A very warm welcome

A very warm welcome to you from La Trobe University, Australia. For over 50 years we have welcomed students from across the globe and today we host over 9,000 international students. We’re proud of our multicultural community, which helps us make a global impact. And we continue to improve in rankings of the world’s best universities, including the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020 placing La Trobe at 291.

Studying overseas is a life-changing experience. This guide provides you with important information to help you prepare for this new and exciting time.

We understand that studying in Australia is about more than just the course you choose. Here at La Trobe, we’re proud to offer you a wide range of opportunities to develop your global networks by engaging in leadership development, participating in volunteering programs and becoming a member of the many clubs and societies that are a core part of life at all seven of our vibrant campus locations.

Our graduates are renowned for their employability, for their deep understanding of the most pressing challenges facing the global community, and for their ability to address those challenges intelligently and decisively.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our beautiful campuses here in Australia and wish you well with your final stages of preparation.

Thank you for choosing La Trobe University.

Richard Speed
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)
Congratulations on choosing La Trobe

By choosing La Trobe, you’re choosing to study with people who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge. Our graduates transform lives, professions and communities. Here’s a snapshot of what you’ll enjoy about studying with us.

You matter
From day one, we make sure you have a broad support network so you can get the most out of university. We’ll help you settle into life in Australia, make new friends, succeed in your studies and prepare for life after university. You’ll have access to a dedicated team of support staff members, a 24-hour student helpline, learning support and networking and volunteering opportunities. We can also help you plan your career and find a job, either back home or in Australia.

Student life
There’s a lot more to experience at La Trobe than just going to class and working on assignments. We offer a wide range of clubs, sporting teams and social events to make your experience a memorable one. Join and attend as many as you like and meet incredible people with diverse interests.

Victoria
The state of Victoria is a vibrant, multicultural destination offering stunning natural beauty, exciting cities with lively arts and cultural scenes and a world-class student experience. Melbourne, the capital city of Victoria, has been named Australia’s best student city¹ and is consistently ranked one of the world’s most liveable cities.²

Living in Melbourne
In the 2019 QS Best Student Cities index, Melbourne received a perfect score for student mix, which looks at the city’s student population, levels of social inclusion and tolerance.

New South Wales
Rich in natural beauty and featuring world-famous beaches and national parks, New South Wales is home to more than a third of all Australians. With an economy larger than Singapore, Malaysia or even Hong Kong, the state is home to around half of Australia’s top 500 companies. The state capital Sydney is one of the world’s most multicultural cities, with almost 40 per cent of the population born overseas.

Living in Sydney
Sydney is the business and financial capital of Australia and an important hub in the Asia-Pacific region. It’s also one of the world’s safest cities and provides one of the best environments to study, work and live.

See you soon
This Acceptance and Pre-departure Guide will help you with everything you need to prepare before you leave home. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our beautiful campuses and encourage you to get involved and have the experience of a lifetime!

¹. QS, QS Best Student Cities 2019
². Economist Intelligence Unit, Global Liveability Ranking 2010-2019
Understanding your Letter of Offer

This section includes explanations and definitions of terms to help you understand your Letter of Offer.

Conditional offers
If you’ve received a conditional offer, please note that this is not a full offer. You must fulfill the condition(s) stated in your Letter of Offer before it can be changed to a full offer. Examples of conditions may be certified documents, evidence of English test results, evidence of relevant work experience, translated transcripts and more.

English language conditions
If English language conditions apply to your offer, once you have met these conditions you need to send your results to the relevant La Trobe International (LTI) office (see the ‘who to contact’ section below). Results that show you’ve met this condition need to be received before, or at the time, you accept your offer.

English language requirements may be satisfied by showing us evidence of the standards as specified on our website: latrobe.edu.au/study/apply/international/requirements

If you’ve been offered a place in a course with non-standard English language requirements, these requirements will be outlined in your Letter of Offer.

Your English test results must be no more than two years old at the course commencement date.

If you plan to meet the English language requirements by studying English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) at our on-campus college, you must complete a separate Application for Enrolment.

For more information, contact:
T +61 3 9479 2417
E study@latrobemelbourne.edu.au

Advanced Standing (credit)

If Advanced Standing (credit) for your previous studies has been approved, you will find the details of approved Advanced Standing on your Letter of Offer. The course duration shown on your Letter of Offer will reflect the amount of Advanced Standing received.

If this Advanced Standing is conditional, you must provide evidence that you have satisfactorily met the condition(s) before or at the time you accept your offer.

If you did not request assessment for Advanced Standing when you submitted your application to study, you may be able to apply for credit for previous studies or work experience at the time of enrolment. This must be before teaching begins for the subject(s) for which Advanced Standing is sought.

See our Credit Policy for more information on how we grant credit towards coursework courses from previous studies or activities:
policies.latrobe.edu.au

Courses with quotas

Some courses have a very limited number of places available each year. If the course you have been offered has a quota, this will be indicated in your Letter of Offer.

To accept your offer, you must first contact your Admissions Officer to see if a place is available. If so, you will then be provided with an updated Letter of Offer with further instructions to secure your place. Your Letter of Offer will only remain valid until all places have been filled. If there are no places available, you will be notified by email and asked if you would like to be considered for an alternative course or change the commencement date of the course.

Deferring your offer

You might be permitted to defer the commencement of your course for a maximum of two semesters, or up to one year.

You must make this request via the application portal or by sending us a formal request via email. This process does not apply to Study Abroad and Exchange students.

We may ask you to provide any additional academic documentation, if applicable, to advise of studies or activities you plan to undertake during the time you are deferring. A revised Letter of Offer will then be issued by stating your new commencement date.

No administration fee is required if you’re deferring for the first time.

You’re only allowed to defer for one year. You’ll need to submit a new application if you want a deferral for a longer period or if you want multiple deferrals.

If you’re studying at our Sydney Campus, you must email your request to defer your offer to:
sydney-admission@latrobe.edu.au

If you have received an offer but not accepted it, we may contact you to confirm if you would like to request a deferral.

If you’ve accepted your offer, but have not been granted your student visa in time to commence your course, please contact LTI so that we can arrange a new Letter of Offer and CoE for the next available intake. You will need to lodge your new documents to DHA.

If you have accepted your offer and your student visa has been granted, deferring your course may affect your visa. You must provide evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances preventing you from enrolling in your course on time.

Acceptable circumstances include:

• serious illness or injury (medical certificate required)
• bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (documentation required)
• major political upheaval or natural disaster in your home country requiring emergency travel (evidence this has impacted your ability to study is required)
• a traumatic experience, including involvement in or witnessing of a serious accident (police or psychologist report required)
• require deferral for compassionate or compelling reason, we must report your status to DHA as a ‘non-commencement’ (i.e. did not start studies). You’ll need to contact DHA for information on how this will affect your student visa
• La Trobe University was unable to offer a prerequisite subject (unit)
• failure to meet one or more of the conditions on your Letter of Offer
• delay in the grant of your student visa (dated documentation required).

If your visa has been granted but your reason for deferring is not considered a compassionate or compelling reason, we must report your status to DHA as a ‘non-commencement’ (i.e. did not start studies). You’ll need to contact DHA for information on how this will affect your student visa.

If your application for deferral is approved, you will be issued with a new deferred offer and CoE.

Who to contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Victorian campuses</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions, check-in and Orientation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:intakeapplication@latrobe.edu.au">intakeapplication@latrobe.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 3 9479 1199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport reception and accommodation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:internationalarriva@latrobe.edu.au">internationalarriva@latrobe.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 3 9479 1199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad and Exchange program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au">studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 3 9479 2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions and enrolments</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sydney-admission@latrobe.edu.au">sydney-admission@latrobe.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 2 9397 7600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studentservices-sydney@latrobe.edu.au">studentservices-sydney@latrobe.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 2 9397 7600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad and Exchange Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au">studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 3 9479 2112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other contact information | | |
| English Language, Foundation Studies and Diploma programs at Melbourne Campus | study@latrobemelbourne.edu.au | +61 3 9479 2417 |
Accepting your offer

This section provides important information on accepting your offer to study with us.

Your Letter of Offer contains important information, including:

- course duration
- advice to arrive at least one week prior to your check in date or two weeks prior to Orientation day
- indicative annual tuition fees in Australian dollars
- confirmation of whether you have been awarded any Advanced Standing (credit) from prior learning or work experience
- any applicable scholarship information
- any conditions associated with your offer, such as English language capacity
- any information applicable to the course you have been offered.

You should also have been sent an Offer Acceptance Form and any applicable scholarship information. Please complete all sections carefully and return to your agent or LT. Please ensure you include:

- certified evidence of meeting any conditions specified in your Letter of Offer, where applicable
- proof or confirmation of payment if paying outside the online application portal
- a Financial Guarantee Letter from your sponsoring organisation (if you have a sponsored student).

You may also be required to submit a completed and signed Applicant Financial Declaration Form to demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to cover the costs associated with your studies. Refer to the conditions on your Offer Acceptance Form carefully.

Provisional offers

Students may receive a provisional offer where a place cannot be guaranteed (such as in quota programs) or where strict conditions apply for admission to a program. The University reserves the right to withdraw an offer at any time after a provisional offer is made. If an offer is withdrawn by the University, the University may consider the applicant for a place in a different course for which they are qualified, provided that a place is still available.

Before accepting a provisional offer, you must provide evidence of having met any conditions outlined in the Letter of Offer. The application portal won’t permit you to accept and make payment until your conditions have been satisfied and an updated offer has been issued to you.

Making payment

You also need to pay the tuition fee deposit and Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) fees as specified in the Letter of Offer. Information on how to pay the deposit may be found on the last page of the Letter of Offer Acceptance Form, and via instructions in the application portal. The easiest method of payment is via the University’s secure payment portal.

