

GUIDE TO WOLLONGONG
FOR MEMBERS OF THE
COLGATE AUSTRALIA STUDY GROUP

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY/INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

201 MCGREGORY HALL

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

2002

REVISED 2006

The Office of Off-Campus Study would like to extend its thanks to the students and faculty who have helped to develop, write and edit this guide. Trina Redall, a member of the Fall 2000 Australia Study Group wrote the first draft of this guide in 2001. The 2003 edition benefited from the contributions of Susanna Blair, Milt Geiger, Robyn Hanson, Leslie Reed and Director Paul Pinet from the Fall 2001 group. Sarahna Wilcox and Bonnie Vanzler from the Fall 2003 group updated the guide for the 2004 edition, additional comments were added by Cassondra McNamara, Leslie Safier and Ryan Tochihara of the Spring '05 group. Finally, the current edition owes itself to the efforts of Spring '06 group members Sarah Caban and Liz Crowley.

We welcome your suggestions and any new information you may have to bring this guide up to date. The easiest way for us to make revisions is to receive a marked-up copy of the guide. So if you're willing to help, make notes and corrections during your semester in Australia and return the guide to the Office of Off-Campus Study in 201 McGregory Hall upon your return.

Thanks in advance for your help and best wishes for a great semester in Australia!

PREPARING FOR YOUR SEMESTER ABROAD

DO SOME RESEARCH

The earlier you start thinking about your semester abroad, the more prepared you will be. Begin by looking through as many books, pamphlets, web sites and other sources of literature as you can find. Talk to Colgate students who went on the Australia study group in the past to see if they have any advice or wisdom to share.

Surf the Web

You can start by heading to the Off-Campus Study home page on the Colgate website (<http://offices.colgate.edu/ocstudy>) for links to information about your Australia study group and general travel information. Below are some other websites worth checking out.

- <http://www.uow.edu.au/> –University of Wollongong website
- <http://www.australia.com> –This is the official site of the Australian Tourist Commission. You can read about all of the different places to visit and how to go about planning those trips. You can also read about Australian culture and upcoming events in Australia. The site also has some nice pictures so that you can get a preview of what you will see when you go.
- <http://www.visitoz.com/oz/tourism.htm> –This site offers similar information to the one above, but is not quite as in depth.
- <http://www.tourismwollongong.com> and <http://www.wollongong-city.com> –These sites both have specific information about the city of Wollongong.
- <http://www.library.uow.edu.au/eresources/subjects/oz> –“Studying Australia.” This website was specifically designed by the UOW Library staff for international students studying abroad at the University. It provides links to both library and web resources organized by topic. Topics include Aboriginal Australia, environment and geography, history, culture, news, education, and Wollongong. The information and links to further resources can prove extremely useful for your course assignments and will also serve you well before traveling to Australia in allowing you to learn a little more about the places you’ll go and the topics you’ll be introduced to along the way.
- www.smh.com.au –Sydney Morning Herald online. Stay up-to-date on news not only occurring in Australia but also world news from an Australian perspective.
- www.illawarramercury.com –This is the local paper for the Illawarra Region.
- www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ –The CIA *World Factbook* provides information about demographics and social statistics pertaining to Australia.

Books

Let’s Go Australia. Students have mixed opinions about this book, but many find it extremely helpful. Some students prefer the *Lonely Planet* series because it is more likely to include “off-the-beaten-path” places to stay, eat and visit.

National Geographic Australia. If you’re looking for a guide book that provides more descriptions and images of places rather than critiques of hotels and restaurants, the book on Australia published by National Geographic will be quite useful and informative.

Check your local library and explore a wide variety of travel books by different authors and of different formats to see which one is most useful to you. You’ll find purchasing a travel book easier if you already have an idea of the different types of books that are available. Some books place a greater emphasis on places to stay and eat while others provide more descriptions about the character and culture of specific places. The best way to make an informed decision about purchasing a book is to have an idea of all the

different resources that are available to you. Do some research and exploration to find what you like best! Remember, you can always photocopy pages from library books that have some useful information (or information that you may think is useful) without spending money on the whole book—most of which you'd have no use for!

MAKE A CHECKLIST

There are many things you must do to prepare for your semester abroad in Australia. Here is a checklist of things that you cannot forget!!!

1. Passport and photocopies of your passport – You should make at least three copies of your passport before leaving for Australia. Leave one copy at home with your parents/guardians, keep one with you (and carry it separate from your passport), and when traveling apart from the group, it's also a good idea to give a copy to someone who is traveling with you in case your passport gets lost or stolen.
2. Visa(s) – See “Passport and Visas” section below for further details.
3. Health insurance, medical and dental care, glasses and contacts – If you have any pre-existing medical conditions, discuss continuing treatment, prescriptions drugs, etc. with your health-care provider and your study group director prior to leaving the country. Colgate will provide you with Medibank Private Insurance coverage when you are in Australia. (This coverage is required by the Australian government.) If you would like to learn more about Medibank Private, visit <http://www.medibank.com.au/>. When you are sick you will go to the Wollongong Medical Center on Keira St. and have to pay a small amount of money (around AU \$30) to see a doctor. Medibank Private will reimburse you for about 2/3 of that. It is kind of a hassle because you have to pay when you are at the doctor, and then go to the Medibank Private office to get reimbursed, but luckily, the insurance office is located in the mall on Keira St. and is only about a five minute walk from the health clinic. In the event that you need to obtain private medical care and/or see a specialist, you will probably have to pay for that yourself because the insurance plan you are covered under is limited. Colgate also provides a special kind of insurance for you in the event of your death or other serious circumstance, but as for other health care, you should look into whether or not your medical insurance extends overseas and be aware of the procedures you must go through for payment/reimbursement. If you wear glasses or contacts, you should strongly consider taking an extra pair of them with you, as well as a copy of your eyeglass prescription.
4. International Student ID Card (ISIC) – This card is internationally accepted and offers students special discounts in some countries, but not in Australia. Australia's policy towards study abroad students is different than it is in Europe, so this card will not be as useful. Most past study group participants felt that having an ISIC is unnecessary. If you still want to look into getting one, information on ISICs is available through the STA Travel website at <http://www.sta-travel.com>. If you decide you want an ISIC, they are available at the Colgate Student Travel Office.
5. Youth Hostel Association (YHA) membership – For those who plan to do extensive traveling, it is a good idea to buy a YHA membership in Australia at the beginning of the semester as it can save you a significant amount of money on lodging. It is possible to buy a membership in the U.S. before you leave, but they cost less in Australia.
6. Certification letters for Study Group participation – This is the letter that says you're a full-time enrolled student at Colgate and that you're participating in a Colgate Study Group for the semester. You might be required to show this to immigration officials upon your arrival. **Therefore, keep this letter on your person when you travel to Australia – do not pack it in your checked luggage!** Also, always take your Certification Letter with you if you travel outside of Australia during the

semester. You will likely need to present it to immigration officials each time you re-enter the country. As with your passport, make a copy of your Certification Letter and keep it in a safe place, separate from the original.

7. Make copies of you credit cards, ATM cards, and all forms of identification that you will be bringing with you to Australia in the event that these items are misplaced, lost, or stolen. Purchase some item in which you can organize all of your personal identification documents and those provided by Colgate and UOW. This will prove particularly useful when you are traveling to, around, and from Australia.

PASSPORT AND VISAS

Passport

Your passport must be valid for the entire duration of your study group and for the time you may plan to remain overseas at the end of the program. (Actually, some countries even require it to be valid for six months beyond the end of your stay.) If your passport is scheduled to expire before your expected date of return, renew it before you go away.

If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately. Passport agencies are located in most major U.S. cities. It is also possible to obtain a passport from a federal or state court of record, probate court, or designated U.S. Passport Office. In most cities, information about applying for a passport can be obtained from the county clerk. Some nearby locations:

Near Colgate: The Hamilton Post Office accepts passport applications from 2-4 p.m. on weekdays. The Madison County Clerk's Office also processes applications and is located in Wampsville, about 20 to 25 minutes from Hamilton (out past the Wal-Mart in Oneida). Tel: (315) 366.2261.

