roommate and now best friend there. Also join clubs, get involved to meet other locals and internationals.
- Explore the city a lot! you will find that Aus is very similar to Canada with some exceptions. Try the amazing food and coffee here. Always video chat back home to stay in touch with everybody but also live in the moment with all the other Canadians and Australians.
- Life in Australia is very similar to Canada. You can pretty much get everything you need here including all your stores, restaurants, and fast food options. There are a few quirks that you discover Australians do but nothing seriously different about the people either; everyone has been very friendly! My only advice would be to stay in contact with your friends and family back home! The time difference makes it harder so you often have to either wake up early or stay up late to call home.
- Talk to everyone in your cohort during orientation! Go to all the events! Friends who are going through a similar experience as you are makes you feel less alone. Also, just explore! Melbourne has so much to do.
- Be open to going to different events to meet people and have a schedule of times you call back home so you always know when you will be able to talk to your family and friends and not feel as homesick.
- Create as homey of a space as you can to establish a place of familiarity and overcome that feeling of home sickness.
- It is very similar to Canada, so you likely won't have a problem. you can also still keep in touch with friends and family through facetime in the morning and nights, you'll make friends through your class tutorials and during any extracurriculars you get involved with.
- Go to uni orientation week events to make friends. Try to find times in the day that make it easy to call home (I usually call while I eat breakkie).
- Attend social events held by faculty so you can meet people in your program. Finding a group of supportive friends in your program makes a huge difference!

- Get a support network and new friends! Extend yourself to go out there and have new experiences in Oz!
- Make friend is important, also since Australia is extremely chill country, it should be pretty easy to adjust.
- Everyone is in the same boat, you'll meet friends and others in your program who did the same transition! Also find something in the community to integrate yourself into.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

- Do it!
- Definitely make friends, get to know the people you might be going with, those who apply with you. Make time to talk to family, with the time difference it can be difficult, it I found it very helpful to video chat with my family everyday, takes away from being homesick.
- Try your best to socialize and keep active, don't isolate yourself. It can get a bit lonely so keep in touch with family back home.
- You will make lots of friends. Do the socials sports and or gatherings. There is always something happening.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

- Explore the city you're in. Bring comfort foods from home.
- Living expenses are on the rise so get a job, facetime your family often, make friends in your program but also make sure to have friends outside of uni.
- Make friends by going to every event or social possible - constantly reach out to new people. When I'm feeling homesick, it helps to talk to people who are in the same boat as me.
- For Brisbane in particular, I find that the beautiful weather year-round helps to reduce homesickness, and also the change in scenery is great too. Making friends is easy since you can connect with other students in your program or outside of that too. Staying in touch with family is easy through phone, facetime, etc. And you can visit back home too over breaks.
- A lot of students in your cohort to be friends with and various clubs to your individual preference. Call home often as it helps deal with homesickness. Go to dental school events as they are fun.
- It is better to find your accommodations and where to live and make a really good budget schedule. It's really hard to find the accommodations in AU due to housing crisis.
- Try to FaceTime your parents back home consistently, join some clubs or intramurals to meet some people. But the program is set up well to meet lots of students early on.
- Don't treat it any differently than you normally would, just be yourself. Stay in contact with friends and family back home.
- Keep in touch with family and friends back home. Go to events and make friends in Australia.