Please ensure you allocate your tuition fees and OSHC fees into their relevant categories when making an online payment, and don’t forget to use your unique student ID number in any transaction or communication you have with the University.

Tuition fees do not include the cost of textbooks, health insurance or living expenses such as food, accommodation, transport or medical costs.

Studying at our Sydney Campus?

Refer to the payment methods listed in your Acceptance Agreement or on our website latrobe.edu.au/sydney/apply/fees.

If you received a Letter of Offer for the Study Abroad program, you will have your tuition fee per semester specified.

For full details on La Trobe University’s Refund Policy and Privacy Statement for international students, visit latrobe.edu.au/international/fees-and-scholarships.

Need more information about your course?

At La Trobe University, your degree program (e.g. Bachelor of Accounting) is usually referred to as a ‘course’ and the subjects you enrol in within the course are referred to as ‘subjects’. We recommend you read further information on your course, including its structure and what subjects you will need to complete in order to qualify for your degree, by visiting latrobe.edu.au/courses.

Inbound Study Abroad and Exchange

As Study Abroad and Exchange programs involve studying over one or two semesters, we’ll provide you with a full list of pre-approved subjects in your Letter of Offer. You must submit a copy of your completed Learning Agreement when accepting your La Trobe offer.

If you want to add new subjects that you have not received approval for, you can seek approval during enrolment. All such requests must be completed and approved by the first week of classes. To enable any changes, please make sure you bring a copy of your most recent academic transcript as well as your Letter of Offer on the day of enrolment.

Global opportunities for international students

La Trobe students from all study areas have the opportunity to study overseas on exchange or a short study program at one of more than 140 partner universities or affiliated providers.

Students on an overseas study program can receive mobility grants from the University and can participate in a variety of programs of durations ranging from six weeks to one year. You can also apply for funding to go overseas on clinical placements and practicums. To find out more about our exchange opportunities, visit latrobe.edu.au/students/exchange.

Overseas Student Health Cover

Your student visa requires you to have OSHC. This needs to be active from the date of your arrival and cover the duration of your studies until your visa expires. La Trobe University’s preferred OSHC provider is Medibank: medibank.com.au.

If you obtain cover from another approved provider, you should contact that provider directly to confirm when your cover commences, then show evidence to La Trobe University. OSHC arranged independently must be by a DHA approved provider.

For more information on approved OSHC to study in Australia, visit immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/web-evidentiary-tool.

Students requiring Family OSHC

You must indicate this requirement on your Offer Acceptance Form, and include the applicable Family OSHC premium in your deposit. Once you’re satisfied and an updated offer has been issued to you, you must make an appointment to see your OSHC provider to have your family’s details added to your OSHC membership.

If you have a child born after your arrival in Australia, you only need to provide OSHC evidence to cover your child. If family members join you after your arrival in Australia, they will have to prove they have an OSHC policy for the duration of their visa.

Medibank OSHC App

A convenient way of managing your OSHC membership on the go:

- Make claims for most medical services anywhere, anytime.
- Access mental health support and counselling services like 1800 Respect and Beyond Blue.
- Turn your phone into your membership card.
- Benefit from coverage when you have fewer than six months left on your membership.
- Let your phone’s GPS guide you to your nearest health provider that bills us directly.
- Translate some features of the app in Simplified Chinese.
- Check your cover information and update your personal details.
- Direct dial access to our 24/7 Student Health and Support Line.

Norwegian, Swedish and Belgian students

Belgian and Norwegian students who are covered by the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme do not require OSHC. Swedish students, whose insurance is provided by CISN International (or Kammarkollegiet), also do not need OSHC. However, Swedish students not covered by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare must purchase OSHC from Medibank to meet their student visa requirements. La Trobe University will require proof of such coverage from the Swedish student.

Keep all evidence of your visa and any other relevant documentation you need for your visa, such as your confirmation of enrolment and proof of payment. If you fail to provide any evidence that you are compliant with your visa, you will not be allowed to study.

Students requiring Family OSHC

If you have a child born after your arrival in Australia, you only need to provide OSHC evidence to cover your child. If family members join you after your arrival in Australia, they will have to prove they have an OSHC policy for the duration of their visa.

Medibank OSHC App

A convenient way of managing your OSHC membership on the go:

- Make claims for most medical services anywhere, anytime.
- Access mental health support and counselling services like 1800 Respect and Beyond Blue.
- Turn your phone into your membership card.
- Benefit from coverage when you have fewer than six months left on your membership.
- Let your phone’s GPS guide you to your nearest health provider that bills us directly.
- Translate some features of the app in Simplified Chinese.
- Check your cover information and update your personal details.
- Direct dial access to our 24/7 Student Health and Support Line.

Confirming Enrolment (CoE)

After you have accepted your offer, you will receive a CoE which you will need in order to apply for a student visa at your nearest Australian diplomatic mission (embassy) or online.
Applying for a student visa

To study in Australia, you’ll need an Australian student visa. This includes meeting some key requirements.

Key requirements for the student visa (subclass 500)

Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE)

The GTE requirement applies to all student visa applicants and considers whether the individual circumstances of the student indicate that their intention is for a temporary stay in Australia.

Financial capacity

You need to have sufficient funds to cover your course fees and living costs in Australia. Under the simplified student visa framework, all student visa applicants must have sufficient funds available for the entire duration of their stay in Australia.

Students associated with higher immigration risk, based on their country and education provider immigration risk outcomes, will generally need to provide documentary evidence of financial capacity with their visa application.

The DHA uses an online Document Checklist Tool that indicates the documentary evidence of financial capacity required. You need to attach these documents to your visa application prior to lodgement. Failure to do so might result in visa refusal.

Find out more about the financial capacity requirement at immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview

English language proficiency

You’ll need to meet the English language requirement to apply for a student visa. Some student visa applicants may need to provide the results of an English language test with their visa application. You can find out if you are likely to need to provide this evidence by using the Document Checklist Tool at immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/web-evidentiary-tool.

Student visa conditions

Your visa is subject to a number of conditions that you must comply with. Different visa conditions apply to you and your family members. Breaching a visa condition may result in the cancellation of your visa.

Examples of visa conditions include:

- Work rights – 8105 – You cannot start paid work until you have commenced your course in Australia. You cannot work more than 40 hours per fortnight, other than work that has been registered as part of your course. When your course is in session (a fortnight means any period of 14 days beginning on a Monday up to the end of the following Sunday) some voluntary and unpaid work is also included in the 40 hours per fortnight limit. No work limits apply during vacation periods. No work limits apply if you are studying a Masters by research or Doctorate course in Australia.
- Enrolment – 8202 – You must remain enrolled in a registered course (unless you are a Foreign Affairs or Defence sponsored student or secondary exchange student, in which case you must maintain full-time enrolment in your course of study or training). You must maintain enrolment in a registered course that is at the same level as, or at a higher level than, the registered course for which you were granted a visa. You must maintain satisfactory attendance in your course and make satisfactory progress for each study period as required by your education provider.
- Health insurance – 8501 – You must maintain adequate health insurance for the entire stay in Australia. You may be exempt from providing evidence of your English language proficiency with your visa application.
- Course matching visa – 8516 – You must continue to satisfy the requirements on the basis of which your visa was granted. This means, for example, that you need to continue to have sufficient financial capacity to support your study and stay in Australia.

More information on student visas and their conditions, visit immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/web-evidentiary-tool

Packaged courses

Genuine students will be able to package two or more courses on the one student visa where there is progression from one course to another. The final course that you will undertake as part of your package of courses is your main (or principal) course of study. Your main course of study will be used to determine your financial and English language evidentiary requirements.

To be granted a visa for the full duration of the packaged courses, you must provide confirmation that you are enrolled in all of the courses.

Extending your student visa

If you’re already studying in Australia and would like to enrol in a new course after the completion of your studies, you should apply for a new student visa before your current visa expires. If your student visa contains the 8504 or 8505 (‘No Further Stay’) condition, you won’t be able to renew your student visa in Australia unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If you’re returning home temporarily and would like to renew your visa offshore (not in Australia), you must indicate this on your Offer Acceptance form (new students) or CoE Application form (continuing students) to ensure your CoE is issued correctly.

Family members’ visas

All family members of existing student visa holders will need to apply for a Subclass 500 visa if they do not currently hold a student visa and want to join the student in Australia.

Family unit members must be declared on your initial student visa application, so confirm whether or not they intend to join you in Australia at a later stage.

Those not declared will not be eligible for a visa at a later stage.

An exception applies to those who became a family member after the primary applicant (student) was granted a visa.

There are no restrictions on the duration of particular courses that you must study to be accompanied by family members, including subsequent dependants.

Generally, the same level of evidentiary requirements of financial capacity you need to meet will also apply to your family members, including subsequent dependants.

In all circumstances, our officers have discretion to ask for evidence of funds, if required.

Students with school-aged children

If you have school-aged dependants accompanying you to Australia, it’s a visa requirement that you enrol them in primary or secondary school. See the ‘Students with families’ section of this guide on page 38 for more information.

Acceptance and Pre-departure Guide
Preparing for departure

Preparing yourself

Before you arrive in Australia you may be feeling excited and a little anxious. It may be hard to leave friends and family behind. You may be worried about whether you will adjust to Australian life and how you will settle in. This is perfectly normal. We have some suggestions to help you feel more prepared:

- Find someone to talk to about how you’re feeling. You may want to discuss your concerns with friends and family, particularly those who have also traveled abroad.
- View our pre-departure briefing videos online to help you prepare in advance. Visit: latrobe.edu.au/students/international/support/leaving/guide to find the videos.
- Make sure you arrive in time to check in, enrol and participate in Orientation. This will help you adjust to living in Australia and studying at La Trobe, and will assist you academically. You’ll learn important information, meet staff and other students, and make new friends.
- Read about Australian culture (see page 18).
- Sign up for La Trobe Times, our international online newspaper: latrobetimes.blogs.latrobe.edu.au
- Bring some of your favourite things with you, including photos of family and friends, and learn to cook some of your favourite dishes.
- If you’re a Study Abroad or Exchange student, you’ll need to have your timetable planned using our online university timetable and bring along an official transcript for any new subjects: latrobe.edu.au/students/your-course/timetables/view-timetables

Online pre-departure videos

After you’ve accepted your offer, you’ll receive an email with everything you need to know before you leave and important pre-departure information videos from the International Student Services and the Accommodation Services teams.

