



Alkira  
Secondary College

*Personalised learning for all. Respect for the individual learner.*

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# International Students:

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## Pre-Arrival Booklet for Alkira Secondary College



# Application Step-by-Step Process Model:

**STEP 1: Student enquiry and application**  
(Via agent, exhibition, email, phone or fax)

**STEP 2: International admissions issues**  
'offer of place'

**STEP 3: Student acceptance**  
return signed forms and fees

**STEP 4: International admissions issues** electronic  
Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) and schedule health insurance (OSHC)

**STEP 5: Student finalises visa conditions**  
with Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

**STEP 6: Student makes travel and/or accommodation** arrangements

**STEP 7: Student arrives in Australia**  
(greeted at airport by international student officer if required)

**STEP 8: International student orientation**  
registration and ID Cards

**STEP 9: Student registers for OSHC card and**  
sets up bank account, mobile phone, etc.

**STEP 10: Faculty orientation**

**STEP 11: Classes begin!**

# Introducing Australia

## The Country

Australia is a natural wonderland of beautiful beaches, crystal blue waters, amazing ancient rock formations and pristine rainforests.

Australia is the sixth largest country in the world and has the lowest population density per square kilometre. Australia has 16 world heritage listed properties with its historic townships, bustling cities, vivid landscapes and exotic flora and fauna all adding to its unique appeal.

Much of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world and the lifestyle is one that is second to none.

## Culture and Customs

The culture and customs consists of a rich tapestry of nationalities including traditions, legends, myths and folklore. The indigenous 'Dream time' forms the base of tens of thousands of years of spiritual aboriginal art and culture.

## Language

In Australia over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 indigenous languages. The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.

## States and Territories

Australia is made up of six states and two territories. To find out more about each state and territory, use the map below:



Source : <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/choose-australia/about-australia/why-is-au-great/>  
Check out this website for more information about Australia: <http://www.tourism.australia.com/>

# Introducing Melbourne

## City of Melbourne profile

Melbourne is Victoria's capital city and the business, administrative, cultural and recreational hub of the state.

## Melbourne at a glance

The City of Melbourne municipality covers 37.6 sq. km and has a residential population of around 100,611 (as of 2011). On an average day, around 805,000 people use the city, and Melbourne hosts over a million international visitors each year.

All of these residents, workers, shoppers and travellers can take a break in one of around 145,000 cafe or restaurant seats, or walk through some of its 471 hectares of parkland. They can visit Melbourne's tallest building, the 300m high Eureka Tower, or its oldest building, the Mitre Tavern, built in 1837.

The entire Melbourne metropolitan area covers 7694 sq. km and has a population of around 4.1 million.

## The people of Melbourne

Melbourne's population is made up of many groups of people of all ages and from many different cultures. City residents include young professionals, international students and older couples looking to enjoy everything the city has to offer now that the children have grown up and left home.

There is a lot to love about Melbourne - just ask the locals. This sophisticated world city in the south-east corner of mainland Australia inspires a deep passion in those who live here.

Melbourne is very much about lifestyle. It is no huge surprise to residents that their city has been ranked as one of the world's most livable cities.

Melburnians love the city's vibrant energy, restaurants, fashion boutiques, café-filled laneways, cool bars, unbeatable galleries, spacious parks and village-like inner suburbs, each with its own special character. Melbourne is a young city and as such it never sits still. Modern, cutting-edge designs add to the fascinating mix of heritage architecture and ensure the skyline is constantly changing.

Sometimes, the best part of visiting a new city is when you leave the tourist trail. While the big attractions can be great fun, often it's the subtler "insider" experiences that leave you feeling really satisfied.

*(Source: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>)*

## Introducing Cranbourne North / Casey locality

Cranbourne North is situated in Melbourne's outer south-eastern suburbs. It is part of greater Cranbourne; a significant land mass in the Casey Municipality which is one of the biggest in Australia.

It is originally a rich agricultural, cattle and pastoral district, with one of the largest market gardening industries being established in the early 1900s. Whilst many areas still thrive today; the last 30 years has seen dramatic changes in urban and residential development across the Cranbourne and wider Casey localities.

Alkira SC is located in a new area of Cranbourne North, where a significant amount of housing estates has been developed in the last ten years and will continue to do so over the foreseeable future. Our College is close to the historic suburb of a Berwick, which display a mix of old and new.

