

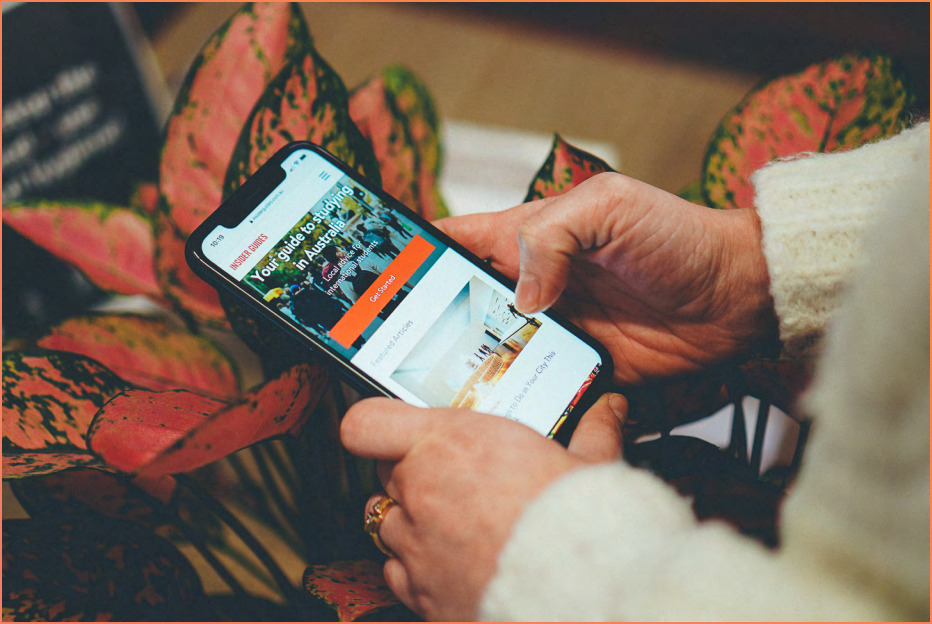
# Perth

## International Student Guide

INSIDER GUIDES

BY LOCAL EXPERTS  
FREE  
2021

STUDY **Perth**  
AUSTRALIA



# Everything you need to know about studying in Australia

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## KEY CONTACTS AND SERVICES

Need some help while you are in Perth? Find the contact details of the various support services available.

# Welcome

Welcome to Perth! Your international student journey begins in one of the most liveable cities in the world. We can't wait for you to begin discovering everything there is to love about this city. Perth is the gateway to the big and beautiful state of Western Australia. It offers an outdoor lifestyle, vibrant arts scene, boutique bars and restaurants, breathtaking coastline and some of the best sunsets in the country. International students will find a world of endless opportunities awaiting them. With a thriving economy, world-class education system and diverse employment options, Perth is an exciting place to create your future.



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**Co-branding partners:**

**STUDY**  
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*All information presented is true and correct to the best of our knowledge. Current businesses and services mentioned were operating at the time of publication. We apologise if any have moved, closed or their services have altered in the interim.*

# LIVE LEARN LAUNCH

## IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The study experience in Perth goes beyond just education. Perth is a safe, clean, green city, and is consistently voted one of the top 1% most livable cities in the world.

Perth offers a world-class education, warm climate, laid-back lifestyle and a vibrant economy, with adventure and new discoveries waiting on your doorstep.

If you're interested in studying and living in Perth, or just looking for more information about our stunning city, you've come to the right place.

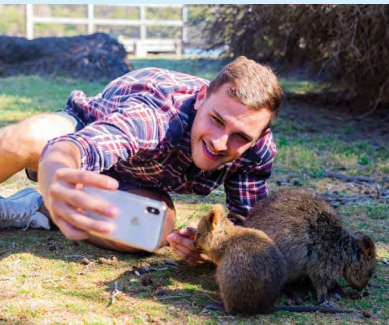


[studyp Perth.com.au](http://studyp Perth.com.au)



LIVE  
LEARN  
LAUNCH

STUDY **Perth**  
AUSTRALIA



## Welcome to Country Wunjoo!

**Wadjuk Noongar Boodjah, Ngallakah Boodjah.**

“Welcome! to Noongar country, our country. “

I welcome all international students to our lands as they continue their journey of learning. Perth is located on the traditional lands of the Noongar Nation. On behalf of the Wadjuk people we respectfully acknowledge all other Aboriginal nations across Western Australia who have their own lands, culture and languages. We ask that all who visit acknowledge the First Peoples in the local areas that you live in or travel through.

We hope you feel at home with us and wish you every success in your studies.

*Walter McGuire, Noongar Cultural Custodian*



## Quick facts

### Hello sunshine

Perth is Australia's sunniest capital city, enjoying on average eight hours of sunshine per day and more than 147 sunny days per year.

### Birds of a feather

Before Dutch explorers arrived in Perth, Europeans didn't know that black swans existed. The birds inspired the name of the Swan River and became the state's animal emblem.

### Room to move

With a total land area of 2,527,013 square kilometres, Western Australia is the second biggest state in the world, only beaten by Russia's Sakha Republic.

### Open water

The annual Rottneest Channel Swim is one of the largest open-water swimming events in the world, covering 19.7 kilometres from Cottesloe Beach to Rottneest Island.

### Artistic visions

Perth Festival is the oldest international arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere, and transforms the city with vibrant arts and cultural events every summer.

### In bloom

Western Australia is home to the world's largest collection of wildflowers. Perth bursts into colour every spring with flower species found nowhere else in the world.



“

Perth is a very beautiful city. It has a lovely blend of nature, including greenery, animals in their natural habitat and waterbodies, and sophisticated and modern buildings. ”

**Emmanuel, Ghana**

Studying at Murdoch University



“

In Perth, you can always go to the beach to see the sunset and just sit there and think about nothing or read. But you can easily go to the city and have crazy fun at a nightclub. Perth has the capacity for both quietness and craziness. ”

**Hiromi, Japan**

Studying at Curtin University





# Must-do in Perth

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There are so many fun things to do in Perth, but here are a few you can't leave the city without doing.

1.

## Explore Fremantle

Roughly 30 minutes from Perth, the portside town of Fremantle is a bohemian haven, filled with vintage stores, cosy bookshops, vibrant markets, street performers, and alfresco cafés.

2.

## Head to Rottnest Island

While in Fremantle, jump on a ferry to Rottnest Island, where you'll find crystal-clear water, secluded bays, and a very friendly population of quokkas.

3.

## See Elizabeth Quay

This luxury waterside complex boasts modern eateries, stylish hotels, public art, landscaped gardens, and spectacular views of the cityscape across the Swan River.

4.

## Visit Matilda Bay

Take a snap of the Instagram-famous Blue Boat House or simply pack a picnic and spend a lazy afternoon on this idyllic stretch of riverbank.

5.

## Check out the Sunset Coast

Watch the sun set over the ocean while you cruise along the West Coast Highway, taking in the views of more than seven kilometres of pristine coastline.

6.

## Hike in the Perth Hills

The Perth Hills offer acres of walking trails through national park, bushland and botanical garden. Try tackling a section of the 900-kilometre Bibbulmun Track in Kalamunda.

# Your first week in Perth

1.



P. 61

## Buy a SmartRider card

You'll need a SmartRider card to get around on public transport. Buy one from convenience stores and other selected retailers.

2.



P. 31

## Set up your bank account

This is crucial if you're planning to work in Australia, but is also useful for paying rent and other expenses.

3.



P. 27

## Sort out your phone

You can use your existing phone or buy a new one in Australia, with the option of going prepaid or signing up for a plan.

4.



## Know the emergency number

If you need emergency assistance – police, fire or ambulance – you can call Triple Zero (000), even when your phone can't get reception. Make sure to store this number in your phone.

5.



## Stock up your fridge

Once you've found your nearest grocery store, stock up on basic ingredients and your favourite foods from home – they'll help if you get homesick during your first week!

6.



P. 47

## Plan your studies

Find out when classes start, where your campus is located (some institutions are spread across several campuses) and when O-Week kicks off.

## Martin, UK

Studying at South Metropolitan TAFE



**“I love exploring new restaurants and cafes, walking along the beach and cycling around the river.”**

“

### COFFEE

Pixel in Leederville uses locally roasted beans and is perpetually rotating its offering, but always provides friendly and informative service.

### BREAKFAST

Go to Source Foods on Beaufort Street and order the lupin-crumbed braised lamb croquettes, saffron aioli, sautéed smoked chorizo and potato, rocket, chilli and soft fried egg.

### DINNER

My favourite dinner spot is Okay Vietnamese. Order the Pho Tai Bo Vien – it’s delicious, filling and cheap!

### HIDDEN GEM

Join the Applecross parkrun. It’s a free, weekly, timed five-kilometre run with expansive views of the cityscape.

”



# Improving your English

If you'd like to continue improving your English during your time in Australia, there are a few tools and resources that can help.

## SPEAKING

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Join a conversation group. There are plenty of groups on Meetup, as well as at local libraries and community centres. Libraries around Perth hold English conversation groups throughout the week.

Find a friend who also wants to improve their English and only chat to them in English - including via text message, online, over the phone and in person.

Make friends with people from other nationalities so you only communicate in English.

Join a volunteer group or sports team so you can put your English skills to good use.

## READING & LISTENING

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Read in English every day. This includes websites, online news, newspapers, magazines and books.

Listen to English-language music and podcasts, watch English-language films, television shows and YouTube videos, and try to do so without subtitles!

## WRITING

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Write a daily journal in English. It doesn't matter what you write about, as long as it's in English.

Do little translation exercises. Take a passage from a book or article in your native language and translate it into English, or do the reverse.



## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP ME IMPROVE MY ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS?

TITLE	LINK	WHAT IS IT?
English Central	<a href="https://www.englishcentral.com">englishcentral.com</a>	A platform full of English language videos that progressively build your comprehension.
BBC Learning English	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish">bbc.co.uk/learningenglish</a>	Watch well-crafted videos and complete related activities to increase your knowledge of the English language.
italki	<a href="https://www.italki.com">italki.com</a>	Choose between native speakers and qualified tutors (more expensive) to have a 1-on-1 video chat with you.
Busuu	<a href="https://www.busuu.com">busuu.com</a>	A website and mobile app, Busuu is a social network of people learning new languages.

# Australian slang

## EXPRESSING YOURSELF

### **Aggro (Adjective)**

Angry, showing aggression

'He's so aggro at the moment, you should avoid him.'

### **Fair enough (Idiom)**

Alright/OK

'You'll be late? Fair enough, traffic is bad today.'

### **Feral (Adjective)**

Disgusting, something repulsive

'I just saw someone drop their hot chips and then continue to eat them off the ground - that's so feral.'

### **Hey? (Exclamation)**

Used at the end of a sentence to ask if someone agrees

'You're going out tonight, hey?'

### **She'll be right (Idiom)**

It will be fine

'You missed the bus? She'll be right, there'll be another one soon.'

### **Keen (Adjective)**

Excited for something

'I'm so keen for the new Quentin Tarantino film.'

### **No worries (Idiom)**

Don't worry about it/it's OK

'You can't come to the party? No worries!'

### **----- as (Adverb)**

Almost anything could go here: busy as, awesome as, tired as. To understand the speaker, just cut off the 'as' and add 'very' to the front and you'll get what they mean.

'She's been annoying as since she got back from exchange - she won't stop talking about it.'

### **Heaps (Adjective)**

A lot or very

'Wow, that show was heaps good.'

### **Full on (Adjective)**

Intense/wild

'Uni is so full on, I can't keep up with my assignments.'

### **Yeah, nah (Determiner)**

- No

### **Nah, yeah (Determiner)**

- Yes



### **Snag (Noun)**

Sausage

'For the best snags, I go to Bunnings Warehouse.'



### **Esky (Noun)**

Ice cooler

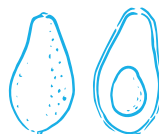
'The esky will keep the drinks cool while we swim.'



### **Cuppa (Noun)**

Hot beverage

'A hot cuppa tea goes well with biscuits.'



### **Avo (Noun)**

Avocado

'I love avo toast with feta cheese.'



## GOING OUT

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### **Arvo (Noun)**

*Afternoon*

'Let's catch up this arvo for a coffee.'

---

### **Barbie (Noun)**

*BBQ*

'Let's fire up the barbie for dinner tonight.'

---

### **Bathers (Noun)**

*Swimming costume*

'Remember to bring your bathers, my friend has a pool.'

---

### **Brekky (Noun)**

*Breakfast*

'I always have a big brekky. I'm so hungry when I wake up in the morning.'

---

### **Chemist (Noun)**

*Drug store/pharmacy*

'We should go pick up some Panadol from the chemist.'

---

### **EFTPOS (Noun/Acronym)**

*Machine for electronic (card) payments. Stands for Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale*

'Luckily, the cafe has EFTPOS, because I don't have any cash.'

---

### **Bottle-o (Noun)**

*Liquor store*

'I have to go and get some beer from the bottle-o.'

---

### **Macca's (Noun)**

*McDonald's*

'I'm too tired to make dinner, shall we go to Macca's instead?'

---

### **Mate (Noun)**

*Friend (this can be used passive-aggressively though, so pay attention to the situation)*

'I like her, she's a good mate, she always has my back.'

---

### **Mozzie (Noun)**

*Mosquito*

'The mozzies are so bad in the summer.'

---

### **Rip-off (Adjective)**

*To cheat/something that's too expensive*

'This brunch is such a rip-off - \$18 for toast?!'

---

### **Servo (Noun)**

*Service station/gas station*

'On long drives I have to stop at the servo to buy snacks.'

---

### **Shout (Verb)**

*To pay for the next round of drinks i.e. 'it's your shout'*

'I paid for the last round, so it's your shout this time.'

---

### **Spud (Noun)**

*A potato*

'I'd love a baked spud with sour cream right about now.'

---

## WHILE STUDYING

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### **Bludge (Intransitive Verb)**

*To not try your hardest*

'He's bludging uni, there's no way he'll graduate.'

---

### **SWOTVAC (Noun/Acronym)**

*Study break/revision week*

'I have so much revision to do during SWOTVAC. I shouldn't have slacked off so much during the semester.'

---

### **Chuck a sickie (Phrasal verb)**

*To fake a sick day from work or study.*

'I can't miss The Bachelor tonight - I'll just call work and chuck a sickie.'

---

### **Dodgy (Adjective)**

*Poor quality/not reliable/suspicious*

'That website is dodgy, I'm pretty sure it gave me a virus.'

---

### **Good on ya (Exclamation)**

*Well done/good on you*

'Congratulations on that HD! Good on ya!'

---

### **How ya going/How's it going? (Spoken phrase)**

*How are you?*

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### **Reckon (Verb)**

*Think/figure/assume*

'I reckon I'll go for a run; I've been feeling lazy as.'

---

### **Uni (Noun)**

*University*

'Do you want to walk to uni together?'

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# Accommodation

- + Comparing your options
- + Housemates' code
- + Paying rent
- + Setting up your home

# Comparing your options

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## Private rental

\$170-\$500/wk

This is true independent living; renting an apartment or a house, either alone or with housemates. Living with others is ideal for meeting new people and reducing your costs. However, if you decide to live alone, you will have to pay for everything and may get lonely (depending on your personality, of course). Rentals come either furnished or unfurnished.

*Note: Listed price is per room.*

---

## Homestay

\$250-\$350/wk

Homestay involves staying with a family in their home with meals, internet and utilities covered by your host. It is a popular choice for a true Australian experience, and it also allows you to settle into your new life in Australia with the support of a family. Homestay can be both close to and some distance from your educational institution – make sure to check access and public transport options.

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## Purpose-built student accommodation

\$200-\$500/wk

These large centres are full of apartments of varying sizes, generally one to five bedrooms. You will get a fully furnished bedroom with 24-hour support and internet included. Generally, student accommodation is conveniently located for students, is secure and safe, and boasts a real sense of community. The downside to this is the internet can slow down at peak times and the rooms can be on the smaller side.

