



Daily life

- **Money**
- **Shopping and restaurants**
- **Transport**
- **Health care while in Australia**

Money

Australia has decimal currency with 100 cents to the dollar. Australian bank note denominations are \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5, and coins are \$2, \$1, 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. The exchange rate for the Australian dollar (AUD) is a floating rate based on the foreign exchange market. A rough estimate of the Renminbi to the dollar is 6.6 RMB to \$1. Currently the Australian dollar is roughly equivalent to the US Dollar.

Tipping

It is common now to leave a tip of 10% in a good restaurant if you are happy with the service. It is uncommon to leave a tip in coffee shops or cheaper restaurants, though people will sometimes leave the small change from payment of the bill for the waiter. Hotel desk clerks, bus drivers, theatre ushers, shop sales assistants, flight attendants and petrol station attendants are not tipped in Australia.

It is important not to offer to tip a public official, police officer or government employee as this is against the law in Australia and may be considered an attempt to bribe the person.

Shopping and restaurants

Supermarket shopping

There is a small supermarket conveniently located very near your apartments. This supermarket should provide for most of your needs. Should you require a wider range of supermarket items, there is a large supermarket located near the Newtown railway station.

If you would like some specialty Asian food these can be obtained from the small food shops located in China Town, a short bus ride away.

Dinking water from the tap

Water from the tap in your home or at public facilities like the University is safe to drink in Australia. It has been treated and is chlorinated to ensure it is clean and fluoridated for dental health. You might notice a slight chlorine smell.

If you are going to be working in one of our labs, you might see a sign like this, "Non potable", near a water tap. This indicates that water from this source is not suitable for drinking.





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Local restaurants

Newtown is a local suburb which has a large number and range of reasonably priced restaurants, including a number of Chinese, Thai and Malaysian restaurants that you might like. Explore King Street Newtown to see what it offers. It is only a short walk from your hotel up Missenden Rd.

Another area of interest close to the University is **Glebe** which also has a number of reasonably priced restaurants including a very good Sichuan restaurant. Glebe is easy to reach from the University of Sydney. The main road of Glebe, Glebe Point Rd, is off Parramatta Rd close to the Uni.

Both Newtown and Glebe are suburbs where many students and staff of the University of Sydney live.

China Town, a short bus ride from your hotel towards the city and the University, provides a number of excellent and reasonably priced Chinese and other Asian restaurants and well as a number of Chinese Grocery stores.

Shops on campus

There are a number of small shops on campus that you might find convenient. These are located in the following buildings:

- Wentworth Building - Food outlets, Chemist, Optometrist, University Health Service, Newsagent and Stationers, ATM
- Holme Building - Food outlets, Chemist, Newsagent and Stationers, ATM
- Manning Building - Food outlets, Manning Bar, ATM

Transport

Public Transport

You will probably use public transport at some time during your stay.

Buses, trains and ferries - Sydney has an extensive bus and train network that links nearly all suburbs. The nearest train stations to the University's main campus are Redfern Station (ten-minute walk) and Central Station (short bus ride). And the nearest station to your accommodation is Newtown station (ten-minute walk). Buses stop right outside the University at several locations.

Ferries cross the harbour from their base at Circular Quay. They are not only a convenient way to travel, they are an unbeatable way to see Sydney. You must not leave Australia without catching at least one ferry across Sydney Harbour!

Tickets - You can buy TravelTen tickets for multiple trips by bus, which are cheaper than single-trip tickets. These are available from the newsagents on campus, and most newsagents off campus.





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Taxis

Taxis are widely available, but expensive. All taxis operate on a set rate per kilometre as displayed on a meter on the dashboard, with additional costs for luggage or a phone booking. You can stop any unoccupied taxi (as long as it has its orange light on) from the street or make a booking with any of the following companies:

- Legion Cabs 13 14 51
- Premier Cabs 13 10 17
- RSL Cabs 13 33 11
- St George Cabs 13 21 66
- Taxis Combined 13 33 00

Your health care while in Australia

Health insurance

Make sure that you have some health care insurance before you travel to Australia. The cost of health care can be expensive and it will be worthwhile for you to have some insurance to cover you in case of illness or accident.

University Health

Most Australians, if they are unwell or if they have a medical condition that needs monitoring, will visit a doctor called a General Practitioner (or GP). If you do need to see a doctor while you are here, the most efficient service will be provided by the University Health Service, a small health service on campus where a GP can see you with if you have an appointment. If there is a medical emergency, you can see a GP without an appointment. The University Health Service is located on Level 3 of the Wentworth Building. Use this phone number to make an appointment - 9351 3484.

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

If you are ill after hours, and, if you cannot wait to see a doctor until the morning, then you could use the emergency facility at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, however you might have to wait many hours to see a doctor. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is located across the road from your hotel in Missenden Rd.