- IT'S HOT! Get used to not be ok with the cold. You need to adapt to the weather and it really messes up with you if you don't expect it or if you're not ready for it.
- Try to get into the routine you have at home, for me finding a gym and a place to run was really beneficial in feeling more at home, also if you can balance it getting a part time job somewhere you think is cool will bring you a lot of really great friends.
- It is not as hard as you think to get your bank institution set up, a phone plan (they're so much cheaper and have so much more data) or to time a place to live. The housing market can be daunting, but if you put in effort, you will find what you are looking for. It can take a couple months for the homesickness to come in (i.e., you're basically in the honeymoon phase with living abroad for the first 3 months) but know that this is totally normal and there are so many resources available through the university campuses. It is not hard to stay in contact with friend back home, you just have to get good at scheduling time each morning to FaceTime / call friends and family. And take the chances you have to go back home over breaks!
- Get to know your fellow Canadians and always remember your purpose so that you don't give up.
- I recommend attending as many orientation and campus events when you arrive to meet new people.
- Start building your new support network right away! Try to call friends and family back home to ease your transition.
- Making friends who I really connect with was very difficult until I got a job, which I know not everyone can juggle, but for me it was the most essential part to adapting to living here. There are so many running groups and smaller communities to participate in too. Making sure to take time to go on mini trips or explore Queensland more is very important to not get consumed by studying too.
- I think my biggest struggle was the homesickness. Once I landed here, it hit really hard and I wasn't expecting it to hit like that. But the best way to tackle that (and this is basically what everyone says, but it truly works), is to stay busy and distract yourself. Go out and explore, go house hunting, go meet other Canadians arriving. Just do what you can to stay busy and distracted and that really helps with homesickness. Of course, stay in touch and talk to your family and friends more, especially in those initial first few weeks, because that really makes you feel connected and like things haven't changed too much (even though they have). Just know that everyone goes through the same thing and talk about it to get through it! Everyone's adjusting, you aren't alone and trust me when I say its temporary. Soon enough you'll get so busy and start working towards your dreams and you'll feel/notice the homesickness less.
- Put yourself out there and go talk to people and join clubs.
- We love it here. Enjoy everything there is to do, explore the city, Brisbane has so much to offer. Make friends with Aussies and they'll take you out and you can engage in "cultural" (sporting) events. :)
- As someone who is very close with their family and friends left behind, pencil into your schedule intentional time to call home. I try to call home once a week and usually for at least an hour. In the beginning, try to expose yourself to as many activities as you can. Go to events, talk to people in class, stay on campus to study. You'll find your people pretty quickly.
- Make friends early, join clubs, and travel.
- Be prepared for extreme heat and humidity (it can get pretty rough). Get to know people who live around you! We live right next to some of our best friends and it is really nice to be able to text them "Hey want to come over?" and they are there in 5 minutes.

It worked really well for me to schedule a weekly video call with my family to make sure everybody was free to chat and it allowed me to focus more time on studying while still keeping in touch without having unanswered calls.

- It is the same.
- Find a living accommodation near the city or CBD so it is easier for you to do things.
- Schedule your calls with friends or family, be open to the Australians they can be super friendly.
- Explore the country and learn why everyone loves it! There's beautiful beaches, really nice people, and many things you've never seen before. Make all the friends you can but having a core group is nice, especially ones from back home who might understand your homesickness more. Call your family lots because they miss you just as much if not more.
- Make a lot of good friends here! I rely on my friends and they're people I can really count on. Make sure you're calling home regularly and keeping in touch with your friends. And the holidays are really long so make sure to meet up with everyone when you go back home!
- Prioritizing your mental health. Reach out for help if you are struggling.
- Everyone's just as scared as you are, if you get past that initial fear it's easy to get to know other students and make friends from there.
- Its easy to make friends in uni since no one has any friends so everyone wants to meet people.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

- All the other international students are dealing with the same things, ask questions to your peers/friends/Facebook groups for anything 'settling in' related, and find some recurring times in your week/day where you know (or you've let your friends/family know) that its a good time to call & catch up to avoid telephone-tag.
- It's not very different from living in North America it's an easy transition.
- Make friends and talk to as many people as you can.
- Join activities, clubs, talk to fam back home often.
- Get out and try something new to make friends outside your program too.
- Join school clubs or participate in student dental organizations to make new connections.
- Have hobbies and make new friends.
- Make time for FaceTiming friends/family back home, best to do it in the mornings.
- I think it's really important to do other things other then school. Go surfing or to the beach on the weekends. Say yes to doing things with new friends. Stay in touch with your support system at home!
- Homesickness is normal and will come regardless of how you prepare for it. To help ease the loneliness, talk to other Canadian students and share how you are feeling. Call home regularly to talk to friends and family.
- Despite the time change, make an effort to stay in touch with family and friends back home.