Syracuse: The Onondaga State Clerk's office is located in the County Court House, 40 Montgomery Street. Tel: (315) 425-2230.

New York City: The Passport Office is located on Vanderbilt Avenue behind Grand Central Station.

To apply for a passport, you need:

- a. A completed passport application;
- b. Proof of U.S. citizenship;
- c. **Original** birth certificate, or a **certified copy** of your birth certificate (original and certified copies can be identified by their embossed [raised] seals);
- d. Two passport-size photographs taken within the last six months; there are passport photo businesses in Hamilton.
- e. Proof of identity—photo ID, such as driver's license;
- f. The \$55 fee (plus the \$30 execution fee—paid separately—if you've never been issued a passport before); and
- g. The additional fee of \$65 (fee of \$60 plus \$5 for shipping) if you opt for expedited service.

Once you have completed the application process, the passport will be mailed to you directly in six to eight weeks. If you elect for the expedited service, your application will be processed in three working days from the time it is received at the Passport Agency. A passport is valid for ten years.

VERY IMPORTANT: Make at least two photocopies of the first two pages of your passport and keep the copies separate from the passport itself. Leave one copy home and take the other(s) with you, but carried separately from your passport, when you travel. If you should lose your passport,

the nearest embassy can process a lost passport application much faster if you can provide a photocopy of the first two pages.

(It is also helpful to have photocopies of your credit cards and other forms of identification in the event that your wallet/purse is lost or stolen. Make sure to keep the copies in a safe place though. Another good idea is to leave anything that you will not need in your travels at home.)

Visas

You are required to have a student visa to travel abroad to Australia. For United States citizens, the application process is very straight forward and very easy...that is if you haven't been exposed to TB. Otherwise the whole process takes about 30 minutes to complete online and within the week you'll get your visa. The whole process is electronic – the visa application and the approval notification – so you will not receive a physical visa to put in your passport; rather, the fact that you were approved for a student visa is logged into the Australian Department of Immigration's database so when you arrive in Australia the Immigration Officer will be able to pull it up. **If you are a citizen of another country the visa application process may be different. You will need to check the Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs website (<http://www.immi.gov.au/study/index.htm>) for your visa requirements and application procedure.**

Information on applying for an Australian student visa can be found at <http://www.immi.gov.au/study/applying/index.htm>. Among other things, you will need your passport number and your eCOE (electronic Confirmation of Enrollment) number on hand in order to apply for your student visa. The eCOE is something that the University of Wollongong will provide once you have returned your Offer Acceptance Advice. (UOW sends you notification that you've been accepted to the school for your study abroad semester, and then you have to return that Offer Acceptance Advice to officially accept your place at UOW.) **Your eCOE is sent to you via email, so be on the lookout for it and make sure you don't inadvertently delete the message!**

Other tips for filling out the e-Visa application:

- You will need to have a credit card handy in order to pay the visa fee. As of Fall 2005 the fee is AU \$420 (approximately US \$320).
- The visa subclass you will be applying for is 575 – Non-Award Foundation/Other Sector
- For the question “Do you hold health insurance with an approved OSHC provider?” you should tick “Yes” because Colgate and UOW arrange that coverage for you.
- You will also need to provide the name, date & place of birth and passport details of at least one member of your family
- After you lodge your e-Visa application, make sure to keep a record of your Transaction Reference Number (TRN). It is also highly recommended that you keep a copy of your application form and your payment receipt details.

If you plan to travel to other countries, such as, China, Japan, Thailand etc., be sure to check visa requirements **before** you leave for Australia. You can check visa requirements online at individual countries' embassy websites and the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consulate Affairs website http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html (underscore between “brochures” and “1229”). Be sure to investigate visa requirements carefully, and do so well in advance of your departure date because usually you have to submit your passport with the visa application and it could take a while for your visa request(s) to be processed. You want to make sure you have your passport back before your departure date!

Be sure to plan out how you will obtain the visa for that country if one is necessary, as you cannot always apply for a visa from abroad.

WHAT TO PACK

On international flights there is a limit of two pieces of checked luggage, one small carry-on, and either a camera bag or small purse that must be able to fit under the seat in front of you. Luggage must conform to the size and weight regulations set by the airlines, so make sure you check the regulations of your airline before departing. Remember there are domestic weight limits as well (generally 50 pounds), which are lighter than international limits (generally 70 pounds per bag). It is recommended that you check baggage all the way through to your final destination to avoid paying fees based on the discrepancy between domestic and international weight limits. When you arrive in the U.S. to make a connecting domestic flight home, you might have to pay for extra weight. These costs generally range from \$50-\$80, but can be a lot more if your bags are really heavy or if you have several pieces of luggage. Take bags that are lightweight and have wheels.

Most importantly, pack **light**. Most students who have participated in a study group will agree that they packed too much stuff and ended up really only needing a portion of what they brought. Remember that comfortable, easy to care for clothing will be the most convenient when traveling. Pack one suitcase/backpack and leave another suitcase at least partially empty to account for the things you will accumulate. Or, you may choose to buy an extra bag while in Australia, as many students have done in the past; however, remember that you may have to bear the expense of shipping this luggage home if you are using it in addition to your other allotted pieces of luggage. In all cases, pack well in advance and weigh all your bags to make sure you are in accordance with all weight regulations. Your two pieces of checked luggage will be weighed at the airport and if over the weight limits, you will not be able to check that luggage without first removing some of the weight to lessen the load. Although your carry-on luggage may or may not be weighed, it is important that you strive to obey all weight regulations as you don't want to have to go through the hassle of unloading your bags at the check-in counter and leaving things behind in the airport.

Some suggestions:

- Some students brought sturdy backpacks (backpacking-type trekking packs) as one piece of their checked luggage. These were useful for weekend and midterm break traveling. A large school bag is also necessary because you will need to take quite a bit of stuff to school everyday. It is highly advised that you make your second piece of checked luggage something with wheels so that you can wear your backpack and easily roll your other piece of luggage when you have to walk long distances in airports.
- Pack for maximum efficiency. Remember that you will inevitably purchase quite a few things during your stay, and that you need to be able to bring them back on the plane. Laundry facilities are easy to access at both Campus East and Weerona dormitories, so you won't need many clothes. Think about bringing clothing items and accessories that are versatile and can be layered. That way your wardrobe should suit you well for all sorts of weather and climates that you will experience.
- As for what kind of clothing to bring, dress is casual at the University of Wollongong, but students do tend to dress nicely when they go out. Australians tend to be able to pick American students out of a crowd because they show up to bars in jeans and t-shirts. It is recommended to bring nicer, semi-formal shoes. Sneakers and sandals may be prohibited at some establishments. These rules tend to be more stringent for men than for women.
- Although you will not likely experience really cold weather, *you will need some warm clothes*. In general, if going during the Colgate fall/Australia spring semester, temperatures are likely to be warm/mild for the majority of the semester with daylight highs averaging 55-70 °F— you will not encounter especially hot weather until mid-October. It is also cools down quite a bit at night, and

locations south of Sydney (e. g. Melbourne, Tasmania, New Zealand) may be chilly depending on the season. A couple of sweatshirts/wool sweaters will be good to wear during the day, and if you think you will be going out at night, you may want to bring a slightly warmer jacket to wear out. Remember that jackets get stolen at the bars (and other places) in Australia just like they do at Colgate. Do not bring anything too expensive.

