

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



**PERTH, AUSTRALIA
2020**

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Congratulations on being accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire study abroad program with Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field

Increasing understanding of different cultures

Enhancing personal development

Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture

Gaining self-confidence and independence

Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

Use this program-specific guide with the more general resources in your BlugoldsAbroad account. While this guide contains the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email information throughout the semester, and we encourage you to do your own research, also, using the web resources listed towards the end of this guide, as well as others that you find. Contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff or your peer advisor with your specific questions.

Questions only you can answer include:

- 1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge yourself in a new environment?
- 2) How can you best prepare to meet your goals within the context of this program? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Australian culture, yet you are going with some UW-Eau Claire students, how can you insure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of publication, though changes may occur at any time.

ACADEMICS

Additional information on topics such as maintaining program eligibility, registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, course equivalencies, grades, transcripts and service learning is in the [Academics section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Pre-departure Planning

Please see the [Perth, Australia Academics Page](#) for details on how to plan your courses at Murdoch. The final courses for when you will be abroad may not be out at this time, so be sure to have backups.

You filled out a Unit Selection worksheet as part of your Murdoch University application. On it, you were to list five to six courses, in priority order, that you would be interested in taking. If you are approved for those first three courses by Murdoch, they will pre-register you for them before you get to Perth. You will not finalize your registration until you arrive at Murdoch.

You can find the most up-to-date course information at:

<http://handbook.murdoch.edu.au/units/>

Credits and Course Load

At Murdoch University, your credits are called **points** and your classes are called **units**. You can take 3, or 4-point units. The following is the conversion scale of Australian points to U.S. credits:

3 points = 4 credits

4 points = 5 credits

You will take 3 or 4 units at Murdoch equaling 9-12 points. Study abroad students are required to carry a full load (12-18 UWEC credits/semester).

Keep in mind:

- The credits you earn abroad are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits.
- The classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation.
- Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and **must be approved in advance by the CIE and Murdoch.**

Registration at Murdoch

When you get to Perth, you will be pre-registered for your top three classes, assuming they are offered in that semester, that their scheduled times do not conflict, and that you have met any prerequisites. If you need to change your schedule, you will learn about the process during "O" (orientation) week at Murdoch. Enrollment will happen over the course of the first week. **BE PATIENT.** You will have an opportunity to talk with advisors from various departments to help you in making final decisions about appropriate courses. The International Office will help you with registration. In case of scheduling difficulties, have a few back-up class options in mind.

Be sure to bring the list of five to six courses you developed in Eau Claire, as well as a degree audit, to aid in determining your schedule. Note that you must have the UW-Eau Claire prerequisite or WRITTEN APPROVAL from your department chair to take a course without the prerequisites, even if the Murdoch University course does not have prerequisites.

Dropping/Adding Courses

You will have two weeks after orientation week in Perth to drop/add units. Changes after that point are with permission only; a change fee will be assessed. Please talk with the International Office

in Murdoch about changes after the first two weeks.

Reporting Your Registration

As soon as you confirm your final registration at Murdoch, **log in to your [BlugoldsAbroad account](#) and complete the Course Descriptions questionnaire.**

If a course you are taking is not already in the UW-Eau Claire Transfer Wizard, you will need to provide the following information:

- course title
- course number
- course description
- number of credits
- name of the department you would like credit in

Once equivalencies have been established by all department chairs involved, the courses will be posted to the [Transfer Credit Wizard](#), and you will be able to see them there.

Equivalency timeline: The process of determining an equivalency can take four to six weeks. In other words, we cannot process courses that you want evaluated for curiosity sake.

Syllabi and Academic Work

Murdoch has teaching weeks broken up by short "study breaks" between classes and exams, and a two-week exam period. At the beginning of each unit, you'll receive a "unit outline," somewhat similar to a syllabus. It will have an overview of the unit and general breakdown of topics (although rarely a daily breakdown as you may receive from UW-Eau Claire professors). It will also have a list of what you will be graded on and when assignments are due.

Typical assessment items (work that is graded) are essays of 5-15 pages, reports, class presentations,

and exams. **If your lecturer mentions in class to do something, be sure to do it. You will not get constant reminders to do projects or assignments, and unit outlines in Australia may not be as detailed as syllabi you are used to here.** If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask your lecturer.

If you need to turn in work late, you must have permission from your lecturer/tutor ahead of time. Extensions will not always be granted; that is up to the individual lecturer. If you are sick and therefore miss turning in an assignment or an exam, you may be required to present a doctor's certificate.

If you are having any academic difficulties, **be proactive.** Ask for help early on, not a week before assignments are due or exams are looming. There are several steps you can take:

- 1) **Talk with your lecturer/tutor** first.
- 2) **The Student Learning Staff of the Teaching and Learning Centre** can assist you in a variety of ways. There are practical classes and workshops available free to Murdoch students on essay writing, English skills, reading skills, mathematics, exam preparation and time management. These are held either during semester teaching weeks or in the non-teaching breaks. Individual consultations are also available by appointment to work in depth on your individual learning needs. Full details are available at <http://our.murdoch.edu.au/CUTL/>
- 3) There are also many useful resources including handouts, and books and videos available for loan, at the **Student Learning Resource Centre in the Library.**

Class Schedule

You can expect to have classes Monday-Friday. You may feel you don't have class as much as you do at UWEC, but that means you need to be self-teaching yourself the content and then engaging in the class discussions. A few past students got caught up in not attending classes, because the notes were online, and ended up failing. Don't be these people.

