

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



PERTH, AUSTRALIA
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CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire study abroad program with Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. Living and studying in a foreign 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! This program guide is to be used together with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Perth study abroad program. It is designed to complement the handbook, study abroad orientation, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that, although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of printing, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer adviser will email additional information throughout the semester. Please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, your peer adviser, and past program participants with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of student travelers include advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.

2) Given the way the program is set up; how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Australian culture, yet you are going with a group of UW-Eau Claire students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other U.S. Americans?

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Program

In this program, UW-Eau Claire participants become regular students at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. UW-Eau Claire students enroll directly in classes with Australian students, are taught by Murdoch University instructors, and live in University housing near the campus.

The Location

Perth is the capital of Western Australia with a population of 1.67 million. Perth has more hours of sunshine than any other Australian city and enjoys an outdoor life-style. There are more than 50 kilometers of white sandy beaches in Perth. The port city of Fremantle is only 10 minutes away and offers a culturally diverse area filled with restaurants, shops and access to beaches. Murdoch University is located 20 minutes away from downtown Perth.

The University

Murdoch University was established in 1973 as a research university. It enrolls 12,000 students in a variety of faculties (schools), including biomedical sciences, business, education, health sciences, humanities, information technology, law, and social sciences. There are many university support services available to you at Murdoch.

Program Calendar

Being in the Southern Hemisphere, Murdoch University runs on an opposite academic calendar from U.S. institutions.

Tentative dates for Fall 2018 semester:

Depart US	July 15
Arrival Date (first day to move-in)	July 17

Orientation Week	July 23-27
Teaching Begins	July 30
Study Break #1	August 27-31
Study Break #2	September 24-28
Study Break #3	November 5-9
Final Exams	November 10-24
First day to depart	After last final
Last day to depart	Late November (finalized when booking housing)

***These are arrival and departure dates recommended by the Murdoch International Office. Exact housing contract dates have not been finalized at the time of printing, so this may change slightly. Please don't book airfare until Murdoch has finalized the move-in dates.** If you move-in the earliest you can, please note that you will be more independent and won't have as much support until closer to orientation week. All students need to arrive prior to orientation week. Late - November is when your housing contract ends and you must be moved out by the date listed in your housing contract.

Please note that "study breaks" are intended as breaks from scheduled classes in order to have more time to study. **It is strongly recommended that you use the study breaks to study, especially the one before final exams, rather than travel.**

You may finish earlier than the exam ending date, depending on your exam schedule. However, you will not know when you will finish until examination schedules are posted, which is about six weeks before the end of the term. **You cannot change the time of your final exams and will not be allowed to take exams early.** Therefore, if you want to give yourself the option of leaving earlier if your

exams are done earlier, be sure to get a plane ticket with a low change fee.

ACADEMICS

There is additional information on academic topics such as eligibility, registration, class attendance, credits and course load, petitioning course equivalencies, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Pre-departure Academic Planning

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/>

Course Equivalencies

You were given information on how to access the transfer wizard at UW-Eau Claire that lists of specific Murdoch University courses that have transferred back to UW-Eau Claire. This information can be found in the Learning Content section of your study abroad account. If a course appears, it has already been reviewed by the appropriate UW-Eau Claire department chair, and the equivalency listed is what you will receive upon successful completion of the course. (Please note that catalog changes at either university may change a previously established equivalency. Examples of such changes would be a change

in course title, number or description, dropping a course at one institution, etc.)

Please keep in mind that this is a historical record of past course equivalencies. There is no guarantee that the same courses will be offered in the future, or that they will be offered during the term in which you are abroad.

Course equivalencies for any Murdoch University units not yet evaluated by UW-Eau Claire will be done AFTER your actual registration in Perth. This saves the Registrar's Office and department chairs hours of evaluating courses that no one actually takes. Please note that you cannot assume that a course you are taking will transfer back in the way you want it to just because you think the course description sounds similar to that of a course taught at UW-Eau Claire. All course equivalency decisions are made by UW-Eau Claire department chairs and are not official until the Registrar's Office receives the equivalency, with the chair's signature on it.