- A water-repellent coat is a great item to pack. While Wollongong has recently been experiencing a prolonged period of drought, it may rain on occasion. A water-repellent coat is also especially useful when traveling.
- Bring comfortable shoes. You will do a fair amount of walking around campus and if you live in Weerona, you will likely walk to campus. Walking around Wollongong at night in between bars/restaurants can add up to long distances, so be sure to have comfortable dress shoes as well.
- A portable alarm clock (a battery-powered one that is small enough for weekend travel is best) is a necessity. Alarm clocks are a must when traveling and useful to have when you need to get up for class!
- While Australia has all the personal hygiene products that we're accustomed to here, you might not find the same brand names, or the actual products may be slightly different. If you're extremely attached to a particular toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc. you may want to bring it with you.
- Have some method of listening to music and bring some music with you. You will get homesick sometimes and many students say that having music to listen to helps. Either bring a personal music device with speakers, or buy a cheap stereo when you are there. You will not regret it!!! Listening to Australian radio is a great way to familiarize yourself with the culture and is heaps entertaining!
- If you plan to bring a laptop computer, be sure that it is capable of running on 240 volts (most are these days) and remember that you'll need a plug adaptor. Both Campus East and Weerona dormitories provide computer labs, and these labs are generally accessible when needed. You will also have access to labs on campus, although they are often crowded during the day. Weerona students also say that Australians are willing to lend you their computers if they are not using them and you need to write a paper. In general, while useful to have a computer, it is not necessary (certainly less necessary than at Colgate). Students are charged AU \$0.10 per page to be able to print from computers in the dorms (for which it is necessary to set up a "printing account") and AU \$0.11 to print at labs on campus (which requires putting \$ on your UOW student ID card, much like 'gate cash). Plan this cost into your budget accordingly—printing papers, lectures, e-reserves etc. can add up quickly!! Most students in the Spring 2005 group incurred about AU \$20-\$50 of printing fees for the semester. Plan your printing wisely and learn not to waste paper! Returning to Colgate after your semester in Australia, you'll be amazed with how much paper is used at Colgate and how much paper you have learned to conserve from your semester abroad. (Information pertaining to Internet access can be found later in the guide).
- Both Campus East and Weerona dorms provide you with a fitted sheet, a pillowcase, a pillow, a comforter, and a towel. You may want to supplement what they give you, but you can purchase these items in Wollongong. Woolworth's sells all the linens that you may want/need. Some students brought their own sheets because they really don't take up much space in the luggage. In general, past study group members do not recommend bringing or shipping over linens from home, as it is expensive and unnecessary. Regardless of whether or not you've brought your own from home, these items will be available to you upon your arrival at Campus East, Weerona, and I-House. You might also want to purchase an additional blanket as it can get quite cold at night—campus dorms (and most buildings in the Wollongong/Sydney area) do not have central heating (nor air conditioning, typically).

- Many students recommend that you purchase any electronic devices you need once you arrive in Wollongong, since that will cut down on weight and bulk in your luggage. There is an electronics store called Tandy in the Crown St. mall as well as a shop that buys and sells electronic goods (along with many other things) located on Keira St. called Cash Converters. There is also a Salvation Army in Fairymeadow where Campus East students have found items in the past. For those going to Australia for the Colgate Spring (Australian fall) semester, a fan may be very useful. If you do plan on bringing blow dryers, irons, shavers, or any other electrical appliances, you will need a voltage transformer (unless the appliance(s) can run on dual voltage) and plug adaptors. If you do not have a transformer and an adaptor, they can be purchased at travel shops or hardware stores in the U.S. or in Australia. **The electricity voltage for domestic use in Australia is AC 240 volts, 50Hz.** The power outlets use 3 flat pin plugs.
- You may also want to buy a desk lamp once you arrive. This will make studying a lot easier and your room a lot cozier. You can buy used lamps at either Cash Converters or the Salvation Army, or you can buy inexpensive ones at Office Works located across the street from Chili's, McDonald's, and Blockbuster in Fairymeadow.

Clothing/Accessories Thought to Be Essential

Alarm clock	Medications***	Sunglasses
Camera	Music	Sweatshirt(s)
Comfortable shoes	Nice Outfit(s)*	Swim Suit
Hats	Photographs from home	Toiletries
Hiking boots/shoes	School bag	Umbrella
iPod/Discman/Walkman	Shorts	Water-repellent coat
Jeans	Sleeping bag (small)**	1-2 wool sweaters
Large, sturdy backpack*	Summer items	Sandals

* All residential campuses will hold at least one formal event during the course of the semester. In addition, there will be semi-formal dances or dinners you can choose to attend where you'll want to dress up a little from your normal attire. Australians also tend to regularly dress up when going out to bars.

**Sleeping bags and backpacks can easily (and cheaply) be bought in Australia. Bring it if you have it, especially for the (Colgate) spring semester since it does get colder at night and will double as a comforter.

***If possible, it is best to bring a semester's supply of any medications—it can be costly/difficult to get them in Australia or ship from the United States.

TIME AND WEATHER

Time Difference

There is a 14-16 hour time difference between eastern Australia and the eastern U.S. depending on the time of year and the territory. In Australia, daylight savings time begins the last Sunday in October and ends either the last Sunday in March or the first Sunday in April (the opposite of the U.S.). During this time the eastern U.S. is 16 hours behind Australia. Time changes vary slightly in the different territories. Here is a useful website for finding local times around the world:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>. Share it with your parents and friends so they don't end up calling you in the middle of the night while you're in Australia!

Climate

If you are on the Colgate fall study group, you will arrive in Wollongong in late winter (September 1st is the first day of spring). The winter is mild by Colgate standards. On average, it will be in the 50-60's during the day and in the 40's at night, but there will be some warmer days too when people will head to the beach. Expect rain! It usually rains a fair amount in July and August (unless you experience a drought, like the 2002 and 2006 groups did!).

For the Colgate spring group arriving at the end of the Australian summer the weather is perfect, but toward the end of the semester the temperature starts to drop, so bring warm clothes like sweaters, jeans, and a fleece jacket.

THE MONEY QUESTION

Money for Arrival

You will need money as soon as you arrive in Australia. Many students brought \$100 in U.S. currency and exchanged it right in the airport so that they had cash immediately. If you are converting cash, be sure to do it with a group of friends so that you will only have to pay one service charge. There are also ATMs in the airport that accept major credit cards, which you can use to obtain Australian dollars.

It is also possible to order foreign currency from your home bank before leaving. This can take up to three weeks or more depending on your location and your bank, so be sure to plan ahead and place your order well in advance of your departure date. However, banks are typically not open on the weekends, so be sure to bring extra cash for exchange at the airport if arriving on a Saturday or Sunday.

There are also websites where you can order Australian dollars and other foreign currencies online. Just pay attention to the exchange rate you're getting, how much commission you're going to get charged and what the shipping & handling fee is before you go through with the transaction. Also, be aware that there is sometimes a minimum amount that you have to buy. A couple examples of these are:

- American Express: www10.americanexpress.com/sif/cda/page/0,1641,16193,00.asp
- Direct FX Foreign Exchange Services: www.foreign-currency.com/

Banking/Obtaining Cash during the Semester

The exchange rate has recently been fluctuating between AU \$1.30–1.40/US \$.

Most students in recent years have chosen to use ATM cards, credit cards and/or Travelers Cheques rather than open a bank account in Australia. (However, some have found this to be a desirable option) Students with home accounts at small, local banks in particular might want to consider opening an Australian account, as they are likely to incur high withdrawal fees otherwise.

When using ATM cards from home, most students did not seem to have a problem gaining access to funds in American bank accounts. Many students said that this was a good method to use because they always got the current exchange rate when they took out money. Depending on what bank you use in America and what bank you use in Australia to withdraw money, the charges may be quite expensive—often AU\$5 or more. If you have an account at a large, national bank you should check beforehand to see whether partnerships exist with banks in Australia. For example, students on the Fall 2005 trip with accounts at Bank of America found that they could withdraw money from Westpac banks in Australia without having to pay any fee. Also, it should be noted that, unlike at banks in the US, Australian banks will not provide fee notification at the time of withdrawal or ask whether you “accept the charges.” You will have to check your US bank statement to determine whether or not you are being charged withdrawal

fees. You must also make sure that you have an international ATM card before you leave. If you call your bank, they should be able to answer this question for you and they may be able to tell you approximately how much they will charge you for international withdrawals. Additionally, some students found that while their American ATM cards worked at bank ATMs, they did not work at “stand alone” ATMs (e.g. ATMs in bars).