Class Attendance

You are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes and field trips unless illness or other unavoidable circumstances make this impossible.

Attendance is also a visa requirement.

Absences for personal travel must be approved in advance by the instructor and may result in lower grades.

You are required to take your final exams at the scheduled time and day of the exams (just as you are at UW-Eau Claire). This is Murdoch's policy, and you are required to follow it. **You will often not find out the day/time of your final until six weeks before finals week.** Do not ask your lecturer or the International Office if you can take your exam early. Failure to take your exams as scheduled will result in failing your courses.

Grades

You will need to be self-motivated, as there is little of the "checking up" or "ongoing assessment" which is built into the U.S. system. **Grades are generally based on two assessments, often a paper and a final exam.** In any graded work, you will be expected to develop your own ideas and arguments in relation to the topic; simply reproducing information you have read or heard in class is not enough.

Murdoch grades convert to UW-Eau Claire grades according to the following scale.

"C+"/Satisfactory/Pass is truly "average" in the

Australian system, and students are generally happy to receive one. **Exceptional and High Distinctions are very rare.** This is why the top two Australian grades equal a UW-Eau Claire "A."

Murdoch	UW-Eau Claire
Exceptional/ High distinction	A
Highly commendable/ Distinction	A
Commendable/ Credit	B+
Satisfactory/ Pass	C+
Unsatisfactory/ Fail/Failure to Submit	F

Note: UWEC students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail. Grades from Murdoch are figured into your UWEC GPA and posted to your UWEC transcript. No exceptions will be made.

Murdoch & UWEC Transcripts

*Please see the Academics section of the Study Abroad Handbook for important information if you are **graduating, transferring or applying for a competitive major** such as Nursing or Education at the end of your term abroad.*

A Murdoch transcript with your grades is sent to UW-Eau Claire, roughly 2-3 months after the end of the semester, as long as you don't have any outstanding fees. Because Murdoch grades will arrive later than the end of the UW-Eau Claire semester, your MyBlugold CampS account will initially indicate "NR" (not reported). This will be changed once the transcript arrives.

Australian Academic System

Australian Academic Vocab:

- Assessment item = graded work
- Course = major
- Timetable = class schedule
- Unit = course/class
- School = school or college
- Lecturer = professor
- Course outline = syllabus
- Tutor = professor
- College = dormitory
- Tutorial = discussion class

Independent Learning: In the words of past participants, the Australian and U.S. systems of higher education are totally different. **The Australian system requires very independent learning.** Students are expected to come to class prepared to critically analyze all work, and ideas are meant to be challenged. Lecturers do hold office hours but are not often accessible outside of those hours; students should be ready to figure things out on their own using the texts, class lectures, and outside reading.

Past students have had mixed reviews on how they like the Australian academic system. Some have liked the change and done very well. Others have not preferred the style and maybe found it to be less challenging. Then there are some who have found it very challenging. Each student will have their own response to this change in academic styles.

From an Australian perspective, it is equally hard to understand the teaching methods used in U.S. higher education, with lots of direction from the professors, many small graded assignments, and the general "checking up" to be sure students are learning the assigned materials. **This is how Australian students learn in high school.** Once they enter university, they are expected to take responsibility for their own education.

One cultural difference to note between the U.S. and Australia is Australians like everyone to remain equal and not stand out from the crowd. They refer to this as "Tall Poppy Syndrome." All the poppies should stay at the same level, and if one grows too tall, it is cut back to the size of the rest of the group.

So, what does that really mean? Basically, Australians are very hard workers, but they rarely admit it (they will almost NEVER discuss things like grades, if they are applying for a promotion, how much work they do, etc.) Also, in classes you may notice that the Australians do not ask as many questions as students in the U.S. ask. This is another aspect of Tall Poppy Syndrome. They don't want to appear to know more, or not know as much, as the others.

An important thing to remember is you may not be aware of how much Australian students study, but they study A LOT. However, you probably won't hear Aussies discussing how much they study, and if you comment on how hard someone studies, he/she will probably deny it.

Types of Classes: Units include lectures with tutorials, labs, and field study. Lectures are large, often 100 students, and generally meet once a week. Students from the lecture are then divided into smaller tutorial groups, which also meet once a week. Lectures generally meet once/week for two hours and tutorials meet once/week for two hours, for a total of four hours/week/course in class. **Study expectation is that you spend three to four hours studying for each hour in class.**

Small group discussions, presentations, etc., are done in the tutorial. 10-20% of the grade for a course may be attendance at the tutorial. Some lecturers will also take attendance at lecture. Note that your lecturer and your tutor may be different

people for the same class. Also note that different people may be grading your assignments at different times.

Contacting Faculty: Professors (Lecturers) are generally more laid-back than in the U.S., and most of them prefer to be called by their first names. Take note that many people are teaching on part-time contracts at Murdoch and may only be on campus when they are teaching. Find out at the beginning of the semester when you can get in touch with your lecturer for questions outside of class, and if it is permissible to call at home. **Past students have said that e-mail has worked well to get in touch with professors.**

Be sure to ASK QUESTIONS if you are not sure you understand an assignment or need direction in studying for an exam or writing a paper.