---

## Residential college

\$450-\$700/wk

While they appear more expensive than other options, residential colleges do include a lot of extras. They're usually located close to campus, your fully furnished bedroom will be cleaned weekly, study facilities and gyms are supplied, and meals are included. The downside is that you often have to pay for the full academic year and may not need all the extras.



## Before you take out a lease on a property

- ENSURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER THE BOND
- ARRANGE A REFERENCE OR GUARANTOR
- INSPECT THE PROPERTY BEFORE YOU SIGN A CONTRACT OR PAY A DEPOSIT
- PHOTOGRAPH ANY EXISTING DAMAGE OR ISSUES
- MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE, AND KEEP, A COPY OF YOUR RENTAL AGREEMENT AND RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR ALL RENT AND BOND PAYMENTS
- PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS REGARDING THE END OF YOUR RENTAL AGREEMENT



## Other factors to consider when selecting accommodation

- HOW CLOSE IS IT TO YOUR STUDY INSTITUTION?
- HOW CLOSE IS IT TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND WHAT WILL THE TRAVEL COST BE?
- WHAT IS NEARBY? (SHOPS, HOSPITALS, POLICE STATIONS, PARKS)
- IS THERE ADEQUATE HEATING AND COOLING?
- IS IT NOISY?
- IS THE AREA SAFE AND IS THE BUILDING SECURE?
- WHAT WILL THE INSURANCE COSTS BE?
- DOES EVERYTHING WORK? (SMOKE ALARMS, APPLIANCES, LIGHT SWITCHES)

# Housemates' code

Sharing a house with others can be a really fun experience. Use these tips to ensure a happy and harmonious household.

1.



## Food

Establish early on how groceries will be purchased and make it clear what food is shared. Avoid eating any food that isn't yours or designated as shared.

2.



## Guests

Communication with your housemates is crucial when it comes to guests. Guidelines to consider include when/how long they should be there and which areas/rooms are shared spaces.

3.



## Cleaning

Consider creating a cleaning roster, noting that some housemates may prefer certain tasks. You will still be responsible for doing your own dishes and laundry, and keeping your room tidy.

4.



## Rent

Make sure rent is paid on-time to the right person. You might be paying rent to a head housemate or making individual payments to the real estate agent or landlord.

5.



## Bills

Have a plan for how bills are divided up and paid. One person is generally responsible for managing bills, but like rent, make sure they're paid on-time to avoid housemate disputes.

6.



## Moving out

If someone decides to move out, establish the process involved. Determine how much notice they need to give and whether you need to alert your property manager or landlord.

## What support services are available for renters in WA?

Tenancy WA can help you understand your rights when renting a room, apartment or house. Visit the website to learn about housing options available, the housing system in Perth, and where you can ask for assistance with accommodation issues before and after you arrive.

[tenancywa.org.au](http://tenancywa.org.au)

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent community organisations that provide free legal services to the public. They help people who are

ineligible for legal aid and cannot afford a private lawyer. Visit the Community Legal WA website if you think you need legal support for a tenancy issue.

[communitylegalwa.org.au](http://communitylegalwa.org.au)

You can also head to the StudyPerth website to check out the latest support initiatives for international students in Perth, or use ProsPER's free legal services for any legal support you may need while renting.

[studyp Perth.com.au](http://studyp Perth.com.au)

[prosper.studyp Perth.com.au](http://prosper.studyp Perth.com.au)

## Can I get a pet as an international student?

If you are considering getting a pet, you need to make sure you have done your research. Things like the size of the pet, where it will live, how much time you can spend with it, what will happen to it when you return home and the amount of money you have to properly take care of it should all be part of your decision. You also need to know the rules and requirements of pet

ownership. They may be different from what you are used to and you may get into trouble if you don't follow them.

[perth.wa.gov.au/live-and-work/residents/pets-and-animals](http://perth.wa.gov.au/live-and-work/residents/pets-and-animals)

Fostering an animal is a good option if you can't keep a pet long-term. You will be provided with basic supplies, and can enjoy the company of a pet temporarily until they find their perfect forever home.

[rspca.org.au/support-us/foster-care](http://rspca.org.au/support-us/foster-care)



## Factors to consider before owning a pet

- WILL MY ACCOMMODATION ALLOW THEM?
- UPFRONT COSTS (DESEXING, REGISTRATION, ETC)
- ONGOING COSTS (FOOD, BOARDING, HEALTHCARE, VETERINARIAN COSTS, ETC)
- WILL YOUR PETS NEED DAILY WALKS AND EXERCISE?
- WILL YOU NEED A FULLY ENCLOSED BACKYARD?
- HOW OFTEN ARE YOU NOT AT HOME?
- HOW LONG WILL YOU BE STAYING IN AUSTRALIA, AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PET IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE?

## HOW MUCH WILL MY BOND BE?

In private rentals and managed student accommodation, you will need to pay a bond in advance, which will be returned at the end of your agreement if no damage has occurred and your rental payments are up to date. For private rentals, this bond is not legally allowed to be more than four weeks' rent.

Make sure you receive a receipt for all money given to your landlord or real estate agent, including the bond, and a bond authority lodgment notice from the WA Department of Commerce.

### How to pay rent

There are a few different ways to pay rent in Australia. These include direct debit (bank), BPAY (a type of electronic payment), or paying in person with card or cash. Your real estate agent or landlord will sometimes offer a range of options or request only one.

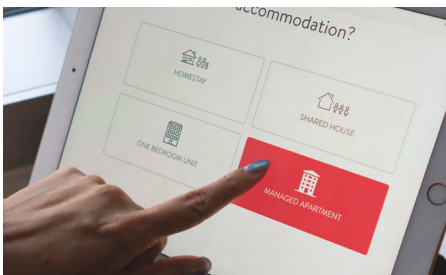
### Rental scams

Unfortunately, rental scams can occur in Australia. But, there are a few things to look out for so you can protect yourself.

Be careful of offers that sound too good to be true. Ask advice from trusted friends, or your school or agent, if you see any of the following warning signs:

- The rent is a lot cheaper than other similar accommodation in the area
- You are asked to sign a lease or pay a bond or deposit before you have seen the property

- The photos or description of the property don't match the reality on inspection
- The landlord or agent makes excuses that you can't view the property, such as saying they are overseas
- The landlord or agent requests money via money transfer
- The scammers may try to appear genuine by providing photos, real addresses of properties, copies of land titles, and even scans of stolen passports. Scammers also ask for personal details – such as bank and credit card numbers – which they use for credit card and identity fraud
- Make sure you always inspect the property in person (or via Skype if you can't attend) and don't send any money via money transfer



### COST OF LIVING CALCULATOR

Want to work out your budget? Use our Cost of Living Calculator to receive a customised breakdown of your expected costs in Perth.

[insiderguides.com.au/colc](https://insiderguides.com.au/colc)

# Setting up your house

There are plenty of stores and online marketplaces in Australia offering affordable furniture and other home items. Here's our guide to some of the best.

## FURNITURE STORES

There is one IKEA store located in Perth (in Innaloo), where you can find reasonably priced furniture and homewares. Fantastic Furniture and Amart Furniture are also good options for larger items, with locations around the city.

## SECOND-HAND STORES

If you're looking for one-of-a-kind, affordable furnishings and home items, second-hand stores are fantastic places to look. Popular second-hand stores in Perth include Vinnies, Salvos and RSPCA Op Shops, as well as independent shops and boutiques.

## ONLINE MARKETPLACES

In Australia, Gumtree and eBay are two of the biggest online marketplaces for new and used furniture and home goods. On Gumtree, you'll often find people giving things away for free.

## FACEBOOK

Facebook is a great resource for buying (and selling) furniture and homewares. Facebook Marketplace is full of second-hand furniture, appliances, decorative pieces, cookware, and even clothing, electronics, and hundreds of other items.

## DEPARTMENT STORES

Look for your nearest Kmart, Target, Big W or Spotlight – these stores sell everything from furniture and lighting to kitchenware and bedding at low prices.

## BUY, SWAP, SELL

You'll find plenty of buy, swap, sell groups on Facebook that are dedicated to particular suburbs around Perth. There are also websites such as Zilch and Freecycle.





## IMPORTANT STEPS

Once you've moved into your new home, there are a few things you'll need to do.

1. Notify your bank, employer, education provider and OSHC provider of your new address. Your student visa requires you to update your education provider within seven days of arriving in Australia or moving to a new address.
2. Get to know your local area and council. Find out where your nearest medical centre, shops, public transport hubs, fitness facilities and more are located. Learn about waste disposal in your area, including recycling and composting options. Check out your local council's website for more information.
3. Tell your friends and family back home where you're living. They probably want to know that you're in a safe place and they may want to send mail from time to time.
4. Think about home and contents insurance. If you're living in your own apartment or house, or have joined an existing share house, you might want to purchase home and contents insurance to protect your belongings from theft or damage.
5. Check your home is in working order. Make sure things like hot water, taps and switches work. If there are any faults or issues, notify your agent or landlord.

A hand holding a smartphone over a wooden desk with a notebook. The image is partially covered by a blue and green gradient overlay.

# Communication

- + Mobile phones
- + Internet
- + Streaming

# Mobile phones

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## Plan vs prepaid

Prepaid involves buying credit for your phone and topping up each week or month. This way, you can control how much you spend. It's a great option if you're in Australia for a short time. If you'll be here for over 12 months, you may want to consider a 'plan' or a 'contract', which is a set payment per month to use the network. Usually, you will get more phone calls and data this way than through prepaid options.

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## What should I watch out for?

Read your contract, or the terms and conditions, closely to make sure you understand any additional charges that can be applied. Another thing to be aware of is extra subscriptions that may come with the service. If the overall deals between phone providers are similar, then consider if you would save money by having free access to another service. For example, the plan may come with free sport streaming, Spotify or Netflix.

---

## How do I get started?

For both prepaid and plan options, head to one of the phone shops we've listed below. To get started, you'll need some documents to prove who you are.

- An Australian bank statement or rental agreement
- Your student visa details
- Proof of identity, such as your passport

### WHERE CAN I BUY A NEW MOBILE PHONE OR SIM CARD, OR SIGN UP FOR A PLAN?

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There are several mobile phone providers in Australia that sell phones and/or SIM cards, offering both plans and prepaid options. Some of the most popular providers include Vodafone, Telstra, Optus, Virgin Mobile, Amaysim, Boost Mobile and Vaya.

## Factors to consider before signing a phone contract

- HOW LONG IS THE CONTRACT?
  - HOW MANY MINUTES OF PHONE CALLS DO I GET (AND ARE INTERNATIONAL CALLS INCLUDED)?
  - WHAT IS THE MONTHLY DATA LIMIT AND HOW MUCH EXTRA WILL I BE CHARGED FOR GOING OVER THE LIMIT?
  - HOW MUCH WILL I BE CHARGED IF I NEED TO END THE CONTRACT EARLY?
  - WHAT EXTRAS/DISCOUNTS/SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE INCLUDED?
  - HOW GOOD IS THE NETWORK COVERAGE?
  - WILL I BE CHARGED EXTRA FOR PAYING BILLS IN A CERTAIN WAY (E.G. CREDIT CARD)?
-

# Internet

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## How do I arrange home internet?

There are several home internet providers in Australia including Optus, Telstra, TPG, iiNet, Belong and more.

Services like Compare Broadband are a good starting point if you are unsure of pricing and the options available in your area. Month-by-month and six-month contracts are becoming more common. They work for students in regards to contract length but cost more than 12 or 24-month contracts.

After you've chosen an internet provider, setting up your home internet is easy. You can buy your own modem or purchase one through your provider. They'll then provide you with all of the necessary steps required to finish your set-up.

Australia is gradually connecting to the National Broadband Network. But, note that speeds in many locations are still quite slow, especially if you come from a country with fast internet.

*[comparebroadband.com.au](http://comparebroadband.com.au)*

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## Free Wi-Fi in Perth

Perth offers free Wi-Fi in certain parts of the city, predominantly around the CBD. You'll also find free Wi-Fi at Perth Airport – ideal if you've just arrived in Australia and need internet to navigate your way into the city.

Public libraries and community centres usually offer free Wi-Fi too, and you'll find that many cafes around Perth give decent internet access (either for free or with purchase).

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## Online learning checklist

Online learning is now a lot more common, so it's important that you have a good set-up for your virtual learning, whether this is at home, or in a particular study location (such as a public library). You should have:

- A GOOD INTERNET CONNECTION
- A RELIABLE LAPTOP/DESKTOP COMPUTER
- HEADPHONES
- OPTIONAL EXTRAS: PRINTER (FOR PRINTING PHYSICAL DOCUMENTS AT HOME); EXTERNAL MICROPHONE (IF YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEED CLEAR AUDIO)



## Streaming options

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Aside from Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, there are a range of streaming options in Australia at different prices. You can watch these on smart TVs, gaming consoles, Apple TV and Chromecast, mobile devices, and computers.

### **Stan ([stan.com.au](http://stan.com.au))**

Australian subscription service that offers an extensive back catalogue of local and international content. From \$10/month.

### **Binge ([binge.com.au](http://binge.com.au))**

Binge is perfect for watching the most popular shows from international networks such as HBO and NBC. From \$10/month.

### **Disney+**

All things Disney – plus Marvel, Star Wars, and all of The Simpsons – are available on Disney+. From \$8.99/month.

### **Kayo ([kayosports.com.au](http://kayosports.com.au))**

Kayo is the most popular service for sport content, streaming from channels including ESPN and Fox Sports. From \$25/month.

### **AnimeLab ([animelab.com](http://animelab.com))**

Home to new and classic anime films and series. You can watch in English, Japanese, or with subtitles. From \$7.95/month.

### **ABC iview, SBS On Demand, 7plus, 9Now, 10 Play**

The main free-to-air stations in Australia all have free apps to watch their shows and films on-demand.



# Money & Banking

- + Banks in Australia
- + Managing your money
- + Transferring funds

# Banks in Australia

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## Why do I need an Australian bank account?

Opening an Australian bank account will enable you to earn money in Australia. Any payment you receive

from employment or a scholarship will need to be paid directly into an Australian account.

Additionally, you will easily be able to access funds without attracting fees for international transfers.

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## How do I set up a bank account?

This step is easy. There are several banks to choose from in Australia. When you arrive in Australia, simply head to your chosen bank and let them know you're an international student and would like to open an account. You will need to bring some important documents. You will be provided with access to a day-to-day account and an online savings account.

Once you have been identified, you will be provided with a debit card, allowing you to shop across Australia and online without paying additional fees.

You can use a basic day-to-day account to pay for course fees, rent or daily living costs.

## What should I bring with me?

- PASSPORT OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD (IF YOU HAVE ONE)
- PROOF OF AUSTRALIAN ADDRESS (CAN BE A HOUSEHOLD BILL)
- PROOF OF ENROLMENT

*Note - It is not necessary to have a Tax File Number to get a bank account, but without one you will get taxed up to 48% (approximately) on the interest your money earns in the bank account.*

---

## Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), contactless payment and PayID

Your debit card allows you to withdraw cash from most ATMs across Australia. Note that using an ATM that's not from your bank may incur a fee. You don't always need to use your debit card though; you can also set up contactless payments so you can pay for things using your mobile phone, meaning you don't need to carry a card around. PayID is another way to make payments that uses either your mobile number or email address. Ask your bank for more information.

---

## Can I get an Australian credit card as an international student?

It's a little more complicated to get a credit card as an international student, as most Australian banks require you to be on a particular visa and earning a

minimum amount of money per year.

If you're determined to get an Australian credit card, talk to your nearest bank branch. In most cases, you will need to undergo a credit check and meet certain requirements.

# Managing your money

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## How do I manage my budget?

The first thing you need to do is get an understanding of your current financial position. Predict and list all of your income and expenses for the next three to six months as best you can. Then, it's time to think about ways to improve it. Think about the things that add a lot of value versus what you pay for

but don't really need, such as buying a coffee every day vs. making one at home. Then, download an app such as Pocketbook on your phone, and sync up your bank accounts so you can start tracking and setting goals for spending and saving. Use ASIC's free budgeting tool to get started.