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 in order to take a course without the prerequisites, even if the Murdoch University course does not have prerequisites.

Reporting your Registration

As soon as you are registered for classes at Murdoch, **log in to your UW-Eau Claire online study abroad account and complete the Course Descriptions questionnaire.** You will find it at

<http://www.uwec.edu/cie/studyabroad>.

Choose LOGIN from the top toolbar and log in with your UW-Eau Claire username and password.

You will need the:

- course title
- course number
- description (just cut-and-paste from the on-line catalog)
- number of credits

If no UW-Eau Claire equivalency has previously been determined for a class that you registered for, Study Abroad Coordinator Jenna Krosch will contact the Registrar's Office for an equivalency and let you know what it is.

Again, the chair of the appropriate department determines equivalencies, and the process of determining an equivalency can take three to four weeks. Because of the time involved, department chairs will only evaluate courses students are actually taking abroad. In other words, you will not be able to have equivalencies established for three to four

courses so that you can choose which one you wish to take.

Class Attendance

You are **required** to take your final exam at the time and day of the exam (just as you are at UW-Eau Claire). **You will often not find out the day/time of your final until six to seven weeks before finals week. Do NOT ask your lecturer or the International Office if you can take your exam early.** This is a policy in Australia as well as a visa requirement, and you, along with all other students, are REQUIRED to follow it.

Credits and Course Load

At Murdoch University, your credits are called **points** and your classes are called **units**. You can take 3, 3.75, or 4 point units. The following is the conversion scale of Australian points to U.S. credits:

3 points = 4 credits

3.75 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).

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.

Grades

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

note that different Murdoch University "marks" are given, depending upon the school in which you study. This explains the two or three different words/phrases for each grade.

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

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

Transcripts & Credit Transfer

If you are attending semester two (our fall semester), you will be able to see your grades on-line from Murdoch long before they will be posted at UW-Eau Claire. **Murdoch semester two transcripts typically arrive in Eau Claire in late December** and will be posted to your UW-Eau Claire transcript in January. Semester one (our spring semester) grades typically arrive in early August.

If you are a senior and are studying abroad for your last UW-Eau Claire spring semester, please note that the different timelines in grade reporting will require you to delay your

graduation until August. Seniors planning a December graduation after studying at Murdoch July-November do not generally have a problem unless there are unusual issues with their transcript at Murdoch (for example, a hold due to fees not paid, etc.).

Australian Academic Vocabulary

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

Academics in Perth

Independent Learning: Past participants have noted that 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. There is help from lecturers outside of class, but students should be ready to figure things out on their own using the texts, class lectures, and outside reading. This being said, most lecturers are very willing to answer questions if asked. But you will need to take the first step.

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.

Teaching Outline: Murdoch University semesters include 13 teaching weeks and a three to four-week assessment period. At the beginning of the course, you'll receive a "course outline," somewhat similar to a syllabus. It will have an overview of the course 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.

Contacting Faculty: Find out at the beginning of the semester when you can contact your lecturer or tutor for any questions you may have outside of class. 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. Some lecturers may be willing to look at your work before the final draft is due and give you suggestions.

Graded Work: Typical assessment items (work that is graded) are essays, 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 course outlines in Australia may not be as detailed as the syllabi at UW-Eau Claire.

Types of Classes: Classes include lectures with tutorials, labs, and field study. Lectures may be large, and could have from 25-100 students. They generally meet once a week. Students from the lecture are then divided into smaller tutorial groups, which meet one to two times a week, for one to three hours per tutorial. There

are generally a total of three to four hours of lecture/tutorial/lab per week in each 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. Attendance of tutorials is often part of a course grade, and some tutors may require attendance at a certain number of tutorials to pass the unit. 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.

Late Work: 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 or tutor. If you are sick and therefore miss turning in an assignment or an exam, you must have a doctor's certificate.

Final Grades: You need to be self-motivated, as there is little of the "checking up" which is built into the U.S. system. Do not expect to receive daily homework! **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.

Academic Assistance: 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. If s/he is unable/unwilling to assist.

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**.