We’ll also send you an invitation to attend a live chat with our team via our Transition @ La Trobe Facebook group. We suggest you watch these videos and read the FAQs with your family before your departure.

The pre-departure videos will help you prepare for study and life in Australia. Topics covered will include: preparing for departure, accommodation, preparing for your studies, living in Australia and arrival and settling in. If you need to ask us questions online, join our Transition Facebook or Weibo groups and you can chat with our e-Friends!

Meet our La Trobe International e-Friends!

Our e-Friends are experienced La Trobe students and International Student Services staff members who will be active on our Transition @ La Trobe Facebook or Weibo groups answering any question you may have about starting your course at La Trobe. We invite you to join us on our social media networks as this is a great way to make new friends, meet students from your same country and course and prepare for a successful transition to life at La Trobe.

Our program will be open before and after your classes start. You can join the Facebook group by searching “Transition @ La Trobe – International Welcome group” on Facebook. Join La Trobe's Weibo group by visiting: weibo.com/latrobeuniaus

e-Friends program and live chat scheduled dates

To find more information about these programs and the start dates, visit: latrobe.edu.au/international/you-have-an-offer/leaving/guide

Follow La Trobe’s International Student Services team on Facebook: facebook.com/latrobeinternationalstudentservices

Get connected with us on WeChat:
Preparing to study

Preparing password. A temporary password will be sent to you with your temporary Orientation, an email will be around four weeks before reading and prepare for classes. You will then be able to access the personal study timetable. You will be invited to activate paperwork for your acceptance, if you've completed all the home Enrol before you leave preparations.

If you've completed all the paperwork for your acceptance, you will be invited to activate your student account, enrol in your subjects and create your personal study timetable. You will then be able to access the digital classroom before arrival and begin your background reading and prepare for classes. Around four weeks before Orientation, an email will be sent to you with your temporary password.

Getting a good start to your studies begins even before you enter your first class. Set yourself up for academic success with Orientation and other preparations. Enrol before you leave home. If you're studying in Victoria, it is essential that you check in with La Trobe University upon arrival. You will be welcomed by student volunteers and La Trobe staff members. Make sure you book flights in time for your check-in. To find out your check-in dates, times, and location, please visit: latrobe.edu.au/international-check-in

Non-standard teaching periods

We also deliver a number of non-standard teaching periods through external providers or to meet special course requirements. Non-standard teaching periods appear in the form XXXXY, for example W0622. These indicate the whole weeks of the teaching period, and run from the first Monday to the last Sunday.

You can find a comprehensive list of all teaching periods and associated subject census dates at latrobe.edu.au/calendar/all-students/census-dates

University Orientation

Your academic success can depend on how well you adjust to studying and living in Australia, so it's important you arrive in time to attend Orientation. This takes place before each semester begins and has been designed to help you make a smooth transition to life at La Trobe. Dates and locations can be found here: latrobe.edu.au/international-check-in

Orientation is compulsory for all new international students and provides important information and social activities specific to your needs. The program is designed for all students at La Trobe University and will enable you to make important connections with your peers, different networks and the campus community.

You can prepare for university life and study by checking out the Ready4Uni website, where you will find out about Orientation, campus services and how to make the most of your first few weeks: latrobe.edu.au/students/new-students/ready4uni

To give yourself the best chance at succeeding in your studies, make sure you attend as many Orientation sessions as possible. The presenters of each session are experienced in their field and are the best people to talk to and to ask questions.

When to arrive

Attending Orientation is your chance to get the best information, all in one convenient place! It’s also an invaluable chance to make friends. Don’t underestimate the importance of attendance, as when classes start and students are busy, you might find it harder to make connections among your classmates. Having people who know you from the beginning can make all the difference to settling in. Students who attend Orientation sessions usually have an advantage and are more likely to succeed.

Check the Orientation website for details of compulsory sessions and additional activities at your campus: latrobe.edu.au/students/new-students/orientation

You can also use the online planner to design your personalised Orientation schedule: latrobe.edu.au/students/getting-started/orientation/orientation-planner

If you still have conditions to meet before arriving to Australia you will not be able to enrol before you arrive. But don’t worry - you can always do that in person on arrival and there are many friendly staff to help.

You can also start your research into your subjects and course outline by searching for your course in the University Handbook. This provides invaluable information about your core/compulsory subjects each year, electives, contact hours on campus and more: latrobe.edu.au/handbook

Sydney Campus registration, enrolment and Orientation

New students must attend Orientation Day where you will officially register and enrol into your course. For details about Orientation and enrolment at the Sydney Campus, please visit: latrobe.edu.au/students/new-students/enrol/campus/sydney-campus

Our academic year

Victorian campuses At our Victorian campuses, the academic year is divided into two standard semesters, plus summer and winter nonstandard semesters. To find your academic calendar and all the important dates, including start of classes, Orientation, holidays and exams, visit: latrobe.edu.au/calendar/academic-calendar

Sydney Campus

Our Sydney Campus operates on three standard trimesters a year and has a slightly different academic calendar. For more information, visit: latrobe.edu.au/sydney/courses/academic-calendar

Key dates

Some courses may have different commencement dates or non-standard start dates. Please refer to your Letter of Offer for your exact start date when booking flights or making holiday arrangements.

In particular, the dates for international check-in, enrolment and Orientation are subject to change. Regularly check our website, and correspondence from La Trobe University for confirmation of dates. For more information, visit: latrobe.edu.au/international-check-in

Public holidays

Did you know Melbourne has different public holidays than Sydney?

To know when our Victorian campuses will be closed due to holidays, visit: latrobe.edu.au/calendar/general

Our Sydney Campus will be closed during all New South Wales (NSW) public holidays. For a list of NSW public holidays, visit: nsw.gov.au/about-new-south-wales/public-holidays
Melbourne Campus

Nestled among 267 hectares of beautiful parkland and waterways, La Trobe's Melbourne Campus is one of the largest metropolitan campuses in Australia. Set in Melbourne’s north, just 14 kilometres from the city centre, students from across the world choose to study here to take advantage of world-class facilities and resources.

These include our state-of-the-art science laboratories, media studies, multi-level library, huge Wildlife Sanctuary and more. Within the Campus is a vibrant community bustling with cafes, restaurants, banks and our very own post office.

27,000+ students

Modes of transport to campuses*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>Distance (mi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne (Bundoora) Campus</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>8.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Railway Station</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>8.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidelberg Railway Station</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservoir Railway Station</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundoora Park</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Airport</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland Shopping Centre</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

301 shuttle bus

Getting to and from Melbourne Campus is quick and easy with the 301 shuttle bus running between the University and Reservoir station every 10 minutes.

Bendigo Campus

Our Bendigo Campus is an integral part of one of Victoria’s fastest-growing regional cities and has recently completed a $50 million upgrade to offer world-class library, technology and engineering facilities. The Campus offers a wide range of study disciplines, including dentistry and health sciences. The clinical teaching building is in the centre of the city’s new hospital precinct, while the main campus is just three kilometres from the heart of the city.

Bendigo is a cultural hub with a vibrant nightlife and welcoming community. The Campus enjoys great connections to local businesses, festivals, galleries, sporting teams and the city council. As a student, you’ll reap the rewards of those connections.

5,000+ students

Mildura Campus

Our Mildura Campus is strongly connected to the surrounding community and offers students a personalised and intimate study experience. Students enjoy opportunities both on campus and in the community through our strategic partnerships and a number of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities. A major fruit and vegetable growing district, Mildura is a great place to live, study and work. The Campus is also home to the Centre for Freshwater Ecosystems.

500+ students

Sydney Campus

Our Sydney Campus is located in the heart of the international business community, close to public transport as well as work and internship opportunities. A world-famous city and home to Australian icons like the Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney is an exceptional place to study.

1,000+ students
At La Trobe University, we’re ambitious global thinkers. Since we opened our doors in 1967, we’ve equipped more than 200,000 graduates with the skills and experience to build successful careers.
Life in Australia

In comparison to many other countries, Australia, and especially Melbourne, is notable for its diversity and multiculturalism. You can maintain your own customs within the community and most Australians will understand your reasons for not adopting certain local customs if they are different from your own.

To do some background reading on Australia, visit: dfat.gov.au/about-australia

There are, however, some values most Australians consider important. Most Australians strongly value our society’s tolerance of different religions and cultures, plus our freedom of speech and democratic rights. Australians also consider it important that people will be treated equitably. Australia is often described as an ‘egalitarian’ society. This means that class divisions are not so entrenched in Australia as in some other countries.

Climate

Victoria
Victoria is located in the southeast corner of Australia and enjoys a temperate climate with four distinct seasons:
Spring: September to November
Summer: December to February
Autumn: March to May
Winter: June to August

The hottest months are January and February, and the coolest months are usually July and August. In summer, temperatures can reach over 40°C, while in winter, around Victoria, temperatures range from around 2°C to 10°C.

The northern and central regions of Victoria (including Bendigo, Shepparton, Mildura and Albury-Wodonga) are usually warmer and drier than the south, with lower rainfall and higher temperatures in summer and cooler temperatures in winter.

Great Ocean Road
Travel the Great Ocean Road and experience one of the world’s most scenic coastal drives. See the towering Twelve Apostles, iconic surf breaks, misty waterfalls, native wildlife and seaside villages. A perfect weekend getaway!