Service Learning

While Murdoch doesn't formally have a service-learning program, you may come upon organizations that incorporate service learning into them. If you do and you decide you want to have the experience count for service learning at UWEC, you need to go to:

<https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/students/>

- Click on "Create a Project".
- The UWEC Australia study abroad coordinator, Jenna Krosch, will be your UWEC Mentor. Enter her username on the form: kroschjm
- For the question, "**How would you like your mentor to be involved in your project?**" state that your mentor will read and comment on your reflection paper and may ask you follow-up questions as necessary.

MONEY MATTERS

UWEC information about making payments, when they are due, withdrawal and refund deadlines, financial aid, general scholarships,

budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in the [Money Matters section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Cost Estimate

You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the [Murdoch Brochure Page](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term. The cost estimate includes what you pay to UWEC and what you pay directly to other vendors.

Housing Costs

You will pay **ALL** housing costs directly to Murdoch University Village – the housing company that runs the halls. Housing costs will vary depending on what type of accommodations you select. You will give the housing company your credit card information and they will charge a deposit and your rent to that card. Please note that the items will be posted in Australian dollars, so you may want to let your credit card company know.

Currency Exchange

The currency of Australia is the Australian dollar (AUD) which comes in polymer (plastic) bills of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100. Coins come in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent denominations as well as \$1 and \$2.

The bills are waterproof and are in a variety of fun colors. Don't forget about your \$1 and \$2 coins as they can add up at times.

You can find current exchange rates at <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

Money on Arrival

A general recommendation is to travel with the equivalent of \$100-\$200 dollars in your host country currency in the event something comes up. It can take time to obtain Australian dollars from a bank in the US, so plan accordingly.

Cost of Living

For an idea of what everyday costs you may encounter, check out this website:

<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Perth>

Banking

You aren't required to open a bank account in Australia. One to two weeks after opening an account, you will receive an Australian ATM card.

An option for getting money to your account is through a wire transfer, but these funds can take three to four weeks to clear and the charge is usually \$35-40.

Credit Cards and ATMs

Credit cards are widely accepted in Australia. You will want to make sure you have either Visa or MasterCard as those are the most widely accepted. It is strongly recommended that all of your credit/debit cards have a chip in them. Most places in Australia have the chip reader technology and swiping your card is less common.

If using a debit card from the U.S., make sure you understand how much the withdrawal fees are. Also note that there may be an international fee assessed every time you use your card. ATMs are located on campus. There are also several ATMs at any Australian bank.

When withdrawing money from the ATM, always use caution.

Make sure you notify your bank and credit card companies before your travel. They will want to know your travel itinerary to the best that you have it planned out. Also make a copy of all of your credit cards so that in the event they are lost, stolen, or eaten by an ATM, you have the contact information to call and cancel.

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks are increasingly rare and difficult to use. They generally must be cashed at a major bank, although, in some countries, post offices also offer this service, and **you must have your passport with you**. Most banks charge a fee for cashing the checks; it can vary widely. Before cashing a check, ASK what the fee is.

Work Information

International student visa holders can work part-time during the semester. **But don't count on finding work to supplement your income while in Lismore** as it is very difficult to find "casual" (part-time) employment in the Fremantle/Perth area. The best possibility is tutoring in an academic area, either for Murdoch students or high school students.

HEALTH & SAFETY

General information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the [Health & Insurance](#) and [Safety Abroad](#) sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Centers for Disease Control

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has vaccination suggestions, how to stay healthy when abroad, and health information specific to Australia. You can review the [CDC site for Australia here](#).

Due to an increasing measles and mumps cases worldwide, we strongly encourage all students to check their vaccine history to see if they have had the MMR vaccine.

Water

The water in Australia is potable (drinkable). Please see the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommendations on eating and drinking safely in Australia (link above).

Insect Bites

Just as you would in the US, you should try to avoid bug bites when outside. The CDC link above has good information on how to avoid bug bites.

Overseas Student Health Cover

In addition to CISI insurance, students going to Australia on student visas have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). Your Australian university will enroll you in this. It is required by the Australian government for all student visa holders and will cover most of your insurance needs there. Your coverage is valid from the arrival date stamped in your passport, even though you will not receive the card for approximately six weeks. This process will be explained during orientation in Australia. (Note that without OSHC, the Australian government will not issue a student visa.)

Healthcare & Mental Health Facilities

There is a full counseling staff on campus, as well as an on-campus nurse five days/week. You will need to pay upfront, then file for reimbursement with OSHC or CISI so be sure to keep your receipt!

For bigger medical issues, there is a hospital in the area that you can access.

Additional Counseling Resources: If you would like to see a therapist while abroad, that is not on Murdoch's campus, we can work with CISI to identify a therapist in Fremantle/Perth. Start this process before you go, or afterwards, by contacting your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

Medical Supplies/Medications: You can find basic medical supplies or medications in local pharmacies (also known as chemists in Australia). They are plentiful around the area.

CISI Insurance in Australia

If you have an accident or become ill while studying in Australia, you **must pay the price of the medical service up front**. You will then file a claim through CISI, the insurance provided through the UW System for partial or full reimbursement in accordance with plan coverages.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Murdoch has an Equity and Social Inclusion office on campus that helps to create an inclusive learning environment. It is a free and confidential service that can provide a wide range of support services to students who have a disability or medical condition. More information can be found on [Murdoch's site](#). In addition, the international office can help refer you if you have questions on what services are available.