- Make friends, explore the city.
- Australians are such a fun people. Super friendly. If possible, consider living in a catered college, really makes transition easier for someone who's never lived outside of family home before.
- EXPLORE your new city. Everyone around you knows all the suburbs because they've lived here most their lives, its okay if you don't. And I say explore not just so you know what people are talking about when they say "North Shore Beaches", but also for you to know your surroundings, see new places, see more of what its actually like to live in Australia, outside of the CBD (downtown) where your uni is likely to be located. Remember, Canada isn't just downtown, we have suburbs too, and most people live in suburbs, explore them.
- I think you will have to accept the fact that you will miss out on some things back home. That is something that hit me because I realized I am missing out on doing things with my family. If you can afford it, take trips home during your holidays just to get a mental refresh. I am yet to do so but I know when I do I'll come back feeling a little better and more ready to finish off the program.
- Try to make new friends and not just stay with one group the whole time. Make sure you make time to go travel. The time you have here goes by very fast so make the most of it.
- Make sure you keep in touch with your friends from back home, but don't forget to put yourself out there and immerse yourself in the experience here.
- Be open and explore! People are super friendly in Sydney. Find a place where you can take root, and always make time to call back home when you need it.
- Try to make friends with locals.
- Moving to Sydney, a massive Sydney, is likely to be easier if your coming from Toronto or even Montreal but more difficult if your used to having easy access to the mountains for instance or are from a rural area. The beach is a bit far from the uni via bus, so if that's important to you, you may want to consider getting a car. Sydney is also very expensive so save as much as you can. However, the beaches are fantastic and the breaks between semesters and at mid sems are long so there's plenty of time to explore and enjoy the country.
- Friends have been easy to come by and many Canadians are already here!
- It's quite similar to Canada, and making friends especially among the Canadians is super easy, and everyone is welcoming. Don't be afraid to reach out, we are all happy to help
- I have always been a big traveller and very independent so I did not have a hard time adjusting to life in Australia. The greatest adjustment I had to make was learning the time differences between the two places. Often I was calling my friends and family at 1 in the morning and was upset that they weren't answering haha!
- There is a big time difference when communicating with your family. But schedule calls to make with your loved ones everyday, interact with people in your program. If you're in a masters there's sometimes a big group chat you can be a part of. Try to make friends with people that live close by so it's easy to meet up when you do feel homesick.

- Don't focus all your time on your studies. Try to find different hobbies, make new friends, and experience new things! These all helped me integrate into a new country and make the most out of living in Australia.
- It is hot so prepare mentally for that.
- Lots of FaceTiming, find living accommodations with multiple roommates.
- Don't forget your family and friends that are rooting for you.
- Make friends, go out, be easy with yourself.
- Worry about homelessness.
- Connect with other Canadians!! I can't say it enough, you all struggle together and struggled to get here. It's a huge support that alleviated SO much pressure!

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- Try to find a time that works for video chatting family and friends back home, the time zone difference can be awkward to manage.
- Try to connect with people outside of your program (though sports or other activities you like to do). This is a really helpful way to feel more settled.
- Stay in touch with family and friends by any means. Get a mental health plan in place in case things go wrong. A lot of us Canadians had a bit of "trauma" from the Canadian med school admission process and anger towards our home country for not having proper infrastructure in place to become doctors back home. Local students just simply did not understand what we had gone through to get there. However, income and life here is much easier than Canada. Work during med is possible and pay rates are better (and higher for evening and weekend work in basic jobs). The weather and fashion is amazing and I do NOT miss Canadian weather. Plus there are parrots everywhere! Look up Parakeets (Rainbow parrots).
- FaceTime is the best to stay connected. Be outgoing in your classes and chat with people. You'll find many are in your same situation just looking for friends.
- Live in residence to make friends more quickly.
- Making friends is great since a lot of people move here for medical school! Be open to new experiences. The heat can also get to you so be prepared! My city at least needs a car to get around and enjoy for the sake the convenience.
- Have at least one day a week where you FaceTime family members, wear sunscreen daily, and order your groceries from Coles (only a \$2 delivery fee if you do it a couple days in advance).
- Making friends, stay in contact with friends and family as much as possible.

RECCOMENDED STUDENT GROUPS AT UWA

The clubs listed below were specifically suggested by survey respondents. Each university has numerous other clubs and groups which can often be found on the university's website.

- There are hundreds of clubs so whatever you are interested in there will be a club for you to join.
- I love salsa dancing, it's such a fun way to meet so many interesting people!
- I did not join any student societies because they take themselves too seriously. Many of the student societies are run by the younger students. Having a job was more important to me. I did however, join the choir as I decided to spend my outside school hours doing something I love.
- Join local sports/interest groups! Sports is a big thing here so engaging in those communities will help make friends outside of the medical school community. Also try and live at a dorm if you can since you meet several students for meals and also activities the dorm's host. Helps in the first few days.
- Any social or competitive sport clubs.
- Program clubs.
- Clubs for any hobbies you have.