For those who do choose to open a bank account, your best bet is the National Bank. There is a branch right on campus and you will find that it is the most common bank around Australia. You will most likely want to bring Travelers Cheques with you for the initial deposit.

You will find that having a credit card is extremely useful. You will get the best exchange rates using your credit card on big purchases (such as plane tickets), and it is also good to have for unexpected emergencies. MasterCard and Visa are accepted everywhere. Some students had American Express cards and said that they were accepted almost everywhere. Try to use a credit card as your primary method of payment whenever possible. You’ll find that the credit card companies receive the best foreign exchange rates and you’ll end up saving lots of money over the course of the semester! Beware of using your credit card for cash advances however, as those get charged at a much higher interest rate than regular purchases and credit card companies will usually put any payments you make toward your purchases first and then toward your cash advances so that they can make more money by charging you the higher interest rate for longer.

There is an American Express office right in Wollongong, for those who choose to bring Travelers Cheques. As with all of the important documents you bring to Australia, it is a good idea to photocopy these and keep the copies in a safe place separate from your Cheques. The students who utilized Travelers Cheques found them to be less convenient than other methods.

If you wish to cash a check at an Australian bank, be aware that most will not cash checks over \$1,000, and not all banks are able to cash checks in foreign currencies.

In an Emergency

Western Union has offices in Australia. Go to <http://www.westernunion.com/info/homePage.asp?country=AU&origination=US> for more information.

There is also something relatively new offered by AAA called a Cash Passport. It is a Visa card that can be purchased at an AAA office or on the Internet and mailed safely overseas because it requires a PIN and password to activate (which your parents can tell you if they are the ones that buy it). It operates like a gift card; that is, you start with a fixed amount of money on the card and the remaining balance declines as you make purchases. The card can be set up so that it is attached to a bank account and more money can be added to the card from that account via the Internet or a toll-free phone call. Go to www.aaa.com and look up AAA Travel Money for more information or go directly to <http://ww2.aaa.com/scripts/WebObjects.dll/AAAOnline?association=aaa&club=097&page=TravelMoneyHome>.

Planning a Budget: Typical Costs

Books

Depending on what types of classes you enroll in at the University of Wollongong, you may or may not have to purchase many textbooks. You should not have to spend as much money on textbooks in Wollongong as you do at Colgate. Some copies are available at the library, so if you get in early enough, you can check them out. It can become a pretty competitive system, but the UOW library also has a reserve system similar to that at Colgate. Books being sold by individuals can also be found on web postings and notice boards around campus. If possible, try purchasing used books or share with classmates. The SCRC (Student Council Resource Center) is a little known secret on campus (located

between the duck pond lawn and the UniCenter) and sells second-hand books cheap! In summary, while classes and necessary materials at Wollongong should not be taken especially lightly, it would certainly be worth your while to investigate alternatives to the traditional means of purchasing hundreds of dollars worth of books.

E-mail

Enrollment in the University of Wollongong entitles you to an Internet account and an e-mail account. When you use any computer on the Wollongong network, you have to use a name and password to login. Students have not had any trouble accessing their Colgate Webmail accounts from the Wollongong network. Students were able to access Yahoo, AOL, and Hotmail accounts as well. Every student enrolled in UOW is given an allotted Internet quota. Every time you log-on to the network, a small proportion of your quota will be deducted from your account. Visiting any American site and checking American email will use up significant amounts of quota. You can set up your Colgate email so that it is directly forwarded to your Wollongong account—it is highly recommended that you do this in order to avoid depleting your quota. Downloading music, pictures, and even necessary e-reserves will also subtract a lot from your quota. You should not exceed your quota if you use the Internet conservatively, although some students found that they went over. If you need (or want) more, you may sign up for an account with another network web server, Speedlink/Chariot. Speedlink/Chariot works just like your UOW quota except that you pay per megabyte. You can get 500 megabytes for about AU\$30. Also, most students found that it was necessary to have Chariot to use certain Internet services such as AOL Instant Messenger. You'll also be given an email address through the UOW webmail server that is valid as long as you are enrolled in the University.

Food

Both Campus East and Weerona dormitories offer hot meals plus 5 cold lunches to students. Breakfast and dinner are offered Monday through Friday, and on the weekend brunch and dinner are available. Lunches are provided as well, but you must go to breakfast to get them—if you oversleep and miss breakfast, you also miss out on lunch!! At Weerona and Campus East, you make your own sandwiches. Many students end up buying a fair amount of food on campus during the day (the Unibar has a great selection), so consider this when planning your budget. Also, keep an eye out for free lunch on campus. During the Colgate Fall 2005 group, free burgers and tofu steaks were served on the Barbie every Tuesday along with live music!

If you find that you get bored of eating in dining halls at Colgate, you will most likely get tired of the food at the dorms as well. It isn't bad, and you will find out what you do and don't like relatively quickly, but some nights you will want to enjoy some of the restaurants in Wollongong. There are many good restaurants around town and students like to go out to eat on the weekends and on people's birthdays, so be sure to account for that when planning your budget.

Health Clubs

You can purchase a one-term membership to the UOW health club if you wish to do so for about AU\$160. It has fairly nice facilities including stair masters, treadmills, free weights, some nautilus machines, etc. The club also offers many enjoyable classes that you can take on a weekly basis including aerobics, kickboxing, and many others. Most students found that purchasing a set amount of visits was the best deal because you probably won't go to the gym as often in Wollongong as you would at Colgate. For example, it costs AU\$60 for 20 visits, so even if you were purchase two, \$60 packages it would amount to less than the semester rate. You can also pay as you go for a couple of dollars per visit. For those who want to use the pool, there is a separate fee.

There is a gym near the Weerona dorm and in the past some students who lived in Weerona used this gym instead of the gym on campus. However, most have found that it works best to use the Uni gym in between classes. Campus East also has a very small, basic gym that is free and open every night and weekend.

Local Transportation

The least expensive mode of transportation is of course on foot. Wollongong is a fairly easy town to walk around in once you get your bearings. There is a nice walking/biking path that runs all the way from south of Wollongong to the lighthouse and main beach area. All streets have sidewalks and it is a relatively safe place to walk around by yourself during the day, however doing so at night is not a good idea—it is not Hamilton, NY. The best advice is to always be aware of your surroundings and never let your guard down. Make sure if you're using public transportation around Wollongong at night-- namely the train--travel with others. There are always guards on patrol at the Wollongong CBD station at night for your comfort and safety.

If you live in Campus East, you will take a bus to and from campus, but this is run by Campus East and makes regular trips to and from campus. You can buy a bus pass at the Campus East office for AU \$7.00. This gives you 10 trips. You will likely spend no more than AU \$7.00 per week on this transportation. If you live in Weerona, there is also a shuttle service, but it does not run as frequently as the Campus East bus because Weerona is closer to campus. This shuttle runs in the evenings but can fill-up rather quickly, especially if you try and catch it at the Northfields Ave. stop right after class. Most students who live in Weerona choose to walk to and from the campus.

Some students purchase bikes. You can ride back and forth to campus on your bike. Many students even did this from Campus East. You can buy one from any of the op-shops or check out the flyers around uni. Be sure to lock your bicycle in a safe location. Two students from the 2005 group had their locks cut and bicycles stolen. Just be careful!

Also, some students in the past opted to pool their money and buy an inexpensive car. They found this to be extremely convenient for road trips as well as getting to class. It is recommended that you research this option and insurance issues thoroughly before buying a car, though.