Grampians National Park
Enjoy the spectacular natural beauty of this national park. Explore stunning landscapes, abundant wildlife, majestic waterfalls and sublime local produce in your semester break or over the weekend.

Melbourne
Melbourne, Victoria’s capital city, boasts festivals, events, shopping, plenty of restaurants and cafes and a flourishing arts scene.


Offering a relaxed lifestyle, friendly people and spectacular scenery, Australia is a wonderful place to live and study. Everywhere you go, there’s something to see and do.
Living costs

Understanding the likely costs incurred while studying at La Trobe University is an important part of your planning process.

You need to consider a range of costs in addition to your tuition fees, including (but not limited to) accommodation fees, food, telephone and internet, travel and discretionary spending expenses.

As prices change every year, we recommend you check the links throughout this section to find out the estimated prices associated with your studies and living expenses, so that you can prepare in advance.

General living expenses

Based on advice from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), you need to have enough money to pay for your stay in Australia. If you’re bringing family with you, you need to allocate extra funds per year for each family member you’ll bring with you.

To see how much money you need to have to manage the costs of living, your course and travel expenses, expand the ‘Gather your documents’ section and read the ‘Evidence you have enough money for your stay’ information on this page: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-503#HowTo

These additional resources can also help you plan and prepare your budget for your life in Australia:

- La Trobe guide to living costs: latrobe.edu.au/study/life/living/costs
- La Trobe student guides and resources: latrobe.edu.au/students/international/support/supportservices/publications

If you’re studying at our City Campus, information about costs for our Melbourne Campus will also be relevant to you — but be aware your accommodation costs may be higher the closer you live to the CBD.

Public transport

International students (with the exception of undergraduate Exchange or undergraduate Australia Awards students who have been granted a concession card) are not eligible for concession prices on public transport in Victoria. International students studying in an undergraduate program at our Melbourne and Bendigo campuses could be eligible for a discount of up to 50 per cent on annual public transport fares with an iUSEpass. To apply for iUSEpass you must be enrolled in a full-time study load. For more information and how to apply visit: latrobe.edu.au/students/international/support/starting/getting-around/iusepass

Undergraduate exchange students can be eligible for public transport concession cards. Be careful expensive fines apply if you are caught travelling on public transport without a valid ticket. For more information, visit: latrobe.edu.au/international/exchange-and-study-abroad/when-you-arrive

Handy hint

We recommend you bring a small amount of Australian dollars in cash with you to get through your first few days in Australia, especially if you arrive on a weekend or public holiday when banks are closed.
Currency and banking

Australia’s unit of currency is the Australian dollar (A$), which is divided into 100 cents. Coins have values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and $1 and $2; notes have values of A$5, A$10, A$20, A$50 and A$100.

You must declare amounts of A$10,000 or more in foreign or Australian currency that you bring into Australia.

Major credit and debit cards – Visa and Mastercard – are accepted throughout Australia. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs, or cash points), with 24-hour access seven days a week, are available in many locations, such as shopping centres, petrol stations, convenience stores, banks, along main shopping strips, in malls or plazas, and on campus.

Savings or cheque account access cards – connected to the Maestro or Cirrus electronic networks – can be used in ATMs around Australia. If your card does not have the Maestro or Cirrus logo on it, we recommend that before you leave home you confirm with your financial institution that you can use your card in Australia. Check all terms and conditions and how you can access your funds while in Australia to ensure that you are aware of the fees associated with your choices.

A number of personal identification documents are required to open bank accounts in Australia, which can include items that identify you as living in Australia. We recommend you open a bank account within six weeks of arrival in Australia as most banking institutions will accept just your passport and proof of date of arrival. After this time you may be required to take additional identification into a bank branch, such as your student card, CoI, credit card, or lease agreement and other forms of identification with your name on it.

Banks are generally open Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am – 4 pm and Friday 9:30 am – 5 pm (closed on public holidays). Some banks offer opening hours on Saturdays – check with your bank to confirm hours of operation.

Money can be withdrawn from ATMs 24 hours a day, and there is usually a daily withdrawal limit of around A$800 – A$1,000. We advise you to only carry as much cash as necessary for a few days at a time. When entering your Personal Identification Number (PIN), you should also always hide it from view, such as by covering the area with your hand.

Before you leave home, you can open a bank account with Westpac Bank. Westpac Bank has a branch at La Trobe University’s Melbourne Campus. Our Bendigo Campus has a Bendigo Bank ATM on campus, and a few bank branches within walking distance, including branches of Bendigo Bank, Commonwealth Bank and NAB. We recommend you open an account before leaving home, as you’ll be able to withdraw funds using your passport when you arrive in Australia, rather than carrying around large amounts of cash, which is unsafe. Once you open a bank account, you can transfer funds from overseas to be ready for you when you arrive.

When opening a bank account, ask about student accounts that may attract lower or no account-keeping fees.

Voltage/electricity

Domestic electricity in Australia is 240V/50Hz. The Australian three-pin outlet is different from most other countries, so you may need to purchase an adapter plug for any electrical appliances (such as a laptop computer) that you bring with you. Transformers and adaptors are easily obtained from electrical appliance stores or travel goods stores in Australia, and also from the new bookshop in the Agora at the Melbourne Campus opening in early 2020.

Internet

Internet and wireless access is available at all campuses. To connect to your campus WiFi, visit: latrobe.edu.au/students/support/it/connecting/eduroam

Most on-campus accommodation and some off-campus accommodation will already have arrangements in place to enable internet access for students, although these may incur a charge. Please check with your accommodation provider. You can compare internet service providers at: iselect.com.au/internet/broadband

Mobile phones and laptops

If you plan on bringing your mobile phone with you to Australia, check that your mobile phone is compatible (supports GSM) and isn’t blocked for international use or locked to the phone network you use in your home country. Students sometimes bring their own laptops with internal modems only to discover they are unable to use their modem in Australia. Find out more at: mobilenetworkguide.com.au

If you’re bringing a mobile phone, laptop or any communication device, we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority website to find out what kind of service agreements are most suitable for you: acma.gov.au

Join our transition groups on Facebook or Weibo (see page 10 for how to join), and get tips on the best phone company and network to use from experienced La Trobe students. Some phone companies will not supply services to people who are temporary residents in Australia, but you can always use a pre-paid phone system. This also ensures that you will avoid an unexpectedly high mobile phone bill. Make sure you read all the clauses and terms and conditions before signing a phone contract. Pre-paid mobile phone cards may be purchased at a number of retail outlets. Compare mobile phone providers at: finder.com.au/mobile-plan

Get tips from other students

Joining e-Friends on Facebook or Weibo is a great way to find out more about living and studying in Australia. See page 10 for more information.

La Trobe University

Acceptance and Pre-departure Guide

Living costs
Choosing where to live in a new country is a big decision and there are many factors to consider. Before you start looking for accommodation, take some time to research your options to find out what fits with your lifestyle and living needs.

**On-campus accommodation**

All on-campus accommodation is mixed gender. Each of the seven residences offer different lifestyles, facilities and services depending on your preferences. There’s no on-campus accommodation at the City Campus and Sydney Campus. Please refer to our off-campus database for more information: latrobe.edu.au/accommodation/off-campus

For more information about living on campus at La Trobe and who to contact, visit: latrobe.edu.au/accommodation/on-campus

For a full list of fees for accommodation facilities, visit: latrobe.edu.au/accommodation/on-campus/locations/fees-and-charges

**Living on campus at Melbourne**

**Undergraduate residential colleges**

The three residential Colleges – Glenn, Chisholm and Menzies – are located in the heart of the Melbourne Campus. They provide single furnished study-bedrooms, a shared kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities, and communal recreational and study areas.

All utilities, including water, electricity and internet, are included in the residential fees. These Colleges are popular with undergraduate students, as they run regular social, sporting and cultural events and provide academic and emotional support. Glenn College has options for catered (breakfast and dinner) accommodation and self-catered accommodation with shared kitchens, while Chisholm and Menzies colleges are self-catered with shared kitchens.

The Colleges provide data connections in each room, with centralised computer rooms.

**Postgraduate residences**

These residences offer a quieter, more independent lifestyle than the three Colleges. They are self-catered and offer single and shared rooms. Although limited, there are rooms for couples with double beds. Each residence has shared lounge areas, fully equipped kitchens, self-service laundries and recreational facilities.

**The University Lodge**

The University Lodge is housed in magnificent 1920s-style Edwardian buildings. Within walking distance is the Macked tram station (with regular train services to the city) and a small local shopping centre.

**Graduate House**

Graduate House is a friendly collegiate-style residence located in a residential area on the northern edge of the Campus. It specialises in accommodation for mature-age and postgraduate students, whether single or a couple. No children are permitted.

**Waterdale Apartments**

Waterdale Apartments offer lower-cost, apartment-style accommodation. Located on the edge of Melbourne Campus, each unit contains three single bedrooms, a living area, bathroom and kitchen for self-catering. The cost of utilities such as electricity and gas are not included in the residential fees. All utilities, including water, electricity and internet, are included in the residential fees.

**Temporary on-campus accommodation**

You can access temporary on-campus accommodation at Melbourne Campus by contacting Residential Services: latrobe.edu.au/international/
you-have-an-offer/temp-accomm

**Living on campus at Bendigo**

**The Units**

This self-contained series of residences comprises nine units, each containing 12 furnished study-bedrooms, a semi-equipped shared kitchen, two bathrooms, and a lounge area.

**The Terraces**

The Terraces are self-catered and comprise 21 furnished apartments each with eight study-bedrooms, twin bathrooms, laundry facilities and shared kitchen and lounge areas.

**Hillside Apartments**

These apartments provide modern, spacious single rooms, shared kitchen and bathroom facilities, and heating and cooling. There are six three-storey buildings, and each floor has 12 bedrooms.

