Congratulations!

We are delighted you have chosen to continue your studies at the University of Sydney, one of the world’s leading higher education institutions.

Before you leave home, there are a number of important arrangements you need to make and things you need to plan for and understand.

Some of these things are included in this booklet. You might like to use it as a check list of things to do before you arrive in Australia.

If you follow these guidelines before you arrive in Australia, it will make your journey to Australia as smooth as possible and help you to settle into the University of Sydney community quickly.

There is further information about living in Sydney available in the Living in Sydney guide. This will help you find out information about the University and Australia including laws, your rights and responsibilities, services available to you, transport information, ways to keep yourself safe and other useful tips to make your first few weeks in Sydney as trouble free as possible so that you soon feel like a local!

These guides and further information are also provided at International Student Arrival Information sessions so please check your University of Sydney email address regularly for your invitation to this and to other orientation and information sessions especially for International students.

Have a safe trip and we will see you in Sydney!
Things to do before you arrive in Sydney

Travel Arrangements

• After you accept your offer of a place at the University of Sydney, organise travel arrangements including airline tickets and travel insurance and make sure your passport and student visa are valid for the length of your stay in Australia.

• Ensure your hand luggage complies with airline requirements in terms of size and weight. Some airlines will not allow you to carry bottles with liquid in them that are larger than 100ml, aerosol cans or sharp implements in your hand luggage.

• Pack a folder with your important documents (passport, air ticket, travel insurance and other valuables) and place in your hand luggage. Make sure you take a few photocopies of your passport as well.

• Check Australia’s customs and import requirements and identify any items you cannot bring or that you will need to declare at the airport on arrival. You cannot bring fresh foods into Australia. Read advice from the Australian Government on what can be brought or sent to Australia. http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/travel/cant-bring-form/australian_biosecurity.

• Purchase padlocks for your luggage and secure them to your bags.

• Pack some of your personal items such as photos, address books with contact details of family, friends and your country’s embassy in Australia.

• Work out how to get to your accommodation in Sydney from the International Airport. There are several options for transport from Sydney Airport including trains, buses and taxis. Make sure you research the route you will need to take and how much it will cost at www.sydneyairport.com.au.

• Have at least AUD$1500 available for use on arrival in Sydney (plus approximately AUD$300 in cash). You can exchange most currencies at the airport but you can do this before your arrival. Most businesses including taxis accept credit cards but there may be a surcharge.

• When you arrive - always look left and then right before crossing the road. Traffic in Australia may be different to what you are used to in your home country.
Accommodation Arrangements

- Organise at least temporary accommodation, either on or off campus – see the Student Accommodation Services website for help with this: sydney.edu.au/current_students/accommodation for either on or off campus residential accommodation or to access their database of private accommodation options.
- There are also websites that help find you find private accommodation and share houses, such as www.flatmatefinders.com.au.
- Buy powerpoint converters for any of your electrical equipment and appliances that may have different plugs in Australia.

Health and Medication

- Have medical/dental check-ups and pack spare pairs of glasses/contact lenses and prescriptions for medications. Arrive with at least a month’s worth of medication if possible.
- Check with your doctor that you will able to be able to obtain the medications you require in Australia.
- If you have an ongoing or chronic health condition, ask your doctor for a letter of referral to a health practitioner in Australia.
- Ensure your vaccinations are up to date and bring copies of your vaccination records.
- Ensure your Overseas Student Health Cover with Allianz Insurance or your chosen provider is arranged. You can find out about the costs and cover available at: oshcallianzassistance.com.au/Default.aspx

Packing

- Sydney can have extreme weather conditions – it can be very hot and dry in summer and cold, wet and windy in winter. Make sure your pack clothes for all weather conditions including jumpers and jackets.
- There are easily accessible, relatively cheap clothes, bedding, stationery and other supplies available across Sydney. You do not need to weigh down your luggage with too many toiletries or other items that you can purchase after you arrive.
- Ensure you do not pack anything that will be confiscated by Customs. Check the Australian government website to see what you can and cannot bring into Australia. customs.gov.au/site/page4369.asp
Enrolment

• The University of Sydney offers online enrolment for most courses and depending on your travel dates, you may be able to finalise this before you arrive in Australia. Visit the University of Sydney enrolment website to find out how to enrol: http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/enrolment/index.shtml

• You can read about the units of study that are offered in each degree on the University’s website. Search for the course you have been offered on the site to access the Faculty handbook: http://sydney.edu.au/courses/

• Become familiar with your Faculty. Check their website to find out about key dates for enrolment, orientation and study: http://sydney.edu.au/about/faculties_schools.shtml

• Once you accept your offer, you will receive your Unikey log in and your University of Sydney email address. Check this email regularly for information and invitations to orientation and transition events especially for International students to help you to settle in quickly in Sydney.

Documentation

Ensure you bring the following documents with you:

• valid passport and photocopies of passport
• student visa and photocopies of visa
• travel documents (itinerary, tickets, travel insurance)
• a list of goods which you are bringing to Australia for yourself as well as customs
• all offer letters sent to you by the university and receipts of payments of university fees
• certified copies of references, transcripts, work/educational qualifications, scholarship letter (if applicable)
• identification such as certified copy of birth certificate, driver's licence, international drivers licence (if needed)
• credit cards, travellers cheques and bank account records
• any previous reference letters written by landlords, employers etc to assist in obtaining accommodation or work (if allowed under your visa)
Information for Families

Family Visas
• Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants. For information about applying to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection for your family’s visas visit border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Brin

Schools & Child Care
• Information about schooling, school fees and child care in Australia can be found at the NSW Department of Education website: dec.nsw.gov.au/
• You can also search and compare specific primary and secondary schools in Australia using the MySchool website: myschool.edu.au/
• Five child care centres currently operate on or near the Camperdown, Darlington and Cumberland campuses catering to over 200 children aged from 0 to five years. The University’s Child Care Office can provide you with further information about these services and other assistance available to you: sydney.edu.au/stuserv/child_care/
• The Child Care Office also provides useful information about services, resources and facilities for families with children on their website, including types of child care and play group contacts: sydney.edu.au/stuserv/child_care/intern.shtml

Scholarships
• The University of Sydney has many scholarships available for international students. There are also scholarships that are funded by the government and various industries. Because of the variety of scholarships on offer, the eligibility criteria for each of them are different. Please read through the conditions of the scholarships thoroughly before applying. Visit the Scholarships website for information about scholarships and applications: sydney.edu.au/scholarships/prospective/international_students.shtml
• Another option is a scholarship provided through the Australian government’s Australia Awards scheme. For eligibility and application information, visit sydney.edu.au/future-students/international/undergraduate/australia-awards-scholarship/
• Don’t forget to explore scholarship opportunities in your home country as well!

See you in Sydney!