It is also important to look at the level of accessibility in Australia in general. To find more information on this topic, please see the Local Laws & Special Circumstances section of the [U.S. State Department Country Information page](#)

Safety in Australia

Security at Murdoch

Campus security is available at Murdoch University 24 hours a day. All throughout campus there are security "call points". These are buttons you can press to be immediately connected to campus security. You will then be able to talk to a security officer through the speaker box located next to the button. These buttons are located all over campus and in the student village.

There are also "Night Walk" walkways that campus security recommends you use at night. Campus security also offers an escort service. They will pick you up from somewhere on or off campus and take you to the student village or your car in the parking lot. This service is meant to be used to

improve student safety at night. The on-campus security can be contacted through this number: (08) 9360 6262. When using an American phone to call this number, be sure to dial 61 before the number.

Murdoch University has an After-Hours Student Assistance Line specifically for international students. This service operates in the evenings and weekends, even when the University is closed. If you need any help after hours or have any problems at all, call 1 800 769 076.

Australia Safety

Information on crime, specific safety issues, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Australia is included in the [U.S. State Department's Australia Info page](#). Specific safety in and around Perth will be discussed during orientation in Eau Claire and on-site.

Pick-Pocketing: Pick-pocketing is common on public transportation and at popular tourist sites throughout Australia. To reduce the risk, do not have your phone or other valuables out in public spaces. An iPhone is a target for pick-pocketers. If you carry a purse, make sure it is across the body and has zippers. Keep your wallet in a front pocket, not a back pocket. Only carry small amounts of cash on you to minimize loss. Using a money belt under your clothing is another way to prevent valuables from being stolen.

Beach Safety: When swimming on the beach, be sure to mind the flags and only swim in areas that are marked as safe. The lifeguards always mark a safe space (if any) each day as rip currents change frequently. The riptides are very dangerous and even the strongest swimmers can get swept out. Also, be mindful of jellyfish. If no one is in the water, there is probably a reason for that. Some other things to know:

- Don't dive into water of unknown depths.

- Don't swim alone, especially at isolated beaches.
- Avoid the consumption of alcohol while swimming.
- Don't swim at night – you don't know what is in the water.

Adventure Sports:

- Use caution and common sense if engaging in ALL adventure sports, and remember that they are NOT covered by CISI insurance, such as bungee jumping, sky diving, hiking, rappelling, climbing, whitewater rafting, kayaking, etc.
- Never participate in adventure sports alone. Always carry identification and let others know where you are at all times.
- When hiking, rappelling, or climbing, carry a first aid kit and know the location of the nearest rescue center.
- Observe all local or park regulations and exercise caution in unfamiliar surroundings.

Driving in Australia:

One main thing to remember about safety in Australia is that they drive on the opposite side of the road, so LOOK RIGHT before crossing the street.

Also, do not drive or borrow cars. Laws for driving are different in Australia, and they drive on the other side of the road. There are a number of ways for you to get places without having to drive.

Wildlife in Australia:

Most everyone hears that Australia is home to the most poisonous snakes and spiders. While Australia does have these, the probability of encountering them is slim. The best prevention is to not engage with any species you do not know how to comfortably handle. This goes with koalas and kangaroos. While they are fluffy and seem harmless, they can cause damage to your body.

Natural Disasters in Australia

Australia has also seen an increase in wildfires due to drying conditions on the coasts. Should any wildfires develop in or around the Perth area, the international office would be in touch regarding places to avoid. Never knowingly go into a wildfire area.

Australia has experienced some intense droughts in the past few years. Due to this, you may notice that it is dry. You will want to be aware of how much water you are using. Australia is a large island and when droughts occur, that greatly impacts the water levels. Try to limit your showers and shut off water when not using it.

Australia also has cyclones and while most make landfall on the east coast, Perth has been known to have some as well. Cyclones consist of heavy rains, strong wind and large storm surges. The destruction of a cyclone can be like a tornado or hurricane, but it will depend on the size/intensity of the cyclone. Most often, when a cyclone hits, it amounts to a lot of rain and wind. Should a cyclone take form when you are in Australia, follow the instructions from the Murdoch staff and local meteorologists. It is recommended you don't make any travel or camping plans when a cyclone is happening.

Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the Safety Abroad section of the *Study Abroad Handbook*, and Murdoch has an international staff who are available for consultation if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at Orientation 2; be sure to keep it in your wallet. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

911 Equivalent in Australia

If you are in an emergency situation in Australia,

you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line **in Australia is 000 from landline (112 on cell phone)**. We suggest you save this number in your cell phone in case you need it to use it quickly.

The U.S. State Department also provides a list of [911 numbers abroad](#). Please note that in some countries there are different numbers for fire, police, and ambulance. Plan ahead and research numbers before you go.

Marijuana and other Illegal Drugs

Note that marijuana is illegal in Australia.

People may be more open about it, but the **possession and use of marijuana is illegal**. Even carrying it on your person can be considered drug trafficking. U.S. citizenship offers no protection if you break an Australian law. There is NOTHING the CIE, your host organization, or the U.S. government can do if you are found in violation of Australian laws.

In addition to legal penalties, you are putting yourself at risk of robbery or assault, or you may get a much more dangerous combination of drugs than you thought you were buying.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport information is included in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the CIE for more information about the following topics.

Visa

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. It is your responsibility to apply for

and receive the appropriate visa for study in Australia, before you depart.

Please see the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook for an overview of the visa/immigration process, as well as the visa Learning Content in your BlugoldsAbroad account for more information about what documents you should bring with you for immigration. If there isn't a visa document posted at this time, that means it is too early to apply. You will be notified when it is ready.