A number of attractive parks and tourist attractions located across the Casey area. Extra information can be gained from website: <http://www.travelvictoria.com.au/cranbourne/>

- A major tourist attraction is the Royal Botanical Gardens, located in Cranbourne, which cover a 363 hectares of wetlands, woodlands and walking tracks. It offers an array of plants unique to Australia, with picnic / BBQ facilities available across numerous areas of this venue.
- Cranbourne provides a large Shopping Centre, with a large and modern commercial centre along the High Street. The regional Fountain Gate Shopping Centre is about 10 minutes' drive from Cranbourne North, which consists of major retailers, over 300 speciality stores and a selection of showrooms at the Casey Lifestyle Centre.
- Pioneers Park, located in Lyall Road, is situated on the former site of the Berwick Primary School. The original school building, which dates back to 1870, has been restored and converted into a cafe and function centre. The park is almost 2 hectares in size with a bandstand rotunda, playground, pathways lined with deciduous trees and open gathering spaces.
- The Wilson Botanic Park offers a 39-hectare site for visitors. A drive along the scenic Beaumont Road winds its way through horse stud farms and homesteads, eventually ascending the surrounding hills and offering spectacular views across the district.
- The Akoonah Park Market is held every Sunday at Akoonah Park (close to Beaconsfield) offers craft, fresh produce, clothes and bric-a-brac.
- The Casey Farmers Market is held at the Old Cheese Factory on Homestead Road (Berwick) on the fourth Saturday of each month, with around 30 stalls of fresh food and produce on offer, direct from the grower.
- Cranbourne has an established history with horse racing, with its first meeting in 1867. A modern race course and training facilities are on offer; hosting the Cranbourne Cup and other carnivals through-out the year.

## Introducing Alkira Secondary College

Alkira Secondary College is one of the first Public Private Partnership (PPP) schools built in Victoria. Our College has won several awards for its innovative design and 5-star energy rating. The facilities encourage and promote 21Century teaching and learning. Based upon the research of *Pedagogy and Space* the buildings offer agile learning spaces that can be adapted to many different teaching and learning environments. Each area of learning is planned for emerging technologies and influenced by research of feng-shui, colour theory and acoustics.

The school has five distinct learning areas built around an agora or open passive recreation and learning space. Each building is purpose built to accommodate the distinct learning programs and is characterised by a colour.

- Our 7-9 building is green
- Our 10 -12 building is orange
- Our Science Design and technology building is yellow
- Our Gym and Performing Arts building is red
- Our Admin and Library is blue.

Each building has open spaces to encourage collaboration and independent study. The Science laboratory, Design and System technology rooms and the Hospitality kitchen are open spaces allowing for more flexible use.

Students are encouraged to get involved in school, local, State, National and International programs, opportunities and issues. Our College promotes charity for a number of organisations and also has a strong environmental focus for its community work. Students are recognised for their action and achievement related to the College values of respect, integrity, care and excellence. A number of leadership opportunities exist within the school including home group, sport and College captains and council representatives.

The College has developed a 6-year secondary curriculum beginning at year 7 through to year 12 within the Framework of Improving Student Learning Outcomes (FISO), Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority guidelines and is preparing to deliver programs for the new National curriculum. The College delivers senior Victorian certificates in Education and Applied learning.

The curriculum is divided into 8 key learning areas or domains; English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Languages, Technology, Arts and Health and Physical Education. School also have focus areas on Literacy, Numeracy, Asian Literacies, Thinking skills and Indigenous education.

Students complete a program in Visual and Performing Arts while having the opportunity to be involved in our College:

- Instrumental music program
- Band program
- Choir
- Annual production
- Art shows
- State Dance competitions
- State Performances

The College has adopted an *Athlete Friendly* culture and has developed a program to support students involved in National, State or representative sports. The College has specialist sports coaches, science, exercise and nutrition programs and has high quality facilities and sporting grounds.

The College Technology program caters for both boys and girls and focuses on *futures technologies*. Students experience programs in:

- Materials Design and Technology subjects- Wood, Metal, Plastics & Textiles.
- Systems Technology in Electronics, Robotics and Mechatronics.
- Food Technology and Hospitality programs.
- Information Technology programs in ICT, Web Design and Programming.

## Arranging Visas:

Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a **student visa**. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may be better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due to their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your home country.

In order to apply for a visa, you will need a **valid passport**, an **electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)** and any **other documentation** required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application. For example, if you are under 18 you must have a completed **CAAW form** to ensure your accommodation and welfare is approved by your education provider. You must ensure to **allow enough time** for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

## Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

The Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist your application. Visit [www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm) for the latest information.

## Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

As well as links from the DIBP website the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website [www.dfat.gov.au/embassies](http://www.dfat.gov.au/embassies) has a comprehensive list of Australian embassies, high commissions, consulates and representative offices around the world.