The trains that run through Wollongong generally run on time and are easily accessible from both dorms. Students who live in Campus East will use the Fairymeadow train station. One stop takes you to North Wollongong where North Gong Pub is located. This is also the closest stop to the campus. Going two stops takes you to Wollongong station where you can access the mall. These trips around town cost about AU \$2.10 roundtrip. There is no real reason to buy any sort of pass because you're not likely use the train enough to make it worth the cost. A trip to Sydney costs about AU \$10.00 roundtrip.

There is a thing called a "student concession" available to Australian and full-time international students that gives about a 50% discount on fares. It requires a sticker that is placed on the student ID. However, study abroad students **are not eligible for these concessions** when using the trains or busses. The fine for buying a concessions ticket when you are not entitled to a discount is **just as steep as being caught without a ticket at all** (about AU \$100 fine on the spot). Guards are increasing in number and strictness. If you want to avoid hassle and potential fines, it is best to buy a full-price ticket.

Mail

Mailing letters to and from the United States can take varying lengths of time. Letters seem to take about 1.5 weeks to get to Colgate from Wollongong. It costs AU \$1.10 to send a postcard to the U.S. and AU \$1.50 to send a standard-sized letter to the United States.

Phones

The direct-dial access code to call the U.S. from Australia is 001, followed by the area code and number.

To call Australia from the U.S., dial 011 + 61 and then the number. (011 is to get an international line, and 61 is the country code for Australia.)

Telephone calls to and from the U.S. have become relatively cheap. Some students signed up for MCI WorldCom before they left the U.S., which enabled their parents to call them for about 10 cents a minute.

AT&T also offers a calling card with a special rate for calls dialed to your house. These types of cards are usually set up through your parents' home phone long distance provider. They offer special rates for you to call the number for which they provide long distance service, but when you call other numbers on the card, the charges are usually significantly higher.

An option past study group members highly recommend is to buy phone cards once in Australia. Cards such as "Daybreak," "Say G'day" and "Primus" were found to be a much better deal than AT&T and MCI for calling the U.S. These cards allow you to phone from a payphone or cell phone without having to pay the AU \$0.40 connection fee, as it will be automatically deducted from your balance. Before each transaction, the calling card service will announce your declining balance both in money and in minutes. It is suggested that you use the calling cards and payphones rather than setting up an account for the telephone in your room. Even if you do not set up an account, you'll be able to receive in-coming calls in your room, including international calls. It is always recommended to use landlines (payphones or room phones) and call **to** landlines. Even when using a calling card, rates are much higher if calling from or to a cell phone.

Some students used Telstra reverse charge (collect) calling to contact their parents, but this is **not recommended** because it is very expensive.

You should probably **avoid** direct dialing the United States from Campus East and Weerona phones. The dorms have a system that forces you to start an account with them and put down about AU \$50. Then they give you a pin number that you can use from any phone to make phone calls. (It is similar to the system at Colgate, although you don't get phone bills) Every time you dial a number from your phone (including an (800) number that you may use to access a phone card) you will be charged 40 cents. Local calls also cost about 40 cents. Also, calling mobile phones is very expensive and will use up your money very quickly, but some students found using room phones to be convenient.

More and more students are opting to buy pre-paid, or "pay-as-you-go," cell phones—which is the standard system in Australia. In 2005, the university had a special offer during orientation for cell phones—\$20 for prepaid phone service and a certain amount of minutes and texting (aka SMSing—very popular among Aussies). It is expensive to call the US from the cell phones but it is cheap to call locally. It is not necessary to have a cell phone and is primarily a matter of personal preference-- some may find it useful for keeping in contact with American and Australian friends. In general, it should be sufficient for a few members of the group to have cell phones.

Scuba Certification

Many students recommend getting certified for scuba diving. It is a lifetime certification and allows you to go diving at much cheaper prices. People can still go diving without certification, but they will have to pay a lot more. If you want to get certified, sign up for the earlier of the two courses that the UOW offers with Peter Schoobert ("Scuba Pete"). That way you will be certified by the time you have your midterm break. The cost of the course was AU \$240 and was extremely comprehensive. Peter provides all brand new equipment and houses you at his house in Stanwell Park for two weekends. It is much cheaper than it would be in the U.S. UOW also has a scuba diving club that plans local dive trips for certified divers. Be sure to consider this expense when planning your budget.

Sporting Events

You might want to check out an Australian Football League match while you are in Australia. (Check out the AFL's website if you would like to learn more about Australian football: <http://afl.com.au/>) The closest team is the Sydney Swans. For rugby, there's the St. George Illawarra Dragons of the National Rugby League (<http://www.nrl.com/>) who play at Win Stadium in Wollongong. (Tickets for the Dragons are about \$20 Australian). If you'd like to watch a game, plan to go earlier in the semester because the season ends in mid-September. The Wollongong Wolves Soccer Club also plays at Win.

Travel

Many of the costs for group travel are included in the tuition paid to Colgate by you and your parents, but there will be other opportunities for you to travel on your own which will be out-of-pocket expenses. Depending on your class schedule, you may decide to leave regularly on the weekends. You may also decide to stay in Australia after classes are over and travel for a while. The amount students spend on traveling varies significantly, so be sure to think about where you might want to travel before you arrive in Australia. It's a good idea to research both travel expenses and the general cost of life at your destination(s) to get an idea of how much you should expect to spend. **It might also be wise to sign up for frequent flyer mile programs before going to Australia.** Qantas (which is the airline you'll most likely be using during the intercession trip) offers discounts on rental cars and tourist attractions with their frequent flyer program. Qantas is a member of One World (American Airlines, etc). If you sign up with United you can get miles if you fly on any of the Star Alliance Airlines, which include Air New Zealand and Thai Airlines.

JetStar (www.jetstar.com.au) is the new airline that has flights at a lower cost than Qantas (normally \$100-200 cheaper than a regular ticket). You have fewer departure and destination options, but JetStar does have flight from Sydney to Melbourne, Tasmania, and the Sunshine Coast, places Colgate students have enjoyed traveling to in the past! Virgin Blue is another excellent option. (www.virginblue.com.au) They also offer cheap fares to many of the same destinations as JetStar at comparable rates. They have a happy hour daily from 12-1 where special deals are offered—you should definitely check this out!

ONCE YOU'RE IN WOLLONGONG

ARRIVAL

Once you arrive in Sydney, a coach will meet you, as well as any other UOW study abroad students who happen to be arriving at the same time as you, and take you to the dormitories in Wollongong. **But in order for this to happen, you must sign up for the airport pick-up on the University of Wollongong website.** It's free! You will have a chance to change some money in the airport before boarding the coach if you need to. The ride between Sydney and Wollongong will seem long after hours of flying. Try and take in your surroundings. Notice the cars parked on the grass and the number of brick houses. Notice how the bus driver is driving on the "wrong" (other!) side of the road. This will be your home for the next six months, so really try to notice the differences, and appreciate them.

DORMS

Campus East

Campus East is a 5 minute walk from the beach, and 40 minutes walking distance from the University. Most of CE is catered (you can eat/get meals there), but there is also a new self-catered building. As you've probably read in the accommodation booklets, you will have a single if you live in Campus East, and you will share a bathroom and a hallway with 2-3 other people (unless you live in 'The Hospital' where you will have a common room shared with 4 others). It is very important that you ALWAYS lock the door to your own room. You and your roommates may or may not decide to lock your 'unit' door, but the resident assistants will insist that you do. If you don't, it is possible that people will come and steal things out of your bathroom. Visit the following website to learn more about Campus East http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/campus_east/index.html. (Please note that there is an underscore between the words "campus" and "east" in the URL.)

Richard Johnson College

The location is just a short (about 10 minute) walk off the North Wollongong train station making this the closest housing to the Uni. The rooms at RJC are all singles with private bathrooms. There's a common area with a ping-pong and pool table, as well as a few computers that are set up to a laser printer. Black and white printing is free, but you have to provide your own paper. The residents of RJC are local Australians as well as international students ranging from first years to graduate students. This provides a great environment to meet some great people from around the world. Probably the best perk about RJC is the outstanding food. With only 60 residents, the cooks provide a variety of high quality meals. RJC is religiously affiliated with many of its residents actively practicing; however, the atmosphere is still relaxed. The website for RJC is: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/rjc/> . Currently there isn't much information on the site, but there is an email address you can write to for more information about the dorm.

