



Australia
Student Recruitment

Study on the Gold Coast

Add: Level 1, St Tropez North, 35 Orchid Avenue, Surfers Paradise, QLD Australia 4217

Tel: +61 (0)7 5592 0755

Fax: +61 (0)7 5531 6404

Email: gary@thisisaustralia.com

Australia Student Recruitment
Gold Coast, Australia

11/2008



We are here to help!

The following parts are only **GENERAL** information, aiming at helping you settle down on the Gold Coast. The information may not suit each specific individual and each specific situation.

1. Come to Gold Coast	2
2. Weather on the Gold Coast	2
3. Costs in Gold Coast.....	3
4. Visa Conditions.....	4
5. Accommodation	4
6. Rent Furniture.....	5
7. Find Part-Time Job	5
8. Tax File Number (TFN) and Australian Business Number (ABN)	7
9. Australia Taxation.....	7
Tax rates 2008-09 (Residents)	7
Tax rates 2008-09 (Non-residents).....	7
10. Open Bank Account.....	8
11. Public Transport	8
12. Shopping	9
13. Mobile Phone.....	9
14. Home Telephone Providers	9
15. Make International Calls	10
16. Purchasing a Car	10
17. Queensland Transport.....	10
18. Car Insurance	10
19. Internet Service Providers (ISP)	11
20. Other Useful Information.....	11



1. COME TO GOLD COAST

Colleges and universities provide airport pickup service either from Brisbane Airport or Gold Coast Airport. Please ask your education counsellor or college/university for price.

Gold Coast Airport: http://www.goldcoastairport.com.au/terminal_map.php (Terminal Map)

Brisbane Airport: You will arrive at International Terminal
http://www.bne.com.au/content/standard_v4.asp?name=TerminalMaps (Terminal Map)

Sydney Airport: You will arrive at International Terminal. However, as you will still need to fly to Gold Coast, you may go to either T2 Domestic Terminal (If you have luggage less than 20KG, you may take Jetstar which is cheaper) or T3 Qantas Terminal (If you have luggage less than 32KG) to buy your ticket to Gold Coast.

<http://www.sydneyairport.com.au/SACL/Terminal+Information/Terminal+Maps/default.htm>
(Terminal Map)

Please bring some Australian Dollars in cash with you, at least app. AUD 1,500) for the first couple of weeks' use.

Currency exchange services are available in airports. OR you can buy Australian Dollars from banks in your home country.

Coin-insert public phones are available at airports, you will need to change coins to make phone call. 40 – 50 cents each time to make a local call. You may call you college or us on **07 5592 0755**, if you need help.

2. WEATHER ON THE GOLD COAST

	Mean Temperature	Max Average Temperature	Min Average Temperature	Mean No. Rainy Days
Summer (Dec/Jan/Feb)	24.10° C	27.60° C	20.50° C	14.4 days
Autumn (Mar/Apr/May)	21.10° C	25.10° C	17.10° C	17.6 days
Winter (Jun/Jul/Aug)	17.20° C	20.70° C	10.90° C	10.3 days
Spring (Sep/Oct/Nov)	20.00° C	24.00° C	15.90° C	10.6 days



3. COSTS IN GOLD COAST

Typical living costs for a single student

Sample of Expenses	Apartment/Flat/Unit/House (Unfurnished/furnished, 2-4 people sharing)		Home Stay (Some meals included, e.g. 2 meals during week days and 3 meals in weekends)	
	<i>Per week</i>	<i>Per year</i>	<i>Per week</i>	<i>Per year</i>
Establishment Costs (A\$):				
Placement/ arrangement fee				App. 160
Rental Bond		4 weeks of rent will be paid as bond before moving to accommodation (A\$480 – 720)		
Furniture		Full-set second-hand furniture App. AUD1,000 or rent furniture app. 280/month		
Recurrent Costs (A\$):				
Rent for accommodation	App. 120-180/room	6,760 – 9,360	App. 230/room	1,1960
Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)		352		352
Telephone, gas, electricity, water, Internet	41	2132	21	1092
Travel (up to 10km from city)	28	1456	28	
Books and stationery		412		412
Food	60	3120	32	1664



4. VISA CONDITIONS

There will be some conditions attached to your student visa. Breaching the conditions may lead your student visa to be cancelled.

- ✓ **8105** You cannot work more than **20 hours per week** (a week means **Monday to Sunday**) when your course is in session. No work limits apply during recognised periods of vacation offered by your education provider.
- ✓ **8202** You must remain enrolled in a registered full time course. You must maintain **at least 80%** attendance in your course and course progress for each study period as required by your education provider.
- ✓ **8501** You must **maintain** Overseas Student Health Cover (**OSHC**)
- ✓ **8516** You must continue to have **sufficient financial capacity** to support your study and stay in Australia
- ✓ **8517** You must maintain adequate schooling arrangements for your children **5 or above**
- ✓ **8532** If you haven't turned 18 you must maintain adequate arrangements for your **accommodation**, support and general **welfare** for the duration of your stay in Australia. You must not change those arrangements without the written approval of your education provider
- ✓ **8533** You must notify your education provider of your **residential address** in Australia within 7 days of arriving in Australia. You must notify your education provider of any change in your residential address within 7 days of the change. You must notify your education provide of a change of education provider within 7 days of receiving the Confirmation of Enrolment certificate or evidence of enrolment

Other conditions may be also attached on your student visa, depending on which kind of course you are applying and which country you come from.

5. ACCOMMODATION

If you don't have a relative or friend on the Gold Coast can provide you an immediate accommodation, it is highly recommended to take 4-week home-stay with your education provider. Your home-stay parents will take you to the school on the first day of your course and also provide you meals. Home-stay families will also help you settle down on the Gold Coast.

During your 4-week stay with your home stay, you may start looking for a shared accommodation. You may find such information on the **notice board** of your school, from your **classmates**, or school **accommodation staff**.



The local news paper “**Gold Coast Bulletin**” has rental and job information.

Or you may look for information from the following websites:

www.realestate.com.au (Realestate.com)

www.domain.com.au (Domain.com)

www.goldcoastflatmates.com (GoldCoast-Flatmates.com)

<http://au.easyroommate.com/Gold-Coast-share-accommodation> (Easy Roommate.com)

<http://goldcoastexchange.com.au/classifieds/Gold-Coast-Shared-Accommodation-Student/5156.html> (Gold Coast Exchange)

<http://www.yourestate.com.au/search.php?ipcat=10&istate=QLD> (Your Estate.com)

<http://www.shareaccommodation.org/share+accommodation/house+share.php?region=Gold%20Coast&type=flatshare> (ShareAccommodation.org)

Or the following real estate agents:

Agent Name	Tel	Website
Ray White		http://www.realestate.com.au
Professionals	+61 7 55933891	www.professionals.com.au
First National	+61 7 55205122	www.propertygoldcoast.com.au
PRD	+61 7 55354544	www.prd.com.au
Raine & Horne	+61 7 55762000	www.raineandhorneburleigh.com.au

6. RENT FURNITURE

Rentalstogo: <http://www.rentalstogo.com.au/contact-us.php>

Gold Coast Arrivals: http://www.goldcoastarrivals.com/furniture_rental.html

More in Yellow Page (<http://www.yellowpages.com.au>). If you don't have a Gold Coast Yellow Page, you could always come to our office for information.

7. FIND PART-TIME JOB

Since Gold Coast is a tourist city, here is not short of part-time job vacancies, such as cleaners, car detailers, waiting staff, kitchen hand, receptionist, shop assistants, language tutors, massage, working for theme parks, and etc. You will have to be an **ACTIVE** job hunter to find a job, expecting writing résumé in English, contacting potential employers, and also preparing and attending job interviews.



Australian government suggests overseas students **SHOULD NOT** expect to earn all tuition and living costs by working part-time. You will need to have at least enough money for your tuition.

The pre-tax wage is starting from app. AUD 13/hour. The wage will depend on the nature of the part-time job and skills you have.

There are a few ways to find a job on the Gold Coast:

1. Local Newspaper: Weekend Bulletin (Gold Coast Bulletin weekend edition, can be purchased from newsagency on Saturday each week); Community newspapers, e.g. Sun free and delivered to your accommodation or the accommodation manager's place, Chinese newspapers free and available in Chinese supermarkets.
2. Door to door hunting: walk into big shopping centres, restaurants, car detailing shops, hotels, Surfers Paradise area and etc. Submit your resume to shops you would like to work for.
3. Website: <http://www.seek.com.au/>; <http://mycareer.com.au/>
4. Jobs4Students (job agency) Pay Jobs4Students AUD 600, they will find you a paid employment. You may start work as soon as your arrival in Gold Coast!
<http://www.jobs4students.com.au/>
5. Information from friends, your school or us

What may be included in your Résumé:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Nationality
- ✓ Short description of your abilities and personality and job interests (e.g. position or job duty preference)
- ✓ Available days and hours
- ✓ Contacts (keep you mobile with you all the time!)
- ✓ Previous work experience (better to be somewhat related with your current application)
- ✓ Skills (e.g. language skills, trades skills, ICT skills, qualifications, etc.)
- ✓ Referees



8. TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN) AND AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER (ABN)

You will need to apply a Tax File Number (TFN) or Australian Business Number (ABN) as soon as your arrival in Australia. Without a TFN or ABN, your employer will have to withhold your payment until you provide one, or pay highest tax rate. You will also need to provide your TFN to the bank to pay the correct amount of tax on interest you have earned.

Your future employer asks you for either TFN or ABN. It will be good idea to apply both, such as in cleaning business, employer often asks for an ABN, instead of a TFN.

Both TFN and ABN will take at most 28 days to be issued; therefore the earlier to apply, the better.

Apply TFN on-line: <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/38760.htm>

Apply ABN on-line:

[http://www.business.gov.au/Business+Entry+Point/Business+Topics/Registration+and+licences/Register+for+taxation/Register+for+an+Australian+Business+Number+\(ABN\).htm](http://www.business.gov.au/Business+Entry+Point/Business+Topics/Registration+and+licences/Register+for+taxation/Register+for+an+Australian+Business+Number+(ABN).htm)

You may also come to our office, bring your **passport**. We will help you apply for TFN and ABN.

9. AUSTRALIA TAXATION

People working in Australia are required to pay tax. For students with a student visa of 6 months or longer, they are considered as residents of Australia for tax purposes. Students with a student visa of shorter than 6 months are considered as non-residents and have to pay tax at a higher rate.

Tax rates 2008-09 (Residents)

<i>Taxable income</i>	<i>Tax on this income</i>
\$0 – \$6,000	Nil
\$6,001 – \$34,000	15c for each \$1 over \$6,000
\$34,001 – \$80,000	\$4,200 plus 30c for each \$1 over \$34,000
\$80,001 – \$180,000	\$18,000 plus 40c for each \$1 over \$80,000
\$180,001 and over	\$58,000 plus 45c for each \$1 over \$180,000

Tax rates 2008-09 (Non-residents)



<i>Taxable income</i>	<i>Tax on this income</i>
\$0 – \$34,000	29c for each \$1
\$34,001 – \$80,000	\$9,860 plus 30c for each \$1 over \$34,000
\$80,001 – \$180,000	\$23,660 plus 40c for each \$1 over \$80,000
\$180,001 and over	\$63,660 plus 45c for each \$1 over \$180,000

10. OPEN BANK ACCOUNT

There 4 major banks in Australia:

- ✓ ANZ (<http://www.anz.com/>)
- ✓ NAB – National Australia Bank (<http://www.nab.com.au/>)
- ✓ Commonwealth Bank (<http://www.commbank.com.au/>)
- ✓ Westpac Bank (<http://www.westpac.com.au/>)

Also there are many other banks to choose from.

When you'd like to open a bank account:

1. Walk in to a bank and talk with a financial service consultant there (not a teller)
2. If you open a bank account within 6 weeks of arriving in Australia, you will only need to bring your passport to bank. Otherwise you will need to pass the “100-point” identify system. To pass the “100-point” system, you may needs to bring the following documents with you:
 - ✓ Passport
 - ✓ Student OSHC card
 - ✓ Car registration/Utility bills/Rental receipts

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The bus and train services are mainly provided by TRANSLink (<http://www.transinfo.qld.gov.au/>)

Full-time students who attend post secondary institution located in Queensland are entitled to a concession fare, which is half of the standard price. When purchasing tickets, you will need to show your student card to bus driver to get the discount.

You will need to waive to bus driver when want to get on, and press yellow ring button when want to off.

If you need transfer bus, when you purchasing ticket, let the bus driver know your destination (Place Name or Bus Zone Number), you can use the same ticket for the second bus you will need to take. For example, if you need to take Bus A first, and then transfer to Bus B to Surfers Paradise, when purchasing ticket with Bus A, tell Bus A driver you need to go to Surfers Paradise. Later when you transfer to take Bus B, just show Bus B driver your ticket, no need to purchase again.



