



## **Pre-Departure Information**

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### Pre-Departure and Arrival

Leaving home to live and study in a foreign country can be an exciting and challenging experience. Brisbane is an easy and affordable place to live and we will assist you to settle into study at Leaders Institute Brisbane and living in Brisbane.

Before you travel to Australia, you may like to refer to our pre-departure checklist to make sure you do everything you need to do before you leave home.

### Visa and passport requirements

You will need to organise your student visa and passport. You should receive a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from the Institute. Once you have your CoE you will be able to apply for your student visa.

Make sure your passport is valid for the intended length of your study time in Australia. Should it expire during your stay, you will need to have it extended through your country's diplomatic mission in Australia, or else when you return home on holidays.

### Travel insurance

Make sure you organise travel insurance for the journey to Australia. It may also be useful to consider organising travel insurance for your first week in Australia. Your Overseas Student Health Cover will begin once you arrive in Australia.

Travel insurance will cover you for any difficulties you might encounter from the time you depart your home country to your arrival in Australia, such as lost luggage. Unlike your compulsory Overseas Student Health Cover, your travel insurance may (depending on the insurer and type of cover) provide you with cover for pre-existing medical conditions, but it is important to check this with your insurer.

### Things to bring

- Documentation of previous studies (if applying for status or credit).
- Certified academic transcripts.
- A character reference from a teacher or other official (to help you apply for long-term accommodation).
- Identification such as a driving licence or credit card (to help you open a bank account).
- Home country driving licence if you want to drive in Brisbane. You will have to provide a translation of your licence into English, either in the form of an International Driving Permit or by arranging for a translation once you are here.

- Important medical records (for example, if you have an ongoing medical condition).
- Medication: If you take medication for an illness or condition you may need to bring a supply with you as it may not be readily available, or available at the same price, in Australia. You may need a certificate (in English or translated into English) from your doctor stating that the drugs have been prescribed. Check with immigration authorities: you must declare any drugs or medicines you bring into the country. Note that any prescription medication obtained in Australia must be prescribed by an Australian doctor.
- Bilingual print dictionary (only print dictionaries are allowed in exams).
- Spare spectacles/contact lenses.
- Optional: Radio/MP3 player, camera, calculator, USB/thumb drive.
- Optional: computer (as accompanied luggage). Prices for new laptops in Australia range from approximately A\$400 to A\$5000. You are allowed to bring a laptop into Australia, provided Customs officials are satisfied it is for personal use and that you intend to take it with you when you return home. You are advised to get specified items insurance for your laptop in case it gets stolen or damaged.
- Contact details for home and Australia in case of an emergency.
- Your passport!

### Things NOT to bring

Australia has strict Quarantine laws. Visit the [Biosecurity Australia](#) website for information on what you are not allowed to bring into Australia. For example:

- Items made from wood, plant and animal material must be declared upon arrival.
- You are not allowed to bring in fresh food or egg products even in powder form into Australia, including dried or packet food.
- You MUST declare ALL food items in your possession or risk an on-the-spot fine.

Brisbane has a diverse population, so products from most regions in the world are readily available. You can probably buy most of your favourite foods here instead of bringing them with you.

### Accommodation

#### **On arrival accommodation**

You may prefer to book temporary accommodation and stay there for a short time until you are familiar with Brisbane.

#### **Long term accommodation**

You should start to arrange your accommodation as long before your arrival in Brisbane as possible.

New students find that establishing long-term accommodation is one of the more difficult tasks they face once they arrive. Our Accommodation Links on the website has some helpful links for student residences, real estate agents, tenants' rights and more. Please note that any links to real estate agents or residential accommodation are *independent of Leaders Institute*, so you will have to contact them directly.

You are strongly encouraged to obtain home contents insurance in case of damage, loss or theft of your possessions.

### Personal insurance

The landlord will insure the building where you live, but you will need to have contents insurance if you want to be covered in case:

- you break something
- you are burgled
- there is a house fire
- flood

You will need to take out specified items insurance to cover portable items such as laptops, digital cameras and bicycles when taken outside the home.

Insurance premiums vary between companies, so you will need to shop around and compare the different options available. You should select the best policy for your needs. You can look for insurance companies in the [Yellow Pages](#) telephone directory. If you are sharing a house, a joint policy for the whole household may be cheaper than separate policies for each person but you will need to agree on the value of certain items and be sure that you have all of your individual possessions insured.