ACCOMMODATION ADVICE

- Don't book something before you go. It can be really scary but I recommend booking an Airbnb for two weeks when you arrive and start house hunting right away. That way you can see places!!
- Find something close to the school within walking distance unless you're going to drive. Start emailing a bunch of accommodation places 1–2 months before you arrive and see what vacancies they will have.
- Start looking early and get a hold of a realtor.
- Look on flatmates.com and Facebook rental groups.
- Start early. Get looking at the market and find people who want to room with you. Make sure you guys are all in Australia because sometimes real estate agents won't accept applications if one person is in Canada.
- Try your best for furnished, especially if you don't have a car but be flexible. Transit here is decent so if you are a bit further away that is always an option.
- Start at student accommodations, then look for other housing just so it's easy when you first get here.
- Find something within your budget and think about on or off campus whether you want to drive and housemates. Living on campus you make closer friendships because you see people everyday whereas off campus you make a bit more effort because you just see people in class.
- Staying on campus first year may be a good option so that you're comfortable and have safe accommodations while you find your bearings overseas!
- Private accommodation is completely different in Oz and it is stressful.
- Try to be open about your options and be prepared to make multiple offers on many properties if looking at private rentals.
- Plan ahead!!! Student accommodation options can be quite expensive but are easier to get into. Share houses can be tough to find and you will want to consider many factors before committing to a place.
- Try to find something that is located close to campus or close to public transit if you aren't getting a car. Try to find a place with reasonable rent since cost of living in Australia can be pretty high. If you are living with housemates make sure that everyone's following house rules.
- Go to as many showing as you can, have proof if funds ready for your applications since you won't have any income.
- Budget, budget, budget!
- Select what is best for your purpose. Everybody has a different opinion about residence.
- Budget your expenses. Limit fast food like Subway. It may be tempting but tracking your health is very important.
- Uni lodge is pretty easy to find online. Just search up your university campus and places to live and many of them will pop up and price is usually shown on website.

- Land in an AirBnB and start arranging inspections, can also offer to pay some rent upfront if possible which can help with rental application.
- Try to find accommodation with other people from OzTREKK. Use the contact list to reach out.
- Book viewings before travelling to Australia.
- Get an AirBnb for the first month and consider apartment inspections a full-time job.
- If you can be in Australia several weeks before school starts then arrange inspections (required for private apartment rentals) but if that is difficult, try to be in one of student accommodations (Unilodge, Scape, etc.) or school residence (International house, Graduate hose) and try to move out, if you wish to do so, in second year.
- Don't try to set everything up at all once as it can get overwhelming try to take things step by step.
- If you have a family member or friend living where you're looking to move, ask them if they'd be willing to go to a viewing on your behalf. Most rentals need an in-person viewing before you can apply. If this is an option for you, you can have accommodation sorted for when you land.

The table below displays current accommodation details for current students.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
Weekly Rent (\$AUD with Utilities)	How Long it Took to Find Accommodation After Arrival (% of UWA students in that type of accommodation)	Suburb & Building with Reviews
Private Rental	33% — Arranged before arrival	Subaico “Would not recommend. Too expensive.”
Min. Reported Rent: \$450	33% — 1–2 weeks	Nedlands “Convenient walk to campus and buses. Easy bike path to CBD. Street noise is loud, no grocery store within short walking distance.”
Max. Reported Rent: \$1300	33% — 2–3 weeks	Wembley “My building is quite quiet and well maintained with an outdoor pool which is great for the spicier summer days. I haven't had any issues with cleanliness or neighbours. It is an easy 10-minute walk + 15-minute bus to campus, but is a bit tricky to get to/from other spots especially if at night or on weekends. Living on campus or closer to a train station would have been more convenient!”
Avg. of All Responses: \$833		
Student-purposed Privately Managed	100% — Arranged before arrival	Unihall, Crawley* “It's nice, great community, food is not the best but can't complain too much. Super close to everything, no complaints.”
Min. Reported Rent: \$430		
Max. Reported Rent: \$430		

Avg. Reported
Rent: \$430

**On-Campus
College / Dorm**

100% — Arranged before arrival

Min. Reported
Rent: \$420

Max. Reported
Rent: \$440

Avg. of All
Responses: \$430

Unihall, Crawley*

“Prices are going up next year to ~490/week I think, it is a good option for first year especially with the housing market here. It makes it super easy to walk to class in the morning. Close to campus and lots of other students in your program in the colleges so easy to meet up with friends.”