4) If you have tried all of these avenues and are still having trouble, **contact the International Office** for further assistance/suggestions.

Tall Poppy Syndrome

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. Ok...so what does that really mean? Basically, Australians are very hard workers, but they will never admit it. They will NEVER discuss things like GPA, 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 US. This is another part of Tall Poppy Syndrome. They

don't want to appear to know or not know as much as the others.

An important thing to remember is you will probably never see an Australian studying, but they study A LOT. However, you'll never hear an Aussie discuss how much they study, and if you do see one studying and you comment on it, he/she'll probably deny it.

MONEY MATTERS

Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the UW-Eau Claire withdrawal/refund deadlines, as well as financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad, is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Cost Estimate

You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the [CIE Perth webpage](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to Murdoch, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

Personal Travel Costs

This varies greatly and 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 travel every weekend 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 for different amounts:

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

\$3,000: *I went to New Zealand, Cairns, Whitsunday Island, 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, 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.*

Currency Exchange

The exchange rate as of December 2017 was \$1 AUD = \$.75894 US. You can find current exchange rates at <http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>. When looking at the costs listed above, be sure to convert those listed in Australian dollars to U.S. dollars! All costs are estimated and may change due to exchange rate fluctuations.

Work Information

International student visas now include limited work rights. Talk with the Murdoch International staff about finding a job if you are interested. Note that it is more difficult to find "casual" (part-time) employment in Australia. However, past students report that some on-campus jobs are available, and some students have worked in Fremantle.

Murdoch Refund Policy

Total Refund: If the University withdraws the offer of a place or is unable to provide the program, all tuition fees are fully refundable.

Partial Refund:

- When a student gives notice of withdrawal, more than ten weeks before commencement of the semester, all tuition fees paid in advance are refundable except an administrative fee of \$500 AUD.
- When a student gives notice of withdrawal less than ten weeks before commencement of the semester, all tuition fees paid in advance are refundable except an administrative fee of \$1000 AUD.
- A student who withdraws from the University after commencement of the semester but before March 31 in Semester 1 (spring), or August 31 in semester 2 (fall), shall be eligible for a refund of the tuition fee paid in advance, except 50% of the tuition fee paid for the semester in which they withdraw.

No Refund: A student who withdraws from the University after March 31 in Semester 1 (spring), or August 31 in semester 2 (fall), shall not be eligible for a refund of any tuition fees paid for the relevant semester.

MONEY ABROAD

In addition to the information in the Study Abroad Handbook, past participants report the following about Australia.

Bank Account

You are not required to open a bank account, but if you're interested, information on opening an account in Perth will be provided during orientation at Murdoch. Some of the common banks are ANZ, Commonwealth, and BankWest. There is a BankWest branch and ATM and a credit union on campus.

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.

ATMs

There are two ATMs on campus that students can use to withdraw Australian dollars.

Be cautious when using ATMs to ensure your financial safety. If you notice anything suspicious when at an ATM, leave and find another one.

Talk with your bank and credit cards to see what their international transaction charges are. Some banks have high international fees, so you will want to limit the amount of times you withdraw cash.

Before your travel, make sure you notify your bank and credit cards companies of your itinerary. Also make a copy of all cards in the event one gets lost, stolen, or eaten by the ATM. You then have the information to call the company and cancel your card.

Traveler's Checks

Murdoch does not recommend that students bring traveler's checks. The preferred method of paying for things is credit or debit cards.

If you do decide to bring traveler's checks, note that 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.

Make sure you record your check numbers and keep the numbers separate from the checks, in case you need to get them replaced.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

On-Campus Medical & Mental Health Facilities

There is a full counseling staff on campus, as well as a nurse on campus five days/week. You also have access to a local medical service through the Health Service on campus. The university's counseling services are free to enrolled students to help them address personal issues that may affect their wellbeing and ability to study. For more information: <http://our.murdoch.edu.au/Student-life/Health-and-happiness/Your-health/Health-services/>

Overseas Student Health Cover

In addition to CISI insurance, students going to Australia have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). OSHC is required by the Australian government for all international students in Australia 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 your student visa.)

Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook and Murdoch University staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at

all times. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

Safety 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 driving.

Note that marijuana is illegal in Australia.

People may be more open about it, but it is still illegal. Safety in and around Perth will be discussed during orientation in Australia.

On-Campus Safety

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.

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.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Visa

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. The CIE will post basic information about the current visa options for U.S. citizens for study in Australia to the Learning Content section of your online study abroad account during the semester prior to departure. **However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for Australia, and if required, to apply for and receive a visa from an Australian consulate or embassy in**

a timely manner. Please read the “Visa” section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what you should do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

PACKING TIPS

In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should know the following about Australia.

Clothing/Weather

Perth offers mild winters and warm summers. November to April is warm, hot, and dry with temperatures ranging from 20-35C (77-95F). May to October is cool-cold and wet with temperatures of 7-19C (44-66F).

Students in Australia dress casually—jeans, casual pants, shorts, casual shirts, or t-shirts. However, past participants note that it is generally a “nicer” casual than in Eau Claire and suggest leaving really worn clothing at home. It’s rare that a Murdoch student would wear sweats to class.

The Murdoch University International Office suggests you also bring a few warm sweaters, a variety of footwear (including semi-formal shoes), a swimsuit, semiformal wear for outings, a raincoat, and a strong umbrella. Insulation in the walls is usually thin — on cooler nights you could get cold, so pack accordingly.

Good walking shoes and/or hiking boots are recommended, along with sandals and tennis shoes.

What to Pack

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

Appliances

The standard electric current in Australia is 240 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 110 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy **both a converter and a plug adapter**. You may also choose to buy the appliances in Australia. Past participants suggest buying converters and adapters in the United States; they are very difficult to find in Australia.

Northwest Trip

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.

GETTING TO AUSTRALIA

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.

Getting to Murdoch

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>

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. Regardless of which transit option you choose, Murdoch recommends you have at least \$100 AUD in cash on hand in case of an emergency.

Taxis:

Cost: It will cost you at least \$50 AUD to get from Perth airport to Murdoch University. It may cost up to \$75 AUD from the International Terminal.

Bookings: You do not need to pre-book, just look for a taxi line (also called a taxi rink) when you exit the terminal. There are taxi rinks at both the Domestic and International terminals.

Shuttle:

The Perth Airport Shuttle bus is called "CONNECT."

Cost: The Perth Airport Connect Shuttles will take you from the airport to Perth City for \$15 AUD and to Fremantle for \$33 AUD.

Bookings: You can pre-book, but be sure to do so at least 24 hours in advance. If you do not pre-book, Perth Airport Connect also has a kiosk desk just inside the Domestic terminal. You can also make bookings there. If this is unattended, you can go directly to a shuttle, but then you must have cash.

<http://www.perthairportconnect.com.au/bookings.html>

Public Transit:

Cost: It should cost you no more than \$10 AUD, but it will take up to two hours with multiple connections.

Bookings: There is no way to book. You need to map your journey in advance. Here is the simplest method (as described on Murdoch's website):

- If you are in the International terminal, you must take the Perth Airport shuttle to the Domestic terminal. Then exit the terminal and look for a Transperth (Perth's public bus system) bus. This is the #37 bus line. It will take you to downtown Perth City Centre.
- After you are in downtown Perth, make your way to the Perth main train station where you can take the Mandurah (orange color) train line south and exit at the Murdoch train station.
- From there, there are multiple buses running west along South Street to Murdoch University. Alternatively, this is a 25-30-minute walk.

- Go here to map your journey with Transperth:
<http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/Home/JourneyPlanner.aspx>

*This information was up-to-date at time of printing, but be sure to check Murdoch's Pre-Departure Guide for any transportation updates.

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.

HOUSING

Housing

You are responsible for applying for housing on-line through Murdoch Student Village. As long as 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.

Housing Notes

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.

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. This is a part of life that often requires some adjustment by students from colder climates.

Student Village

Each on-campus residence has a mix of Australian undergraduates and international

students in single or double rooms, arranged in four-to-eight bedroom units. All living situations are co-ed. 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 located in the Village. Some of the residences also have recreational areas.