## Migration Agents

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIBP on your behalf, but please note that **you do not need to use a migration agent** to lodge any kind of visa application.

## Education Agents

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend.

**Please Note:** Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are **NOT** licensed to provide migration advice.

## Visa Conditions:

If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):

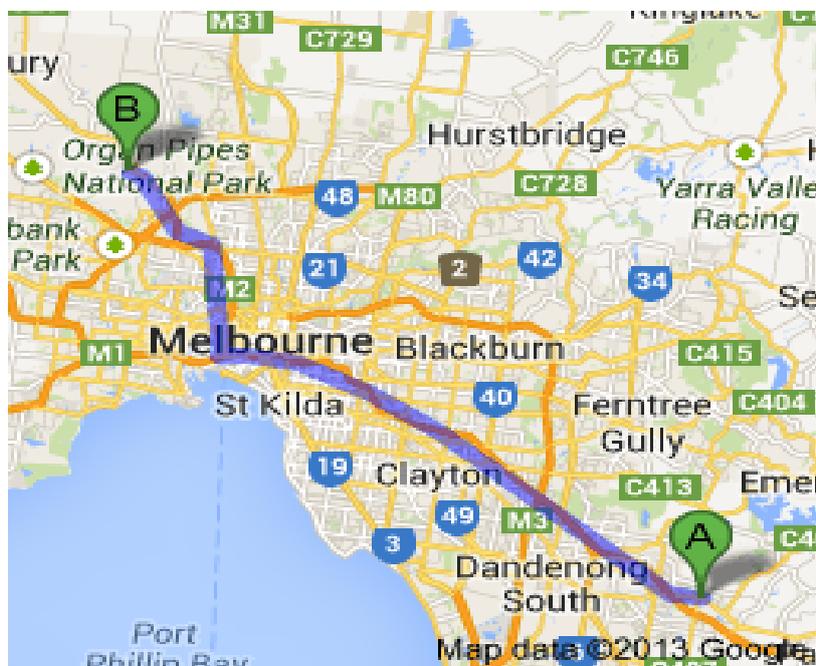
- Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia.
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution.
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions please visit [www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students)

## Arranging Travel:

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least one week before the start of Language School to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet-lag.

You should fly into Melbourne Airport, also known as Tullamarine which is the closest international airport to Alkira SC. Visit [<http://melbourneairport.com.au/>]. Alkira SC is approximately 66km from Melbourne International Airport.



## Documents

You should prepare a folder of **official documents** to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from Department of Education & Training (DET)
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by Department of Education & Training (DET)
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver's licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.

If you are travelling with your family, you will need to include their documents as well. **Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage.** In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

## What to Bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, **declare it anyway** on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) homepage [www.aqis.gov.au](http://www.aqis.gov.au)

- Read **"What can't I take into Australia?"**
- And also let your family and friends know **"What can't be mailed to Australia?"**

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (35kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think carefully about the packing process. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

## Seasonal Considerations

Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February.

If you arrive in June/July, the coldest months of the year, you will need to bring/buy winter clothing.

## Clothing

Alkira Secondary College has a compulsory school uniform policy, which must be purchased for commencement at our school.

## Other Items You Might Need to Include (most can also be purchased in Australia)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alarm clock            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific or graphics calculator  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dictionary (bilingual) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> camera                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small sewing kit       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spare spectacles or contact lenses |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music CDs or iPod      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> your optical prescription          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sporting equipment     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photos of friends and family       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> toiletries             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swimming costume                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> umbrella               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small gifts from home              |



The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

**Note:** In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

## Bringing Your Computer

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated.

Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD\$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

## Mobile Phones & Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be **Austel Approved** in order to function in Australia.

## On Your Flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be **very HOT** so wear light weight clothing underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively, extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an **Incoming Passenger Card** to fill in. This is a legal document. **You must tick ✓ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products.** This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don't be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than **AU\$10,000** in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is **strongly recommended** however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.

# Entry into Australia

## Australian Immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask 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.

## Baggage Claim

Once you have 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 something is missing or damaged 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.