International House

International House, (or I-House), as the name implies, is a residence hall specifically targeted toward International Students. As far as we know, no Colgate Students have chosen to live there in recent years. However, it is a potential option. It tends to house a large number of American, European, and Asian students. It has quite nice, relatively new facilities and is conveniently located in close proximity to the North Wollongong train station (right out the front door), and North Gong pub. Also, a bus runs regularly between the train station and the university for commuter students, which some I-house students opt to take. It is about the same distance from campus as Weerona (a little over a mile), and is situated about halfway between Weerona and Campus East. A primary drawback is that it seems to have significantly fewer Australian residents than either Weerona or Campus East--as one might expect. Consult the accommodations pamphlet for more information about International House or any of the other residential colleges. The link for international house is: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/international_house/ (there is an underscore between "International" and "house").

Weerona

Weerona consists of three buildings and about 200 students, but you will most likely live in the newest building. The rooms are nice with new carpet, lots of shelves, a sink in your room, and a big desk; however, you cannot rearrange your furniture.

You may have an Australian roommate in Weerona. If you definitely want to live with an Australian, specifically note that on your housing sheet. Also, you might want to indicate that you'd prefer not to live with a Colgate student if that is the case (versus an Australian, American, or other international student). In the past, Colgate students have sometimes been put together. Weerona is 20 minutes from campus, 20 minutes from the beach, about 15 minutes from the downtown mall, and 40 minutes from Campus East. Visit the following website to learn more about Weerona College: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/weerona_college/ (here is an underscore between "weerona" and "college.")

All the dorms will have many fun activities planned for you during your first week. In Campus East it is called O-Week and in Weerona it is called Flood Week. Pub-crawls, orientation tours, visits to local tourist attractions, dorm parties, and many other activities will fill your time during your first week there. Be sure to take advantage of these functions because it's a good way to get to know people. If there isn't anything going on, visit the lounge areas in your dorm and see if there is anyone watching television or playing pool. There are many more additional events throughout the semester including intramural sports programs and weekend trips—make sure to attend "supper" and listen to your phone messages to find out about them. Weerona seems to generally have more of these organized events. The majority of your social

life will be centered around dorm activities—sort of similar to the freshman dorms at Colgate but to a much greater extent—so be sure to get involved!!

EATING OUT

- Aamaru (Corrimal Street)—Indian restaurant
- Ahmad's Kebab Shop!!! Kiera Street—Essential late night food!! (slices equivalent)
- Amigo's—Mexican food
- Caesar's (Princess Hwy, Fairymeadow)—various home-style chicken dishes and sandwiches
- Carluccio's Kitchen (23-25 Princess Hwy, Fairymeadow)—very nice Italian restaurant
- Cheesecake Shop (Princess Highway, Fairymeadow)—yummy, yummy cheesecake
- Chef's Choice (off Crown Street)—really inexpensive, amazing Chinese food
- Chili's and Lonestar Steakhouse—both popular with American students, but it is recommended that you try some of the small locally owned restaurants; \$2 tacos Tuesdays and Thursdays; Friday karaoke
- Ciao's Mediterranean Restaurant (Gwynneville, less than a five minute walk from Weerona)
- Coconut Thai (Princess Hwy, Wollongong)
- Fat Boy's (Keira Street)
- Fish and Chip's Shop (City Beach)
- Hungry Jack's (Australian "Burger King"—Princess Highway)
- KFC (Princes Highway)
- The Lagoon (North Beach)—a really nice seafood restaurant
- McDonalds (Princes Highway)
- Monsoon (Keira Street)—a Thai restaurant
- Pizza Hut (Fairymeadow, but delivers to Weerona), Pizza Haven (Fairymeadow, but delivers to Weerona), and Mama's Pizza (Wollongong)
- Red Rooster (Princess Highway)
- Southern Crepes (Crown Street, Wollongong, near Win Stadium)
- Tennis Club (near Weerona)
- Thai Carnation (Corrimal Street)
- Trang's Noodle Bar (Keira Street)
- Twin's (Princess Hwy, Wollongong)—Vietnamese food
- UOW Sausage Sizzle—free on campus in front of the UniBar weekly!
- World Food Court (Keira Street)—a variety of quick, cheap Asian food
- Zwefer's (Princess Hwy, Fairy Meadow)—It's probably for the best that some students in the 2003 study group didn't discover this awesome pastry shop until mid-November!

Wollongong is a multicultural town partly because of the International University and also due to the large number of immigrant workers who are employed at the steel works. There are a large number of Vietnamese and Mediterranean people in Wollongong providing an appreciation for cultural food and entertainment. Be sure to try the different restaurants because you will not be disappointed.

GOING OUT

- Cooney's—An Irish pub that hosts good bands on the weekends. It is a very large bar with much to offer. There is one area that is used for live music, two areas that contain pool tables (one upstairs and one downstairs), and an outside area. Wednesday's Free Pizza and a great happy hour.
- Glasshouse—Another popular destination with very nice facilities. Free transportation to and from the bar on Wednesdays during happy hour. (A real plus, since taxis can get expensive).
- Harp Hotel— Sunday's happy hour and free sausage sizzle starting at 5:00.
- North Gong Pub—The home of Toss the Boss, an Australian tradition. Very popular on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for Toss from 5-6 pm. There is a happy hour for students on Wednesdays. Also has Karaoke. Has a very nice outside area. Toss the Boss is heaps of fun and is great to experience.

- Rusty’s—A semi-popular, crowded, club-like atmosphere, but not the best place to meet people or have conversations with your friends. If you want to dance to techno and pop music this is the place to go in Wollongong. This is a late-night stop off while riding the Glasshouse bus home on Wednesdays.
- Tennis Club—Right next to Weerona. Good happy hour and fun hangout.
- Unibar—Amazing hangout on campus. It has a stage, pool tables, cheap food and drinks. Great place to hang out between classes. It is popular on Thursday nights and offers good bands sometimes.
- Bourbon Street (Keira St.)—Similar to Rusty’s (see below), but a lot bigger.
- Cabbage Tree—A bar in Fairymeadow that is popular among Campus East students on Monday nights. There are pool competitions on Mondays (free entry) for a bar/bottle shop prize (\$50-70) and on Wednesdays there’s happy hour and pool competitions (\$2 entry) for a larger prize (\$100). It is walking distance from Campus East and a great place to just chill. Bottle Shop attached.
- The Beach Bar—“Sunday night” Bar. Crowded, but popular. Contains a dance area and usually provides pop music, but occasionally live bands play. There is also an outside area and a pool table.
- Hotel Illawara—A swanky, somewhat seedy but usually “chill” hangout. Large, comfortable chairs, a nice big screen TV for watching Rugby/Cricket, and usually pretty good music. Jazz offered some Sunday nights.

Remember, many bars require “nice” footwear (i.e. NO sneakers or sandals)—especially for males.

