

Welcome to Australia

Your Guide to Studying in Perth, Western Australia

Information for International Students

About Australia

Australia is one of the most popular destinations for international students worldwide. Known for its high-quality education system, diverse culture, stunning natural landscapes, and welcoming people, Australia offers an exceptional experience for students from all over the globe.

Quick Facts

Official Name	Commonwealth of Australia
Capital City	Canberra
Population	Approximately 26 million
Language	English
Currency	Australian Dollar (AUD)
Time Zone (Perth)	AWST (UTC+8) – No daylight saving
Government	Constitutional Monarchy & Parliamentary Democracy
Head of State	King Charles III

Why Study in Australia?

- **World-Class Education:** Australia has 7 of the world's top 100 universities and a globally recognized qualifications framework
- **Multicultural Society:** One of the most culturally diverse nations, with people from over 200 countries
- **Safe & Welcoming:** Consistently ranked as one of the safest countries for international students
- **Work While Studying:** Student visa holders can work up to 48 hours per fortnight during term
- **Post-Study Work Options:** Opportunities to gain work experience after graduation
- **High Quality of Life:** Clean cities, excellent healthcare, and beautiful natural environments

Australian Seasons

Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, so seasons are opposite to Europe and North America:

Season	Months	Perth Weather
Summer	December – February	Hot & dry (25–35°C)
Autumn	March – May	Warm & pleasant (18–25°C)
Winter	June – August	Mild & rainy (8–18°C)
Spring	September – November	Warm & sunny (15–25°C)

Education System

The Australian education system emphasises independent learning, critical thinking, and active participation. This may be different from what you've experienced in your home country.

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Key differences you may notice:

- Active participation in class discussions is expected
- Students are encouraged to question
- Group work and collaborative projects are common
- Trainers are approachable – ask questions!

Don't worry: Australian educators have extensive experience helping international students adapt to these learning methods.

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About Perth, Western Australia

Perth is the capital city of Western Australia and is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Australia. With its natural parklands, stunning beaches, and relaxed lifestyle, Perth offers international students an exceptional place to live and study.

Perth at a Glance

Population	Approximately 2.1 million
Climate	Mediterranean – warm, dry summers & mild, wet winters
Sunshine	Over 3,000 hours of sunshine per year (sunniest capital!)
Main River	Swan River – runs through the heart of the city
Coastline	19 pristine beaches within 30 minutes of the city
Airport Distance	17km from Perth International Airport to CBD (~30 mins)

Why Choose Perth?

- **Affordable Living:** Lower cost of living compared to Sydney and Melbourne
- **Beautiful Beaches:** World-famous beaches like Cottesloe, Scarborough, and City Beach
- **Outdoor Lifestyle:** Cycleways, walking paths, and parks throughout the city
- **Safe & Clean:** One of Australia's safest and cleanest cities
- **Multicultural:** Diverse population with food, festivals, and communities from around the world
- **Great Weather:** Enjoy sunny days almost year-round
- **Gateway to WA:** Easy access to spectacular regional destinations

Perth Lifestyle

Perth offers a relaxed, outdoor-focused lifestyle. The Swan River provides excellent opportunities for water sports, while cycleways and footpaths along the river and coast encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Food & Dining

Perth's food scene is diverse and exciting. You'll find cuisines from all over the world, fresh local produce, award-winning wines from nearby regions, and a vibrant alfresco dining culture.

Entertainment

- Museums, art galleries, and cultural centres
- Shopping at Murray Street and Hay Street malls
- Live music, theatre, and festivals throughout the year
- Kings Park – one of the world's largest inner-city parks
- Rottnest Island – home to the famous quokkas

Getting Around Perth

Perth has an excellent public transport system:

Transport	Details
CAT Buses	FREE buses around the CBD (Red, Blue, Yellow routes)
Trains	Connect suburbs to the city; airport line available
Buses	Extensive network across metropolitan Perth
Ferries	Cross the Swan River between city and South Perth
SmartRider	Reusable travel card for discounted fares

Transperth Info: 13 62 13 | transperth.wa.gov.au

Cost of Living in Perth

Understanding your expenses helps you budget effectively. Here are typical costs for international students in Perth:

Estimated Weekly Expenses

Expense Category	Approximate Cost (AUD)
Accommodation (shared)	\$150 – \$300
Groceries & Food	\$100 – \$150
Public Transport	\$30 – \$50
Phone & Internet	\$20 – \$40
Utilities (electricity, gas, water)	\$20 – \$40
Entertainment & Personal	\$50 – \$100
TOTAL (approx.)	\$370 – \$680 per week

Note: Costs vary based on lifestyle and location. Shared accommodation significantly reduces expenses.

Money-Saving Tips

- Share accommodation with other students
- Cook at home instead of eating out
- Use student discounts (carry your student ID!)
- Get a SmartRider card for discounted transport
- Shop at discount supermarkets (Aldi, Costco)
- Take advantage of free events and attractions
- Use free WiFi at campus instead of mobile data

Australian Public Holidays

Australia celebrates various public holidays throughout the year. Most shops and services operate on reduced hours or close on these days.

Holiday	Date	Significance
New Year's Day	1 January	Start of the new year
Australia Day	26 January	National day celebration
Good Friday	Varies (March/April)	Easter religious holiday
Easter Monday	Varies (March/April)	Long weekend
ANZAC Day	25 April	Remembrance of soldiers
WA Day	First Mon in June	Western Australia Day
King's Birthday	Late Sept (WA)	Official royal birthday
Christmas Day	25 December	Christian celebration
Boxing Day	26 December	Public holiday / sales

Places to Explore

In Perth

- **Kings Park & Botanic Garden** – Stunning views of the city and river
- **Cottesloe Beach** – Iconic Perth beach with sunset views
- **Fremantle** – Historic port town with markets and cafes
- **Perth Cultural Centre** – Art galleries, museums, and library
- **Elizabeth Quay** – Waterfront precinct with restaurants and attractions
- **Perth Zoo** – See Australian wildlife and international animals

Day Trips from Perth

- **Rottnest Island** – Beautiful Island famous for quokkas (cute marsupials!)
- **Swan Valley** – Wine region with cellar doors and gourmet food
- **Pinnacles Desert** – Unique limestone formations in Nambung National Park
- **Caversham Wildlife Park** – Meet kangaroos, koalas, and wombats

Regional Western Australia

Western Australia is home to some of the most spectacular scenery in Australia:

- **Margaret River** – World-class wine region and surfing
- **Ningaloo Reef** – Swim with whale sharks
- **Broome** – Famous Cable Beach and pearling history
- **Esperance** – Lucky Bay – Australia's whitest beach

Useful Websites

- **Visit Perth:** visitperth.com
- **Experience Perth:** experienceperth.com
- **Tourism Australia:** australia.com
- **Study in Australia:** studyinaustralia.gov.au

We look forward to welcoming you to Perth!

Prisma Education Institute Australia

www.peia.edu.au

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