If you have family or friends who wish to visit you when you are abroad, they will need to research to see if they need a tourist visa for travel to Australia (hint, they do!).

Visas for Travel to Other Countries

If you plan to travel outside your host country while abroad, you should verify visa requirements for each country you will visit by contacting the nearest consulate for that country, or your travel agency. New Zealand now required a tourist visa.

PACKING TIPS

There is general packing information in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#), and you will get a suggested packing list for Australia at Orientation 2. In addition, you should know the following:

Weather

Perth has a Mediterranean climate that offers mild winters and warm summers. November to April is warm, hot, and dry with temperatures ranging from 20-35C (77-95F). It is Australia's sunniest city, so you can expect a lot of clear skies! May to October is cool-cold and wet with temperatures of 7-19C (44-66F).

If you are arriving to Australia in June, it will be cooler and warm up by the end of your program. "Winter" is never going to be as harsh as in Wisconsin, but when you are in a warm climate, you'll be surprised at what "cold" starts to mean to you and others.

Clothing

Students in Australia dress casually, jeans, casual pants, shorts, casual dresses, casual shirts, or t-shirts. You will notice a style difference as Australia is ahead of American in terms of styles. Students do not wear hoodies/sweatpants/loungewear to class – expect Aussie students to be more put together. The International Office suggests you also bring a sweatshirt/long pants, one or two dressy outfits, sweaters, hiking boots or good shoes, and a raincoat or umbrella. A fall-weight jacket is recommended.

Take clothing that is machine washable and does not wrinkle easily. Bring garments that can be worn interchangeably and which you can layer. Past students suggest choosing a color scheme and bringing mix-and-match clothing. Dark colors show dirt less quickly.

Your peer advisor will give you a packing list at the second orientation later in the semester prior to departure.

If you choose to go on the Northwest trip, packing can be tricky. Whatever you take with you, expect it to get dirty with the Outback red dirt and never look clean again!

Pack what you would need for only a few days and then re-wear everything; no one will judge you!! They will all be doing it too!!

The packing list your peer advisor gives you at the second orientation will have a list of items

suggested for the Northwest trip. It isn't necessary to buy/pack all the items on that list but if you have them, you can bring them. There is a Kmart about a 15-minute walk away if you need to purchase any items in Australia. Also, if you bring old clothing/shoes, you can discard them after the program, which will leave room in your suitcase.

Converters & Adapters

The standard electric current in Australia is 240 volts, different from the U.S., and Australian outlets require a different shape of plug.

If you plan to bring a hair dryer, razor or other appliance from the US, you will need to **buy both a voltage converter and a plug adapter**. Another option is to buy the appliances after you arrive. (It is not recommended to bring these to Australia. Past students have mentioned how their hair straighteners or dryers have over heated or stopped working).

If you plan to bring your laptop abroad, check the power cord to see acceptable voltage inputs and outputs. If it includes 240 volts, you will only need to use a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

If you have several US appliances you plan to use abroad, consider bringing a power strip, also. You will still need to have a voltage converter in order to plug it into the wall. Or again, purchase a power strip when you arrive and have several adapters to use.

Do Not Bring

Do not bring expensive cell phones, jewelry, or other luxury items that can be lost or stolen. If you do decide to bring items that are expensive to replace, you may want to consider personal property insurance for your time in Australia.

GETTING TO AUSTRALIA

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#)

Travel Arrangements

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Perth. There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Study Abroad Handbook.

In past semesters, some students have chosen to travel to Fiji or other places prior to the beginning of the program. **If you choose to do this, please make clear to your parents and other interested parties that this is not an official part of the program and is not organized or overseen by the CIE.** Make sure you leave your itinerary, a copy of your ticket, the name, phone and fax number of where you will be staying prior to arriving at Murdoch with someone at home.

Buying a Changeable Ticket

The exam schedule at Murdoch will cover a few weeks and we advise you book your flight for the last possible day. You should not purchase your ticket for an earlier date and expect to take your finals before then. Murdoch will not accommodate early test taking. You won't find out your exam schedule until after you arrive to Murdoch.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that you buy a roundtrip ticket with a low change fee in the event you determine that all of your finals will be held before your expected departure and you want to return home earlier (not required). Note that trip insurance does not cover flight changes if you buy a non-changeable, non-refundable ticket

Getting to Perth

You are responsible for finding your way to Murdoch University. Murdoch provides information on how to get from the Perth airport to campus in their Pre-Departure Guide and on their website:

<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/study/international-students/arrival-in-perth/airport-pickups>

The Murdoch Student Guild (like our student government) offers a free airport pick up service to new international students. The service is year round and will transport new international students to their accommodations. You will need to register for the service at the link above, at least 5 days BEFORE arriving.

Perth Airport is directly east of Perth city. Murdoch University is approximately 15 miles south of the airport. It can take about 45 minutes by car, depending on traffic, to transit to campus from the airport. If you don't do the free airport pick-up, you can take a taxi or public transportation to your accommodations (the link above talks through those options). Regardless of which transit option you choose, Murdoch recommends you have at least \$100 AUD in cash on hand in case of an emergency.

Early, Late or Delayed Arrival

At Orientation 2, you will discuss a back-up arrival plan in case your flight is delayed, and you will be arriving outside of check-in hours.

If you are arriving in the middle of the night, you should plan to stay in a hotel.

