

PRE-DEPARTURE

Travel & visa formalities

Contact your nearest Australian High Commission or Consulate for specific visa information and/or visit the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs on www.immi.gov.au for Australian requirements. We strongly recommend you check the individual criteria for your country of residence.

Participants who plan to study for 12 weeks or less can do so on a **Visitor Visa**. This can be obtained over the internet.

Participants who plan to study for 13 weeks or more will require a **Student Visa**. To obtain a Student Visa, you will need the following minimum requirements:

- Valid Passport
- Confirmation letter
- Proof you can cover expenses for your stay in Australia (guideline: AUD 1200 per month including accommodation)
- Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE), which states that you have paid your fees and booked Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Planning your trip

Proof of Payment

You must pay your tuition fees well before departure so you will have enough time to obtain your visa. At the beginning of the course you may also be asked to produce a valid proof of payment.

Expenses

You should organise adequate financial resources before leaving your home country.

Passport

You will require a valid passport to get your visa and travel to Australia and this may be obtained at your Government's consulate or embassy. The issue of a passport can take up to 2-3 months in some countries.

Planning your trip

Foreign Currency

You will need to carry with you approximately AUD100 to cover expenses for the first few days. You should also arrange to bring additional funds in Australian Dollars either in the form of a bank draft, travellers' cheques or by electronic funds transfer.

It is best to set up a bank account (with a card for 24-hour automatic machines) during the first few days of arrival. You will need proof of identification (your passport) and at least one other type of identification with you, i.e. drivers' license, birth certificate.

Medical History

It is important to know your own health history. Prior to departure, ask your family doctor exactly what vaccinations or medications you have been given in the past. It is also a good idea to bring this information in writing in case of illness while in Australia.

Electrical Goods

Electrical goods in Australia operate on 240V. Check that any electrical items

that you bring (e.g. hairdryers) can be adapted.

Climate and Clothing

Perth enjoys a mild Mediterranean climate, with warm dry summers and cool, rainy winters. There are four distinct seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter. You will need to bring different types of clothing for the year.

Spring/Summer (October-March): Light cotton clothing. You will also need to protect yourself against the sun by wearing sunscreen and a cap.
Autumn/Winter (April-September): Warm clothing such as woollen sweaters and a raincoat and/or overcoat.

Customs Information

Australia has very strict Customs regulations to prevent drugs, diseases and pests being brought into the country. On the plane you will be given a Customs Declaration Form to complete. You should declare any goods you are not sure about and any articles in excess of your Duty Free allowance. Making a false declaration is a serious offence and may result in heavy fines and the seizure of goods. Please note when packing for your trip that many food, plant and animal products are prohibited imports.

Arriving in Perth

You must notify Eurocentres at least two weeks in advance of the date and time of your arrival and flight details.

If you have booked an airport transfer, you will be

met upon arrival - look for the "Eurocentres" sign in the Arrival Hall. You will be then transported to your accommodation.

If you did not book a pick up you will need to take a taxi from the airport to your accommodation. The fare is about AUD 40 from the International airport and AUD 30 from the Domestic airport to the city. You can also take public transportation (www.perthairport.net.au).

The accommodation is available from the Saturday afternoon before the beginning of the course until the Saturday morning at the end of the course. If you arrive earlier, contact Eurocentres to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

If you have any problems on arrival, please phone the school immediately. If the school is closed, you will hear a recorded message with the emergency helpline number. This number is available 24 hours per day for urgent calls only.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your first point of contact at Eurocentres Perth will be a member of staff from the International Office. This person will continue to provide you with support during your studies.

First Day

Please be at school at **8.15** on the first day of the course. You will have an entry test (grammar, speaking, listening and writing) and on the basis of the results you will be placed in the class best suited to your knowledge of eurocentres_perth_infosheet_australia This information is for guidance only: all prices and details are approximate and may change without notice.

the language. This will be followed by an orientation programme including:

- an explanation of the content and rationale of the course
- information on the social programme, and other school services.
- a tour of the school and the local area
- details about the rules and regulations, including information about absenteeism.

Daily Programme 2006

Classes commence on the first day for Basic, Intensive and Cambridge students. The school is closed on public holidays.