Also, an important difference to recognize—and adjustment to make—is that Wollongong students generally only go out on weeknights and Sunday nights, and NOT on Fridays or Saturdays. As at Colgate, Wednesday tends to be a big night out. There are a number of reasons why students do not go out on the weekends, including that there is generally an older, “working” crowd out at the bars. Drink prices and happy hours are typically better during the week to cater to poor Uni students, and some students (although not many) may travel home for the weekends. Colgate students generally find that once they get used to the change, weekends serve as a relaxing break for which to accomplish work, watch movies, go to the beach, or travel. Of course, you can always go to the bars if you really want to!!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

Consulate General of the United States

Melbourne

553 St. Kilda Road

Melbourne, VIC, 3004

Tel: (61) (03) 9526 5900 (general inquiries only)

Fax: (61) (03) 9510 4646

<http://melbourne.usconsulate.gov/melbourne/index.html>

American Citizen Services, including applications for a US passport:

Tel: (61) (03) 9526 5900 (same as above)

Fax: (61) (03) 9525 0769

Email: MelbourneACS@state.gov

Perth

16 St. George's Terrace

13th Floor, Perth, WA 6000

Tel: (08) 9202-1224 (8:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-5:00pm Monday-Friday)

Fax: (08) 9231-9444

<http://perth.usconsulate.gov/perth/index.html>

American Citizen Services:

Hours: 8:30am – 11.30am Mon-Fri

Sydney

MLC Centre, Level 59
19-29 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Tel. (61-2) 9373-9200 (general inquiries)
Tel. 1 902-941-641 (visa inquiries – charges apply)
Fax (61-2) 9373-9125
<http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/sydney>

U.S. Embassy

Moonah Place
Yarralumla ACT 2600
Canberra
Switchboard: (02) 6214-5600 (8am-5pm Mon-Fri)
American Citizen Services: Fax: (02) 6214-5970
Embassy website: <http://canberra.usembassy.gov/>
Consular services: <http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/consular>

Emergency

(For ambulances, police, fire department)
Dial 000 (it is the equivalent of 911)

Hospital

Wollongong Hospital (02) 4222 5000
Location: Loftus Street

Pharmacies

Fairymeadow Chemist (02) 4283 5622
Wollongong City Pharmacy (02) 4229 5724 (Right next to the Wollongong Medical Center on Keira St., so it is really convenient)
Wollongong Pharmacy (02) 4229 5868

Police Station

Wollongong Police Station (02) 42267899
Location: Corner of Church and Market Streets

Rape Crisis Center

Toll Free Number: 1 800 424 017

Taxis

Radio Cabs of Wollongong (02) 4229 9311
Location: 438 Crown Street

Tourism Wollongong

(02) 4227 5545
<http://www.tourismwollongong.com>

University Medical Facilities

Campus Health (Dentist, Doctor, Optometrist)

- If you get sick, go to the UniCenter on campus. They will provide you with two vouchers for a taxi ride to the local doctor. You will pay a fee there (about AU \$30), which can be refunded at the Medibank Private in the Wollongong Mall.

RESEARCH

While you are in Wollongong, you may write as many as 4-6 research papers. You should know that books at the Wollongong library tend to be scarce and outdated, and often they run out fairly early in the semester, especially for classes like your history class. Try and get to the library early so you do not run into this problem. If you do find that you don't have enough resources at the UOW library, the Wollongong Library also has some sources that may be useful for your research. Books cannot be checked out there, so the upshot is that whatever you need is likely to be available; you will just have to sit there to use it or make photocopies of what you need. It is located on Burelli St. among all of the other government offices. If those two don't work for you, you can always go up to Sydney and visit the University of New South Wales library. You will not be able to check out the books, but at least you will be able to access other resources. Bear in mind, though, that the trip up to Sydney is 1½ hours each way. Additionally, Australia's numerical identification system is different than the U.S.'s.

SHOPPING

The mall in Wollongong is good for purchasing “going out” clothes and necessities, but you are not going to find a large selection of clothes in Wollongong. If you are a big shopper, you'll want to go to Sydney to find more options including markets (check out Paddy's Market and the Market on the Rocks (by the bridge)), outlets, and underground malls. UOW also has “market day” one day per month where various vendors set up tables on campus in front of the UniCenter and on the duck pond lawn. There is also a huge, five-level mall in Bondi Beach.

SPORTS

Getting into the Australian sports scene is highly recommended. Going to games/matches or watching them in the UOW dorm lounges or in a bar is a way to meet people and get involved in the local culture. Also see the “Sports” section under “Planning a Budget” above for more information on live sporting events.

For those of you who follow sports in the U.S., major events, such as baseball playoffs, the World Series, and NFL games will sometimes be televised. In general, most American sporting events were not regularly featured. Campus East and Weerona have televisions available and you will find some of these games televised in local bars. You may be able to find some games on TV—often they will be late at night on ESPN (check internet listings).

TICKS AND FLIES

Ticks are very common in Australia. Numerous Colgate students found ticks on themselves after going to Jervis Bay and Mount Keira. Lyme disease (sometimes written as “Lime”) does exist in Australia, although it is not that common in New South Wales. In your travels, however, you may get ticks in places where Lyme disease is common, so be sure to check you body if you walk through any areas where ticks may live. If you develop a bull's eye marking on your skin or if you have symptoms of Lyme disease, be sure to see a doctor. For more information on Lyme disease, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases.htm> and click on “Lyme disease”

Once the humid weather arrives in mid-late October (around the time of the mid-semester break), you'll be greeted by significant numbers of flies every time you venture outdoors in Wollongong and many other locations throughout Australia—they are especially severe in desert areas such as the Red Center (e.g. Uluru Kata-Tjuta) and up North in Kakadu National Park. While they don't bite, they are certainly a nuisance. Gary, the Kakadu tour guide for the 2003 study group informed us that popular insect repellents sold in Australia actually serve to attract the flies to your body!

Leeches also emerge around this time—it is recommended that interested students hike Mt. Keira earlier in the semester to avoid them. Snakes may also become a problem on Mt. Keira in the late spring.

TOURIST SITES AND ATTRACTIONS IN AND AROUND WOLLONGONG

- AFL, Rugby League, and/or Cricket Games
- Bass Point (scuba diving available)—see <http://www.scubansurf.com.au>
- Hang Dog indoor rockclimbing—130 Auburn Street, near Coniston Railway Station. <http://www.hangdog.com.au/>
- Jervis Bay—good snorkeling, camping area, beaches with the ‘whitest sand in the world’
- Kiama Blowhole— <http://www.kiama.com.au/attractions/blowhole.htm>
- Mount Keira Lookout—Great view of Wollongong and the Illawarra coastline. There are picnic facilities, walking trails and a restaurant.
- Nan Tien Buddhist Temple—Berkeley Road, Berkeley (~ 12 km south of Fairy Meadow). Largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. http://www.iecc.org.au/fecca_nantien.html
- Nowra Animal Park
- October Festival in Wollongong
- Stanwell Park—Just north of Wollongong, at the edge of the Royal National Park, this is a beautiful coastline/beach park.
- Symbio Wildlife Park—“Exhibiting over 1000 Australian Native, Farmyard and Exotic animals in 16 acres of natural bush and parklands.” Near Stanwell Park (above) and the Royal National Park. <http://www.symbiowildlife.com/>
- Wollongong Botanical Gardens—a little known secret across the street from the bus stop at uni. <http://botanicgarden.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/>
- Wollongong Breakwater Lighthouse and Wollongong Headland Lighthouse

TRAVEL

Travel by Air

- Australian <http://www.australianairlines.com.au/> (a new discount airline run by Qantas)
- Air New Zealand <http://airnz.com>
- JetStar <http://www.jetstar.com.au>
- Qantas <http://www.qantas.com.au> (highly recommended by past study group members – very reasonable and great service)
- Virgin Blue <http://www.virginblue.com.au>

Travel by Car

If you are thinking about renting a car to do some of your traveling, be aware that most car rental companies require people to be 25 or older to rent. Those companies that have a lower minimum age of 21 usually require people under 25 to purchase additional insurance with the rental, which is usually very expensive (although many students rented cars in New Zealand).

Travel by Coach

- Greyhound Pioneer Australia—<http://www.greyhound.com.au/>
- Leisure Coast Limo Service—this is the company that transports you from the airport. It is especially useful for traveling BACK to the airport for return flights (ask your college about arranging it)

Travel by Rail

The rail network in Australia can get you around the East Coast using a combination of trains and bus transfers. It is not a perfect system (as you will hear many Australians complain about it), but it seems to work for a study abroad student's needs. You will definitely want to pick up a copy of the South Coast Lines timetable. This will give you schedules that apply to the trains within Wollongong and will provide schedules for getting up to Sydney. A copy of this will be provided in one of your information packets that the Wollongong Study Abroad Office puts together for you.