There is a newer village (North) and an older village (South). Something to keep in mind is that the new village only has microwave ovens. 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, you can visit Murdoch's University Village Website at <http://www.murdochuv.com.au/>.

Comments from a past student: *"I lived with four or five other roommates from all over the world. That really was cool. However, they were pretty quiet and kept to themselves a lot so it was kind of intimidating. It is really all you make of it and how you approach them and have fun with them. We had a couple flat dinners so that helped."*

What's Provided for Your Room

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.

Other Campus Services

Aside from accommodations and academic facilities, Murdoch University also offers the following services: A Learning Assistance Unit, University Bookshop, banking facilities, sporting facilities, shopping facilities, and eateries.

FOOD

Self-Catering

All housing is self-catered, meaning that you cook your own food. Students sharing a kitchen may also get into the habit of cooking together. Bring some of your favorite American recipes to share. You may need to help provide silverware, dishes, and basic kitchen utensils. Again, wait until your roommates arrive before purchasing items.

Important note for students placed in the "new" Village: the kitchens DO NOT have ovens! Practice cooking on burners and in microwaves.

If you get tired of cooking, there are many local cafés and restaurants near campus and a short bus ride away in Fremantle. You may find yourself hanging out in Fremantle a lot as that tends to be where the most popular eateries and activities are.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Student Life

All students can become members of the Murdoch University Student Guild: <http://www.the-guild.com.au/> The Guild provides a number of services and activities on campus, either free or at discount prices. Examples include phone cards, coffee, bus tickets, photo developing, faxing service, and Murdoch clothes. They also offer discounts on everything from food to shoes. You will learn more about joining the Guild during "O" week in Murdoch.

Student Clubs

Murdoch University also 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 of 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 similar to 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.

Service-Learning

Past students have tutored elementary students at a local school and volunteered at a child care center once a week. There is a group called Students Without Borders that does many volunteer projects. You can find out more about them at <http://www.the-guild.com.au/>. Ask at the International Office if you are interested in pursuing a volunteer opportunity.

You can also check out this website, <http://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/>, for information about agencies looking for volunteers with a nifty search tool for length of time, location, and type of volunteer work.

Remember that if you want your volunteer work in Australia to fulfill your UW-Eau Claire service-learning requirement, you must get approval from the Center for Service Learning before beginning your assignment. Go to <http://www.uwec.edu/SL/> for the required forms.

COMMUNICATION

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and using Skype is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Time Difference

Perth is 14 hours ahead of Eau Claire until daylight savings time. After daylight savings in the United States (Western Australia does not observe daylight savings), it is 13 hours ahead of Eau Claire. When it is 1:00 p.m. on Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 3:00 a.m. on Friday in Perth from February-April. After daylight savings time, if it is 1:00 p.m. on Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 2 a.m. on Friday in Perth.

Telephone Information

From the U.S. to Australia: 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.)

You have several options for calling home from Australia. You may find it easiest and most economical to set up a specific time to call your parents or others.

Calling cards are not normally used anymore, but Skype and FaceTime are great ways of keeping in touch with people back home. In the Murdoch Student Village, you have to pay for your internet access by purchasing data, and Skype can use up a large amount of this data. There is free WiFi on campus, however, so you can always Skype someone on-campus.

Cell Phones

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 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 actually quite expensive.

If you decide to NOT get an Australian SIM card but still want to use your smartphone, you can put it into “airplane mode” which turns off the data and roaming features. If you then turn on your Wi-Fi, anytime you have Wi-Fi access, you will be able to use any applications that only require Wi-Fi. Just be careful to keep your phone in airplane mode because if you turn that off, then your phone can accept and make text messages and phone calls and then that will skyrocket your phone bill. Again, always check with your U.S. carrier to make sure your phone is capable of this. Any data or roaming fees are ultimately your responsibility.

Computer Access/Email

Murdoch University Village uses a company called BigAir as their Internet provider. It is 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. Free Wi-Fi in public areas is still new to Perth so not all stores/restaurants have it.