Basic courses

20 lessons per week
08.15 - 11.55

Intensive courses

25 lessons per week
08.15 - 12.55

Cambridge Super-Intensive

30 lessons per week
08.15 - 11.55
12.40 - 14.20

Student Visa Students

Required to undertake an extra 5 lessons per week Guided Individual Learning.

First Certificate Exam/Cambridge Advanced:

Please note that Exam fees are not included in the Cambridge Super-Intensive course price.

English Plus Hotel and Tourism

12 weeks Intensive course with 25 lessons a week, plus 10 or 20 training towards a Certificate III in Hospitality (Operations).

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BUSINESS

It is Eurocentres policy that all information in regards to enrolment, prices, accommodation and all aspects of their course is explained to students in their own language. Please ensure that your Eurocentres adviser has explained Eurocentres General Terms and Conditions of Business to you in your own language, or provided you with a written copy in your language.

Excursion and visits are not included in the course fees.

For the Examination courses, please note that the examination fees are not included in the price of the course and that it is your responsibility to check the examination dates and book your place.

Refund Policy

In addition to the Eurocentres General Terms and Conditions of Business, Eurocentres Perth has the following Refund Policy:

For courses exceeding 10 weeks: if a student with a Student Visa withdraws after the course starts, and during the first 4 weeks, then 30% of the tuition fees, less the enrolment fee, is refundable to the student.

The Australian Government regulations require us to

inform you of the following: If Eurocentres is not able to provide the scheduled course on the agreed starting day, or Eurocentres ceases to provide the course at any time before the course is completed; or if there are any other defaults by Eurocentres that cannot be covered by a written agreement between Eurocentres and you, the student, such situations are covered by the provisions of the Australian ESOS Act 2000 and ESOS Regulations 2001, which govern the operation of English Language courses in Australia.

LIVING IN PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Situated on the banks of the Swan River, the city is clean and modern and is just a few kilometres away from its world-renowned beaches. For the outdoors types, Perth is paradise. Long walks, picnics in the park, golf, sailing, surfing, water-skiing - the choice is yours! There is plenty to see and do with numerous art galleries, cinemas, shops and markets. Perth nightlife also offers an exciting variety of sidewalk cafes, restaurants, music venues and nightclubs.

Getting around Perth
Public Transport: Perth has a very efficient transport system that includes trains, buses and ferries. At Orientation you will be issued (if eligible) with a Transperth "Student Concession Card" which will entitle you to a discount

when travelling on public transport in Perth.

Driving: If you have a Driver's Licence from your own country you may use it to drive in Australia for three months only. If you have an international driving permit you can use it **with** your licence from home until one or the other expires. In Australia you drive on the left and wearing of seat belts is compulsory. Strict drink-driving laws apply, as do heavy fines for speeding. Cars can be hired from about AUD 50 a day.

Cultural adjustment

Moving from one country to another often results in a sense of dislocation, however most students find that, having made the adjustment, what felt like a burden has become a bonus in terms of enrichment of life experience.

When the cultures of two countries are very different, the change of situation can be something of a "culture shock" - a sense of loss of the familiar and loved environment of home and the support network it provided. The things that were once familiar such as language, food, climate and people's behaviour can be very different in your new country.

Adjusting to a new environment can be frustrating at first, however most students find that after they have made the adjustment, the differences that were difficult initially have become the most important aspects of their new life in Australia.

Staff at Eurocentres Perth understand the difficulties

international students can have trying to study and adapting to a new country. Our Student Advisor is available to help you.

Looking After Yourself

When you live away from home, you may experience problems such as:

- financial concerns
- where to live and with whom
- homesickness/loneliness
- pressure to achieve good results with your studies

Some suggestions to help you avoid or reduce stress are:

- exercise regularly
- maintain a balance of study and free time
- maintain a healthy diet
- avoid excessive alcohol consumption
- ensure you get at least 8 hours sleep each night

Counselling

If you wish to discuss any problems you may encounter, see our Student Advisor who can assist you. Counselling is a confidential, professional, free service, which focuses on your needs as a student to maximise your education experience. Counselling assists you to solve problems, develop new personal and educational skills and resolve developmental issues. Counselling can assist with interpersonal relationships and family and social problems, where these may impinge on your educational effectiveness. Information and help is available for such matters

as emotional aspects of learning, including anxiety, difficulty with concentration or inability to write; dealing with conflicts; identifying and using one's own best learning style; course concerns; personal problems and trauma debriefing.