For longer distances, it is best to use the website (<http://www.cityrail.nsw.gov.au>). This provides timetables that you can download. For long distances, you will have to choose the "Countrylink" option on the menu. You can select starting points and destinations and it will tell you how you can travel to these locations as well as how much it costs. You can get a substantial discount with a student card such as the International Student Identity Card (ISIC).

Popular Destinations in Australia

- Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
 - Blue Mountains – can take the train or about AU\$100 bus trip with additional stops and tour guide. Takes about 3 hours to get there from Sydney. Very beautiful! Excellent YHA.
 - Hunter Valley Wine Region
 - Jervis Bay
 - Manly Beach and Bondi Beach
 - Sydney
 - Art Gallery of New South Wales – <http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/home>
 - Royal Botanic Gardens – <http://www.rbgsyd.gov.au/>
 - Darling Harbour – street vendors, shops, nice restaurants and bars. Beautiful at night!
 - Harbour Cruises
 - Hyde Park
 - Sydney Opera House – see an opera, or just take a tour. <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/>
 - The Rocks – historic old quarter of Sydney and shopping area. <http://www.rocksvillage.com/>
 - Sydney Aquarium – <http://www.sydneyaquarium.com.au/>
 - Taronga Zoo – <http://www.zoo.nsw.gov.au/>
- Northern Territory
 - Kakadu National Park – <http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/kakadu/>
 - Kata-Tjuta (The Olgas) – Within the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park <http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru/>
 - Uluru (Ayer's Rock) – very expensive to get to (about AU\$500 for airfare); see website above
 - Darwin
- Queensland
 - Brisbane
 - Byron Bay
 - Cairns (Great Barrier Reef)– no beach but has a man-made lagoon. Beautiful surrounding areas, great night scene, local casino, great day trips to the reef (diving, snorkeling, glass bottom boat tours) and rainforest. Recommend Uncle Brian's Adventures and the Wool Shed.
 - Whitsunday Islands (do a bareboat charter... Whitsunday Rent-A-Yacht in Airlie Beach)
- Victoria
 - Great Ocean Road—12 apostles, London Bridge
 - Melbourne—great casino and great shopping!
 - Wineries outside of Melbourne
 - Philip Island (for the Penguin Parade!)
 - Snowy Mountains (you can go skiing in August!)

- Western Australia
 - Lake Argyle (the Kimberlies)
 - Perth

For all traveling, it is best to plan early—but don't be afraid to be a little spontaneous either!! It is advised to travel earlier in the semester when you are likely to have less work. The “study week” (a week of no classes before the two weeks of finals) is also a good time to travel—although keep in mind the importance of finals for overall grades in Australia! **Also, when traveling among different Australian states or outside, be certain to take customs regulations seriously!! New Zealand officials in particular are known for meticulously examining luggage and exacting strict fines for restricted items.**

Other Destinations in this “Neck of the Woods”

- Cook Islands—Very nice, comparable to Fiji
- Fiji—great beaches, good deals through STA
- New Zealand – Numerous Colgate students visit New Zealand. It is a great place to try adventurous activities such as skydiving and bungee jumping or to enjoy its beauty while backpacking or taking a day tramp/hike. Go camping (it gets pretty cold in the winter though), visit the hot springs, and see a glacier. The Via Feratta in Queenstown is a fun modified rock climbing day trip with great views. Most people recommend not signing up with a tour, but rather just have some loose plans in place when you go. To be on the safe side, book at least two days in advance for hostels and two weeks for rental cars EZY-Rent-A-Car is cheap.
- Thailand

There is an STA Travel Office on Campus. Generally, students have found this to be useful for planning/booking trips when seeking “package” deals, for example a resort trip to Fiji. However, if interested in other travel options, it is usually just as well to search for flights, etc. yourself using the resources mentioned previously.

If you use a travel agent to organize your travel, make sure to re-confirm all reservations yourself! Some students in the past have trouble with their bookings when they did not do so

SOME POINTS REGARDING ACADEMICS

Transfer Credit

As a participant in a Colgate-sponsored study group, you should be able to get all classes taken at Wollongong to count as grades that may later be weighed in calculating GPA. Most will also be counted as credits toward fulfillment of concentration requirements—as opposed to simply counting for credit toward graduation. Before going to Wollongong, make sure to get classes approved for transfer credit by speaking to your academic advisor and/or the heads of individual departments. This is generally pretty easy to do for ENST/GEOG/GEOL classes, as these departments are quite familiar with Wollongong course offerings. You will usually be asked to provide some sort of course description/syllabus. This can often also be conducted after returning from Australia—but may prove more difficult. Contact the registrar, the study abroad office, and the individual department heads for more information about this process.

Class Structure

The typical Wollongong class (certainly true for most EESC classes) meets for one, 2-hour “lecture” and one 2-hour “practical/tutorial” each week. Some classes may have a greater time

commitment if there is a lab requirement, etc. In many ways comparable to larger lecture classes at Colgate (e.g. Psych 150), attendance is generally not taken at lectures, and thus attendance is at the student's discretion although the importance of these lectures should not be forgotten. Attendance, *IS*, however, taken at tutorials and practicals, and students are highly advised to go—usually there is a penalty if more than one or two is missed over the course of the semester.

Finals

The academic semester consists of 13 weeks of classes followed by a “reading week” and two weeks of finals. It is very unusual for finals to be self-scheduled, and finals schedules are released in the latter half of the semester. Thus, plan on having a final at any point during those two weeks—do not commit to travel plans before you are certain of your schedule!! Again, keep in mind that finals contribute to a large proportion of your overall grade—usually substantially more so than classes at Colgate. In the EESC department, for example, finals typically account for 40-60% of your total grade. The resulting portion of each grade is usually comprised of 2:4 assignments: exams.

Grading

Remember, the University of Wollongong is a large, research university. In general, students at Wollongong are given less direct instruction and are expected to take greater personal responsibility for their academics. Also, the system of grading is quite different. In general, the grade-range is much broader, and lower. Theoretically, grades start from zero, and points are added according to merit. This is distinct from the common practice in the U.S. and at Colgate, which is to start from a grade of 100 and subtract points. **DO NOT EXPECT TO GET THE SAME GRADES IN AUSTRALIA THAT YOU WOULD AT COLGATE.** Grades will be adjusted for transfer to Colgate (consult your trip advisor for a more detailed account of the specific transfer calculations). Generally the scale is as follows:

'GONG		'GATE
100-85	“High Distinction”	A+
84-75	“Distinction”	A
74-65	“Credit”	B
64-55	“Pass”	C
etc.....		

*Notice that other than an A+, there are no + or – distinctions.

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC TERMINOLOGY

College = residential living campus, *NOT the academic institution itself* (e. g. Weerona College)

Uni = University (of Wollongong). As in “I’m headed to uni.” *Australians LOVE abbreviations

Course = major/concentration, *Not a specific class*

Subject = specific class/course *Not a “subject” area* (e.g. “PSYCH150” v. “psychology”)

Faculty = Academic department (e.g. Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences)

***Queue** = pronounced “cue”—*UK term*; (noun): line OR (verb): to wait or “line up.”

As in “I’m standing in the queue” or “Queue here for service.”

FINAL NOTES

This guide is meant to be used as a starting point and a tool to help get you oriented when you first get to Australia. Don't rely on the guide too much – half the fun of being in a different country is exploring and discovering things on your own! You are in for an amazing semester; just don't expect things to fall into your lap. You'll need to get out there and make the effort to do things and meet people – especially the Aussies!

Be aware, too, that other countries have different ways of doing things and part of the education that comes with studying abroad derives from experiencing how other cultures operate. Australia is no exception. Things will be different, whether it's how they barbeque or what someone replies when you ask them for the time. You're going to be expected to adapt to the Aussie way of life, not the other way around. Remember: "When in Rome (or Australia!)"