[moneysmart.gov.au](http://moneysmart.gov.au)

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## What should I do if I am facing financial difficulties?

If you are having any difficulties with your finances, your first contact should be your educational institution. They have qualified staff available to help and can point you in the right direction for support. If you are experiencing financial hardship then

you may be able to apply to pay your tuition in instalments. Additional financial support was introduced for international students during the COVID-19 pandemic. StudyPerth has advice on where to look for help, and ProsPER can provide budgeting help.

[studyperth.com.au](http://studyperth.com.au)  
[prosper.studyperth.com.au](http://prosper.studyperth.com.au)

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## Where can I seek help for gambling?

Gambling can be addictive, which not only affects your health, but your finances too.

To get an accurate picture of how much gambling is costing you, use the calculator on the Gambler's Help website.

[gamblershelp.com.au](http://gamblershelp.com.au)

There are a number of resources available to help you beat your gambling addiction. These include Gamble Aware and various community services.

[gambleaware.com.au](http://gambleaware.com.au)  
[gamblinghelponline.org.au](http://gamblinghelponline.org.au)

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## Scams and security

Unfortunately, there are a number of scams specifically targeted towards international students, including agency, accommodation, blackmailing and online scams, and these increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are vigilant and aware of these scams,

you will be better able to avoid them. Scamwatch outlines different types of incidents and who to contact for help. You can also contact ProsPER for free legal support regarding scams.

[Scamwatch.gov.au](http://Scamwatch.gov.au)  
[prosper.studyperth.com.au](http://prosper.studyperth.com.au)



# Transferring funds

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Setting up your new life in Australia is an exciting process, but it does come with a lot of expenses. You will need to pay course fees to your institution, buy textbooks, pay your accommodation costs, pay your bills every month, and have access to your money for everyday spending. This can mean a lot of transactions. There are many different ways to send and receive funds; with a little research, you can find the best solution to suit your needs.

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## Send and receive money from home

If you have internet banking set up with your bank, you can easily receive funds from home or send money overseas. Just make sure you have all the required codes (SWIFT, Sort and, for Europeans, IBAN) and the correct account numbers. Bank accounts are best for transferring small amounts and paying your everyday expenses. If you are transferring large amounts of money and want a better exchange rate with lower fees, you may want to consider other services.

Money transfer companies provide a fast option to send and receive money overseas in minutes. If you shop around, specialist international money transfer companies will often give you a better deal on currency exchange rates than your bank. PayPal is perhaps the most

well-known money transfer system, but it does attract a currency conversion fee. Otherwise, you can check out dedicated international money transfer services like Western Union.

A prepaid credit card is a great way to receive money from home for daily expenses and not fall into the trap of spending more money than you have in your budget. Both Visa and Mastercard (widely accepted in Australia) have card issuers that offer their own prepaid credit cards, that even come with special discounts on things like food and entertainment for members. Have a chat to your bank or financial institution to see what options are available.

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## Pay your education expenses and other bills

Your education provider will outline a range of different ways you can pay for your tuition fees as an international student, whether these are through electronic bill payment systems, telegraphic transfer, credit card or another payment portal. Usually, your education provider will have a preferred payment provider, so make sure you check their website.

When it comes to paying bills in Australia, BPAY and POLi Payments are electronic bill payment systems that enable secure payment for many different expenses, like your monthly mobile phone or other utility bills. Look for the BPAY or POLi reference number on your bill and then select the relevant option on your internet, mobile or phone banking account to make your payment.

# Employment

- + Employment basics
- + Looking for work
- + Writing a resume
- + Workplace rights

## TAFE JOBS AND SKILLS CENTRES

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There are several TAFE Jobs and Skills Centres located around Perth and WA that provide free professional and practical advice on all kinds of employment topics. Staff can help with job searching and writing a resume.

[jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/jobs-and-skills-centre](https://jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/jobs-and-skills-centre)

Your educational institution may also have an employment or welfare support service – check their website for more information.

# Employment basics

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## Can I work while studying?

While on a student visa, you can work up to 40 hours per fortnight during the semester and unlimited hours during semester breaks. A fortnight means 14 days. Australia has laws guaranteeing basic workplace rights, including minimum pay and conditions. We'll go into these later in the guide.

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## What do I need to know about tax?

Before working in Australia, it is crucial to obtain a Tax File Number (TFN). Your TFN will ensure that you get taxed at the correct rate for the amount of work you are doing. Australia has a tax-free threshold of \$18,200, meaning you will pay no tax if you earn less than this amount in one year. If you have any tax taken from your earnings, you will need to complete a tax return at the end of the financial year.

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## Do I need an Australian Business Number (ABN)?

You don't need an ABN to work for an Australian employer. You only need one if you're an independent contractor, like a freelancer.

*[fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/independent-contractors](https://fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/independent-contractors)*

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## What is superannuation?

Often known as 'super', it is a financial contribution towards a fund that you use to live on when you retire. You can contribute to your own fund, but most commonly your employer does this. If you are an employee, the law in Australia says you are entitled to receive super from your employer. If you earn over \$450 (before tax) in the calendar month, your employer must contribute at least 9.5% of your earnings to your nominated super fund. This is in addition to your ordinary wage. You can also claim super when you leave Australia.

*[ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super](https://ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super)*

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## Internships and work experience

An internship may be a compulsory part of your degree, or you might just want a bit of extra professional experience to improve your resume. Check with your institution's career centre for options for arranging an internship or work experience.



# ShuHui Yong, Malaysia

StudyPerth International Student Ambassador

My first year in Perth has been a blast; I have built friendships with people from many different cultures which will last a lifetime and visited beautiful places. The weather is sunny but not too hot, and it puts me in such a good mood. It's also such a beautiful and safe city to live in. I rely heavily on Perth's public transport system, which is interconnected, frequent, reliable, and also discounted for international students. Of course, I also enjoy exploring hidden jewels in Perth like cafés, rooftop gardens or stores where I can get a good bargain. There are many free or affordable activities, events and volunteer opportunities that international students can take advantage of. Perth has a very special place in my heart, and I have enjoyed every second here.

**LIVE**  
**LEARN**  
**LAUNCH**

**STUDY Perth**  
AUSTRALIA

# STUDY Perth

PROSPER®

# STUDY Perth

STUDENT HUB

We recognise that an international study experience should position students at the forefront of the increasingly competitive global job market; making them highly employable and equipping them with all the knowledge, skills and connections required to kick start a successful career or follow their entrepreneurial aspirations.

StudyPerth has responded to this by creating StudyPerth Prosper, a virtual platform for international students seeking a prosperous future. Prosper is complemented by the StudyPerth Student Hub, a contemporary facility in Perth city that helps international students prosper during and after their study. The Hub is a central location for students to gain skills, experiences and build networks to launch their careers or businesses.



Come and visit us at the Hub today - Basement level, 191 St Georges Terrace, Perth

[prosper.studyperth.com.au](http://prosper.studyperth.com.au) [studyperth.com.au/hub](http://studyperth.com.au/hub)



## Where should I look for a part-time/casual job?

There are a range of job-seeking sites you can access for free to check work vacancies in Perth. Below we've listed some of the most popular. Your education provider will also have a careers website that will list jobs specifically targeted to students and StudyPerth has its own job board. However, if you'd prefer to work

freelance on your own time, check out Airtasker or Upwork.

[seek.com.au](http://seek.com.au)

[careerone.com.au](http://careerone.com.au)

[au.indeed.com](http://au.indeed.com)

[au.oneshiftjobs.com](http://au.oneshiftjobs.com)

[spotjobs.com](http://spotjobs.com)

[jobs.studyperth.com.au](http://jobs.studyperth.com.au)



## COMMON PART-TIME JOBS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

RETAIL SALES ASSISTANT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

BARISTA

GENERAL HOSPITALITY STAFF

EVENT STAFF

CLEANER

FOOD DELIVERY

## Employability programs

If you don't have experience in the workplace or are struggling to find a job, there are several opportunities in Perth that can boost your employability and work skills. StudyPerth's website gives international students access to lots of employment advice, such as interview techniques, resume and cover letter writing skills.

[jobs.studyperth.com.au](http://jobs.studyperth.com.au)

# How do I write a resume?

The basics of a resume include your contact details, previous work history and, for students and recent graduates, information on your education. Keep it as concise as possible and get somebody to proofread it for you.

Include at least one reference; this should be a previous employer or someone who knows your work or study ethic. Speak to a friendly tutor if you need them to be a reference. Your resume and cover letter should be targeted for a particular role; don't use the same generic versions for all jobs.

We have underlined the errors in the following resume in green.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ms Jane Lee  
2019 Guides Street

x Email - iloveponies27@hotmail.com

Ph (01) 2345 6789

x DOB - 01/02/03

x Height - 250cm Weight - 170kg

Visa - Student

x Marital Status - Divorced

x Religion - Jedi

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

x Shop Asistant

Insider Shop Jan 2017 - Present

Responsibilities: Handling Money

Key Achievements: Staff Award

## EDUCATION HISTORY

Bachelor of Arts - Insider University

x Insider Primary School

Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate  
2017

*Avoid including your date of birth or particularly personal information like your height/weight, marital status or religion. You also don't need to include your visa status, as you should have working rights anyway.*

*Make sure your email address is professional.*

*Carefully proofread your resume to eliminate all typos and other errors.*

*Highlight your responsibilities in the role and, where relevant, showcase any significant achievements (awards, beating targets etc.).*

*If you haven't graduated yet, list your expected completion date.*

*You certainly don't need to include your primary school education. High school is definitely optional, but won't look out of place if you want to highlight your history of high achievement.*

*Include short courses if you believe they are relevant or beneficial to the role you are applying for.*

## WORKPLACE EXPLOITATION

It's important that you understand your rights at work. There are a few things to be aware of to ensure you don't end up being exploited by your employer.

1. Avoid job ads that look suspicious. Make sure they mention the business name and look it up on the Australian Business Name register ([abr.business.gov.au](http://abr.business.gov.au))
2. As of 1 July 2020 the national minimum wage is \$19.84 per hour or \$753.80 per week, reviewed each year. Use the pay calculator to find your pay rate: [calculate.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward](http://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward)
3. You should be paid at least once a month, receiving a payslip within one working day of being paid.
4. You should always be paid for work that you do, including training and trial shifts. Record your hours to make sure you're being paid in full.
5. Employers are not allowed to give you goods or services (including food) instead of pay.

## Am I getting the right pay?

As an international student, you have the same workplace rights as all workers in Australia.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) can help if you have concerns about pay, leave or other workplace entitlements. [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) has information in over 30 different languages to help you understand your work rights. A good starting point to learn about Australian employment laws is the Fair Work Information Statement, a short document that explains basic workplace rights and entitlements, including the national minimum wage at [www.fairwork.gov.au/FWIS](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/FWIS).

Remember, you can't get in trouble for being underpaid or being paid in cash. You can contact the FWO for help without fear of your visa being cancelled. See [www.fairwork.gov.au/internationalstudents](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/internationalstudents) for more information.

It is important to keep a record of the hours you've worked. The FWO's record my hours app makes it easy for you. Download it now from the App Store or get it on Google Play!

The FWO's anonymous reporting tool at [www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff) lets you report a workplace issue without providing your personal information. It's available in 17 languages.

To speak your language, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50. Tell the operator the language you speak and ask them to call the FWO on 13 13 94.

Contacting and getting help from the FWO is FREE!



# Want to work while you study?

## Know your workplace rights and get help with workplace issues

Like all workers in Australia, international students have the right to:

Minimum wages



Leave



Pay slips



Ask about workplace entitlements



### The Fair Work Ombudsman is here to help!

You can't get into trouble or have your visa cancelled for contacting the Fair Work Ombudsman.




Find out about your workplace rights in over 30 different languages at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)


To report a work issue, register at [www.fairwork.gov.au/register](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/register) or call **13 13 94**

You can also report workplace concerns anonymously at [www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff)

The Fair Work Ombudsman's services are free.

 [facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au](https://facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au)

 [@fairwork\\_gov\\_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)

 [FairworkGovAu](https://www.youtube.com/FairworkGovAu)



Australian Government

Fair Work  
OMBUDSMAN



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## WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

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Volunteering will provide you with a vast range of soft skills, improve your ability to communicate, allow you to make new friends, and help you integrate with your new community. Your university may have a volunteering office, but if not, seek help at the careers office. Off-campus volunteering may take you further into the local community and allow you to learn about Australian customs. The experience you develop through volunteering can be of great advantage when you apply for a professional role.

[volunteeringwa.org.au](http://volunteeringwa.org.au)



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## GETTING A JOB AFTER YOU GRADUATE

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After you graduate, you can apply for a Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485), which will allow you to live, study and work in Australia for a set number of years, depending on the education level you complete. In your final year, you are able to apply for graduate positions with a range of organisations. Employers have the opportunity to sponsor your visa, too. See the Department of Home Affairs website for more information.

[immi.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au)

[immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/regional-migration](http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/regional-migration)

To learn more about career pathways, migration options and industry strengths in Perth, we recommend exploring the StudyPerth's website.

[studyperth.com.au/getting-a-job](http://studyperth.com.au/getting-a-job)



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Training  
and Workforce Development



International  
Western Australia

# TAFE INTERNATIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**CHOOSE FROM OVER 135 COURSES**



**GOVERNMENT OWNED | UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS | PRACTICAL SKILLS**

TAFE International Western Australia

📍 East Perth TAFE campus, Building B, Level 2, 140 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004

🌐 [tafeinternational.wa.edu.au](http://tafeinternational.wa.edu.au) | 📞 +61 8 9218 2100

RTO provider number 52395 | CRICOS provider code 00020G



# Studying

- + The Australian education system
- + Student resources
- + Study basics

# The education system

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There are several education options in Australia, meaning you have a wide choice of study types and providers. Just make sure they're registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS), as this is required for your visa.

*[cricos.education.gov.au](http://cricos.education.gov.au)*

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## University

Australia's university network is high quality; many of the country's institutions are considered among the best in the world. Different universities specialise in particular fields so be sure to research and find out what each institution excels in. At university, you can complete an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. You also have the ability to change universities/courses if you feel that the study program or location isn't suitable for you.

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## TAFE

TAFE stands for Technical and Further Education. TAFE providers generally offer vocational education and training (VET) programs, such as IT and engineering, cookery and hospitality, agriculture, creative arts, and trades.

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## Private colleges

There are private colleges located across Australia offering VET programs, higher education, or both. Private colleges generally focus on a specific field and are often much smaller than universities.

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## Pathway providers

If you don't meet the academic entrance requirements for university, come from a non-English-speaking background or want to change courses or careers, a pathway program provides a way to ease into academic study. It's similar to a bridging program between high school and university.

# Student resources

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## What services are available on campus and online?

There are lots of services your institution offers for free as part of your fees – hopefully you now realise how much help is available!

### CAREER CENTRE

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This office will assist you in creating an effective resume and explain how to complete a job application, prepare for a job interview, help you plan out your graduate career, discover volunteer and internship opportunities, and help you find casual work. Not many students use this office because they simply don't know about it. Now you do!

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICE

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This office is your best friend. Staff will assist with your orientation, organise social events and answer any questions

that relate specifically to international students.

### LIBRARY

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There is more to the library than just books. Libraries are full of meeting rooms, TVs, journal databases, computers and more. If you can't get work done at home, head to the library. Learning how to use the library effectively will improve your chances of succeeding in your studies, and also offer a range of workshops to enhance your academic skills.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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Studying from home might mean encountering more technical difficulties. Your institution's dedicated technical support team will be able to help you with questions about your tech, including accessing specific software for your course, storage – even setting up Zoom!

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## Where can I get help with my coursework?

If you need assistance with your studies or are falling behind on your coursework, there are plenty of support services around Perth.

### STUDENT LEARNING HUBS

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Most educational institutions offer a central learning hub that provides free individual support in particular subjects, as well as activities designed to improve things like English skills, digital literacy, writing and more. Check out your provider's website for details.

### PRIVATE TUTORING

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You can hire a private tutor if you need assistance in a particular subject. You'll usually find them listed on your education provider's noticeboard, or you can use the Student VIP website.

[studentvip.com.au/tutors](http://studentvip.com.au/tutors)

### APPROACH STAFF

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Your teaching staff are there to help. If you're struggling, reach out to them for assistance – it's their job to provide the advice you need. They can also refer you to other support services.

## WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

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Plagiarism is essentially copying someone else's work and presenting it as your own. This may be literally copying part of an essay (or the entire thing) written by someone else, or using the words of an author without referencing them. If you use someone else's idea, even if you write it in your own words, you will need to provide the source. If you are found guilty of plagiarism there can be serious consequences, including expulsion from your course. This may lead to the cancellation of your student visa.

## HOW DO I SAVE MONEY ON TEXTBOOKS?

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### 1. Check with students from higher years

Look for adverts on your institution's message boards (both online and on campus) and if you can't see what you are looking for then post your own advert.

### 2. Use an online tool

Online resale sites like Student VIP allow you to buy second-hand textbooks from students across the country.

[studentvip.com.au](http://studentvip.com.au)

### 3. Consider eBooks

Do you need a hard copy of your textbook? If not, download a digital copy and save some money.

### 4. Rent your textbooks

Will you ever look at the textbook again? If you only need it for one semester then consider renting it online. Campus libraries often have textbooks for hire too.

## Building an online study routine

The key to studying from home successfully is building a productive, regular routine that you can stick to, making sure that you're balancing your studies with time to exercise, relax and catch up with friends and family. Some tips to help keep you motivated while studying online include: having a dedicated study area to work in, taking regular breaks (check out the Pomodoro Technique), taking notes by hand during online lectures (to help you focus), breaking up tasks and giving yourself rewards (away from the screen!) for completing them.

## Prepare for your studies

### CREATE A LESSON TIMETABLE

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An easy-to-understand lesson timetable means you'll always know where you're supposed to be and when.

### CREATE A STUDY TIMETABLE

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Organise your routine around your classes and include time for study and other activities.

### CHARGE YOUR DEVICES

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Make sure your laptop and phone are charged. You don't want to run out of battery halfway through your second class!

### PRINT OUT OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY DOCUMENTS

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Make sure you've printed all the paperwork you need, so orientation is an easier process.

# Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- + Healthcare basics
- + Physical, mental & sexual health
- + Staying safe
- + Friends & dating

## MASKS

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Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many Perth residents opted to wear a face mask. Even if wearing a face mask isn't mandatory, you may choose to use one anyway. You can usually buy disposable face masks from pharmacies, but many stores around Perth sell reusable masks.

## WHAT DO I DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

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If you have a medical emergency, if there is a fire, or if you need police attention, call 000 (it's entirely free to call). You will then be asked if you need police, fire or ambulance. You can also request a translator if you need one.



# Healthcare basics

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## How does Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) work?

All students in Australia must have OSHC to cover the entire period of their stay, which would have been arranged when you organised your visa. OSHC covers in-hospital and out-of-hospital medical assistance, prescription medications and emergency ambulance assistance. Make sure you understand your cover to avoid any unwanted charges, and refer to your OSHC policies for their rules on COVID-19 testing and treatment. Every time you go to an appointment, take your OSHC card with you, along with photo identification.

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## What should I do if I have a complaint about my OSHC provider?

If you face a situation where you feel like you're being taken advantage of or treated unfairly in regards to your OSHC, you can contact the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman (PHIO). It's a free service designed to help you get out of trouble!

[ombudsman.gov.au/How-we-can-help/private-health-insurance](http://ombudsman.gov.au/How-we-can-help/private-health-insurance)

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## What do I need to know about hospitals?

If you are feeling sick, visit a local medical centre first. This is the cheapest upfront option and you may be able to claim all or some of the cost from your OSHC provider. Hospitals are for emergency situations – either life-threatening or an injury/illness that is quickly getting worse. If you need to visit hospital, call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance. You may also want to call your health cover provider to see if you're covered, as the hospital may charge you a fee.

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## What should I do when medical clinics are closed?

Very few medical clinics are open seven days or have 24-hour services (and those that do can be expensive). If you need a medical certificate or you have a minor illness, it's best to wait until the medical clinics are open. For urgent non-life-threatening enquiries, there are after-hours home doctor services available including 13SICK (call 13 7425) and DoctorDoctor (call 13 26 60).

You can also ring Healthdirect Australia (1800 022 222) to get advice on treating non-life-threatening illnesses.

## HOW DO I FIND A DOCTOR?

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Your OSHC provider will likely maintain a list of recommended providers. Their website may even have a 'find a doctor' resource to assist you in finding your nearest doctor. The Health Engine website can also be used to locate a doctor to match your needs.

[healthengine.com.au](http://healthengine.com.au)

# Mental health

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## What should I do if I'm feeling homesick?

Remember to take time out for yourself. Living overseas, especially with the impact of COVID-19, can be an incredibly difficult and stressful time for many. It's important that you know support is available to you if you need help. It can be very beneficial to talk to friends and family about how you feel, or use one of the resources mentioned below or visit your general practitioner (a local doctor, also called a GP). Mental health is a big reason people go to the doctor, so don't ignore any of the signs.

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## Where can I seek help for mental health issues?

Your OSHC covers visits to a GP. The GP is the first person you should see, as you will need to get a referral from them if you want to see a psychiatrist or psychologist. You will only be partially covered for a limited amount of visits with a psychologist. Check with your OSHC provider for details. Most educational institutions offer free or

discounted counselling services to their students (both international and local). Some require appointments, so check your education provider's website to find out.

Many organisations, such as Beyond Blue and Lifeline, offer COVID-19 specific support, so there's accurate information, advice and strategies to help you manage your mental health during this time.

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## What if I need immediate support?

There are several organisations that offer 24/7 mental health support over the phone or through an online chat service.

Lifeline delivers crisis support, suicide prevention and mental health support services across Australia.

*Phone 13 11 14 or [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)*

Beyond Blue is for people with depression, anxiety and other emotional issues.

*Phone 1300 224 636 or [beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)*

Kids Help Line provides support for people up to the age of 25.

*Phone 1800 551 800*

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000)

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## Finding a mental health expert that speaks your language

You can use an interpreting service if you need assistance in your language. TIS National should be your first stop when accessing mental health services or making an appointment. Not only can they help you book an appointment over the phone, but you can also request an on-site interpreter to attend your session with you.

*Phone 131 450 or [tisnational.gov.au](http://tisnational.gov.au)*



## Other support services

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### Support for your children and spouse

Many international students choose to bring their spouse and children with them when they study in Australia. Some education providers offer language or other kinds of support that cover both you and your spouse. Ask your educational institution for more information.

If your children are school-aged, they'll need to be enrolled at either a public (government-funded) or private school. Visit the WA Government website for details.

[education.wa.gov.au](http://education.wa.gov.au)

If your children are younger, Perth has a wide network of childcare facilities. Your educational institution may provide childcare, but you can also get in touch with your local council to find childcare in your area.

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### Support services for LGBTIQ people

LGBTIQ stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Intersex Questioning. In Australia, the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 makes it against the law to discriminate against a person on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

QLife is a great resource that provides peer support and guidance over the phone and online for the LGBTIQ community in Australia.

[qlife.org.au](http://qlife.org.au)

If you're looking for support services that are sensitive to your cultural needs, or would just like to engage with other LGBTIQ students from similar backgrounds then AGMC is a good resource. Or join the Rainbow International Students Network on Facebook.

[agmc.org.au](http://agmc.org.au)

# How students beat loneliness

We asked students who have already settled into their new life in Australia for advice on beating loneliness. Here's what they had to say.

“Cook or eat some authentic comfort food from your own country whenever you feel a little homesick.”

Giorgia, Italy

“Talk to your family back home, but not so much that you don't have time for your friends! Other tips include working out, eating right, meditation and yoga. Most importantly, enjoy alone time!”

Yuvi, UAE

“Sleep on it. I was extremely homesick and lonely in my first few days. I took a nap, woke up refreshed, took a shower, went into the city and visited locations where there were large amounts of backpackers.”

Abdul, UAE

“Make friends with other international students and openly discuss your homesickness. Chances are they are going through the same thing, even if they don't show it.”

Priya, Canada

“Just grab this opportunity to spend time with yourself. Sleep as much as you can, taste some food or cook, watch your favorite movies, read what you like and think about what you will do in your university journey, set up some goals and plan to achieve them.”

Linh, Vietnam

“Don't be afraid to go out and do things and meet people. Sign up for classes and activities that you enjoy and provide yourself with good, healthy distractions.”

Jenna, USA

## POLICE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth is a very safe place, but crimes can happen. In WA, police are friendly and approachable. If you need assistance or want to report a crime, you can do so without fear – the police are here to help.

There are a few important numbers to store in your phone, just in case you need to use them.

- **000** for all emergencies – that includes ambulance, police and fire
- **131 444** for non-urgent police attendance, for example to report an offence that has been committed against you
- **1800 333 000** to report suspicious behaviour or to report someone who has committed an offence

*You can also visit*  
[police.wa.gov.au](http://police.wa.gov.au)

# Staying safe

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## How can I stay safe?

Be aware of the security and emergency arrangements of both your institution and the local area. If you are leaving your institution at night then try to walk with a friend or a group. Take well-lit paths that are used regularly by other people. If this is not going to be possible, check if your institution has an escort service.

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## Who can I contact if I have been discriminated against?

In Australia, it is against the law to be discriminated against based on your ethnicity, language, skin colour, sex and sexuality. There is support available if you, or someone you know, experience any kind of racism or discrimination. It's important that everyone is comfortable in their environment and feels safe to seek help when necessary.

If you are at work, school, on public transport or online, report incidents to the body in charge. The next step is

to contact the WA Equal Opportunity Commission or the Australian Human Rights Commission to report the incident. If you experience violence, abuse or other criminal behaviour, you can call 131 444 for police assistance outside of an emergency situation. If you need general assistance or advice, ProsPER can provide free legal help.

[wa.gov.au/organisation/equal-opportunity-commission](http://wa.gov.au/organisation/equal-opportunity-commission)

Call 9216 3927

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## What are sexual assault and sexual harassment, and where do I turn to for help?

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual behaviour that's offensive, humiliating or intimidating, such as rape. Sexual harassment is an unwanted or unwelcome sexual advance, such as a request for sexual favours.

If you have experienced sexual harassment, your first call should be to your institution, as there will be mechanisms in place designed to support you. If you're being threatened

and require immediate assistance, or have been the victim of sexual assault, you can visit your local police station or call 000. As well, the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) provides free and confidential support for any person who has experienced sexual violence in Western Australia.

Call 1800 199 888 or visit

[wnhs.health.wa.gov.au](http://wnhs.health.wa.gov.au)

# Sexual health

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## Where can I get advice on sexual health?

You can ask your doctor about sexual health matters including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), contraception options, and more. If your medical clinic has several doctors on its roster, you can choose to visit a female doctor if that makes you feel more comfortable.

Your education provider may also offer sexual health support, so make sure to check their website or visit the student help desk to find out.

It is important to remember that the more sexually active you are the more often you should get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). If left untreated some STIs can have serious impacts on your health outcomes.

Sexual Health Quarters provides free and confidential services to all international students.

[shq.org.au](http://shq.org.au)

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## Contraception options in Australia

You can get contraceptive medications and devices very easily and cheaply in Australia. You should talk to your GP about long-term contraception options like IUDs and the pill. Condoms are available from supermarkets and pharmacies. Emergency contraceptives are available from pharmacies if you need them. Pregnancy tests are also available at the pharmacy or supermarket.

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## What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment can take many forms, both physical and non-physical. Sexual harassment may include:

- Unnecessary familiarity, such as unwelcome touching
- Suggestive comments or jokes, insults or taunts of a sexual nature
- Physical assault, indecent exposure, sexual assault, stalking or obscene communications
- Sending sexually explicit emails or text messages
- Intrusive questions or statements about someone's private life
- Requests for sex or repeated unwanted requests to go out on dates

# Staying fit

## Gyms

If you're keen to join a gym during your time in Perth, there are several options available including Anytime Fitness, Jetts and more. There are also womens-only gyms such as Fernwood Fitness. Most universities have gyms and offer students reasonable rates, while some managed accommodation providers have gyms on-site. Your local pool may also include a gym, which is often accessible for a low cost.

## Social Sports

If you enjoy a particular sport, you'll most likely find a social sports league near you. Your institution might even have a society or association dedicated to it, so you can meet like-minded students, or you can check websites such as Meetup to find social sport groups. Sports leagues, including basketball, badminton, futsal, volleyball, cricket and more, are available all over Perth.

[justplay.com.au](http://justplay.com.au)

## Yoga and Pilates

There are many different types of yoga, with varying levels of intensity and movement. Use Find Yoga to find a class near you; there are plenty of beginner classes available. Pilates is an exercise that focuses on flexibility and strength. There are two different types of Pilates: mat-based and equipment-based, which is sometimes called 'reformer Pilates'. Check out studios using Australian Pilates.

[findyoga.com.au](http://findyoga.com.au) [australianpilates.asn.au](http://australianpilates.asn.au)

## ONLINE RESOURCES

If you can't or don't want to leave the house to exercise, there are lots of free online resources available to help you get fit. The Body Coach TV and MadFit are two great options, with workouts of varying lengths that target different areas of the body. You can also try yoga, guided by Yoga With Adriene, or dance with POPSUGAR Fitness.

## BEACH SAFETY

A day spent at one of Australia's 10,685 beaches is rarely a day wasted. If you're planning a day out by the water, here's your guide to staying safe and having a great day.

### Plan your visit

Check the weather forecast before you leave. If there's heavy rains or storms, consider postponing. Make sure you apply and pack sunscreen. Even if it's cloudy the UV can be high. Don't go swimming if you have consumed drugs or alcohol.

### Stay safe

Don't go swimming alone - grab a couple of friends and head to a patrolled beach. Once there, check for any signs and follow the instructions. Swim between the yellow and red flags, this is the monitored spot that's been deemed safest for swimming. Don't dive into water, you may overestimate the depth and this can have very serious consequences.

### How to get help

If you ever find yourself in trouble while swimming, try to stay calm and raise your hands to show that you need help. If you see someone else in distress in the water, emergency dial Triple Zero (000). For more information see Royal Lifesaving Australia. [royallifesaving.com.au](http://royallifesaving.com.au)



# Making friends

You'll probably meet lots of new people in your course or through where you live, whether it's a share house or managed student accommodation. But there are also a few other avenues you can take to make friends.

## HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

If your education provider has a student club network, make sure to join one that suits your interests – you're bound to meet one or several like-minded people. You'll find clubs and societies focused on all kinds of things, from individual sports and hobbies to specific cultural backgrounds or religions. Outside of your educational institution, think about joining a choir, community garden, sports team, movie or book club, or any other group that matches your interests. If you can't meet in person, most clubs have introduced online activities to keep members connected, such as quiz nights or virtual movie nights.

## LANGUAGE GROUPS

There's bound to be other international students in Perth looking to improve their English.

There are countless English conversation groups that take place all over the city and online; check your local library or community centre, or visit your education provider's website, to find out more. You'll also find conversation groups on Meetup.

*meetup.com*

## APPS AND WEBSITES

The key to finding friends might be in the palm of your hand. There are plenty of great apps and websites designed to help you meet people online (you can decide to meet them in person if you feel comfortable doing so). Bumble BFF, We3 and Meetup are some of the best, but StudyPerth's Prosper portal is also a great way to network and meet other international students in Perth.

*prosper.studyperth.com.au*





## Dating

### WHAT'S THE DATING CULTURE LIKE IN AUSTRALIA?

Australia has a pretty relaxed dating scene. In a lot of cultures, the first or second date can mark the beginning of a relationship. But in Australia, you'll probably find yourself doing a lot of 'couply' activities before the relationship starts. Australia doesn't have a huge pick-up culture. Generally, people will want to know someone a little bit before they agree to share contact details or hang out somewhere.

Remember, Australia does not tolerate verbal or physical abuse, nor stalking behaviour. Understand what is and isn't appropriate before dating – you can read our sexual harrassment section for more information.

### WHERE CAN I MEET PEOPLE?

- Apps like Tinder, Bumble, OKCupid, Coffee Meets Bagel, Hinge, Happn and Plenty of Fish are popular in Australia and cater to various sexual preferences.
- Otherwise, pretty much any place we mentioned above under 'Making Friends' is bound to offer opportunities to meet potential dates!
- Remember to stay safe on a date. Laws around consent may be different in Australia compared to your country. Read our Safety section to find out more.



## Areas of Perth

\*Disclaimer: We do our best to ensure all of the information in this guide is up-to-date and accurate at the time of publication, but we encourage you to ensure locations are still open and operating by checking their websites or social media in advance of your visit.

1

### CITY CENTRE

Perth's CBD is full of activity, offering shops, bars, restaurants, galleries, museums, theatres and much more.

P. 68

2

### NORTHBRIDGE, LEEDERVILLE & MOUNT LAWLEY

The club scene mixes with coffee spots, hidden gems and leafy suburban streets.

P. 72

3

### CRAWLEY, CLAREMONT & SUBIACO

Covered in parks, lakes and more, areas as beautiful as they are bustling.

P. 76

4

### SOUTH PERTH & BENTLEY

Home to an incredible view of the city and some of the best restaurants in Perth.

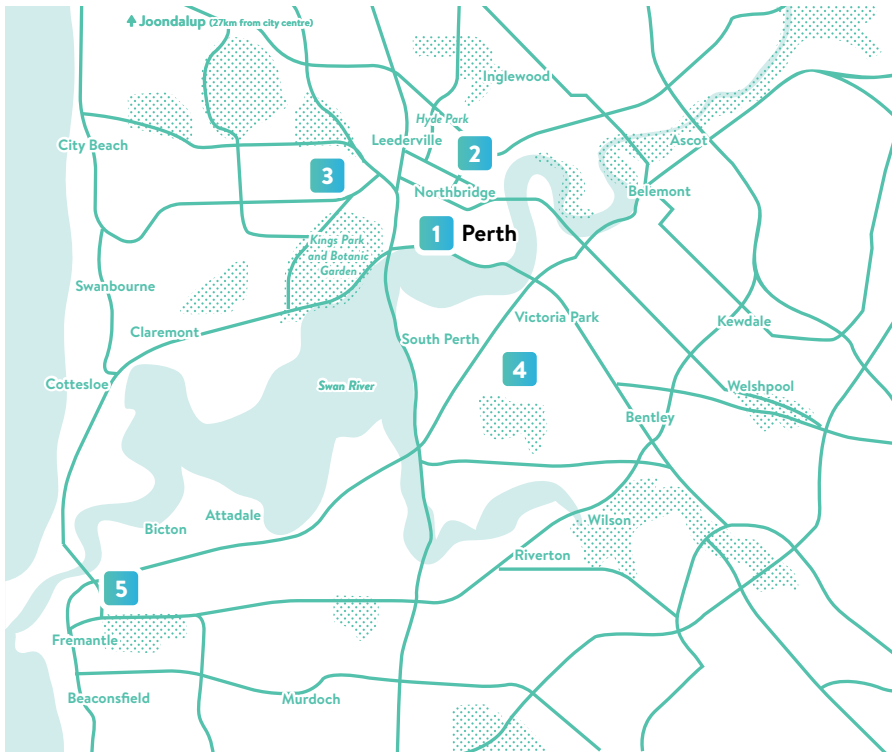
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5

### FREMANTLE

Beautiful beaches, shady esplanades, unique retailers, local markets and a buzzing live music scene.

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# Getting around

Perth's transport system is diverse, clean and reliable. With free city loops, and a tertiary student discount for students of participating institutions, it is also a relatively cheap way to get around the city.

## BUSES

For shorter trips around the Perth metro area, buses are your best option. Services into and out of the city generally leave every 15 minutes, but make sure you check your timetable carefully – they're less frequent outside of business hours, and the wait can extend to up to two hours on Sundays. Perth also has an excellent network of free CAT buses, which run in loops around the city, East Perth, West Perth and Leederville, as well as routes in Fremantle and Joondalup. The buses go every eight minutes between 7am and 7.30pm, and every 15 minutes for an hour or two either side of that period.

## TRAINS

Perth has six train lines heading out from the city: four from the Perth train station, and two from Perth Underground, which is connected to the main station (unsurprisingly, it's underneath it). The Fremantle, Midland, Armadale and Thornlie lines connect at Perth, and the Mandurah and Joondalup trains stop at the Underground.

## FERRIES

There's a round trip across the river every 30 minutes on weekdays (less frequently on weekends) from the Barrack Street jetty on the city side to the Mends Street jetty in South Perth. The bus may be quicker, but the view from the river is worth it.



## PLANNING

Perth's public trains, buses and ferries are run by Transperth. Head to their website for more information about ticketing, timetables and routes (including a University and TAFE specific page), and to use their journey planner to map out your trip.

[transperth.wa.gov.au/Timetables/Uni-TAFE-Services](https://transperth.wa.gov.au/Timetables/Uni-TAFE-Services)

## TICKETING

Although you can still pay cash it is recommended that you take advantage of the prepaid SmartRider card. Simply keep the card topped up with funds and remember to tap on and off at the beginning and end of every journey using the green SmartRider machine.

Full-time international students qualify for a concession Smartrider. The SmartRider card itself counts as proof of concession and must be carried when using concession fares. Students of participating educational institutions can apply through their institution, while all others should apply directly to Transperth. The participating institutions are Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia.



## Other transport options

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### Ride sharing

The first to launch, and still by far the most popular, is Uber. More recent arrivals to the Perth market include DiDi, GoCatch, Oscar and Ola, offering discounted rates during quiet hours of

the day. The most unique ride sharing option available in Perth is the female-only service Shebah. All drivers and all passengers of the service are female, with the exception being males under 18 traveling with a female, and many cars come with car seats available.

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### Taxis

There are a few taxi ranks located around the city. Taxi ranks are specific areas where you can line up and get a taxi, otherwise you can try hailing one from the side of the road. It's also a good idea to be wary of how much your trip will cost.

#### Ordering taxis

*Swan Taxis 13 13 30*

*Black & White 13 32 22*

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### Renting a car

If you want to explore some of Perth's outer parts or regional areas surrounding the city, you can rent a car for one or multiple days. There are several car rental providers around Perth – use a comparison website like VroomVroomVroom to find the best deal. It's also worth noting that if a car rental company needs to relocate a car to a different city, one-way car hire can be very affordable.

[vroomvroomvroom.com.au](http://vroomvroomvroom.com.au)

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### Hiring a bike

There are two bike share schemes running in Perth: Urbi and Spinway. Each one has stations around the city; you simply need to download each app to find your nearest location.

*urbi.bike*

*spinwaywa.bike*

# Riding a bike

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Most international students will spend between \$700 - \$1500 a year on transport. This makes getting a bike a very cheap alternative.

Add to that, riding a bike is:

- Good for your physical health
- Good for your mental health
- Good for the environment
- Reliable (no more waiting for late trains or traffic jams)

## BUYING A BIKE

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The cheapest overall option is to buy your own bike to use throughout your time in Perth. There are plenty of dedicated bicycle shops around the city, but you can also purchase affordable ones from Kmart.

Second-hand bikes are also great options if you want to save money. Try Facebook Marketplace or Gumtree. You can use these websites if you want to sell your bike when you leave Australia.

[gumtree.com.au](http://gumtree.com.au)

## BIKE LAWS

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It is illegal to ride in Australia without a helmet and you must have a light on your bike if you plan to ride at night. As a bike rider, you're allowed to ride on the road, on bike paths and on shared paths. You usually can't ride on pedestrian footpaths. When you're driving on the road, you're expected to follow the same road rules as drivers. Check out the WA Department of Transport website for more information.

[transport.wa.gov.au](http://transport.wa.gov.au)

## BIKE LANES

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There are several bike lanes and tracks around Perth, designed to keep you safe. These are clearly marked so you know where you can safely ride. You can contact your local council for an up-to-date bike map or visit the WA Department of Transport website.

## STORING YOUR BIKE

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You'll find plenty of bike storage racks located all over Perth, where you can securely leave your bike for an extended period of time (just make sure you have a good-quality lock). The WA Department of Transport website has a map showing all bike rack locations.

# History of Perth

## Pre-settlement

History of WA begins between 40,000 and 60,000 years ago when Aboriginal Australians arrive on the northwest coast

1827

Major Lockyer formally takes possession of WA for the British Crown

1885

Gold is discovered and tens of thousands of prospectors travel across WA

1911

The University of Western Australia becomes WA's first university. Teaching begins in 1913

1947

After World War II, the British government subsidises fares to Australia to encourage immigration. The scheme ends in 1982 after more than a million people settle

1970

The Indian Pacific train completes its first journey by rail across the continent from Sydney to Perth

1993

The Perth-Joondalup railway line is completed

2016

Elizabeth Quay opens

2018

Yagan Square opens to the public for the first time

## Early 1616

First European contact happens when explorer Dirk Hartog lands on the west coast, after being blown off course on the way to Batavia (Jakarta)

1829

Establishment of the Swan River Colony and the capital, Perth

1901

WA, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, form the Commonwealth of Australia

1930

Perth is connected to Adelaide, as well as the rest of the eastern states, by a telephone line

1967

Aboriginal people are recognised as Australian citizens and given the right to vote

1975

WA's second university, Murdoch University, opens

2007

The Perth-Mandurah railway line is completed

2017

The state-of-the-art Perth Stadium is completed



## Built on immigration

### COLONISATION

James Stirling established Perth's first settlements on the Swan River in 1829. Land was first sighted by the colonists on 1 June. 18 June saw an official Proclamation take place, and the colony was set up shortly after on 12 August. Stirling had sole authority to draft laws and decide on day-to-day affairs.

### CONVICT ERA

While Western Australia was originally a free settlement, economic problems for settler capitalists, including lack of farmland, poor stock yields and isolation, led them to seek the transportation of British convicts. WA became a penal colony in 1850. By 1868, more than 9,000 convicts had been transported to WA by convict ship voyages.

### GOLD RUSH

Until the 1880s, wool and wheat made up most of WA's economy. This changed in 1885 when gold was discovered and tens of thousands of prospectors travelled across WA looking for goldfields. Dozens of gold towns boomed and were eventually abandoned when the gold ran out.

### POST-WAR EUROPEANS

As part of the "Populate or Perish" policy, the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme was launched by the British government in 1945. They wanted to increase the population of Australia and supply workers for industries that were thriving in the country. By subsidising the cost of travel, most adults were charged only ten pounds for the fare.

### MODERN MIGRATION

Perth is now home to a multicultural population that is home to several nationalities. English residents make up the biggest overseas-born population, followed by New Zealanders, South Africans, Indians and Malays.

### LEARN MORE

To learn more about Perth's migration history and to discover how various cultures have helped shape Australia, make sure to visit the Western Australian Museum. The museum is set to reopen this year after a huge redevelopment.

# Aboriginal culture

The original inhabitants of Perth are the Whadjuk Noongar people. Noongar is the name for the Indigenous Australians who live between Esperance and Geraldton in the southwest of Western Australia, and Whadjuk refers to the Noongar language group of the Perth area. The Noongar people have lived in this corner of WA for more than 40,000 years and are made up of 14 different dialect groups.

## HISTORY AND CULTURE

Each year in late October or early November, Wardarnji is held to mark the beginning of the Fremantle Festival. A group of non-Aboriginal Western Australians started the event in 1993 to celebrate Aboriginal customs and traditions. It showcases Aboriginal culture through traditional dances, music and art.

## ART

Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Fremantle is a must-visit venue if you want to learn about Aboriginal heritage and culture. The centre hosts Aboriginal art, crafts and language workshops. There are also several local small art galleries that showcase Aboriginal art, including Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Mossenson Galleries, and Japingka Aboriginal Art. You can also visit the Art Gallery of Western Australia to see important historical and contemporary works from Aboriginal artists.

## FOOD

Aboriginal people possess a unique understanding of Western Australia's natural environment, and have been using native Australian plants for both food and medicine for countless generations. Maalinup Aboriginal Gallery in the Swan Valley offers a bush tucker talk that will teach you all about native Australian foods and ingredients, as well as traditional hunting and gathering practices. Bindi Bindi Dreaming, Nyungar Tours and Djurandi Dreaming are all local, Aboriginal-owned and operated tour companies, offering guided bush tucker walking tours around the Perth metropolitan area.

## MUSIC

Music is a big part of Aboriginal storytelling, and traditional instruments such as the didjeridu, bullroarer and clapsticks are still used today. Contemporary Aboriginal artists are continually making the Australian music charts in all genres – everything from hip-hop to indie-folk to pop. Make sure to check out artists such as Alice Skye, Yothu Yindi, A.B. Original, Baker Boy, Thelma Plum, Emily Wurramara, and Dan Sultan.



## EVENTS

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### **NAIDOC Week**

NAIDOC Week is an annual celebration of Aboriginal talent and culture. The ceremony is held in the first week of July and is celebrated in every state of Australia. A new theme is picked each year, and

a different Australian city is chosen to host the awards ceremony. The achievements of Aboriginal people are celebrated with awards, including the Person of the Year Award, Elder of the Year, and the Caring for Country Award.

### **National Reconciliation Week**

National Reconciliation Week is a time for Australians to reflect on Aboriginal history. The week begins on 27 May, the anniversary of the 1967 referendum

that allowed Aboriginal people to be included in the census, and ends on 3 June, the anniversary of the High Court Mabo decision that recognised the native title of Australia.

### **National Sorry Day**

National Sorry Day on 26 May is an important day for Australians to acknowledge the struggles of Aboriginal people and the impact of the Stolen Generation. The day was initiated in response to the absence of an apology by the Australian Government. Since the government's official apology in 2008, it has become a day of recognition and remembrance.

# City centre

Business and culture collide in the bustling riverside city of Perth, where a mix of small bars, galleries, theatres, designer stores, restaurants, inner-city parks and shopping strips vie for your attention.



## Highlights

Lined with skyscrapers and heritage buildings, Perth's main street, St Georges Terrace, is home to some of the city's most iconic architectural attractions. The Barracks Arch, Cathedral Square, and the Government House and grounds are all landmarks that are well worth seeing.

The historic State Building precinct is a stylish place to grab a coffee in the city. Here you will also find the award-winning Thai restaurant, Long Chim, in addition to a collection of boutique stores and coffee shops.

A handful of quirky arcades and laneways connect the city's major shopping strips. London Court is a four-level shopping arcade built in a distinctive Tudor style, with wrought-iron gates and a musical clock that chimes every 15 minutes. Howard Lane features vibrant street art and contains two small bars, Andaluz and Helvetica. Globe Lane is another appetising option, packed with affordable places to grab a bite to eat.

Murray Street Mall and Hay Street Mall are the best places to score a bargain and to pick up any basics you

might need. This is where you will find stores such as ZARA, Target, Dymocks, UNIQLO, Myer and David Jones, as well as some smaller boutiques. The nearby Raine Square shopping complex contains a Coles supermarket, an international food hall and a Palace Cinemas movie theatre. Across the road in Yagan Square's laidback Market Hall, you will find Japanese street food, Indian curry toasties and authentic Korean dishes.

Rooftop bars are fun places to spend your evenings in the CBD. The Reveley boasts superb views over Elizabeth Quay and giant 1.7-litre cocktails; while Bob's Bar, housed in an historic print factory, is a great place to catch the sun setting over the city skyline.

A few levels below the streets you'll find Perth's sleek and secretive underground bars. Sip on an award-winning cocktail at the cosy Foxtrot Unicorn; enjoy the old school rock 'n' roll vibes at Alfred's Pizzeria; and listen to live jazz at Pooles Temple. If you're looking for a dance floor, Magnet House is a nightclub with an LED ceiling and DJs that play until the early hours of the morning.





## Community facilities

Perth is a leafy city with many inner-city parks. You'll find Kings Park, Queens Gardens, Stirling Gardens and Harold Boas Gardens all close to the CBD. You can walk up to Kings Park via Jacob's Ladder – it's a steep climb, but the park and the panoramic views over the city are worth it. The smaller gardens are slightly more accessible from the city centre and are great for getting back to nature.

If you want to connect with your faith, there are centrally located Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Anglican churches. You'll also find Perth City

Musallah on Murray Street, and Perth Mosque on William Street. A weekly English conversation meet-up, Language Connects People, is held at Perth Baptist Church on James Street every Wednesday evening.

If you're in the city and need somewhere to study, check out City of Perth Library. With a huge selection of books, papers, magazines, DVDs and online materials, you're sure to find the resources you need. The library has student zones, meeting rooms, an auditorium and a terrace, all laid out over seven stunning, artwork-filled levels.

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## Unique experiences

Perth city is home to cool fitness classes that will change the way you work out. Heartbeat High is a boutique pilates studio on Barrack Street that offers an energetic 'Bump n' Grind' aerobic pilates class set to 1990s-era dance music. If you prefer weight training, S30 Studio is a group weight training gym inspired by hip hop and RnB, with the vibe of an underground nightclub. Perth Run Collective is a social running group with free weekly runs held every Tuesday evening, starting outside Lululemon Athletica.

Aboriginal guided tours are the best way to learn about Perth's history.

Go Cultural offers guided tours and experiences of Elizabeth Quay (Goomap), Kings Park (Karrgatup) and Yagan Square (Goologoolup) from the unique perspective of the Noongar people, who have lived in the south-west of Western Australia for more than 45,000 years. Accompanied by a Noongar guide, you will learn about the sacred sites, ancient campgrounds and forgotten lakes that exist within central Perth. Each of the available tours offers a glimpse into the Dreamtime, the six seasons of the Noongar calendar, Noongar language, and various places of significance to the Noongar people.





## STUDENT TIP

**“I enjoy Korean barbeque in the city. Palsaik Namoo and Arirang are my two favorite spots to eat and spend time with my family and friends.”**

**William, Indonesia**

Studied at the University of Western Australia

## DAY PLAN

### KINGS PARK AND BOTANIC GARDEN

This beautiful park is one of the most popular places in Perth. With bushwalking trails, gardens, sacred memorials, incredible city views and much more, there's no shortage of things to see and do here.

1. Visit Aspects of Kings Park for unique homewares and gifts.
2. Explore the WA Botanic Garden to see 3000 species of native flora.
3. Climb the DNA Tower and enjoy spectacular views over the park and surrounds.
4. Wander through the treetops on the tranquil Federation Walkway.
5. Enjoy a movie under the stars at the annual Moonlight Cinema.



## CHEAP CHOICE

Toastface Grillah in the CBD makes simple and delicious toasted cheese sandwiches for next to nothing. There are lots of flavour combinations to choose from that incorporate different cheeses.



## Fringe World

The biggest event in Western Australia's annual calendar and the third-largest fringe festival in the world, this eagerly anticipated festival was once considered the precursor to Perth Festival but now shines in its own right.

Some of the biggest acts in the world have played this festival, but it's also a great way to see up-and-coming acts before they reach superstardom. You can see everything from cabaret, music and theatre to comedy, circus and visual arts.

If you're a foodie or enjoy craft beer and cocktails, there's no shortage of locations for you to explore. Food trucks, international food markets, tastings, and the famous merry-go-round bar are all worth sampling. If a party is what you're looking for, silent discos, sing-a-longs, live music, and dance parties are everywhere. This is certainly an amazing time to be in the city.

Grab a copy of the printed program, which you can find all over Perth close to the date of the opening night, at information centres, and also in your letterbox if you sign up to receive it online. Go through and highlight the shows, exhibitions, showcases and screenings you'd like to attend and book your tickets ahead of time, as the most popular slots sell out quickly. It's also a lot of fun to check out the many free shows or head to Yagan Square to try and secure a last-minute ticket!

# Northbridge, Leederville & Mount Lawley

With tree-lined streets and character houses, these inner-city suburbs offer an eclectic blend of global eateries, live music, vintage boutiques, trendy coffee shops and a vibrant student culture.



## Highlights

Northbridge is a cultural melting pot and home to Perth's Chinatown. Here you will find bubble tea cafés, Asian grocers, Chinese herbalists and many tasty eateries. Uncle Billy's Chinese Restaurant is an affordable, late-night restaurant where you can bring your own alcohol. Old Shanghai is an Asian-street-food-inspired food hall with Japanese, Thai, Malaysian, Indian and Korean food stalls. Lucky Chan's Laundry + Noodlebar is a quirky spot to enjoy a drink and a bowl of signature ramen. If you want to make your own food, head to Tran's Emporium and VHT for Asian groceries.

The Western Australian Museum has reopened in the Perth Cultural Centre after four years of renovations as WA Museum Boola Bardip. The new-look museum showcases fascinating exhibitions and free general entry. The nearby Blue Room Theatre is a great place to catch local performances, while PICA Bar at Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts is a buzzing spot to have a drink.

Just five minutes by train from Perth CBD, Oxford Street in Leederville is home to many great coffee shops and small bars. If you're looking for a place to study, the iconic Greens & Co has

big, comfortable couches, delicious cakes and a late closing time. Grab a seat across the road at one of Pinchos' sunny alfresco tables and dig into plates of tasty Spanish tapas; or under the lanterns at Kitsch Bar Asia with a bowl of pad Thai.

Also located in Leederville is Perth's only anti-gravity yoga studio, AirSpace, where you can try to master the force of gravity in a challenging aerial hammock workout.

Mount Lawley is home to Edith Cowan University and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). If you love the theatre, make sure you catch a WAAPA production. Tickets are cheap and the students produce fantastic shows all year round.

Beaufort Street in Mount Lawley has a unique collection of vintage shops and small boutiques. Book lovers should head to Planet Books and Beaufort Street Books, while Cool Cats Vintage and So Last Century will please any vintage enthusiasts.

While you're in the area, drop into Two Fat Indians for a curry feast, or el PÚBLICO for authentic Mexican dishes. Treat yourself with a New York-style 22-inch pizza from Mack Daddy's, or a decadent cookie and ice cream combo from Get Chunky.



## Community facilities

Loftus Recreation Centre in Leederville offers plenty of opportunities to connect and engage with fellow residents. The centre regularly hosts a variety of events and programs, such as cooking classes, fitness activities, music classes, and a chess club.

Northbridge Medical Centre offers a general practice, sexual health services, skin cancer checks and multilingual doctors. If you need medical assistance outside normal business hours, GP After Hours Mount Lawley opens at 7pm and closes at 11pm on weeknights, and is open until 10pm on weekends.

You'll find several churches in the area, including St Mary's Leederville; St Patrick's Anglican Church and St Paul's Catholic Church in Mount Lawley; and St Brigid's Church and the Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helen in Northbridge.

Mount Lawley's location right next to the Swan River makes it a great place for running and cycling along the water. It is also home to several fitness clubs, such as Plus Fitness, Snap Fitness, Goodlife and more. Try spin classes, yoga, swimming, circuits, personal training, or outdoor group sessions and find something you love to help keep you fit and feeling your best.

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## Unique experiences

The Nostalgia Box is Northbridge's very own interactive video game console museum. Containing more than 100 consoles from 1970 to the 2000s, the museum was even featured in the 2019 Guinness World Record Gamer's Edition. Inside you can have a go at playing some of your favourite games from childhood, such as Pong, Super Mario Bros, Sonic the Hedgehog, Alex Kidd and Crash Bandicoot. The museum hosts a program of fun monthly events, including retro games and quiz nights with pizza.

Leederville Food Safari is an adventurous food tour of Leederville via rickshaw. The tour takes you to three different local eateries, starting with a bite at The 21st Amendment, a delicious main at Kitsch Bar Asia, and a creamy dessert from Gusto Gelato. Whizzing around Leederville in a rickshaw is not just a fun activity, it's also a great way to get to know the area. By the time the tour is up, you'll know all about the area's burgeoning street art scene and have discovered some of its hidden gems.



# Beaches in Perth

Perth's beaches are some of the cleanest, quietest and most beautiful in Australia, offering white sand, blue waters and the odd dolphin!

1. **Cottesloe**, just next to Claremont, is the most famous, thanks to the Indiana Tea Rooms, terraced grassy areas, pine trees and yummy fish and chips on offer.
2. **Swanbourne** has a risqué reputation as a nudist beach.
3. **Scarborough** is known for its pitching waves, live music scene and brand-new skate park, climbing wall and basketball court.
4. **Leighton's north end** is a popular dog-friendly beach. The south end has calm waves and the Orange Box, a much-loved coffee spot.



## STUDENT TIP

**“I will never forget the brunch spot I went to a month ago. It’s in Fremantle and it’s called Bread in Common. Aside from food, the ambience and interior is really amazing.”**

### Leo, The Philippines

Studying at Australian Professional Skills Institute

## CHEAP CHOICE

The WA Shipwrecks Museum offers a fascinating look at maritime archaeology and is completely free to visit.

# Ordering coffee

Some people can go a bit wild with their coffee orders, but here are the basics of ordering a cup of coffee in Australia.



LATTE



FLAT WHITE



CAPPUCCINO



LONG BLACK



ESPRESSO



MOCHA



Coffee Shot



Warm Milk



Water



Chocolate  
Powder or Syrup



Milk Foam

# Crawley, Claremont & Subiaco

These suburbs are some of the oldest and most picturesque in Perth. They contain sprawling parklands, riverside cafés and scenic cycling paths, and play host to many cultural events throughout the year.



## Highlights

Crawley is a beautiful riverside suburb with many places to picnic, walk and relax. Bayside Kitchen is located on the Matilda Bay foreshore. It serves great breakfasts with stunning views of Perth city over the Swan River.

Just across the road is The University of Western Australia, which contains luscious grounds and historical buildings that are worth exploring. Many unique events are hosted at the university, including the annual Save the Children Book Sale, a week-long charity book sale where you can buy boxes of books for next to nothing; and Perth Upmarket, a large market where you can purchase locally made goods.

Nearby Broadway Fair shopping complex contains an IGA supermarket, pharmacy and cheap eateries. While you're in Crawley, pay a visit to Varsity Bar, an American-style diner bar with delicious burgers, fun quiz nights and student discounts on food and drinks.

Claremont is easily accessed via the Fremantle train line. Next to the train station is The Goods Shed, a unique community arts space that houses art exhibitions and installations. It also contains a coffee shop that has sunny outdoor seating amidst flower beds and vegetable patches.

Mt Claremont Farmers' Market is a great place to pick up your fruit and vegetables for the week. Every Sunday at Mount Claremont Primary School, the market stalls are set up with locally grown vegetables, herbs, free-range chicken, eggs, artisan breads, and food trucks that sell coffee and tasty breakfasts.

The streets of Subiaco are lined with charming boutiques and coffee shops. Head to Lucy In Disguise for a cool collection of vintage clothing; or get your next read from Subiaco Bookshop. If you have a special event coming up, Subiaco is also home to three rental boutiques, where you can hire outfits instead of buying them. This way, you can get your hands on some cool designer pieces that otherwise might be too expensive to buy.

The Aboriginal theatre group, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, is based at Subiaco Arts Centre. Catch a local performance there, or head to the 79-year-old Regal Theatre on Rokeby Road.

You will find some of the best laksa in Perth at The Red Chair; and tasty Franco-Vietnamese fusion at Baguette Me Not.

Nearby is Subiaco Lit'l Laundrette, a modern laundromat with the latest machines and cashless payment.





## Community facilities

Claremont Community Hub and Library hosts a number of meet-ups, community initiatives and language groups. The English conversation group takes place at the library every Monday afternoon. There's also a great selection of books to borrow, including a foreign language collection. Subiaco has an impressive list of community facilities, including the Subiaco Community Centre, several community gardens, and the Subiaco Justice Centre, which offers community legal advice.

Claremont Medical Centre offers a range of health services, with multilingual doctors available. Hay

Street Medical Centre in Subiaco is open until 7pm most days and does skin cancer check-ups.

There are several churches in Claremont, including Claremont Baptist Church, Anglican Church of Australia and St Aidan's Uniting Church. Subiaco is home to St Joseph's Catholic church, Subiaco Church and St Andrew's Anglican Church.

Take advantage of the UWA Aquatic Centre, where you can swim laps or learn to swim in one of the regular classes. The university also has a Muslim prayer room in the eastern end of the Winthrop Hall building, with congregational prayers held every Friday. All six of the university's libraries are open to the public.

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## Unique experiences

Claremont Showground is an open-air event space and the home of the Perth Royal Show, an annual agricultural show with fairground rides, showbags, agricultural competitions, and animals. With historic pavilions and arenas, the showground is also used for many large concerts, fairs, exhibitions, sports and community activities. The best way to keep up to date with what's coming up at the showground is to check out the Claremont Showground Facebook page. Plus, it is the only venue in Perth with its own dedicated railway station, making it easily accessible from Fremantle and the city centre.

Subiaco has an awesome street art culture. Thanks to a host of internationally and locally renowned artists, Subiaco's laneways, car parks and walls have been transformed into one extended, spectacular street art gallery. Artworks on display include colourful creations by Spanish artist Okuda, American artist Evoca1, and local Indigenous artist Kambani. Download the self-guided Subi Art Discovery Trail from the City of Subiaco website or use Streets of Perth's interactive Urban Art Map to plan your route.



# South Perth & Bentley

Unwind in these laidback suburbs. Tucked between sunny cafés and lively pubs, you'll find gourmet delicatessens, tempting ice creameries, cute book stores, French patisseries and restaurants with a view.



## Highlights

A short and scenic ferry ride from Elizabeth Quay will take you to the leafy suburb of South Perth. If you visit in spring, you will see hundreds of jacaranda trees in bloom, transforming the streets into a spectacular purple wonderland. Make sure to walk down Strickland and Angelo Streets to see some of the best on display.

Perth Zoo is located near the main jetty and is a great place to spend a day. You will see native Australian animals, such as kangaroos, quokkas and Tasmanian devils and koalas, as well as many other animals from Asia, Europe and Africa. The zoo has a lovely outdoor café and beautiful grounds to explore.

Mends Street has a variety of cafés and restaurants to choose from. Try Mister Walker and Atomic Espresso for breakfast; Satay on Charcoal for delicious halal satay chicken; and Health Freak Cafe for hearty burgers. Meanwhile, on Mill Point Road, Millpoint Caffe Bookshop lets you browse the shelves with a coffee in hand.

For dinner, head to the lovely Coco's Restaurant. Located right on the Swan River foreshore, it is the perfect place to celebrate a special occasion. Arik's Istanbul Kebabs & Turkish Bakery on Angelo Street serves freshly baked

Turkish breads, kebabs stuffed with halal meats, and tasty homemade dips.

Angelo Street Market is a local favourite gourmet grocery store and delicatessen, selling fresh produce, antipasto, charcuterie and wholesome take-home meals. The Good Grocer is a gourmet supermarket perfect for grabbing any picnic supplies you might need.

Bentley is home to Curtin University and Canning College, and is therefore a popular choice among both local and international students. Local businesses cater to this booming student demographic, and you will find many student deals and discounts in local cafés and restaurants. For instance, Curtin University Tavern, affectionately known as The Tav, offers \$12 lunch specials.

At Bali Modern Cuisine, you can try authentic Indonesian nasi gorengs, gado gado and rendangs; while Malaysian Dining Delights is a great spot for big plates of affordable Malay food. Dunya Foods, located just 10 minutes from Curtin University, sells a wide range of Middle Eastern and Turkish halal goods such as sujuk, pastirma and cold meats. The nearby Waterford Plaza contains an IGA, Coles Supermarket and Asian grocery store.



## Community facilities

South Perth has plenty of leisure centres to choose from, many of which contain fitness facilities. Riverton Leisureplex is an indoor facility with a heated pool, spa, sauna and gym facilities; and the Wesley College Sport Club has public opening times organised around the college's sporting schedule. Here you can partake in group fitness classes such as Pilates and yoga, and use the swimming pool, courts (badminton, basketball and tennis), and weights room. Bentley Community Centre in Bentley runs community learning and volunteering programs, health and fitness initiatives, cultural connect events, muslim prayer and mentoring, and youth services.

Mill Point Medical in South Perth offers physical, mental and sexual health services; while Bentley Plaza Family Practice has women's and men's health services, and doctors who speak multiple languages. Curtin University also has an on-campus medical centre, Curtin University Health Services, which is located on level one of building 109.

In South Perth, religious services are carried out at St Columba Catholic Church, the Anglican Parish of South Perth, and the South Perth Uniting Church. In Bentley you'll find the Curtin University Musallah, Bentley Baptist Church, and Santa Clara Catholic Church.

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## Unique experiences

Mindeerup is a pedestrian-friendly piazza located at Mendis Street Jetty. The piazza is filled with interesting public artworks, seating and landscaped areas with beautiful views of the Swan River. Every evening, Mindeerup lights up with a spectacular light and sound show inspired by Aboriginal Dreamtime stories and seasons. In the summer, you can catch the show between 8-9pm. Head to Mindeerup on Australia Day (26 January) and you will have the best view in the city of the Australia Day fireworks.

The Old Mill is an iconic landmark in Perth. The Dutch-style building has a fascinating history, and has previously been used as a flour mill, a hotel, a residence, a wine saloon and a poultry farm. Guided tours of Old Mill and the connected cottage run from Tuesday and Friday each week, for a cost of just \$2 per person. In a tradition that dates back to the 1930s, the Old Mill's 100-year-old Norfolk pine tree is decorated for Christmas every year. Locals like to bring picnics and watch the city turn on the Christmas lights, to signify the beginning of the festive season.



# Fremantle

Fremantle is the coastal town that is home to Perth's artistic spirit and environmental consciousness. The streets are filled with second-hand bookshops, independent retailers, vegan cafés, local breweries, and quirky op-shops.



## Highlights

As home to the University of Notre Dame, the West End of Fremantle has a distinctly student feel. The university doesn't have an ordinary campus, and is instead housed within the town's heritage sandstone buildings.

In this end of town, you'll find a large collection of cool independent stores. New Edition Bookshop and Bill Campbell's Second Hand Books have great selections of contemporary and classic novels; while The Chart & Map Shop stocks a carefully curated selection of travel-themed books and maps of Australia. A local favourite, Three Stories Lifestyle is a surf and skate store with locally made surfboards, homewares and clothing. Bargain hunters will find a great range of vintage and recycled clothing boutiques in Fremantle. Some of the best include RSPCA Reloved Fashion, St. Pat's Rack, and Beat Happening.

When you're in need of coffee, head to Moore & Moore Cafe, an eclectic coffee shop and contemporary art gallery with cosy couches and a sun-filled courtyard. Or, for a night out, head to The Old Synagogue, a buzzing multi-level venue with sleek restaurants, lively bars and a late-night dance floor on weekends. Jungle Bird

is a Caribbean-themed rum bar on High Street with \$10 vegan meals and weekly drinks specials. Nearby, Ronnie Nights is a vibrant venue with good music and hearty bowls of ramen; while Darling Darling has cool cocktails and a stylish seafarer theme. If you want to have a drink with your feet in the sand, Bathers Beach House is the only restaurant in Western Australia where you can eat and drink on the beach.

Hop on the free Blue CAT bus from Fremantle Station to get to the sunny streets of South Fremantle. South Beach has a large grassed area for picnics, a laid back café, regular yoga classes, and a pop-up sunset market in the summer. The beach itself is relatively sheltered and has calm swimming conditions. You can hire a bike at South Beach Cycles and hit one of the beachside cycling paths, or simply grab a coffee at the adjoining cafe. Manna Wholefoods & Cafe is a low-waste store where you can buy fresh, organic produce, as well as grains, pasta and legumes in bulk. The store also serves super healthy raw and vegan lunches. In the evening, grab an alfresco seat at Madalena's for wine and seafood; or head to Copper Chimney for Indian cuisine.





## Community facilities

Fremantle Fibonacci Centre on Blinco Street holds a number of classes, workshops and events throughout the year; while The Meeting Place Community Centre on South Terrace provides a range of unique courses and organised meet-ups, including language groups. Multicultural Futures is a local organisation that helps people who are new to Perth integrate with the local lifestyle and culture. They offer several useful services, including employment help, English classes, and mental health and wellbeing support. Fremantle Library has a great book selection, study spaces, public computers, free Wi-Fi and book clubs.

Fremantle Leisure Centre has a 50-metre outdoor pool, four indoor heated pools, a fitness centre and café. It offers adult swimming lessons, swim clubs, aqua aerobics and community events.

Fremantle is home to many churches, including Fremantle Wesley Uniting Church, St John's Anglican Church, C3 Church Fremantle, and the youth-oriented Freedom City Church. Nasir Mosque is located in Bibra Lake in South Fremantle; while the Kadampa Meditation Centre Perth is located in East Fremantle and offers weekly meditation sessions, classes, courses and retreats.

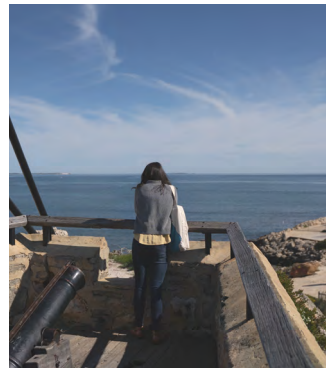
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## Unique experiences

The bustling Fremantle Markets are open from Friday to Sunday each week. It's a great place to catch live music, entertaining buskers, and to browse the huge variety of market stalls. The main market hall has an array of stallholders selling locally made homewares, accessories, clothing, artwork, beauty products and collectables, while the market yard is filled with organic produce and tasty food vendors. For halal beef rendang, bone marrow rice and homemade spicy sambal, try Fluffy Lamb. The stall is the only halal-certified food outlet in Fremantle Markets, and has been named one

of the top Indonesian restaurants in the world by the Indonesian Tourism Ministry.

Monument Hill, situated 43 metres above sea level, boasts some of the best views in Fremantle. Once you tackle the uphill walk from the top of High Street, you will be rewarded with gorgeous views over the town centre, Fremantle Harbour and the Indian Ocean. At the top of Monument Hill you'll find Fremantle War Memorial, which is surrounded by shady trees, sloped grass areas and water fountains. Pack a picnic and make your way up in time for the sunset.





# Activities

## BIRDWATCHING

Perth is home to more than 190 species of birds. Bring your binoculars to Lake Monger, Herdsman Lake, Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary and the Cockburn Wetlands Precinct to spot some unfamiliar species. Araluen Botanic Park is home to more than 54 species.

## STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

A fun and easy water sport that you can enjoy at the river or the beach. Hire stand-up paddleboards (SUPS) at SUP Central Matilda Bay and Stand Up Surf Shop in North Fremantle.

## SURFING

Western Australia offers some of the best surfing in the world. The easy conditions at Leighton Beach are perfect for beginners. Go Surf Perth runs adult surf lessons here in the winter, and at Scarborough Beach during the summer.

## WINE APPRECIATION

With the Swan Valley wine region on your doorstep, there are plenty of opportunities to learn about and enjoy wine. Tastings are free at most wineries, and you can tour the wine region on a bus or boat tour departing from Perth CBD.

## KAYAKING

Kayaking on Swan River, you will see everything from dolphins to pelicans to riverside mansions. Hire a single or double kayak from Funcats Watersports in South Perth.

## PAINTBALL

Paintball is an exciting and adventurous activity to do with friends. Battlefields are located in several bushland locations around Perth, and will make you feel like you're in a video game. Head to WASP Paintball for group packages and special discounts.

## SKYDIVING

Thrillseekers won't have any trouble finding a place to skydive. Skydive Geronimo conducts flights over Rottnest Island, while Skydive Australia drops you over Rockingham Beach. Head to iFly to experience the thrill of flying without jumping out of a plane.

## PICNIC AT CARRICK HILL

The Carrick Hill historical property, with its landmark 17th century-style English manor house, is an incredible spot for a picnic with friends. While inside the house, take a guided tour and check out the art collection.

## SNORKELLING

Perth's coastline is full of breathtaking snorkelling locations. Mettams Pool in Trigg is a sheltered ocean lagoon filled with colourful reef fish; while the Coogee Maritime Trail lets you snorkel through a historic shipwreck, underwater art gallery, and thriving reef.

## ROLLER SKATING

Throw back to the 1980s at Perth's retro roller rinks, which offer disco lights, groovy music, cheap food and arcade games. You can hire roller blades or roller skates for \$3.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Perth's sunshine makes the city a favourite for photographers. Try your hand at capturing an iconic Indian Ocean sunset, a black swan on the river, or the crowd at a live music gig.

# A week in Perth

## MONDAY

Monday is quiz night at all Varsity Bar venues around Perth. Gather your friends, book a table, and load up on fries and spicy wings as you put your trivia knowledge to the test.

## TUESDAY

Every Tuesday, Luna Palace Windsor Cinema in Nedlands offers bargain \$12 movie tickets before 6pm, and \$14 tickets after. The cinema has a fully licenced bar and lounge, and there are restaurants nearby to grab a bite to eat after the film.

## WEDNESDAY

Party like it's the weekend at The Arbor in The Old Synagogue. The lively three-level venue has a rooftop bar, sunny beer garden, and underground dance floor. DJs play from 5pm, and there are \$25 cocktail jugs, \$8 pints and half-price pizzas served until late in the night.

## THURSDAY

Live Life Get Active hosts free outdoor exercise sessions in Perth. Boxing is held every Thursday morning at Ozone Reserve in East Perth at 6.30am, and in Harold Boas Gardens in West Perth at 9.30am.

## FRIDAY

Open mic nights run every Friday at Navy Club in Fremantle from 7pm. Performers have the stage for 30 minutes and receive a free drink. Head down to hear some new local talent, or even give it a go yourself!

## SATURDAY

Start the weekend well at Perth's original bottomless brunch. Tiisch offers a two-course breakfast that comes with two hours of unlimited beverages. Choose between the 11am and 2pm seatings, and make sure you book in advance.

## SUNDAY

Enjoy a lazy afternoon in the Duke of George's sunny courtyard with free live blues and jazz concerts every Sunday. The venue opens at 2pm and offers a Louisiana-style menu with house cornbread, vegetarian gumbo, and seafood bouillabaisse.

# Everything you need to know about studying in Australia

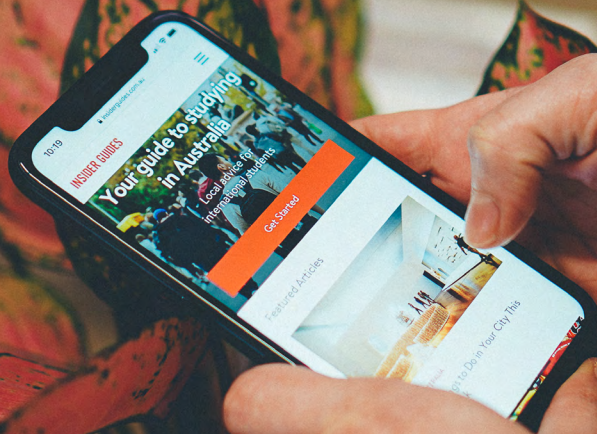
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# A year in Perth

## JANUARY

### PERTH FRINGE FESTIVAL

Perth Fringe Festival is the largest annual event in Western Australia, and the third-largest fringe festival in the world. During January, Perth is overtaken by events, shows and entertainment that span everything from cabaret to comedy.

*fringeworld.com.au*

## FEBRUARY

### PERTH FESTIVAL

Perth Festival brings together the local arts community in a city-wide showcase of music, theatre, dance and more. A celebration of culture, inclusivity and expression, this festival is not to be missed.

*perthfestival.com.au*

## MARCH

### SCULPTURE BY THE SEA

Sculpture By The Sea transforms the sand and grassy areas of Cottesloe Beach into a unique outdoor exhibition of thought-provoking sculptures.

*sculpturebythesea.com*

## APRIL

### FAIRBRIDGE FESTIVAL

Fairbridge Festival is a weekend-long camping festival that celebrates folk, world and roots music – as well as food, music and entertainment – in the picturesque country town of Pinjarra.

*fairbridgefestival.com.au*

## MAY

### CAREERS EXPO

A huge range of universities, vocational and training organisations, professional organisations, and employers participate in the annual Careers Expo, where you can learn more about life after study and expose yourself to professional opportunities.

*careers-expo.com.au*

## JUNE

### WA DAY

WA Day celebrates Western Australia's diversity with the free multi-day SOTA festival in Burswood Park, where there's live music from local artists, a range of food trucks, and weekend-long entertainment.

*celebratewa.com.au*

## JULY

### WINTER MARKETS

More than 40 food and retail stalls line the promenade at Scarborough Beach for Scarborough Winter Markets, a hub of global cuisine, handcrafted wares, and live music.

[scarboroughbeach.net/wintermarkets](http://scarboroughbeach.net/wintermarkets)

## AUGUST

### CITY TO SURF

During Chevron City to Surf for Activ, participants race from Perth CBD to City Beach. The event caters to all fitness levels, with runs and walks of varying lengths.

[perthcitytosurf.com](http://perthcitytosurf.com)

## SEPTEMBER

### PERTH ROYAL SHOW

The Perth Royal Show is a massive event that exhibits the agricultural heritage of WA through a two-week program of rides, exhibits, petting zoos, show bags, and fireworks.

[perthroyalshow.com.au](http://perthroyalshow.com.au)

## OCTOBER

### OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest is celebrated all over Perth. Oktoberfest in the Gardens and Elmar's In The Valley are the biggest ticketed events, and smaller events are hosted at pubs around Perth.

[perth.oktoberfestinthegardens.com.au](http://perth.oktoberfestinthegardens.com.au)

[elmars.com.au](http://elmars.com.au)

## NOVEMBER

### FREMANTLE BEERFEST

Fremantle BeerFest is Australia's largest outdoor craft beer festival, showcasing local brewers, cider-makers, distillers and food producers at the Fremantle Esplanade Park.

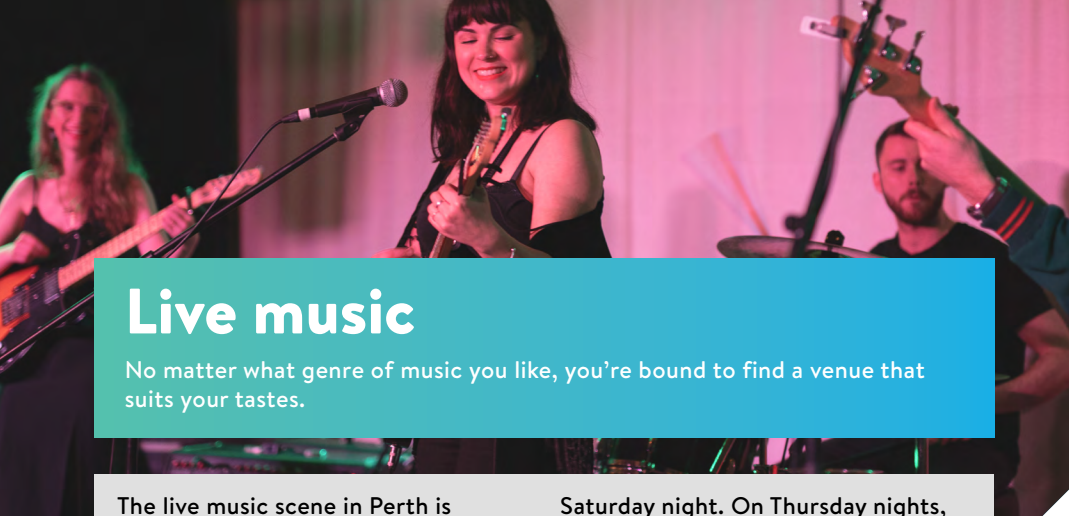
[fremantle.beerfestivals.com.au](http://fremantle.beerfestivals.com.au)

## DECEMBER

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Perth Christmas Pageant lights up the city streets with magical floats, dazzling Christmas lights, and plenty of entertainment.