University Hall, Perth

“On campus so close to facilities and good events/programs, one of the cheaper residences.”

St. Catherine’s College, Crawley, Perth

“Would recommend. Very close to classes and great amenities like dining hall, cleaning services, private studio rooms. A little disjointed from the trains but easy access to the main city at least.”

Homestay

100% — Arranged before arrival

Min. Reported
Rent: \$200

Max. Reported
Rent: \$200

Avg. of All
Responses: \$200

Warwick

“I’m quite far from campus unfortunately. I’m near public transit but very far from campus, so this is a disadvantage.”

* Unihall, Crawley was placed in the accommodation type as reported by students. Some students reported it as a student-purposed privately managed and some reported it as on-campus residence / college accommodation. It is student housing operated by UWA.

General Accommodation Advice for University of Western Australia Students:

- Finding accommodations in Perth is quite challenging. It's probably best to try to arrange student accommodation for the first while, unless you know someone here.
- Rentals in Australia are really hard to find. Student accom is great choice for first year to create more and deeper connections. Helps with the sense of belonging when you're somewhere new.
- Try to do uni-based accommodations for the first year. For second year if you want to move out look at finding a place early (October/November) because of the housing market.
- Apply for residence because rental market is complicated.
- If planning to live on campus APPLY EARLY!
- Budget, references, be prepared to go to multiple showings and reveal sensitive information with no response in the end.
- It's difficult so look for rooms in a house that come up for rent. Get a bank account asap or else people won't rent to you.

ADVICE ABOUT WORKING WHILE STUDYING

Time Management is Crucial

- Prioritize schoolwork over your job, if that starts becoming an issue then try to find a less demanding job or work less hours.
- Schedule out a daily and weekly to do list.
- Find a job with extremely flexible hours because your weekly/semesterly schedule will constantly change.
- Find a job with a boss that is very considerate of your schedule and schedules you on your availability.

Look for Jobs in Your Field

- If your program is really busy and want to work, it's a good idea that your job has something to do with your program.
- If in vet med, find a weekend job at a vet clinic, scheduling your own hours via dog walking/sitting
- A lot of 4th years work as dental assistants and give up their jobs to first years if you reach out to them. In terms of handling a job, just know what your priorities are; don't put too much on your plate. (Melbourne Dental Student)

Tips for Finding a Job

- It is easy to find a job, depending on the field you like to apply for. There are MANY places to work so make sure it works for you.
- There are lots of barista jobs.
- Create a LinkedIn account!
- It's much easier to find jobs in the suburbs than in the city.
- Ask friends if the place they work at is hiring.
- A lot of companies are looking for casual workers, meaning there are very few requirements to minimum hours worked per week. This is convenient for around exam times when you will not be able to work. Remember that employers need you more than you need them, and to prioritize yourself first.

How the Australian Job Market Differs from the Canadian Job Market

- Working on the weekends you generally make more money and gives you your evenings free for uni work/to stay at the library.
- Work as early and often as you can, as minimum wage is much higher here than in Canada.
- It can be a process to get HR to sign papers.

JOBS CURRENT STUDENTS HAVE

CHIROPRACTIC

- Fishbowl (health food store) and at a spin studio making \$29/hour. I work a lot and am trying best to balance it with school but need the money.

DENTISTRY

- Bupa Dental as a dental assistant.
- Dental assistant.
- Dental assistant roughly 8-12 hours per week, 30/hour.
- I work about 10 hours a week as a dental assistant. In first year there's a lot of time so you get to learn a lot more by working at a dental clinic.
- I work around 18-26 hours a week as a dental assistant and I'm making \$25 an hour.
- I work as a cardiologist technician and work with Gold Coast Hospital's Principal Cardiology Professor.
- I work as a dental assistant. Highly recommend, accompanies studies very well and you learn so much more about working in a clinic.
- I work for 30 an hour part time as a clinical assistant at an orthodontics clinic.
- I work in a mobile dental clinic as a dental assistant, I work the maximum hours the student visa allows, which is 40 a fortnight. My wage is above average at approximately 28\$/hr.
- I work on campus and I make \$25 an hour doing casual cleaning of the buildings. Casual hours are inconsistent I am mostly on call.
- I'm a dental assistant.
- Part-time work as a dental assistant, around 8 hours a week. Hourly wage is \$28.
- Retail, 10-15 hrs weekly.