Immigration & Customs

It is important to keep in mind that when you enter Australia for the first time, you will go through immigration and customs. At this time, you cannot bring in ANY fruit or vegetables. Australia is VERY tedious about this. Be sure to throw away any of these foods away before you board your flight into Australia.

SETTLING IN

Orientation

Upon arrival, you will have a required one-day session for study abroad students called "Living in Perth." You will also have a week-long orientation that includes an introduction to the International Office staff, the facilities, registration procedures, support and counseling services, safety, the Australian educational system, and the city of Perth. In the evenings, there will be barbeques and plenty of social activities, so you can meet the other international students and some local students.

On-Site Support

The Murdoch international office will be your main point of contact. Nic or Carol will most likely be the people you engage with most. Their contact information is on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

Local Transportation

Public transportation is easy to navigate around Fremantle and Perth. Taking buses to get to the beach, stores, restaurants, etc. will become the norm for you. At orientation, in Perth, they will talk about bus access.

Student Clubs & Organizations

Murdoch University has a vast number of student clubs you can join; dues are generally very low. During "O" week, Murdoch will have an involvement fair, where you can learn more about all the different organizations on campus. There are sporting, cultural, and intellectual activities, as well as social activities affiliated with the Guild. Check them out here:

<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/index/studorg>

You can also join various sports teams through Murdoch's athletics. There are organizations like

intramurals, and there are tennis and basketball courts on campus and racquetball rooms you can rent. There is also a gym on campus you can join.

Activities/Events on Campus

Student Guild: All students can become members of the [Murdoch University Student Guild](#). The Guild provides several services and activities on campus, either free or at discount prices. Examples include equipment rental, coffee, bus tickets, photo developing, and Murdoch clothes. They host events and activities where you can meet a lot of local and other international students. They also have mentoring services and can direct you to any office that you need assistance from. They also offer discounts on everything from food to shoes. You will learn more about joining the Guild during "O" week in Murdoch.

Intramurals: Murdoch has many social sports (including netball, ping pong, water polo and more) just like the intramurals we have at UW-Eau Claire! No experience is required!

Sports Center: Murdoch has a Sports Centre on campus that you can join. They offer personal trainers, sport courts, group fitness classes, etc.

Volunteer

Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved in the local community and make meaningful relationships.

Hosting a volunteer requires time on the part of the organization to plan projects for and supervise that volunteer, so please take your commitment seriously. Otherwise, community partners may not be willing to host volunteers in the future. Also, volunteering requires you to take initiative. The more you are willing to invest in the experience the more rewarding it will be!

The Student Guild has volunteering opportunities so if that interests you, you should connect with them early in the semester.

HOUSING

Living Situation

You are responsible for applying for housing on-line through Murdoch Student Village. If you apply in a timely manner, there should be no problem getting on-campus housing. You will be notified via email when you should apply. Your chances of securing university housing are highest if you complete the application promptly and accurately.

After you have successfully completed your application, you will be given an application number and password. Hold on to these! They will allow you to check on the progress of your application.

Places at the Village will be confirmed on a rolling basis. Confirmations will be sent beginning in late April for fall and in late October for spring. Once positions have been finalized, you will be contacted via email from the Village and informed of the result of your request for residency. **You will need to scan and e-mail back your required forms. Scanners for student use are available in the library.** It is recommended that you only scan back the forms where you wrote in information. Sometimes scanning all pages will make the email too large and it won't send.

Please note that housing contracts may vary, depending upon the type of housing you receive.

All questions concerning your Murdoch housing assignment should be sent to the Student Village contact person identified in the email you receive from them. Feel free to copy Study Abroad Coordinator Jenna Krosch (kroschjm@uwec.edu) on your communication;

however, the answers will come from Murdoch directly.

You will receive your exact housing dates and contract from Murdoch University Village.

It is very important that you contact Murdoch Village to let them know when you will be arriving as this is for check-in purposes. Again, the point of contact will be the person who emails you regarding housing.

Roommates: You will live with local and other international students. All living situations are co-ed. In session one, there is a strong chance that you will be placed with other Americans, maybe even another UWEC students (but rare). This is because so many Americans are studying there during session I.

If you are studying in session II, the chances of being with other Americans/UWEC students is lower as there are less students who participate on this program.

What to expect: Flats are arranged in four-to-eight-bedroom units. Each unit shares a kitchen, lounge, and bathroom. If you are on the ground level, you will probably have a little patio area, and if you are on the 2nd level, you will have a balcony. Coin-operated laundry facilities are in the Village. Some of the residences also have recreational areas.

There is a newer village (North) and an older village (South). The old village is no older than the residence halls at UW-Eau Claire and has received updates over the years.

Both villages have access to a pool, outdoor BBQ with grills, study rooms, basketball/volleyball courts, movie room, pool tables, etc.

The village will also plan a variety of gatherings and short trips. These are all optional but are very affordable and a good way to meet other students and see the area.

For a better picture of what the flats look like, what amenities are in each, etc., you can visit Murdoch's University Village Website at <http://www.murdochuv.com.au/>.

Living in a Sub-Tropical Region

You are going to a sub-tropical region. Walls are thinner (they don't need insulation), and insects are larger (they live year-round!) than they are in the Midwest. Cockroaches are common, as are other large insects. In addition, snakes are also present. This part of life often requires some adjustment for students from colder climates! On a similar note, **walls in Australia are generally not insulated, and it will get cold** (relatively speaking) at night in the winter.