Health

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC): The Australian Government requires all international students on Student Visas to have medical insurance cover for the duration of their stay in Australia. If you are booked on a 13-week course, you will have been charged for OSHC on your invoice. It is important, if you are on a Student Visa, that you do not let your OSHC lapse or you will be in breach of visa regulations.

An Overseas Student Health Cover Brochure detailing fees and the medical services provided will be given to you on your first day.

CONDITIONS OF STUDENT VISA

Participants whose studies in Australia will be over 12 weeks will require a Student Visa. Listed below are some of the conditions of the Student Visa which you must keep to:

- **Full time study:** You must study full time (Intensive or Cambridge Super-Intensive)
- **Self Study:** You must study for an additional 5 lessons per week in

either self study or an elective class.

- **Payment:** You must have paid your tuition fees in accordance with Eurocentres regulations.
- **Changing schools:** You must remain with Eurocentres Perth for the duration of your course up to a maximum of 12 months. Permission to change Education Providers will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
- **Attendance:** You must maintain an 80% attendance rate as evidenced by Eurocentres Perth.
- **Change of accommodation:** You must immediately inform Eurocentres Perth in writing of at least 2 working days in advance of any change of residential address.
- **Working:** All initial student visas have the "no work" condition applied. If you come on a Student Visa, **after you have started your course** you will be able to apply for a student visa with permission to work during your course in Australia (application cost: \$60). Students, who are granted permission to work, may work 20 hours per week during school term and longer during holiday breaks.
- **"English plus" Courses:** If you are undertaking an English plus Hotel and Tourism course, you must remain with Eurocentres Perth for the length of the English course. Then with the Education Provider providing the Hotel and

Tourism course (Australian School of Tourism and Hotel Management) for the first 12 months.

You should consult the nearest Australian High Commission for up-to-date visa information or alternatively visit the Department of Immigration and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) on www.immi.gov.au

Dependants

Dependants can stay with you, while studying in Australia, if their names are included on your student visa application. Dependants who are not included in your student visa application and who would like to come to Australia later, need to apply separately for visas. Their type of visa will be the same as a student visa and will have similar conditions to those outlined above.

Your dependants cannot attend a government school. They must enroll in a non-government school which has been registered to admit the dependants of international students. Annual fees range from \$4,000 for primary education to \$15,000 for secondary education.

ACCOMMODATION

If requested Eurocentres Perth International Office will arrange accommodation for you which may be either: -

- Family Homestay Arrangement B (see price list).
- Student Residence Arrangement G (see price list).
- Hotel – on request only.

Family Homestay: Our host families are chosen with care and there are regular site inspections of facilities. Placements are also made with consideration given to special dietary, health or religious requirements.

Your accommodation fee includes breakfast and dinner every day (even at week-ends), electricity, private bedroom and access to facilities of the house.

It is very important for you to know that in Australia there are water restrictions, therefore your host family will have rules relating to the length of time you can spend in the shower, normal shower time is about 7 minutes.

There are books in the Learning Centre which explain the Homestay Experience and what you should expect from Homestay. We encourage you to read these books when you arrive.

Should you decide to leave the homestay family early, you need to give Eurocentres a minimum of two weeks' notice in writing, to end on a Saturday. A cancellation and/or change of accommodation fee will be charged. You must also inform Eurocentres Perth of your intention to leave and your new contact details.

In our experience, most students thoroughly enjoy their homestay experience. However, if you are

unhappy or experience any difficulties:

- Your first line of communication should be with your host family. Ask questions if you are confused - don't be shy or afraid. They will help you adapt to changes in culture/lifestyle.

- If you are homesick, try not to blame your host family. It is natural to experience some level of culture shock and homesickness. Give your host family a real chance.

- If you really cannot discuss the problem with your homestay family, see the Student Advisor who will talk the problem through with you and work out a solution with the family.

Student Residence (off campus): This is basic "budget" style accommodation, however rooms are clean and comfortable and staff are friendly and welcoming.