Snail Mail

International airmail takes 7-10 days to cross the Pacific in either direction.

Packages may take longer to receive and do not be surprised if they have been opened by customs.

CULTURAL NOTES

A Brief History of Australia

The first inhabitants of Australia were the Aborigines. At the time of European settlement, there were 500,000 to 1 million Aborigines living in Australia. Today, there are about 350,000.

In 1770, Captain James Cook of Great Britain claimed possession of the land and called it New South Wales. In 1788, a British penal colony was set up in what is now Sydney. Australia Day, on January 26, is the official national day of Australia, which commemorates this event. Australia Day is an official public holiday in all states and territories of Australia. Between 1788 and 1839, about 160,000 English convicts were re-settled in Australia. The convicts, along with free settlers, formed six colonies: New South Wales (1786), Tasmania (1825), Western Australia (1829), South Australia (1834), Victoria (1851), and Queensland (1859). The colonies then became states and in 1901, they federated in the Commonwealth of Australia with a constitution. Australia became known for its liberal legislation. The capital of Australia is Canberra.

<http://www.infoplease.com/country/australia.html>

Australian Government

The Prime Minister is Malcolm Turnbull, appointed in 2015. The position of prime minister is the most powerful position in the Australian government, similar to our president. However, the prime minister is not elected but appointed by the governor-general.

Like the United States, Australia is a federation and the power is divided between a central government and the state governments.
<http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/our-government>

Australian Population

The estimated 2016 population for Australia is approximately 24.13 million people.

The 2013 estimated ethnic make-up of Australia is 92% white, 7% Asian, and 1% Aboriginal and other. Thus, English is Australia's most common language, followed by Chinese. There are also various Aboriginal languages in Australia.

Australian Cultural Basics

Australians are generally informal and greetings are generally casual. A smile and sometimes a handshake are all that is necessary. Because Australians value modesty and "being yourself," it is not necessary to use Australian vocabulary when meeting an Australian. Although an Australian may greet you with "G'day!" it is perfectly okay for a visitor to the country to say "Hi" or "Hello!"

Australians may be very laid back and relaxed, but they place a high value on being timely and responsible. If you have a meeting or something set up with someone, be sure to be on time!

Eye contact during conversation is preferred by most Australians. There is not a big sense of "personal bubble" or personal space with Australians; it is generally similar to in the United States and can vary by individual.

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/australia.html>

TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional travel information in 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, which cost \$875 AUD in 2016. 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.

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 of 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.

Planes, Trains & Buses

You will have all of these options when traveling down under. Australia is a **BIG** country. Past students suggest that you ask your U.S. travel agent about "boomerang" passes or "02" passes, which allow you to fly to several cities as long as you return to the original city at the end. Prices are reasonable, but the passes can only be purchased outside Australia. Check with a local travel agency for more information.

Restrictions on luggage are 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.).

Two coach companies, the Oz Experience and Kiwi Experience, run between major cities in Australia and New Zealand and stop at hostels ("backpacker accommodations"). You can 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.

Hostels

YHA (Youth Hostels Australia) is the main hostel organization. They offer inexpensive accommodation (usually \$15-20 AUD/night) for budget travelers. Rooms usually have bunk beds and sleep 4-6 people. Linens are provided

(past students report that they are clean). Most hostels also have a kitchen where you can cook (including everything needed to cook with: pots, pans, etc.), a sitting room with a TV, games, and sometimes a fireplace.

CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES

GENERAL UW-EAU CLAIRE & CISI CONTACT INFORMATION IS IN YOUR STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

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Murdoch International
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90 South Street
Murdoch WA 6150
Australia

After Hours International Student Assistance
Line
1 800 769 076

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN PERTH

Level 13, 16 St. Georges Terrace,
Perth WA 6000,
(inside Australia): (08) 9202-1224
fax (08) 9231-9444
<http://perth.usconsulate.gov/>

UW-EAU CLAIRE

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We suggest that you copy this page and leave it with your emergency contact
and/or parents.

WEB RESOURCES: 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: http://www.ozexperience.com/
Australian Government: http://www.australia.gov.au



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JMK