## Detector Dogs

You may see a **Quarantine Detector Dog** at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

## Australian Customs and Quarantine

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn't have. You must **declare ALL** food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has **strict quarantine laws** and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU\$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require **treatment** to make them safe. Items that are **restricted** because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the **Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)**. For more detailed information, visit [www.daffa.gov.au/aqis](http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis)

## Arrivals Hall

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays. If you have requested that someone from Alkira Secondary College meet you at the airport, they will greet you in the Arrivals Hall, after you have cleared the Customs area. They will be waiting in front of the Travellers Information Centre, and they will be holding a sign with your name on it. If you have arranged for someone to meet you at the airport and you cannot find them in the Arrivals Hall, please call Carlyn Kang, the International Student Coordinator, on 0430 721 600 or Paul Looker (Assistant Principal- International Student Program Leader of Alkira SC) on 0475 967 027.

## Getting From the Airport:

**Shuttle Buses** <http://www.airportbusdandenong.com.au/cranbourne>

(03) 9782 6766 Fares must be pre-paid.

| Monday – Thursday |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Pick up           | Arrive Melbourne Airport |
| 4.50am            | 7:00am                   |
| 10.50am           | 12:45pm                  |
| 12.50pm           | 2:45pm                   |
| 2:20pm            | 4:30pm                   |

| Fridays |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Pick up | Arrive Melbourne Airport |
| 4.50am  | 7:00am                   |
| 10.50am | 12:45pm                  |
| 12.50pm | 2:45pm                   |

- Cranbourne pick-up from Lyall Street, Cranbourne.
- No Cranbourne pick-ups or drop-offs on weekends or public holidays.
- All Cranbourne fares are required to be pre-paid for travel to Melbourne Airport.

|                              |               |                  |                |                    |                 |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Cranbourne<br>(Lyall Street) | Adult<br>\$50 | 2 adults<br>\$80 | Couple<br>\$65 | Child 3-14<br>\$20 | Under 3<br>Free |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|

**\*\* Please note: No pensioner or concession discounts available.**

## Keeping in Contact:

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and your education provider in Australia, with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. (Do not change these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have **arrived safely**. It is important to **ALWAYS** let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by email.

When your enrolment at Alkira Secondary College has been approved, please make contact with the College via email at [international@alkirasecondarycollege.com.au](mailto:international@alkirasecondarycollege.com.au) to advise us of your arrival date and flight details. If an airport pickup is required (Option 4), a representative of the College will meet you in the Arrival Hall of Tullamarine and will be holding a sign with your name displayed.

## Accessing Money:

**You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.**

### How Much to Bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately **AU\$1500 to AU\$2000** available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money as either **Traveller's Cheques** or on an international credit card. Traveller's cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

**Please note:** it is **not safe to bring large sums of money** with you. Lost credit cards or traveller's cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.

### Currency Exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Melbourne, you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges including those in Berwick and at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre.

### Electronic Transfer

You can transfer money into Australia by **electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer** at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately **48 hours**, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

### ATMs

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at **ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo** (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.



### Credit Cards

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that **repayments** to many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

## Arranging Accommodation:

Students 15 years or older may reside with a nominated third party homestay, or in homestay accommodation as part of the Department of Education & Training (DET) approved welfare arrangements. Nominated third party homestay or homestay accommodation must be approved by DET and the Accommodation Placement Fee paid before a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) will be issued.

## Types of Accommodation:

### Homestay

The majority of international students enrolled in secondary schools in the International Student Program (ISP) will require their host school to arrange appropriate homestay accommodation with a local family for the duration of their stay. The homestay experience is an excellent way for students to improve their English, learn more about Australian culture and make the most of their international education experience. It is essential that the homestay accommodation arranged by the school is of high quality and provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment.

### What is homestay?

Homestay is full board accommodation offered by a family, couple or single person for which a set, weekly fee is charged. This fee covers expenses associated with hosting an international student but is not intended as a source of income. The preferred homestay arrangement is where students are compatible and are not from the same language background. Schools must not place more than three students in the one homestay, regardless of provider. Legal issues may also arise if several homestay students are accommodated at one domestic residence, and can contravene a range of Victorian legislation and many local council planning laws. Homestay host parents and third parties must reside in the same residence as the students.

### Homestay services include provision of:

- A single bedroom for the student's exclusive use
- Three meals a day, seven days a week
- Facilities including a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- Gas, electricity, heating and water
- Cleaning services of common living areas
- Use of living areas within residence
- Study facilities, including a desk, study light and bookcase.

### Nominated Third Party Homestay

This accommodation option is available to families where the parents wish to nominate a specific person (what we call a Third Party) in Victoria to provide accommodation for their child, but where that individual is not a parent or Department of Immigration and Border protection (DIBP) approved relative able to provide welfare.

The homestay experience is an excellent way for students to improve their English, learn more about Australian culture and to make the most of their international education experience. It is essential that homestay accommodation is of high quality and provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment.