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. This current edition benefited from the contributions of Susanna Blair, Milt Geiger, Robyn Hanson, Leslie Reed and Director Paul Pinet from the fall 2001 group.

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 105 McGregory Hall upon your return.

Thanks in advance for your help and best wishes for a great semester in Australia!
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 London study group and general travel information. Below are some other websites worth checking out.

- [http://www.australia.com](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](http://www.visitoz.com/oz/tourism.htm) – This site offers similar information to the one above, but is not quite as good.
- [http://www.tourismwollongong.com](http://www.tourismwollongong.com) and [http://www.wollongong-city.com](http://www.wollongong-city.com) – These sites both have specific information about the city of Wollongong.

Buy the book—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.

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/](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 feel 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 one 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.

PASSPORT AND VISAS

Passport

If you are a U.S. citizen you must have a valid passport to enter every country except Canada, Mexico, and certain Caribbean islands. This will be your best form of identification, especially when cashing Travelers Cheques and making travel plans.

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:

Colgate: Each semester, Colgate sponsors a passport meeting the week after mid-term break. A photographer and the county clerk are present and the entire application can be completed during the meeting.

Near Colgate: The Madison County Clerk’s office 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;
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 about 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. Your study group director will help you through this process. If you plan to travel to other countries, such as Thailand, Japan, China, 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/foreignentryreqs.html](http://travel.state.gov/foreignentryreqs.html). A copy of this latter document is also available for reference in the Office of Off-Campus Study. If you do not hold a U.S. passport, be sure to investigate visa requirements carefully, especially for those countries that you wish to visit, and do so well in advance of your departure date because it could take a while for your visa request(s) to be processed.

Also, if you plan on traveling or studying abroad in the spring semester in a different foreign country, be sure to think about how you will obtain the necessary visas for that country, 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 and one small carry-on that must be able to fit under the seat in front of you. These 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, which are lighter than international limits. When you arrive in the U.S. to
make a connecting 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. If possible, 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.

Some suggestions:

- Most students brought sturdy backpacks 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. Some students recommend making 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.

- As for what kind of clothing to bring, dress is casual at the University of Wollongong, but students do 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.

- Although you will not likely experience really cold weather, you will need some warm clothes. A couple of sweatshirts/wool sweaters will be good to wear during the day, but 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. There is a fair amount of rain in Wollongong in the winter months, and walking around the large campus can leave students soaking wet. This is not a fun condition to be in when you are far from your dorm room!

- Bring comfortable shoes. You will do a fair amount of walking around campus and if you live in Weerona, you may even 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.

- Portable alarm clock (preferably a battery-powered one that is small enough for weekend travel). 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 Discman or Walkman with speakers, or buy a cheap stereo when you are there. You will not regret it!!!

- 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. In times of high demand, you will also have access to labs on campus. There are only five working computers in the Weerona dorm, making it necessary to use computers on campus sometimes. 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. Students in Campus East found that computers were often not functioning and/or not available at critical times. As long as some members of the trip bring laptops, that should be sufficient. As of 2002, the University was about to begin a system of charging students a rate per page to be able to print from university computers, including in the dorms, so plan this cost into your budget accordingly.

- 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 your luggage. In general, past study group members do not recommend bringing or shipping over linens from home, as it is expensive and unnecessary. The towel provided by the school, on the other hand, is VERY small, so plan on bringing or buying one of your own.

- 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 a shop that buys and sells such goods located on Keira St. called Cash Converters. There is also a Salvation Army in Fairy Meadow where Campus East students have found items in the past. However, 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.

- Buy a desk lamp once you arrive. The lighting isn’t very good in the dorm rooms (especially Campus East), so 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 Fairy Meadow.

- A fan is an essential item as well and can be bought at Woolie’s (Woolworth’s) in Fairy Meadow. Also, portable space heaters were deemed important by many students during the night in July and August. These may also be purchased at Woolie’s and refunded at the end of the semester at the Swap Shop.

### Clothing/Accessories Thought to Be Essential

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alarm clock</td>
<td>Jeans</td>
<td>Sunglasses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camera</td>
<td>Large, sturdy backpack*</td>
<td>Sweatshirt(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comfortable shoes</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Umbrella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discman/Walkman</td>
<td>School bag</td>
<td>Water-repellent coat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiking boots/shoes</td>
<td>Sleeping bag (small)*</td>
<td>1-2 wool sweaters</td>
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</tbody>
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* Sleeping bags and backpacks can easily (and cheaply) be bought in Australia.
TIME AND WEATHER

Time Difference

There is a 14-16 hour time difference between Australia and the eastern U.S. depending on the time of year and the territory. During the Australian winter and spring, which accounts for most of the time you will be there, the eastern U.S. is 14 hours behind eastern Australia. 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.

Climate

You will arrive in Wollongong in the winter. 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 group did!).

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.

Banking/Obtaining Cash during the Semester

The exchange rate generally fluctuates between AU $1.50–1.55/US $. Due to this variance, 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.

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 very expensive, but this did not seem to be the case with most Colgate students. 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.

If you can work out an arrangement with your parents, you may find that having a credit card is 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.

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.
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.

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 nearly as much money on textbooks in Wollongong as you do at Colgate. Many professors do not have and/or require them, and if they do, numerous copies are available at the library, so if you get in the library early enough, you can check them out.

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.

Food
Both Campus East and Weerona dormitories offer 19 meals a week 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. At Campus East, you can pick up two pre-made sandwiches or you can stand in line and have sandwiches made for you. At Weerona, you make your own sandwiches. If you miss breakfast, there is a refrigerator at Campus East that holds pre-made sandwiches, but these run out relatively quickly. 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.

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. 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. You can also pay as you go for a couple of dollars per visit.

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. They found it more convenient because of the location, and the prices are comparable to those at the UOW health club. Campus East also has a very small gym.

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 (however doing so at night may not be a good idea).

The bus system in Wollongong seems pretty useless. Most students never used it. 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, but if you live in Campus East, you will find that the bus is much easier. A bike is useful for making trips to and from the Fairymeadow Woolie’s if you live in Campus East, but you can always borrow one.

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 and the majority of the bars. 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. Study abroad students do not get concessions when using the trains, but many students were still able to use student discounts when going short distances. 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). Many students take short trips (around town) on the train without buying tickets, but you do risk the chance of getting fined and it happened to a fair number of students throughout the term.

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 $1.00 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 the U.K. 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. Many 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 “Say G’day” and “Primus” were found to be a much better deal than AT&T and MCI for calling the U.S.

Some students used Telstra reverse charge (collect) calling to contact their parents, but this is not recommended because it is very expensive.
You should 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. Calling mobile phones is very expensive and will use up your money very quickly, but some students found this option to be more convenient.

**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. Be sure to consider this expense when planning your budget.

**Travel**

Many of the costs for group travel are included in the tuition paid to Colgate by 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. Visit [http://www.star-alliance.com/cgi-bin/sa.storefront](http://www.star-alliance.com/cgi-bin/sa.storefront) for a complete list of member airlines.

**ONCE YOU’RE IN WOLLONGONG**

**ARRIVAL**

Once you arrive in Sydney, a coach will meet the Colgate Study Group as well as some other study abroad students and take you to the dormitories in Wollongong. 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” side of the road. This will be your home for the next six months, so really try to notice the differences, but appreciate them.

**DORMS**

You will no doubt be tired when you finally arrive at your dorm. If you are living in Campus East, don’t be surprised if your room is not available right when you get there. There are many students moving in
and out when the term changes. Try not to get frustrated if this happens to you. They will deal with it as quickly as possible and they have alternative places for you to stay if you cannot move into your room right away. You will love the people who work in the office at Campus East.

There are four places you may live in Campus East. There is ‘Trenchtown’, ‘The Hospital’, ‘The Slums’ and ‘C-Block’. Don’t let the names put you off too much. There are positive and negative aspects to living in each area, but each place will be fun, so don’t be frightened by the brick walls of your room that are only disguised by white paint. Students are randomly placed, so you won’t be able to select/request where you live.

Although you will have a single if you live in Campus East, 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). You may or may not become friends with the people you share these areas with, but it is very important that you **ALWAYS** lock the door to your own room. There can be quite a bit of theft in Campus East, especially at the beginning of the term. It is such a large living area and there are about 500 students living there, so it is hard to know if strangers are milling around and wandering into people’s rooms. 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/prospectiveresidents.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/campus_east/prospectiveresidents.html).

If you are living in Weerona, don’t be concerned if things are little chaotic when you arrive. You will definitely have a room available, but not all of the office staff and the resident assistants will be there when you move in. Your first day may leave you feeling stranded in the middle of an unfamiliar city, but on the second day, there will be organized tours to and from campus so that you can get your bearings. 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. If at first your roommate seems standoffish, don’t be concerned. Remember that he/she may have had another international roommate first semester and is still sad that he/she is gone. The Australians want to be your friends; they just don’t want to accept that you will only be there for one semester. Visit the following website to learn more about Weerona College: [http://www.uow.edu.au/residences/weerona/](http://www.uow.edu.au/residences/weerona/).

Both Campus East and Weerona 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 also intramural sport programs you can get involved in that will allow you to meet even more people.

**EATING OUT**

- Aamaru (Corrimal Street) – Indian restaurant
- Amigo’s – Mexican food
- Caesar’s (Princes Hwy, Fairymeadow) – various homestyle dishes and sandwiches
- Carluccio's Kitchen (23-25 Princes Hwy, Fairymeadow) – very nice Italian restaurant
- Cheesecake Shop (Princes 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

Fat Boy’s (Keira Street)
Fish and Chip’s Shop (City Beach)
Kosim’s Kebab shop (right at Campus East) – the Wollongong version of “Slices.” The perfect late night snack – we’re sure you’ll realize this for yourself!
The Lagoon (North Beach) – a really nice seafood restaurant
McDonald’s (Princes Highway) and Subway (Keira St.) – for those of you who need a taste of home
Monsoon (Keira Street) – a Thai restaurant
Pizza Haven (Fairymeadow) – very cheap pizza!
Pizza Hut (Fairymeadow, but delivers to Weerona), Pizza Haven (Fairymeadow, but delivers to Weerona), and Mama’s Pizza (Wollongong)
Tennis Club (near Weerona)
Thai Carnation (Corrimal Street)
Trang’s Noodle Bar (Keira Street)
World Food Court (Keira Street) – a variety of quick, cheap Asian food