**The Villas**

The Villas comprise 28 modern small houses each with four study-bedrooms, shared kitchen and lounge area, laundry and bathroom. The Villas are considered ideal for postgraduate or mature-age students.

**Orde House**

Located in a quieter, more peaceful setting, Orde House is very popular for mature-age and international students. With 24 private rooms, self-catering, shared bathrooms and laundry, communal living and kitchen. Orde House is located a two-minute walk from the centre of the Campus.

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**Living on campus at Albury-Wodonga**

Albury-Wodonga Campus offers two types of on-campus accommodation.

**McFarlane’s Hill Residence**

Boasting a modern and spacious design, this 28-bed residence is divided into two separate, two-storey buildings with seven beds on each floor. This includes fully-furnished shared kitchens, lounge/dining and laundry facilities. Bedrooms are spacious and have their own heating and cooling. Accommodation options are also available for students with a disability.

**East End Residence**

(shared with Wodonga TAFE)

Twelve fully-furnished, self-contained units are available, each with six bedrooms (with study area), shared lounge or dining and kitchen areas, two bathrooms and a laundry. Residences are mixed gender and are shared with students from the Wodonga Institute of TAFE.

On-campus accommodation numbers are limited, so applications should be made as early as possible.

**Options at Mildura**

There are university-owned houses located off the campus. If you would like to apply for this, contact:

T +61 3 9479 1071
E living@latrobe.edu.au

**Options at Shepparton**

There is no on-campus accommodation available at Shepparton. However, there are three university-owned houses located off-campus, each with four bedrooms. For information on availability or to find other accommodation, contact Shepparton Student Services:

T +61 3 9479 1071
E living@latrobe.edu.au

**Living on a budget?**

To help you plan and prepare your budget, visit latrobe.edu.au/study/life/living to find the Australian Government estimated costs of living and studying in Australia.

Visit: latrobe.edu.au/study/life/living/costs

for tips on how to save money.

You can also see page 20 of this guide for more information.
Accommodation

Acceptance and Pre-departure Guide

26 | Accommodation

Off-campus accommodation

If you haven’t lived independently before, if you haven’t studied at university, or if you’re from a country where the academic culture is very different to that in Australia, we strongly recommend that you consider living on campus. This option enables you to live in a supportive environment while you make the transition to studying and living in Australia.

The private rental market is competitive and real estate agents or landlords often receive multiple applications for the one property. If you plan to rent privately, we recommend you arrive at least two weeks before your check-in and university Orientation date. This will give you time to conduct your own research and make an informed decision on suitable accommodation. Make sure you bring referee reports and documentation of any rental history with you.

Temporary off-campus accommodation

There are also short term listings available on the La Trobe Off-Campus Accommodation Database at: latrobe.studystays.com.au

Furniture

If you’re renting a house or apartment, most private rental properties are unfurnished. However, if you’re renting a room or boarding in an established house there may be some furniture provided. Set-up costs should be factored into your budget, as your initial outlay may be expensive.

Furniture prices can vary widely and many students reduce the cost of furnishing their homes by buying second-hand furniture available at garage sales, community markets, second-hand shops and opportunity shops (op shops) run by large charities such as:

• The Salvation Army - salvos.org.au
• St. Vincent de Paul Society - vinnies.org.au
• The Brotherhood of St. Laurence - bstl.org.au

Garage sales and second-hand goods are listed in local newspapers such as The Border Mail (Albury-Wodonga), The Bendigo Advertiser (Bendigo) and the Domain section of The Age newspaper (Victoria) on Saturdays. The Trading Post also advertises second-hand goods. Visit: tradingpost.com.au

Freecycle is a good way to get free used furniture and household items. There are Freecycle groups in Melbourne, Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Shepparton and Mildura: freecycle.org

Buying furniture from students returning home is another cheap option and advertisements are usually posted around campus.

There are also a number of Facebook groups giving away household items for free or trading, such as the Good Karma Networks, Rough Trade pages or Buy, Swap, Sell groups.

The Darebin Resource Recovery Centre also sells recycled, used and cheap furniture, bikes, household goods and much more. They are located at the end of Kurnai Avenue, Reservoir: outlookvic.org.au/outlook-recycled-goods-stores

You can also find many furniture and household items online at Gumtree or eBay:

• gumtree.com.au
• ebay.com.au

Beds and mattresses, as well as electrical items including fridges and washing machines, are not widely available second-hand. You can purchase low-cost new mattresses at department or chain stores such as IKEA. Fridges and washing machines can be purchased at large electrical stores such as The Good Guys:

• appliancesonline.com.au
• kmart.com.au
• ikea.com.au
• thegoodguys.com.au

Studying at our Sydney Campus?

Our preferred homestay supplier in Sydney is Auzzie Families. See our website for more Sydney Campus accommodation options: latrobe.edu.au/sydney/student-life/accommodation
Other important things to consider when choosing where to live

Location
If you choose to rent privately, it is helpful to first think about suburbs location and nearby facilities. Suburbs located on train lines nearest to the Melbourne Campus include Reservoir, Bundoora, Preston, Thomastown, Greensborough, Macleod, Wallan and Heidelberg. You might also like to consider living closer to the CBD or city, along the 250 or 350 bus route, or along the number 66 tram route. Suburbs along this route include Northcote, Thornbury, Clifton Hill, Carlton, North Carlton, Collingwood, North Fitzroy and Fitzroy. Generally, the closer you live to the city, the more expensive the accommodation.

We strongly recommend that you search for accommodation in the suburbs close to your campus. You should also consider the travel time by public transport or car to your campus. For more information, refer to:

- ptvic.gov.au (public transport in Victoria)
- tp.transpontin.info (public transport in New South Wales)
- whereis.com (Australian maps)

Will you rely on public transport?
If so, consider living either on campus or close to a major bus, train or tram service to the University and to the city. Travel is easy between Melbourne’s central business district (CBD) and the Melbourne Campus, which is located in the suburb of Bundoora. It takes about 30 minutes by car, 40 minutes by bus and about 50 minutes by tram. Note that while the CBD of Melbourne is compact, the suburban sprawl of Melbourne is very large and spans more than 85 km from one edge of the metropolitan fringe to the other. Below are some examples of distances between Bundoora and other Melbourne suburbs:
- Bundoora to Dandenong – 42 km
- Bundoora to Clayton – 31 km
- Bundoora to Footscray – 37 km
- Bundoora to St Kilda – 26 km.

Living and studying in our regional centres – Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Shepparton and Mildura – means smaller cities and living nearer to campus.

For further information about suburban distances please visit:
- latrobe.edu.au/about/maps
- maps.google.com.au
- whereis.com

Will you travel to your Sydney Campus?
Traveling to our Sydney Campus is easy, with bus stops and Museum Train Station located opposite our campus. Our CBD location and close proximity to major transport hubs makes commuting to campus from suburbs across Sydney simple and stress free.

Will you be looking for part-time work?
If so, consider where you’ll look for work, your work hours and how you’ll get to your workplace.

Are you a part of a group of students?
If so, whole vacant properties off-campus or the University apartments at Barnes Way or Waterdale Road (at the Melbourne Campus) may be suitable (see pages 24-25 for more information).

If you choose to live in off-campus accommodation, you should familiarise yourself with tenancy information that is available from the Tenants Union of Victoria, or from the South West Tenants Advice Service if you’re living in Albury or Sydney.

Do you want your own room?
When enquiring about sharing, consider factors such as food, cleaning, cooking, utility bills, smoking, parties and noise, pets, small children, and visits from family, friends or partners before you decide whether the house is right for you.

Are you willing to share a bathroom and kitchen facilities?
If not, a private apartment might be a better option. In some privately-run student accommodation, you have your own bathroom but you share a kitchen.

Do you want meals provided?
If so, do you have any special dietary requirements, such as vegetarian, halal or kosher food?

Will you need furniture?
All on-campus rooms are furnished, but most off-campus rooms are unfurnished. If you don’t want to organise furniture, then full board (such as homestay or privately run student accommodation) is your best option. An established share household, you may only need to furnish your own bedroom.

Which utilities (electricity, gas, etc.) will you need?
If you rent a whole vacant property off campus you will need to connect gas, electricity, water, internet service and a landline telephone (if you need one). You will also have these costs in some university apartments on campus.

How long do you require accommodation?
If it is for less than six months you may have difficulty getting a lease on a private rental property and you’ll need to discuss whether this is a possibility with the landlord. The standard length of a lease for off-campus accommodation in Victoria is 12 months.

Rental rights and responsibilities in off-campus accommodation
Before you start a tenancy (sign a lease or pay a bond), it is advisable to know your legal rights and responsibilities as a tenant, and those of the agent or landlord.

If you want to share with others, we recommend that all tenants are listed on utility bills such as electricity, phone and gas. If your name is on a utility bill, you are legally responsible for its payment, so it is best to ensure that all other tenants are listed.

In share accommodation you generally move into an established house, flat or unit. Connection fees are already paid and the rest of the house is usually furnished, but you may have to furnish your own bedroom.

Do not assume that the information you are given in one state will apply across the state border. Make sure you understand all the conditions of any contract you sign, as well as the payment and bond conditions and procedures. Contact one of the following services for further information:

E tenancy@verto.org.au
vert.org.au/what-we-do/
community-programs/tenants-
advise-and-advocacy

Sydney
Factsheets and other resources for renting in Sydney can be found on the Tenants Union of NSW website: tenants.org.au/resources/all
NSW Fair Trading
T 1300 558 181
customer.vic.gov.au/advice

Important note:
There are differences between the New South Wales (NSW) and Victorian residential tenancy acts. Note that Albury and Wodonga are in two different states of Australia and laws differ between states.

Make sure you understand all the conditions of any contract you sign, as well as payment and bond conditions and procedures. Do not sign any contract or document if you are unsure of what you are agreeing to.