What's Provided?

Murdoch University Village is fully furnished with tables, chairs, lounge chairs, fridge, freezer, microwave oven, and equipped with basic cooking utensils. A bed, mattress, cupboard, desk, and chair are also provided in bedrooms.

Students offered places at the Murdoch University Village must provide their own personal cooking items, dishes, silverware, blankets and bed linens. These items are easily purchased upon arrival or you can purchase a linen/kitchen pack prior to your arrival. The linen/kitchen packs are an additional cost. It is also possible that your Australian roommate may have many of the utensils you will need, so you will want to have a conversation about what they are okay sharing with you. Irons and desk lamps are not provided by the University, and students will need to supply their own. Because of safety concerns, electrical equipment

must be approved by the Buildings Supervisor before use.

When you arrive at Murdoch, you will want to find your way to the local Kmart, about a 15-minute walk away. Here you can find all the essentials that you forgot to pack. You can also purchase linens for an affordable rate. Murdoch suggests you buy the bare minimum at first, until your Australian roommates arrive, and you see what they may be willing to share! Some students have suggested using your sleeping bag as a comforter rather than buying one in Australia.

Meals & Snacks

University housing is self-catering, meaning that **you buy and cook your own food**. When grocery shopping, remember that if you buy deli meats, cheeses, or fruit, you are buying in kilos, not pounds!

Students sharing a kitchen may also get into the habit of cooking together. Bring some of your favorite U.S. recipes to share. You may need to help provide silverware, dishes, and basic kitchen utensils. Again, wait until your roommates arrive before purchasing major items.

When you are tired of cooking, there are a few places open in the campus plaza area for all three meals. And of course, Fremantle and Perth have restaurants! But the most cost-effective way to eat will be to go to a grocery store in town and cook in your flat.

Internet Access

You have the option to have internet within your accommodations but it is an added expense. Campus will have computers that you can also use. Murdoch Village will provide more information upon arrival.

COMMUNICATION

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer app-based phone services (SKYPE, What's App, Facetime, etc) is in the [Contacts & Communication section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Time Difference

Perth is 13 hours ahead of Eau Claire until daylight savings time. Western Australia does not observe daylight savings. When it is 2:00 p.m. on Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 3:00 a.m. on Friday in Perth from February-April.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/australia/lismore>

Email/Internet Access

Murdoch University Village offers wireless Internet. You select how much data you would like to purchase per month. You will get more information about how to purchase Internet when you first arrive at the Student Village. This internet can be used all around the Village and on campus from your own computer; **keep in mind that you are paying for what you use.**

It is good to bring a computer so that you can do homework and connect with people online while you are in your room at the student village. There are some desktop computers available in the study rooms located throughout the village, and there are many in the library on campus. You could always use these to do your homework and surf the web, but you would not be able to Skype on these computers.

Murdoch University has free Wi-Fi on campus for all students. The IT Service Desk in the Library can help you set this up.

Cell Phone Information

There are no landlines offered in the student village, so it is recommended that you get a cell phone or bring one with you. If you bring a phone from the U.S., **be sure to have it unlocked by your U.S. carrier** and then you can buy an Australian SIM card to put into your phone so that you can make calls and texts in Australia. You will have to do this in order for your phone to work in Australia. Without a SIM card from Australia, your data will not work and you will not be able to use any of the features on your phone that require data. This means that any free international messaging apps that you could download to use on your phone will not work without the Australian SIM card. With the SIM card, you will have to purchase a phone plan or use a pay-as-you-go plan to pay for data, calling and texting.

You can also buy an Australian or international phone once you get there. You can also purchase a phone plan or just use a pay-as-you-go plan. These are usually for sale during orientation week on campus, if you decide to buy a phone or SIM card.

A SIM card costs between \$15 and \$30 depending on the company you purchase it from. If you decide to buy a pre-paid smartphone it could cost between \$100 and \$200. A simpler pre-paid phone would be more like \$50. To purchase a plan for either your SIM card or your new phone would cost between \$50 and \$90. A popular phone company in Australia is Telstra. You can look at their website for more information, or you can look up other phone companies.

Incoming calls for most carriers are free, but your family/friends pay the more expensive rates to Australia. And outgoing calls on cell phones are quite expensive.

Calling from the U.S.

To call someone in Australia, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 61, the country code for Australia, and the rest of the number. (The area code for Western Australia is 8). If you are in Australia you will dial 02, if you are outside of Australia you will dial 2.)

Courteous Communication

If Skyping/Facetiming/using other communication apps in your room, use headphones, close the door to your room, speak softly, and be mindful of the time.

Snail Mail

International airmail takes 10-14 days to cross the Pacific in either direction. Anything sent to/from you will go through customs so don't send valuables or illegal items.

TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional information in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.](#)

Organized Travel

During orientation at Murdoch University, you'll learn about optional travel organized through the Murdoch International Office. The Northwest Excursion is offered twice a semester (usually during the first two breaks). This is an optional, subsidized 10-day camping expedition in remote Western Australia and in 2019 it was only \$910 AUD. You will sign up and pay Murdoch directly after you arrive. The fee includes accommodations, transportation, and food. The trip itself covers 2500 miles, and students meet dolphins, visit Ningaloo Reef, Monkey Mia, and hiking in the Karijini National Park. Check out a fun video from 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMJBA9xiLBQ&feature=youtu.be>

Past participants report that you can rent sleeping bags from Murdoch for the trip, and the university provided two to three person tents free of charge. They also warn that everything you take on the trip will come back covered in "Outback dirt," which is very red and very hard to wash out. So, leave the new shoes and clothes behind!