Taxi services are mainly provided by Regent Taxis (<http://www.regenttaxis.com.au/index2.php>). You may either book a taxi/maxi online or call 131 008.

Door to Door service – Coachtrans provides door-to-door service between your Gold Coast accommodation to Brisbane airport. You can book their service online from <http://www.coachtrans.com.au/default.aspx>

12. SHOPPING

Many big shopping centres scattered in Gold Coast, such as Harbour Town, Australia Fair, Pacific Fair, Robina Town Centre, and etc. All shopping centres no matter big or small always have supermarket in it, such as Coles, Wool Worth, and Aldi.

13. MOBILE PHONE

2 major mobile phone service providers are Vodafone (www.vodafone.com.au) and Optus (www.optus.com.au)

GSM mobile phones from most countries in the world will work on Australia's mobile phone networks. Bring your mobile with you and to get on the air as quickly and cheaply as possible purchase a Pre-Paid SIM card. SIM cards can be purchased from Vodafone shops, Optus shops, Post, Coles, Woolworths, and etc.

Vodafone SIMs can be purchased from Woolworths or Coles supermarkets for A\$ 2 at the service counter. Buy a \$ 29 Jumbo Cap recharge voucher and you will get A\$130 in credit to use in a month. Woolworth is currently providing a further 10% discount, which means you will only need to pay \$26.1 for \$29 Jumbo Cap.

If your mobile phone doesn't work in Australia, you may visit phone shops normally located in shopping centres, and either buy a new phone or sign a 2-year service contract to get a free phone.

14. HOME TELEPHONE PROVIDERS

Telstra is Australia's largest Telco, providing home phone service. To apply their service, you may either their shops (search on www.whereis.com for location) or go to their website (<http://www.telstra.com.au/homephoneservices/index.htm>)

Other providers:

www.optus.com.au

www.aapt.com.au

www.phonechoice.com.au



15. MAKE INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Making international calls directly from your mobile or home phone will be expensive. It is best to buy an “overseas calling card (IP card)” which gives you low rates on IDD calls. There are many such cards to choose from, and they can be purchased from newsagencies and convenience stores.

Two popular cards are:

Say G's day: <http://www.saygdaycallingcard.com/>

GoTalk: <http://www.gotalk.com.au/>

When make international calls:

- ✓ 0011+Country Code + Area Code + Phone Number
- ✓ OR following the instruction on your “overseas calling card”

16. PURCHASING A CAR

You may either buy a new car or used one. Both new car and used one can be purchased from dealers. Car dealers are obligated to provide you with a warrantee.

Used car could also be purchased from individuals. Information is available on Gold Coast Bulletin and also websites:

www.carsales.com.au

www.redbook.com.au

17. QUEENSLAND TRANSPORT

If you have following issues, you may need to visit Queensland Transport (<http://www.transport.qld.gov.au>) either online or by place.

- ✓ Take a driver licence test (both writing and driving test) and renew your Queensland driver licence
- ✓ Register a car under your name. If you purchased from a dealer, dealer will normally help solve this part.
- ✓ Renew REGO (Registration Logo)
- ✓ Update your information, such as address

18. CAR INSURANCE

You may choose from the following providers:

www.racq.com.au

www.budgetdirect.com.au (brokers)



19. INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISP)

There are many ISP's to choose from in Australia. You can save a substantial amount by shopping around.

Go to www.whirlpool.net.au once you have a home phone number and perform an ISP search by entering your number into the field in the top right hand corner. From the next page simply select what type of features you would like and you will be given results of all the ISP's that service your area.

There are links to all the ISP's and feedback from users. This is a free unbiased site and is not funded by any ISP.

You can apply internet services on your chosen ISP's website.

20. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

<http://www.whereis.com> (Map: Where Is)

<http://maps.google.com.au> (Map: Google Map)

<http://www.yellowpages.com.au> (Yellow Page)

Emergency (Police/Ambulance/Fire Brigade) 000 – prepare to provide your name, address, phone number, and also whether you need police, ambulance, or fire brigade

Police (Non-emergency) 131 444

Australia Student Recruitment +61 (0)7 5592 0755