More advice on choosing accommodation and suitable roommates is available at:
latrobe.edu.au/
accommodation/off-campus/
rental-resources

We recommend you read the following documents for tenants provided by the Tenants Union of Victoria (available to download free of charge from their website in 12 different languages other than English):

- assignment and subletting
- applying for a private rental property fact sheet
- property inspection checklist.

For further information about consumers including tenants:
T 1300 597 257

Tenants’ Advice and Advocacy Services of NSW
www.tenants.org.au

Albury
Tenants’ Advice and Advocacy
E tenancy@verto.org.au

NSW website:
Tenants.org.au/resources/all

NSW Fair Trading
T 13 32 20
fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Make sure you don’t accept or pay in advance for any long-term off-campus accommodation without first inspecting it to check it’s genuine and that the accommodation is suitable.

We recommend booking temporary accommodation for at least a few days so that you can make arrangements to inspect your accommodation options before making a final decision.
Ten reasons to live on campus

You’ll need to find somewhere that suits your lifestyle, is convenient for travel and study, and matches your budget. For many international students, campus accommodation is the ideal choice. Here are ten reasons why.

An incredible experience
Living on campus at La Trobe University presents an incredible opportunity to see Australia and our university in a totally unique way. You’ll be welcomed to our residential community which supports friendships, inclusiveness and fantastic experiences.

Diverse activities
If you like photography, drama, sports, music and other social activities, living on campus gives you access to these kinds of activities.

Convenient location
For most on-campus residents, your class is no more than a five-minute walk away. This also means you have better access to other university support services including the library and computer labs.

Extensive orientation programs
Living on campus also means you can meet and make friends easily. The first time you’ll meet them is during Accommodation Services’ week-long Orientation program when you arrive.

24-hour security and support
Students living on campus have access to a 24/7 helpline with direct access to on-site residential and security staff members. At the Melbourne Campus, there’s also an after hours security bus that can escort you to and from the number 86 tram on Plenty Road late at night.

No fuss’ payments
Worried about money? Living on campus means you have a simple payment system, with (almost) everything included. It also means you only pay for an academic year rental agreement of 42 weeks, instead of the 52 weeks you would pay for if you were living off campus. This can be especially helpful if you want to travel during the summer break.

Subsidised overseas trips
Have you ever wanted to see the world? Accommodation Services offers you the chance to participate in two- to three-week community and outreach programs to places such as Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand or Vanuatu. This is your opportunity to make a difference!

Student leadership opportunities
Choosing on-campus residence means you have the chance to give back to our wonderful community by becoming a Student Leader. Get involved in our comprehensive training program, develop new skills and make the experience of new residents just as good as yours was when you first arrived.

Care and support
Get the support you need from students who’ve done it all before. At each residence a team of student leaders is always on hand to help out those who might be struggling with homesickness or who need a helping hand.

Academic support programs
On-campus accommodation gives you access to a number of academic support programs, including the first-year mentoring program, textbook buying scheme, NET support program and specialist subject tutors.

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Extensive orientation programs
Living on campus also means you can meet and make friends easily. The first time you’ll meet them is during Accommodation Services’ week-long Orientation program when you arrive.

24-hour security and support
Students living on campus have access to a 24/7 helpline with direct access to on-site residential and security staff members. At the Melbourne Campus, there’s also an after hours security bus that can escort you to and from the number 86 tram on Plenty Road late at night.

No fuss’ payments
Worried about money? Living on campus means you have a simple payment system, with (almost) everything included. It also means you only pay for an academic year rental agreement of 42 weeks, instead of the 52 weeks you would pay for if you were living off campus. This can be especially helpful if you want to travel during the summer break.

Subsidised overseas trips
Have you ever wanted to see the world? Accommodation Services offers you the chance to participate in two- to three-week community and outreach programs to places such as Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand or Vanuatu. This is your opportunity to make a difference!
Arrival and settling in

We want your arrival in Australia to be comfortable and convenient. Learn what to expect and how to get around when you arrive.

Australian immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will need to make your way through Australian immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An immigration officer will ask you to complete your Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane), along with your passport and student visa evidence. The immigration officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

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Baggage claim

Once you’ve passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If this happens, go to the Baggage Counter and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

Immigration officer will ask you to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane), along with your passport and student visa evidence. The immigration officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

Quarantine and customs

Australia’s quarantine and border protection laws are very strict. Many foods, plant products, animal products, products made of wood, shell or feathers, and some medicines cannot be brought into Australia. You’re required to declare such items on the Incoming Passenger Card that you receive on the plane before disembarking. If you declare an item, it may be inspected by a quarantine officer and it will be returned to you only if it passes inspection. Items may need to be treated, at your cost, before being returned to you.

If this happens, the quarantine officer will outline the charge that applies to your item and if you agree, you will have to sign to accept the cost and provide a local address for the goods to be returned to you after treatment. If you do not declare items of quarantine concern, you may be liable for an on-the-spot fine or prosecution.

For further information visit: agriculture.gov.au/travelling-to-australia/studying-in-australia

Australia only has strict laws in place to detect and deter the unlawful movement of goods and people into the country. If you’re bringing any medicines with you, check with your local Australian diplomatic mission (embassy) to confirm that the amount and type of medicine you require is permitted in Australia. It may be useful to bring a letter from your doctor describing the medicine and its purpose. For further information contact your local Australian diplomatic mission (embassy) or see the Department of Health website: tga.gov.au/entering-australia

Detector dogs

You may see a quarantine detector dog at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through customs. The dog screens luggage for food, plant material or animal products and other illegal items. If you see a detector dog walking close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs aren’t dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it detects a target odour. Dogs may detect odours left from food you have had in the bag. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check whether you’re carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

Airport pick-up

If you arrive at Melbourne (Tullamarine) Airport, La Trobe International (LTI) is pleased to provide you with a free airport pick-up service when your drop-off destination is within a 6km radius of Bundoora or Melbourne city. Please note this service is not available if you arrive at Avalon Airport or other airports in the Melbourne area.

If you are arriving on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year’s Eve (after 6.00 pm), you need to take a taxi. La Trobe International will reimburse the taxi fare if you submit the receipt to our office.

Confirmation and how to meet the driver

Tojoto Australia is the official airport reception service for La Trobe University. If you have arranged for airport reception at Melbourne (Tullamarine) Airport and there are changes in your arrival details less than 24 hours before your scheduled arrival, you should inform the reception company Tojoto of these changes immediately.

Contact: Tojoto staff directly on:
+61 409 503 646

Steps to book

Steps to book Melbourne Campus airport pick-up

Once you have accepted your offer to study at La Trobe University and have confirmed accommodation, you can book your airport reception by following the steps on this page: latrobe.edu.au/international/you-have-an-offer/airport

In order to book your airport pick-up, you must have:
- fully accepted your offer to study with us;
- booked your flights;
- confirmed accommodation in Melbourne.

If you are travelling outside the free zone, you will need to pay an additional fee directly to the driver. Check free zone suburbs at this link: latrobe.edu.au/international/you-have-an-offer/airport

Travelling outside the free zone

If you are travelling outside the free airport pick-up area (6km radius), you will need to pay an additional fee directly to the driver. Check free zone suburbs at this link: latrobe.edu.au/international/you-have-an-offer/airport

If you visit a detector dog walking close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs aren’t dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it detects a target odour. Dogs may detect odours left from food you have had in the bag. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check whether you’re carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

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Now you’re here, what’s next?

Contact home! Your family and friends will want to know you’ve arrived safely. It’s very important to make contact with someone from home as soon as possible after your arrival.

International phone calls

International calls can be made direct from all phones in Australia, including public payphones. Simply dial the international access code (0011), your country code, the area code for your city (remember not to dial the first zero) and your family’s phone number.

If you are unsure of your home country’s code or need further information, contact:

T 13 22 00
countrycode.org

Melbourne Airport has free WiFi, so once you get to the airport you may want to call your family using the free WiFi.

Check-in

At the first available opportunity you need to come onto campus to check-in.

Please bring your passport, Letter of Offer and your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). Check-in helps us make sure everything is in order for your enrolment and next steps. You will meet a friendly staff member and have the opportunity to ask questions and get support and advice. At check-in you will also receive more detailed information about attending Orientation.

Check-in dates and locations can be found at this link:
latero.edu.au/international-check-in

Student support

Throughout the studies, La Trobe International (LTI) is a place where you are always welcome to come for advice, information and support.

Services provided by International Student Services at all campuses include (but are not limited to):

• advice and assistance regarding health cover, tuition fees and more
• information on student visas, guidance, support and referrals regarding academic, social, financial and cultural issues
• general information regarding student exchange opportunities
• community involvement programs and volunteer work opportunities
• advice about your rights and responsibilities under the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (2018).

LTI Office locations and contacts

To find contact numbers and locations, visit:
latero.edu.au/students/international-locations

Getting around

Melbourne Campus

Our Melbourne Campus is well serviced by the metropolitan public transport system, which incorporates train, tram and bus services. The number 96 tram and numbers 250 and 350 buses run directly from the CBD to the Melbourne Campus. Depending on where you join the service, the bus usually provides a quicker journey than the tram.

To use public transport you will need to pre-purchase a Myki card (a re-usable ticket) and load it with credit. For more information, visit:
ptv.vict.gov.au/tickets/myki/

The closest direct train services between the city and the Melbourne Campus are the Mernda and Hurstbridge lines, which have stops nearby. There is a continuing campus bus service that can be accessed just outside the train stations of Reservoir (Mernda line), Macleod (Hurstbridge line) and Heidelberg (Hurstbridge line).