Bathroom facilities are communal, shared with alternate male and female floors. Guest services include 24-hour reception, TV lounge, phone room, laundry facilities and airport shuttle service.

Accommodation Refund Policy

Change fee (Eurocentres General Terms and Conditions of Business Clause 7):

If you request a change of school, course date or type of accommodation after your initial enrolment and

which has been confirmed by Eurocentres, you will be charged a Change fee of CHF80, USD65, EUR60, GBP40, JPY 7200, AUD100, CAD 90 which is payable at the time you request the change. You will not be charged for this fee if you choose to extend or upgrade your course.

Cancellation and/or Change of the Accommodation after the course start (Eurocentres General Terms and Conditions of Business Clause 12):

Host family accommodation may be terminated or changed, subject to two weeks notice to end on a Saturday. Notice of termination shall be sent to Eurocentres exclusively. A change fee of CHF80, USD65, EUR 60, GBP40, JPY7200, AUD100, CAD 90 will be charged. Should the course participant leave the host family accommodation before the end of the period of notice, he or she shall not be entitled to claim any reimbursement of payments already effected.

For all other types of accommodation (student residence, hotel, apartments) the respective General Terms and Conditions of the third party providing the accommodation apply.

Shared apartments

Once longer-staying students are settled in to their new environment after their first term, they may wish to rent an apartment. Sharing with fellow students is very popular with international students with each person

sharing all costs. Unfortunately it is not possible to arrange shared apartments in advance.

Rental costs: Rents vary according to size, condition and location of the apartment. A general guide is set out below:

Unfurnished

- 1 bedroom from \$110.00 per wk
- 2 bedroom from \$150.00 per wk
- 3 bedroom from \$120-200 per wk

Furnished

- 1 bedroom from \$150.00 per wk
- 2 bedroom from \$170.00 per wk

It is extremely important to read the "Tenancy Agreement" carefully before signing. Our International Office Adviser will be more than happy to help you understand the document.

A security bond (deposit), generally equal to four weeks' rent, is payable in advance and only refundable when the tenancy ceases provided that there is no damage to the property. There may also be other fees involved.

Living Expenses: A student living in an apartment in Perth should budget approximately \$150 - \$220 per week. As an example, an average budget may be:-

- Rent (shared apartment) \$70.00
- Electricity/Gas \$10.00
- Food \$50.00

- Transport \$15.00
- Laundry/Dry Cleaning \$10.00
- Entertainment \$30.00
- Books and stationery \$10.00
- Telephone \$10.00
- Other expenses \$15.00
- TOTAL \$220.00**

Electricity and Gas: If you are renting an apartment a connection fee (approximately \$50.00) is payable as soon as you move in. Every two months, a bill will be sent by either Western Power (electricity) and every three months by Alinta Gas. You will only receive a gas bill if your apartment has appliances operated by gas.

If you do not pay your bill by the due date the electricity and gas may be disconnected by the suppliers.

Telephones: To connect a telephone to a house or apartment, first check if there is already a line available at that address. If a connection is available, you only pay a re-connection fee of \$50.00. If there is no line installed, there will be a New Line Connection Fee of \$220.00. However it is very unusual to rent an apartment or house in an Australian city without an existing telephone line. If you would like your phone to have international access (IDD) a \$500 bond is required or presentation of a credit card. The bond is held by your

telecommunications provider and refunded to you after 12 months of satisfactory payment of your accounts. A passport and one other form of ID (e.g. drivers' licence) needs to be presented when completing an application. If you do not pay your bill by the due date the telephone service will be disconnected by your telecommunications provider.

Your Responsibilities as a Tenant: In Australia, all persons must meet their financial obligations and it is an offence to avoid payment of your debts. Changing your address does not release you from any financial debt incurred previously. If you find you are experiencing difficulties in keeping to your budget please see the Student Advisor who will offer assistance.

The Staff and Students at Eurocentres Perth look forward to welcoming you to Perth

We wish you every success in your studies.

School address

Eurocentres Perth
1/641 Wellington Street
Perth, WA 6000

Telephone: ++618 9211 3250

Fax: ++618 9321 3698

Emergency numbers:

+ 61 0412 172 966

+ 61 0401 843 194

Email:

per-info@eurocentres.com.

Eurocentres Head Office