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

The Beach Bar – The “Sunday night” Bar. Very crowded, but also very 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.
The Blue Note – Not recommended. Open LATE, but not the safest place to hang out.
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.
Checkers (off of Keira St.) – This is a gay bar four nights a week, but some students went there on Saturday nights because it plays techno music and can be fun for people interested in dancing. Weerona rents it out for a party at some point during the term. The 2002 group never heard of or went to this place.
Cooney’s – A popular spot for previous study groups. It is 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. This place was one of the favorites for the 2002 group, especially on Tuesdays (for happy hour) and Saturdays.
Dicey Riley’s – Mostly frequented by an older crowd, so it is not very popular among the uni students. Bottle shop attached.
Glasshouse – The most popular nightclub/bar among the 2001 and 2002 groups. Free transportation to and from the bar on Wednesdays during happy hour. (A real plus, since taxis can get expensive).
Hot Rocks – The 2002 guys occasionally went here for cheap drinks and because it is walking distance from Campus East. Bottle shop attached. Attracts a much older crowd.
Hotel Illawarra – During the week it is pretty empty, but on the weekends it has a backroom club. The ‘club’ is not recommended unless you want to pay to get in and listen to techno. Not popular with recent groups.
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. A+++!!

- 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.
- Splashes – Located next to the Beach Bar. Also similar to Rusty’s, but the popularity of this bar varies every semester. The 2002 group never heard of or saw this bar.
- 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 very popular on Thursday nights and offers good bands sometimes.

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://usembassy-australia.state.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://usembassy-australia.state.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://usembassy-australia.state.gov/sydney/index.html

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://usembassy-australia.state.gov/embassy/index.html
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
- This is 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 the Wollongong library runs out of books 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 whatever you need is likely to be available. 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.
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 have to go to Sydney to find more options.

TELEVISED SPORTS

Getting into the Australian sports scene is highly recommended. Watching games/matches in the lounges of Campus East and Weerona or in a bar is a way to meet people and get involved in the local culture.

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 available. Both 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, but in general most U.S. sporting events are not televised in Australia.

TICKS

Ticks are very common in Australia. Numerous Colgate students found ticks on themselves after going to Jervis Bay and Mount Keira. Lime disease 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 lime 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 lime disease, be sure to see a doctor.

TOURIST SITES AND ATTRACTIONS AROUND WOLLONGONG

- AFL, Rugby League, and/or Cricket Games
- Bass Point (scuba diving available) – see http://www.scubansurf.com.au
- Coniston rock wall called “Hang Dog”
- Jervis Bay
- Kiama Blowhole
- Mount Keira
- Nowra Animal Park
- Stanwell Park
- Sydney
- Wollongong Botanical Gardens

TRAVEL

Travel by Air

- Air New Zealand http://airnz.com
- 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 Coach


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. (On a side note: some of the things they give you in those info packets will be unnecessary, but be sure to look through them before you throw everything out because there will be some very useful things.)

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.

Popular Destinations in Australia

- Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
  - Blue Mountains
  - Hunter Valley Wine Region
  - Jervis Bay
  - Manly Beach and Bondi Beach
  - Sydney
    - Art Museum of New South Wales
    - Botanic Gardens
    - Darling Harbour
    - Harbour Cruises
    - Hyde Park
    - Opera House Tour
    - The Rocks—shopping area
    - Sydney Aquarium
    - Taronga Zoo
- Northern Territory
  - Kakadu National Park
  - Kata-Tjuta (The Olgas)
  - Uluru (Ayer’s Rock)
- Queensland
  - Brisbane
  - Byron Bay
  - Cairns
  - Whitsunday Islands (do a bareboat charter…Whitsunday Rent-A-Yacht in Airlie Beach)
- Victoria
  - Great Ocean Road
  - Melbourne
  - Philip Island (for the Penguin Parade!)
  - Snowy Mountains (you can go skiing in August!)
- Western Australia
  - Lake Argyle (the Kimberlies)
  - Perth
Other Destinations Nearby

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- 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 hike. Most people recommend not signing up with a tour, but rather just have some loose plans in place when you go. Book at least two days in advance for hostels, and two weeks for rental cars.
- Thailand

When making travel plans, it is recommended that you do not use STA travel (the office located on campus). They do not always give you the best prices and are known to make errors. One travel agency that was popular with Campus East students was Fairymeadow Travel. There are also a few in and around Keira St. as well as one in the mall that people used.

If you use a travel agent to organize your travel, re-confirm all reservations yourself to be on the safe side. Some students in the past have trouble with their bookings, because the travel agent neglected to confirm them.

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 cook their burgers 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…”