Check the transport maps at the Public Transport Victoria website:
latero.edu.au/students/international/support/getting-around/iusepass

To plan your journey, find timetable and service information and get fare details, visit the Public Transport Victoria website:
ptv.vict.gov.au

Bendigo Campus

All local bus routes go to and from the Bendigo Train Station precinct. Routes 61 (La Trobe University via Strathdale) and 63 (La Trobe University) service the Bendigo Campus. Timetables for each route are available from the local bus company christiansbus.com.au

There are fewer bus services on weekends and public holidays. Find out about catching a bus to campus from various Bendigo suburbs at the Public Transport Victoria website:

Or visit our website:
latero.edu.au/bendigo/location

Abury-Wodonga Campus

The bus stop at the University is in the North Car Park. Local bus, train and coach timetables can be found here:
latero.edu.au/transport-central/public-transport/aburly-wodonga

Public transport concession

International students (with the exception of undergraduate exchange or undergraduate Australia Awards students who have been granted a concession card) are not eligible for concession prices on public transport in Victoria. However, all undergraduate coursework students are eligible to purchase a half-price yearly pass called iUSEpass:
latero.edu.au/students/international/support/starting/getting-around/iusepass

To plan your journey, find timetable and service information and get fare details, visit the Public Transport Victoria website:
ptv.vict.gov.au

Sydney Campus

The Sydney Campus is easily accessible by all modes of public transport. To plan your trip, visit transportnsw.info

You will need to purchase a prepaid rechargeable ticket, called an Opal Card, to access public transport in Sydney. These can be purchased at all train stations or nearby convenience stores.

More information about traveling to the Sydney Campus can be found on our website:
latero.edu.au/sydney/about/location

Mildura Campus

The main Mildura Campus building is located at 471 Berrietook Avenue. Sunraysia bus routes 400, 401, 501 and 501 provide easy access to the Campus. Free parking is also available.

You can access the Campus building in central Mildura (at 29 Deakin Avenue) using Sunraysia bus routes 100, 200, 211, 250, 300 and 313.

For information on transit timetables, visit:
buslink.com.au/your-bus-service/mildura/

Shepparton Campus

The Campus is located on Fryers Street. The train station is located within walking distance of Fryers Street and bus services are available from a central bus terminal. Shepparton Transit operates connecting services in all directions of the town centre and connects with services to neighbouring Mooroopna.

For information on transit timetables visit:
ptv.vict.gov.au

Travel to our Sydney Campus

After clearing customs at Sydney International Airport, make your way to Arnotts Hall A where friendly student volunteers at the NSW International Student Welcome Desk will assist you in finding transport to your accommodation. Visit:
study.sydney/programs/welcome-desk

Travel to our regional campuses

If you’ll be studying at Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Shepparton or Mildura campuses, please visit our website for details of how to get there from Melbourne (Tullamarine) Airport and how to claim reimbursement for travel expenses:
latero.edu.au/international/
you-have-an-offer-airport

Alternative transport to Melbourne Campus

If you haven’t booked a pick-up service or don’t wish to use the airport reception service, you can reach our Melbourne Campus from the airport by:

• taxi – prices will vary depending on your travel time and distance. To calculate how much a trip will cost, visit:
cpv.vict.gov.au/passengers/taxi-fares
• a shuttle service such as the SkyBus from the airport to Southern Cross Railway Station:
skybus.com.au

Travel to our Sydney Campus

From Sydney International Airport, you can reach our Melbourne Campus by:

• the SkyBus from the airport to the Sydney Campus can be found at this link:
latero.edu.au/students/international/support/starting/getting-around/iusepass
• taxi-fares depending on your travel time and numbers 250 and 350 buses run directly from the CBD to the Melbourne Campus. Depending on where you join the service, the bus usually provides a quicker journey than the tram.

To use public transport you will need to pre-purchase a Myki card (a re-usable ticket) and load it with credit. For more information, visit:
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latero.edu.au/sydney/about/location
Moving to a new country to study can take adjusting to a new environment and a different culture. Be aware that even simple tasks may be done very differently to the way you would do them back home. Take the time to inform yourself of the potential risks associated with your tasks you might do here for the first time (such as signing contracts, visiting beaches or travelling to new areas).

**Home fire safety**

It is important to note that there have been house fires incidents involving international students in Australia. Most of these fires are preventable. Under Australian law, working smoke alarms must be fitted in all homes. Do not remove them, damage them, or remove the batteries. During a fire, toxic fumes may overcome you before you wake up. Ensure you check to see that your smoke alarm is working. Battery-operated alarms usually have a button you can press to check. If your alarm is not working, replace the batteries. It is important to note that smoke alarms must be tested regularly. If you are in a shared accommodation, you must inform your housemates of the alarm location and test it together.

Many international students spend time with other students and people from their own country and culture while in Australia. These people can make you feel accepted and you may be able to communicate much more easily with them than you can with locals, particularly when you’ve just arrived. When everything around you is new and different, it can feel like a big relief to find people from your own country and cultural background.

But remember, you need to be careful until you get to know them, just as you should with anyone else. Even though you may feel like you have a lot in common, remain cautious until you feel you know them reasonably well and can trust them. Many crimes against international students are committed by people from their own culture.

**Scams**

Scams operate all over the world, through email, SMS messaging, internet social sites and in-person approaches. Travelers or people new to a culture or country may be particularly vulnerable to false offers of assistance that can often lead to exploitation. We strongly advise you not to commit to any transaction (such as accommodation or money transfer) until you have arrived.

**Carrying money**

- Don’t carry large amounts of cash and don’t make it obvious you’re carrying money.
- Carry the amount necessary for your arrival and the first few days. Find out whether your financial institution at home or your family can transfer funds into your account after your arrival.
- Talk to your financial institution at home as early as possible to find out how to transfer funds and the costs of such transactions.
- Consider opening a bank account at an Australian bank before you leave home. If you do this, you will need to have 100 per cent sure you are coming to Australia, as you can only access these funds once you have arrived and provided adequate identification.

More about scams:

- A scam is an unjust scheme devised to take your money in a dishonest or deceitful way and give little or nothing in return.
- Scammers generally involve organisations or individuals operating under unregistered or fraudulent names.
- Scammers are hard to find and have no compassion for their victims.
- Scams often prey on people’s vulnerability and use lies and tricks to convince you they are genuine.
- We strongly recommend you approach transactions with caution before your arrival and during your stay in Australia. Visit the Consumer Affairs Victoria website for more information, or seek advice from La Trobe International (LTI) consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-tools/scams

**Counselling services and interpreter services**

We have a dedicated team of professional counsellors who can provide confidential support and advice. The counsellors can help you with your mental health, adjustment, stress, anxiety or any difficult personal situation. They can also help you to access other support services such as referral to local general practitioner (GP). For more information, visit: latrobe.edu.au/security/resources-and-tools/counselling-services and interpreter-services.

**Medical assistance**

In the first few weeks after your arrival, we recommend you find a medical clinic close to your campus or accommodation. Register yourself at the clinic and keep a note of their contact details so you can easily make an appointment when you need to do so.

We also recommend you download the Medibank Private app to assist with making claims and accessing information.

**Useful resources**

Be smart, be safe, be well

La Trobe University

Acceptance and Pre-departure Guide

T 1800 758 360

Moving to a new country to study can take adjusting to a new environment and a different culture. Be aware that even simple tasks may be done very differently to the way you would do them back home. Take the time to inform yourself of the potential risks associated with your tasks you might do here for the first time (such as signing contracts, visiting beaches or travelling to new areas).

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In Australia, doctors are also called general practitioners (GPs). A doctor works in a medical centre, surgery, clinic or GP clinic. A pharmacy (drug store) can also be called a chemist.

There is a shortage of doctors in many areas, so you may not be able to register with the doctor nearest to you. You may find it is easier to get an appointment if you’re prepared to see any of the doctors in a medical centre.

Unless it is an emergency, consult a doctor or GP in a clinic, not in a hospital. You’re supported around the clock with telephone access to health advice from a registered nurse, counselling services, interpreter services, living in Australia support and more via Medibank’s 24/7 Student Health and Support Line. Call 1800 887 283 any time, day or night.

**Emergency**

To call the emergency services, including the fire brigade, ambulance or police in Australia, phone 000 (triple zero). This is a 24-hour service and is a free call from any phone, including mobiles. The operator will ask, “Police, fire or ambulance?” State the service you require and be prepared to give a brief description of the emergency and the address or name of the nearest street corner. If you need to explain in your native language, ask for a translator.

The operator will contact emergency services while they’re taking the first vital information from you. The operator may wish to keep you on the phone with them until emergency services arrive to assist. Remain calm, speak slowly and clearly. Although you may be covered by OSHC, this only covers you for ambulance services in what is considered an emergency.
La Trobe International (LTI) prides itself on outstanding student support. The team are available Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm in person to answer queries and provide support. For after-hours, weekends and public holidays, we have a 24-hour help line. Staff can meet one-on-one to help with any kind of query from academic to housing, health, safety, employment, transition and more. For more information, visit: latrobe.edu.au/students/international

Students under 18 years of age
Underage students will need to be supported by the services of La Trobe University’s approved welfare officer. In addition, you will receive a dedicated orientation session and regular follow-ups from the International Student Services team at La Trobe.

Students with special needs
Disability Advisers from La Trobe’s Equity and Diversity team provide information, support, and resources to students with permanent or temporary disabilities, mental health issues or medical conditions. Prospective students who may require support and services are strongly advised to contact Equity and Diversity before accepting an offer to study at La Trobe University.

Personal information provided to Disability Advisers for the purpose of determining a need for adjustments or accommodation is confidential. For contact details and more information, refer to our website: latrobe.edu.au/students/support/wellbeing/studying-with-a-disability

Students with families
If you’re planning to bring your spouse or children to live in Australia while you study, more detailed information is provided in our comprehensive Students with Spouse and/or Children Guide at: latrobe.edu.au/students/international/support/publications

CardioCare

If your children are below school age (five years old) and your spouse or partner is unable to care for your children because of their own work or study commitments, you will need to find suitable childcare for them. We strongly encourage you to start planning for childcare prior to arriving in Australia. There are many different childcare options available, including community-based childcare centres, home-based care organised by the local council, and childcare centres or individual care run by private businesses. In many cases, there are long waiting lists for vacancies and it can be expensive. Australian Awards students may be eligible to receive childcare benefits from the Australian Government.