LAW

- Flower Power Garden Centre, 4-12 hours per week, a little above minimum wage.
- I volunteer 1 day a week for Australian work experience and to figure out what area I want to work in. If you're doing full time professional school with a full load it's not realistic to work more than one day a week. If you do want to work up to your visa work permit amount then try to take some intensive classes to create more time.
- I work 2-3 days a week, I have two jobs. One as a building concierge and the other as a legal assistant. The first job helps pay my bills and expenses.

- Started a job at a nonprofit. Will be working 22 hours a week. I did not work the first semester. The start of the JD program is really full on, if possible, I'd recommend waiting at least a couple of months to find work if it's financially possible (but given the high cost of living, may not be).
- Was working at the hospitals and now working at a law firm.

MEDICINE

- I am a tennis coach.
- I work 15-20 hours per week as a cardiac technician and medical admin with a private cardiology company. The minimum wage is much better than Canada and my wage is \$30 hourly.
- I work as an agency nurse.
- I work at a cafe as a barista about 12 hours on the weekends, 34\$/hour with tons of flexibility for my studies and a really fun team.
- I work at Little Stars Kids teaching little ones maths and English.
- I work in medical administration at Brisbane Private Hospital. I just check people in and arrange charts and answer phones and stuff. I work about 8-10 hours per week during school, and during breaks I work more like 20-40 to make money for trips and rent. I make about \$28/hour.
- I'm currently working as tutor with UQ, primarily in the nursing and public health programs. I work about 3-6 hours a week for \$75/hour.
- I'm working as a basketball coach for boys age 12-14. I work 3-4 hours a week at \$35/hr.
- Lifeguarding at the Long Tan pool. Around 15 hours a week. About \$29 AUD/hour.
- Ophthalmic technician.
- Part-time tutoring.
- Research assistant with uni, 8hr/wk, \$70k pro rata.
- Scribe at a clinic, around 8-15 hours weekly.
- Teacher at Matrix Education (private tutoring company), I teach groups of students (up to 15) science & math. 3hrs on Sundays. \$65AUD per hour, requires experience + a completed degree or two depending.
- Tutor kids back home in Canada.
- Work remotely for a Canadian company from Australia. About 8 hours a week.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

- I work as a waitress at a restaurant in Burleigh Heads - wage \$30/h. (Bond University student.)

OTHER

- I work at a local fancy cafe in my suburb where I work between 1 - 3 days a week. I get paid \$26 on the weekdays and \$30 on the weekends which is incredible and plenty to fuel my activities. I love my job I get to make fresh juices and drinks and help out on the floor clearing tables and taking orders.
- I work at a non-for-profit communication job.
- I work for alumni relations at UQ, 3-9 hours per week.
- I work in hospitality.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

- Around half if not more of the physio cohort here is a sports trainer. I work around 5 hours a week during the footy season for \$30/hour. I also work in retail for \$31/hour. (University of Melbourne student.)
- Clothing store - retail, 18-24hrs/week, about \$35/hr, more on weekends!
- Dog/house sitting 1-2/week, \$40 a stay.
- I got my sports trainer certification and worked sporting events at my university for several months. I then decided to get my Pilates certification and am about to start a job that pays way better and is great as a physio student to apply my skills. Lots of people in the program work, and it helps pay for things like trips to different cities and travel!
- I work 2 jobs bartending which I have lots of experience in. I love it and I make normal level 2 hospitality rates. I work too many hours a week (some people say) but I love it.
- I work as a receptionist at a physio clinic nearby. I work approximately 6-10 hours per week, 1 or two shifts per week.
- I work as a sports trainer with an Australian football team as well as a receptionist at a physiotherapy clinic. I try to work 8 hours a week as I like to spend the rest of the time focusing on my studies. I make \$30/hr.
- Part-time soccer coach. Work 5 hours a week. \$28/hour.
- Working at a cafe 2x per week.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- I work as a teacher! I work 24 hours a week.