[7perthchristmaspageant.com](http://7perthchristmaspageant.com)



## Live music

No matter what genre of music you like, you're bound to find a venue that suits your tastes.

The live music scene in Perth is evident everywhere, from small bars with regular live music nights where you can discover up-and-coming talent, to large-scale, show-stopping performances from global musical superstars.

Located in North Fremantle, Mojoes Bar has embraced local counterculture and alternative music since the 1970s. With grungy décor, cheap beers on tap and an inclusive atmosphere, the venue hosts local indie bands as well as some cool acts from interstate and overseas. The bar is open Wednesday to Sunday from 5pm.

Alabama Song is an American-themed whisky bar tucked down a small laneway in Northbridge. The venue has a great dance floor, and plays live country music every Friday and

Saturday night. On Thursday nights, you can grab cheap food deals such as 50-cent wings and \$10 chicken burgers.

The Rosemount is a longstanding favourite in North Perth, with its packed program of great local bands – everything from classic rock to modern indie. If you're in a band that's just starting out, you can even get in touch and play a gig of your own. Between 4pm and 6pm on weekdays, the bar offers \$7 pints and \$5 house wines.

Fremantle Arts Centre is the best place to catch an outdoor concert during the summer months. The venue hosts live acoustic, folk and indie music every Sunday from October to March – all for free! Bring a rug and a picnic and settle in for the afternoon on the shady lawn area.

### GIG GUIDES

There are lots of gig guides listing concerts around Perth. Some of the best include The Urban List, Cool Perth Nights, Gig List and Xpress Mag.

[theurbanlist.com/perth](http://theurbanlist.com/perth)

[coolperthnights.com/gig-guide](http://coolperthnights.com/gig-guide)

[giglist.com.au](http://giglist.com.au)

[xpressmag.com.au](http://xpressmag.com.au)



# Cinema

There are several cinema chains around Perth playing the latest blockbusters.

Perth is home to a huge variety of cinema complexes, and many of the best are located outdoors. During the summer months, Rooftop Movies shows both old and new films at a rooftop in the middle of Northbridge. The cinema boasts stunning views of the city skyline, comfy deck chairs, New York-style pizzas, and a licensed bar.

Somerville Auditorium is an outdoor cinema located at the University of Western Australia, under towering Norfolk pine trees. The venue hosts Lotterywest Films, which runs as part of the Perth Festival from November to April each year. During the festival season, the cinema screens renowned international and local films.

The charming Galaxy Drive In Theatre is perfect for an old-school date night. Located in Kingsley, tickets cost just \$22 per car on Tuesdays. There's also a quirky Moonlight Cinema that pops up in Kings Park during the summer, where you can watch movies amongst the picturesque gardens under the stars.

Film buffs should head to Luna Cinemas for a cool program of foreign, indie and alternative films. There are five Luna Cinemas in Perth, including the Camelot Outdoor Cinema. These venues regularly host international film festivals.

For a luxury movie night, head to the inner-city Palace Cinemas in Raine Square. The complex boasts reclining leather seats, boutique screens, four bars, and a rooftop terrace. Palace Cinemas show a variety of blockbusters, alternative, classic and foreign films, with surprisingly affordable tickets.

Girls School Cinema is a unique complex set inside the grounds of a historical school in East Perth. The cinema runs both summer and winter programs, with comfy bean bag chairs and loads of delicious candy bar snacks.



# Travel

## Short trips

### ROTTNEST ISLAND

Known as Wadjemup Bidi to the Noongar people, Rottnest Island is a sandy, car-free island where you'll find unspoilt beaches, spectacular snorkelling, and quokkas, an adorable species of native wildlife. Many locals like to stay on the island overnight, but you can easily explore its bays, swimming spots and cycling paths on a daytrip. The best way to get around Rottnest is by bike, which you can hire at Pedal & Flipper (or you can bring your own across on the ferry). If you do choose to stay the night, the most affordable options are the campground and hostel. The island is a short ferry ride from Fremantle, Perth, or Hillarys Boat Harbour.

### SWAN VALLEY

The Swan Valley region is steeped in Mediterranean history, with acres of olive groves, wineries, and gourmet producers. The region is only 25 minutes from Perth, accessible via a short train ride from Perth CBD to the heritage town of Guildford. In Guildford, you will find rows of antique shops, art galleries, historic pubs, and charming cafés. Alfred's Kitchen is a local institution, with railway carriage seating, a cosy woodfire, and hearty diner-style meals. Visit the vineyards at Sandalford Wines or Sittella Winery for a locally made drop, or tackle the 5.5-kilometre hiking trail at Bells Rapids to see where the Avon and Swan Rivers meet.

### SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK

This beautiful aquatic playground is brimming with sea lions, shipwrecks, coral reefs, seagrass, penguins, and dolphins. The main attraction of the marine park is Penguin Island, which is just a five-minute ferry ride from Rockingham. The island is home to the smallest penguin species in the world, the fairy penguin. There is a great visitors centre on the island that conducts daily penguin feedings. You can also swim, snorkel, picnic, and explore the different nature trails.



## Longer trips

### NAMBUNG NATIONAL PARK

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Nambung National Park is a two-hour drive north of Perth along Indian Ocean Drive. The park is best known for the Pinnacles Desert, a fascinating landscape featuring thousands of naturally formed limestone pillars that rise out of the sand. The landscape looks like a setting from a science-fiction film – it has to be seen to be believed. The Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre is open daily from 9.30am to 4.30pm, and contains interpretive displays and information about the desert. Campgrounds and beach cottages can be found in the nearby towns of Cervantes and Lancelin.

### MARGARET RIVER

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Known for good wine and big surf, Margaret River has spectacular walking trails, towering karri forests, and a thriving arts scene. The region is located three hours south of Perth, and is best accessed via car. Regular buses also travel between Perth and Margaret River. You can choose from a range of accommodation styles, such as beachside campsites, farm stays, and forest chalets. The Cape to Cape Walk Track passes through Margaret River, with stunning forest and coastal scenery along the way. You can also discover local art in Margaret River Gallery, soak in the natural ocean spas at Injidup Beach, or spend an afternoon at a local brewery.

### BUSSELTON

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Busselton is a small country town with sheltered beaches and a lively waterfront precinct. The town's main attraction is the 1.8-kilometre jetty that houses boutique gift shops, a museum, an underwater observatory, and its very own train. The Possum Spotlighting Trail in the Tuart Forest National Park offers an opportunity to spot some native flora and fauna, or you may choose to tackle one of the six intense obstacle courses offered by Forest Adventures. Geographe Bay has calm swimming conditions and is a beautiful spot to catch the sunset. Make sure you check out Cod Rocks for takeaway fish and chips, or Equinox Restaurant for dinner with a view.

# Camping

There is so much choice when it comes to camping in WA. Ensure you have a great camping trip by being organised ahead of time. Plenty of helpful information is available online, from packing lists to safety tips. The Explore Parks WA is a good resource for everything to do with camping. Talking to other campers is also a great way to get the inside scoop on the best places to see and when to go.

[parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

**Make sure you've let a trusted friend know where you're going and how long you'll be away. You'll also need to organise food, water, shelter and suitable clothing. If you're new to camping, lots of popular campsites offer cute little cabins which can make the experience a bit easier.**

## DENMARK

In the summer it's best to head south where the temperatures are a bit cooler. Denmark offers lots of camping options, including Parry Beach Campsite, Denmark Rivermouth Caravan Park and Denmark Ocean Beach Holiday Park. Many of the campsites are incredibly cheap and often right next to stunning scenery like beaches, rivers and forest.

## SERPENTINE FALLS

If you'd like to try somewhere a little closer to the city, Serpentine Falls in the Serpentine National Park has camping grounds and caravan parks with all of the necessary amenities (one even has a pool!), beautiful woodland scenery, and walking trails.

## AVON VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Further inland, you'll find the Avon Valley National Park, which is home to affordable campgrounds, a dedicated ranger and an information hut. Toilets, shaded areas and water are available, but you'll need to take everything else. If you go in spring, you'll be rewarded with some of the most beautiful wildflowers found close to the city.

## HEAD ONLINE

Experiencing a new and exciting culture is one of the best things about being an international student. Find out how to make the most of your time in Australia with our Activities and Culture guide.

[insiderguides.com.au/activities-and-culture](http://insiderguides.com.au/activities-and-culture)

# Caversham Wildlife Park

Caversham Wildlife Park is home to more than 2,000 native Australian mammals, marsupials, birds and reptiles, making it the largest privately owned collection of native wildlife in WA.

## Highlights

The wildlife park is divided into sections that reflect the different natural habitats around Australia, and the species that live within them. You can get up close and personal with many of the animals in the park, and there are opportunities to take pictures with most of them, including adorable koalas and wombats. In the spacious, free-roaming kangaroo enclosure, you can feed and pat the friendly kangaroos and wallabies. Interactive sessions are run daily by the park's experienced keepers; you can watch a sheep shearing, cow milking, meet a stockman on horseback, hold a snake, feed penguins, and watch the sheepdogs muster their flocks. The park is open daily from 9.30am to 4pm. We recommend that you allow yourself at least three hours at the wildlife park in order to see everything. Entry is \$23 for students with a valid student card from a Western Australian university, and \$30 for adults.





## Rottneet Island

Wondering where the name comes from? Foreign settlers mistakenly named this island a 'rats nest' when they first discovered it. In fact, it's native quokkas that call this beautiful island home. These tiny marsupials hop and carry their babies in a pouch just like a kangaroo. They're also very friendly and enjoy being fed greenery for lunch by willing travellers. But it's more than just the wildlife you can discover here.

A 30-minute journey by fast ferry from Fremantle or Hillarys Boat Harbour will take you to Perth's very own island paradise. Fringed by beautiful bays, reefs and coves, you can hire a bike and cycle around the island to find a slice of heaven all to yourself. Guided tours also run, each

with their own highly entertaining tour guide who will tell you all about the history of the island. You can also join boat tours and guided snorkelling trips if you'd like a little help looking around.

Pack a picnic if you're on a budget or take advantage of the little coffee shops, high-end supermarket and cafes dotted around the main settlement. For a little bit of luxury, you can stay at Hotel Rottneet and indulge in delicious lunches and a fully stocked bar. Glamping tents are a recent addition to the island, but be sure to plan your trip way in advance to avoid missing out. Beach shacks are a more affordable alternative but booking is still essential.

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**INSIDER GUIDES**



# Cottesloe Beach

This beautiful beach is one of Perth's favourite places to swim, sunbathe, and relax. The beach is spread across more than a kilometre of soft white sand and spacious grass terraces, and there are plenty of bars, restaurants and cafés along the foreshore.

## Highlights

During the summer months, a protective swimming net is installed to protect swimmers from sharks and other ocean life, making it a safe place to swim. Cottesloe Beach has a 100-metre long groyne which offers views over the beach and is used by locals for rock fishing. To the south of the groyne, you will find great conditions for surfing and snorkeling. The beach gets quieter the further north you walk; make sure to check out Peters Pool, a quiet swimming spot found at North Cottesloe. The iconic Indiana Teahouse is located in the middle of the beach, where you will also find the public toilet and shower facilities. Locals enjoy grabbing takeaway fish and chips from one of the two nearby fish and chip shops on Marine Parade, and picking a spot to eat under the shady Norfolk pines. Canteen Pizza serves pizza and drink specials, while Il Lido is favoured for brunch and afternoon cocktails. On Sunday afternoons, locals head to the Ocean Beach Hotel for drinks.





# Key contacts

CONTACT NAME	WHEN WOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?	CONTACT DETAILS
AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW	Understand your legal rights in regards to shopping or purchasing services.	<a href="http://consumerlaw.gov.au">consumerlaw.gov.au</a>
AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION	If you feel you are being treated unfairly because of your race, descent, colour or ethnic/national origin then make a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission.	<a href="http://humanrights.gov.au">humanrights.gov.au</a>
AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE	Contact them to arrange a Tax File Number or learn more about payments made to you while you're here.	<a href="http://ato.gov.au">ato.gov.au</a>
BEYOND BLUE	A free counselling service that you can contact if you are feeling depressed or anxious.	1300 224 636 <a href="http://beyondblue.org.au">beyondblue.org.au</a>
COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AUSTRALIA	The peak body for the interests and needs of international students.	<a href="http://cisa.edu.au">cisa.edu.au</a>
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (FOR EMBASSIES)	If you require help from your country's embassy within Australia.	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au">dfat.gov.au</a>
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS	This government department handles visa enquiries and issues.	<a href="http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au">immi.homeaffairs.gov.au</a>
FAIR WORK OMBUDSMAN	If you require assistance understanding your workplace rights and responsibilities.	13 13 94 <a href="http://fairwork.gov.au">fairwork.gov.au</a>
FIRE BRIGADE	For situations requiring the fire brigade that are not threatening life. In life threatening emergency situations call Triple Zero (000).	<a href="http://dfes.wa.gov.au">dfes.wa.gov.au</a>
HEALTHDIRECT AUSTRALIA	Outside of GP consultation hours their trained staff can help you treat non-urgent illnesses.	1800 022 222
IDP PERTH	Assistance with assessing study options, including courses, applications and student visas.	08 9227 0102 <a href="http://idp.com/australia">idp.com/australia</a>
LEGAL AID	Free legal information services to help you understand the law.	1300 650 579 <a href="http://legalaid.wa.gov.au">legalaid.wa.gov.au</a>
LIFELINE	If you need someone to talk to about your mental health, this resource is a crisis support hotline.	<a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a>

CONTACT NAME	WHEN WOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?	CONTACT DETAILS
OVERSEAS STUDENT OMBUDSMAN	This resource investigates complaints about problems that overseas students have with private education in Australia.	1300 362 072 <a href="mailto:ombudsman.gov.au">ombudsman.gov.au</a>
POLICE	For situations requiring the police, like burglary, that are not threatening life. In life threatening emergency situations call Triple Zero (000).	131 444 (Connects to nearest police station)
ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY	If you plan on driving around Perth, find out about the road rules and what you need to get yourself a licence.	<a href="http://transport.wa.gov.au">transport.wa.gov.au</a>
SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTRE	This free 24/7 emergency service specialises in counselling and medical services for those who have suffered recent sexual assault or childhood sexual abuse.	9340 1828
SEXUAL HEALTH HELPLINE	To talk about sexual health symptoms and get advice, you can call this number to talk to trained medical staff.	9227 6178 <a href="http://shq.org.au">shq.org.au</a>
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (SES)	This service provides emergency support during and after major incidents, such as floods, storms, cyclones, and bushfires.	132 500
STUDYPERTH	For information on living and studying in Perth and questions you have while you are here.	<a href="http://studypertth.com.au">studypertth.com.au</a>
STUDY IN AUSTRALIA	For basic information about studying in Australia, including information on the universities and useful contacts.	<a href="http://studyinaustralia.gov.au">studyinaustralia.gov.au</a>
TRANSPERTH	To find out about trains and buses, including ticketing information, timetables and more.	<a href="http://transperth.wa.gov.au">transperth.wa.gov.au</a>
WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE	This free state-wide 24 hour service provides support and counselling for women experiencing family and domestic violence.	1800 007 339

## EMERGENCY

For emergency services requiring ambulance, fire brigade and/or police dial **Triple Zero (000)**. If you require a translator then tell the operator your language and they will connect you with one.

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