Prior to arrival, you should familiarise yourself with the various childcare options that might be suitable for your individual circumstances and consider placing your child’s name on a waiting list for childcare services, either at one of our on-campus childcare centres (listed in the next column) or in surrounding areas. For more information about childcare, visit: mychild.gov.au

On-campus childcare

Melbourne Campus
The Children’s Centre caters for children from six weeks to six years old.
T +61 3 9479 2122
E children@latrobe.edu.au
latrobe.edu.au/child
Albury-Wodonga Campus
Kids on Campus Childcare Centre caters for children from six weeks to six years old.
T +61 2 6055 6435
latrobe.edu.au/aw/childcarecentre
Bendigo Campus
First Grammar Bendigo is a privately-owned childcare centre located on the Bendigo Campus.
T +61 3 5442 5139
E bendigofirstgrammar.com.au@centres/childdare-bendigo
Mildura Campus
TAFE Kids Childcare Centre caters for the children of students, staff and members of the community, aged from six weeks to five years old.
T +61 5022 3791
E tafekids@sunraysia.edu.au
latrobe.edu.au/mildura/study/student-facilities

Immunisation

Immunisation for children is compulsory in Victoria if you want to enrol your child into a child care centre, kindergarten or school. This is known as the ‘No Jab, No Play’ policy. When you enrol your child into a childcare facility or kindergarten you will need to show proof that they are fully immunised. For more information visit: betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/immunisation

For students studying in Sydney or the Albury-Wodonga campus, visit the NSW Health website for any immunisation requirements: health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx

Spouses
The International Student Services team also supports students’ spouses. We can provide information and referrals to assist spouses to adjust to life in Australia, develop their support networks, find out more about Australia and improve their English.

Work rights for family members (including de facto spouses)
Your family members can work up to 48 hours per fortnight after you have started your course of study in Australia. If you are doing a postgraduate course, such as a Master’s degree, your family members can work unlimited hours once you start your study. For more information on work conditions for student visa holders and their family members visit: imm.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions
We believe that La Trobe University will provide the perfect balance for your child: academic challenges, courses that open career doors, outstanding staff and the chance to study in a stunning natural environment with a supportive campus community.

At La Trobe University we understand that coming to a new country requires a large personal and financial commitment for most students and their parents. We would like to assure parents that once students join the University they become part of the La Trobe community and are given plenty of support to make sure they get the most out of their student experience. You can help your child during the transition process by knowing about the range of support services the University provides and encouraging your child to seek help. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact La Trobe International (LTI).

Some services include:
- assistance with health insurance and information on suitable accommodation
- free airport pick-up service
- International Student Services staff who offer advice and support with personal, financial or cultural issues, the transition to life in Australia and studying at La Trobe University
- a sponsored students team, who offer specialised support to sponsored and scholarship students
- extensive careers services, as well as assistance in obtaining graduate employment
- a 24-hour phone helpline
- a range of social activities and programs to assist students to make friends, develop leadership skills and get involved, such as day trips, engagement programs, and student volunteer opportunities:
  latrobe.edu.au/students/opportunities/leadership-volunteering
- excellent on-campus accommodation and facilities including computer services and a modern library which is open 24 hours a day during peak periods and has an extensive collection of printed and digital materials
- academic assistance
- lots of student clubs and societies including the International Student Association as well as sporting groups and extensive sports facilities
- your Transition @ La Trobe Facebook/Weibo program that puts your child in touch with current La Trobe University students (known as e-Friends) and other new students before your child leaves home (see page 10)
- pre-departure information videos that you and your child can view online (see page 10)
- an extensive Orientation program that includes academic, cultural, practical and social sessions, to give your child the best chance to succeed
- a great range of social and professional opportunities for students through partnerships with the local community.

Our English Language, Foundation Studies and Diploma programs are located in our on-campus pathway colleges right in the heart of our Melbourne and Sydney Campus.

If you’re taking a pathway program at our Melbourne Campus, we are proud to provide a comprehensive range of student services and modern facilities to ensure students have the best possible learning experience. These include, but are not limited to:
- an accommodation service
- an airport pick-up service
- student support, including advice and support on personal or cultural issues, transition to life in Australia and study at La Trobe University, and access to the University counselling service
- career advice and a job search service
- excellent on-campus facilities including computer laboratories, an Independent Learning Centre (ILC) and a student lounge
- a program of cultural events and social activities
- access to La Trobe University’s broad range of campus facilities, including clubs and societies.

All pathway programs are packaged with your university degree, so you have one offer letter, one student visa, and one student ID for the duration of your studies. On successful completion of your course and upon meeting the conditions stated in your Letter of Offer, you will be granted direct entry to the undergraduate or postgraduate course that you have a conditional offer for (plus one year credit for Diploma students into a nominated undergraduate degree).
When you accept your offer

☐ Apply for your student visa (see page 8).

☐ Arrange for immunisations, medications and any medical records from your doctor.

☐ Apply for a credit card and/or arrange for access to sufficient funds. If you open an Australian bank account while overseas, you can then transfer funds and confirm overseas access to your fund with your bank (see page 22).

☐ Book your flight to arrive at least a few days before your check-in, enrolment and Orientation (see pages 12-13).

We strongly recommend you arrive at least three weeks before classes start. For more information on Check-in and Orientation: latrobe.edu.au/international-check-in

☐ Arrange travel insurance.

☐ Organise childcare or schooling for your children (see page 38).

Six to eight weeks before leaving home

☐ View our pre-departure information videos (see page 10).

☐ Join e-Friends (see page 10) on the Transition (@La Trobe Facebook group) – our online social networking program to assist you before you arrive.

One to two weeks before leaving home

☐ When you receive your username and temporary password, begin your online enrolment and timetabling.

☐ You need to be at ‘Full Acceptance’ stage to be invited to enrol and timetabling before arrival - otherwise, you can do this upon arrival in person or online.

☐ Find out information about your subjects and study plan from the online handbook: latrobe.edu.au/handbook

What to bring with you

☐ A valid passport, a printed copy of your current student visa and your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).

☐ Your Letter of Offer from La Trobe University and a copy of your Offer Acceptance Form including Refund Policy.

☐ Original transcripts and/or Completion Certificates if you only have a Provisional Offer.

☐ Receipts for any payments already made to La Trobe University.

☐ Letter of award of scholarship/sponsorship (if applicable).

☐ Other official identification (driver’s licence, national identification (ID) card, etc.).

☐ Any medical records (particularly of immunisations) and any necessary medical prescriptions.

☐ Some Australian currency (if applicable).

☐ A personal reference, if you plan on looking for rental accommodation.

☐ A reference from your previous employer(s) and your CV, if you plan to seek part-time employment after your course has commenced.

☐ A copy of airport reception instructions if you have arranged a pick-up service, so that you know where to meet the driver.

☐ Photos of your family and friends as well as any items to make your new surroundings feel more comfortable and familiar.

☐ This Acceptance and Pre-departure Guide.

When you arrive

☐ If you have arranged airport pick-up, follow the instructions on page 33 and on our website on how to meet our driver at the airport.

☐ Contact home – your family and friends will want to know that you have arrived safely.

☐ Apply for your Overseas Student Health Cover Card (OSHC) membership card or download an OSHC e-membership card.

☐ Attend the international check-in session (see page 13).

☐ Complete the enrolment process and select the timetables of your enrolled subjects in the first semester.

☐ Attend the university Orientation.

☐ Explore and familiarise yourself with your campus.

☐ Get to know the area where you will live, and how to get to the campus and shops.

☐ Open a bank account, or if you opened one when overseas, take your passport with you to the bank so you can withdraw funds.

☐ Contact Accommodation Services on 111 if you are having difficulties finding long-term accommodation.

☐ Sydney students should email studentsservices-sydney@latrobe.edu.au

Get a question?

Email us at intapplication@latrobe.edu.au

Chat to us live on our Facebook Transition group.

Join e-Friends on Facebook to chat to staff and current students about all your questions before you leave home.

Connect with and follow La Trobe International Student Services on Facebook: facebook.com/latrobeinternationalstudentservices

Find answers online at latrobe.edu.au/international

Don’t forget!

The dates for the e-Friends program and the pre-departure videos are here: latrobe.edu.au/students/international/support/leaving/guide

Handy hint

Keep all documents in a re-sealable folder in your carry-on or hand luggage for easy access while travelling. You should also scan these documents and save an electronic copy, email them to yourself, or leave another set of documents with your family in case you lose the originals.

Remember that if your family are coming with you, you’ll also need to have their documents on hand.

Follow La Trobe University on WeChat for news and updates. Scan the QR code to join.

Preparing for your studies

Know your study plan!

The academic culture of La Trobe University may be different to that of your home country, so we strongly suggest you start preparing for your studies by reading and understanding your course handbook (also known as ‘study plan’) prior to departure.

Your course handbook will contain specific course information, including its structure, coordinator, subjects and location.

To find your handbook, information on how to use it and more university and study preparation tools visit latrobe.edu.au/handbook

Important

After accepting your course offer at La Trobe, we will send you an email with important information about preparing for studies, your handbook, course and subjects, classes and much more!
We know preparing to leave home and travel overseas to study is a big decision. You may be excited and maybe even a little anxious. We’re here to help.

Rest assured that you have made a good decision and that you are not alone. Many international students have come to La Trobe before you and have stories and experiences to share. Our friendly staff have lots of experience in providing support and advice to new students and can assist you with every aspect of settling in.

Once again we congratulate you on choosing La Trobe and look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant and engaging student and academic community.

Your journey starts now!