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

- I work at Lululemon. I waited a while to start work but found that I would be able to manage it with school. I work around 10-15 hours per week.
- I work in retail. I work about 10 hours a week. My wage is \$31 an hour.
- Woolworths, night fill, 24 hours a week, \$24 an hour

VET

- Got a job after completing uni placement. Very applicable to course content (working with animals) work once a week. Very flexible. Aus min wage is much better than Canada.
- I work at a local pet supply shop (UpMarket Pets). They have two locations. Staff are lovely and I make a bit above minimum wage. I work one shift a week during the semester and scrape together as many hours as they can give me on the holidays.
- Strike Bowling - 15h/wk - \$28/h.
- Vet clinic. 4 hours a day. 2 days/week. Around \$18/hour AUD.

YOUR AUSTRALIAN TRAVEL LIST

The beaches, trails, restaurants, attractions, and events listed below are favourite spots for current students!

GOLD COAST

Beaches & Trails	Food & Drink	Attractions & Events
Mermaid Beach (Wednesday morning swim)	Miami Marketta	Pacific Fair Shopping Centre
Burleigh Heads	The Collective Palm Beach	Surfers Paradise (nightlife & night markets)
Currumbin Beach (swimming & surfing)	Southport (great Asian restaurants)	HOTA Markets
Noosa	Cocohut Taste of Thailand	Australia Zoo
Broadbeach	Paradox Coffee Roasters	Queen Street in Brisbane
	Vapiano Soul Boardwalk	Movie World
Byron Bay (lighthouse hike)	The Cardamom Pod	Event Cinemas at Australia Fair (cheap movies)
Miami Beach	San Churros	Coomababah Park (wild kangaroos)
Main Beach (sunrise)	Gemelli Italian Restaurant	Sea World
Springbrook Twin Falls (hiking)	El Camino Cantina	KPOP Karaoke in Southport
Sunshine Coast		

Geelong

Beaches & Trails	Food & Drink	Attractions & Events
Ocean Grove		Melbourne
Geelong Waterfront		

Adelaide

Beaches & Trails	Food & Drink	Attractions & Events
Brighton Beach		Marion Mall
Hiking Trails		

TOWNSVILLE

Beaches & Trails

The Strand Esplanade

Palm Cove

Trinity Beach

Food & Drink

Longboard Bar & Trill

Attractions & Events

Riverway (variety of activities and restaurants)

Magnetic Island

JCU Campus sports & clubs

SYDNEY

Beaches & Trails

Bondi Beach

Manly Beach

Bondi Beach to Coogee Walk

Darling Beach

Centennial Park

Blue Mountains

Jervis Bay

Darling Harbour to Circular Quay Walk

Food & Drink

Miami Marketta

Brunch places in Surry Hills

The Rocks

El Camino (great Mexican food & unlimited margaritas)

Attractions & Events

The CBD (activities, restaurants, & shops)

Sydney Harbour (especially at night)

Palm Beach

Sydney Opera House

Macquarie Centre (400+ stores right beside Macquarie University)

Circular Quay

The Sydney Ferry

Karaoke Bars

Watson's Bar

Mrs. Macquarie's Chair

Luna Park

Kiama

Byron Bay

Melbourne

Beaches & Trails

Tarra Bulga National Park

Morwell National Park

Bike Trails

Hiking Trails

Albert Park

Philip Island (day trip from Melbourne)

Lorne (surfing)

Rottne Island (western Australia)

Penguin Island (western Australia)

Food & Drink

Universal Restaurant

Churchill Hot Bread Bakery & Cafe

Bunnings (for the Sausage Sizzle)

Belles Hot Chicken (fried chicken)

Guzman y Guzman (Mexican food)

Proud Mary Coffee

Lune Croissanterie

Attractions & Events

Great Ocean Road

Victoria State Library

University of Melbourne athletic facilities

The Australian Open

Melbourne Central

St. Kilda

Chadstone

Royal Botanical Gardens

Portsea (weekend getaway)

Melbourne Museum

Melbourne Aquarium

Melbourne Zoo

Peninsula Hot Springs

Altona (weekend getaway)

Queen Victoria Market

Fitzroy Gardens

Brisbane

Beaches & Trails	Food & Drink	Attractions & Events
Gold Coast beaches	West End restaurants (great vegan options)	The Stampede
Noosa	Variety of arcade bars	Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary
Kangaroo Point (viewing & walking trails)	Christian Jacque Artisan Bakery	South Bank (Riverwalk path with plenty of restaurants, & shops)
Byron Bay		West End Market
		Brisbane Botanic Gardens
		North Stradbroke Island
		Whitsunday Islands
		CityCat Ferry at sunset