The international office also hosts a 3-day Southwest trip, a Pinnacles Desert day trip, and other day trips to a variety of places in and around Perth. All these trips are optional and will be paid directly to Murdoch University.

The international student organization also organizes many weekend trips and activities for students. There is no shortage of events going on.

Air & Bus Travel

Planes: Australia is a big country. If time is an issue, you will probably want to investigate flying for some of your travel.

Perth is an international city and you will be able to find flights to all over Australia and the surrounding South Pacific. Budget airlines such as JetStar and Virgin can also be found, but be careful of any budget airlines hidden fees.

Restrictions on luggage is also different in Australia. Be sure to check the airline's website to see how many bags you can carry on and what the weight limits are. Past students have had many issues when they arrive at the airport and learn that their bag is too heavy or too big (when it wasn't in the U.S.).

Buses: There are a number of bus lines that will take you around in Australia.

Coach (long distance bus) companies, the Oz Experience, Greyhound and Kiwi Experience, run between major cities in Australia and New Zealand and stop at hostels ("backpacker accommodations"). Some coaches allow you to buy a ticket and hop-on/hop-off in various places along the route. The hostels also have lists of current events in the area you're visiting.

Personal Travel Costs

These costs vary greatly! It depends on your budget and your priorities. Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others who travel every weekend have with correspondingly higher costs and fewer close connections in their new home.

Past participants who responded to our money survey spent between \$1,000 and \$7,000 on personal travel. To give you an idea of what you can do:

\$1,000: "I spent six long weekends in various places in Australia, staying in hostels. I usually took the bus; once I flew."

\$3,000: "I went to New Zealand, Cairns, Whitsunday Islands, Surfers Paradise and Sydney. I flew the longer distances, otherwise took bus or train, and stayed in hostels."

\$7,000: "I traveled most weekends and both breaks. I went lots of places in Australia (Brisbane, Byron Bay [lots of times], Cairns, Surfers Paradise, Sydney, Whitsunday Islands. I also went to New Zealand and Thailand (after the semester ended). I went by air, bus or train, depending on the distance, and stayed in hostels."

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Murdoch</i></p> <p>Ms. Carol Ghandour Regional Manager – U.S. and the Americas c.ghandour@murdoch.edu.au P + 61 8 9360 7624</p> <p>Nicolas Castagnette Inbound Student Mobility Officer n.castagnette@murdoch.edu.au or studyabroad@murdoch.edu.au Office +61 8 9360 6777</p> <p>Murdoch International Murdoch University 90 South Street Murdoch WA 6150 Australia</p> <p>After Hours International Student Assistance Line 1 800 769 076</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>U.S. Consulate in Perth</i></p> <p>Consulate General, United States 4th Floor 16 St. George's Terrace Perth, WA 6000 (inside Australia): (08) 6144- 5100 fax (08) 9231-9444 https://au.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/perth/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>UW-Eau Claire</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">After Hours Emergency (715)577-9045</p> <p>Remember that in most cases, local contacts are best in local emergency situations.</p> <p>If you have an after-hours emergency that can be helped on the U.S. side, please call University Police at the number above. Calls can be made to this number 24 hours a day.</p> <p>You may get an answering machine; however, an officer is alerted as soon as you have left your message. Be sure to give the officer the phone number you can be reached at, as well as what type of assistance you require.</p>
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WEB INFORMATION: PERTH

City

Lonely Planet, Perth: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/australia/western-australia/perth>

Fremantle: <http://www.fremantlewesternaustralia.com.au>

Experience Perth: <http://www.experienceperth.com/destinations/fremantle>

Australian Tourism: Perth: <http://www.australia.com/en/places/perth.html>

Culture

Australian Culture: <http://www.australia.com/en-us/things-to-do/art-music-culture.html>

Australian Etiquette: <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/guides/guide-to-australia-etiquette-customs-culture-business/>

Country

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/as.html>

Bus Tour: <https://www.ozexperience.com/>

Australian Government: <http://www.australia.gov.au>

When past participants of the Perth program were asked to sum up their experience, here is what they said:

I wish I would have known groceries/eating out tends to be a bit more expensive than back home.

A lot more out of class work than what I was used to.

Expect the unexpected. But most importantly, be open to what can happen. Keep a strong mind and have fun!

I wish I knew how much free time I actually would have because sometimes I feel like I am wasting time sitting around and not doing anything.

Harder grading.

The time difference had made it much more difficult to stay in touch with family than I expected. I also had to adjust to having a class once a week. It is difficult to stay focused when you only have classes three days a week.

The language slang – different but fun once you know it.

Not having an income for 4 months is difficult, I found myself stressing about money often.

Travel in groups – it makes it easier booking hostels but also provides comfort knowing you're with others you trust.

It was an amazing experience, great way to meet welcoming and fun people, experience a different culture and travel the world!

It was an amazing experience, great way to meet really welcoming and fun people, experience a different culture and travel the world!

Traveling around Australia was amazing but honestly just spending time with people of all diverse cultures was by far the best part, whether they were from Canada, Sweden, England, or local Aussies.

Living in Australia has been one of the best experiences of my life. Learning in a new environment, making international friends, and exploring the country has been amazing.



Updated: 11/2019 jmk