### Managing your finances

All major Australian banks have branches located in the Brisbane Central Business District. All will be able to exchange foreign currencies and travellers cheques into Australian currency for a fee. You can also exchange foreign currency at:

- [American Express Foreign Exchange Services](#)
- [Travelex Foreign Exchange](#)

### **Bank Accounts**

To open a bank account, you will need at least your passport and boarding pass if you have just arrived. Find out more on our [Money Considerations](#) page.

## Getting around Brisbane

### Public transport

Useful resources to find locations in Brisbane and plan your travel include:

- [Translink](#) (for bus, train, City Cats and City Ferries timetables)
- <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport>

### Tickets

You can buy TransLink tickets for buses and ferries from:

- bus and ferry operators
- Queensland Rail (QR) staffed station or QR vending machines
- private bus operators
- some newsagencies and local convenience stores

Visit the [TransLink website](#) for information about *go* card ticketing.

### Concessions

Children, school students, tertiary students, seniors, pensioners and veterans may be eligible to concessional travel on rail, bus and ferry services. For more information about concessional travel, visit the [TransLink website](#).

**Note:** You will be able to use student concession tickets only once you have obtained a Student ID card on orientation day.

### Faulty tickets

Phone [TransLink](#) on 13 12 30 for information about faulty ticket refunds.

## Brisbane's Accredited Visitor Information Centres

Whether it's tour and accommodation bookings, events and entertainment information, brochures and maps, or general tourist advice you need for the Brisbane and Greater Brisbane areas, the many Accredited Visitor Information Centres located across the Greater Brisbane Region have it covered. The main Brisbane Metro Info Centre is located at the following address:

## Brisbane

### **Brisbane Visitor Information and Booking Centre**

The Regent, 167 Queen Street Mall, Queen St, Brisbane

P: 07 3006 6290

E: [visit@brisbanemarketing.com.au](mailto:visit@brisbanemarketing.com.au)

Open daily (closed Good Friday, Anzac Day and Christmas Day)

Monday to Thursday – 9am-5:30pm

Friday – 9am-7pm

Saturday – 9am-5pm

Sunday – 10am-5pm

You may also be able to visit the information centre located conveniently at the Brisbane International Airport on arrival at the following location:

### **Brisbane International Airport Visitor Information Centre**

International Terminal - Level 2

P: 07 3406 3190

E: [enquiries@sqt.com.au](mailto:enquiries@sqt.com.au)

[Website](#)

## Driving

If you have a valid overseas driving licence and are in Australia on a temporary visa, you can drive on that licence as long as it is in English or accompanied by an English translation. For information contact

Department of Transport and Main Roads on **13 23 80**, or visit them at the Brisbane City (Elizabeth Street) Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre Located at:

**229 Elizabeth Street  
Brisbane, Qld, 4000**

You should download a copy of the [Driver's Handbook](#) the whole guide or just the section that you want. or alternatively you can also [buy the book online](#) or from a [transport and motoring customer service centre](#).

You may also be able to buy it from some newsagents in Queensland.

- If you are buying a used car, the [Office of Fair Trading Queensland](#)

has some important advice. You can also pay for the RACQ to inspect the car before you buy it (1800 629 501).

Remember: whether you are buying or renting a car, pay attention to your insurance policy. For example, if more than one person commits their funds to rent or buy a car make sure everyone who drives the vehicle has their name listed on the policy. Be aware that compulsory third-party insurance is only third party personal insurance (included in the price for vehicle registration) and will not cover any damage to property or vehicles, either your own or the other party's.

### Riding a bicycle

Brisbane is a great city to ride in as it has increasing number of bicycle lanes and pathways. Once you arrive in Brisbane, you can get a map showing the best cycling routes from <https://www.cyclingbrisbane.com.au/route-planner>

Remember that in Brisbane it is compulsory by law to wear a helmet while riding. Failure to do so may result in an 'on the spot' fine by Brisbane police.

### **NEW LIME SCOOTER RULES/FINES!!**

It's now completely legal to ride e-scooters around Brisbane following the introduction of some new fines and regulations 🛴

- If you don't want to pay an \$130 fine, you must:

- Only ride on footpaths (main roads or Brisbane CBD streets are off limits, but riding on local streets with a speed limit of 50km/h or less is permitted)
- Be at least 16 years of age (or 12 with adult supervision)
- Wear an approved, securely fitted bicycle helmet at all times (unless an exemption has been granted for medical or religious reasons)
- Not carry passengers
- Not use a mobile device
- Not drink and ride
- Have a working flashing or steady white light on the front, and a red light and reflector at the rear when travelling at night or in hazardous conditions
  - When riding on a path, [Department of Transport and Main Roads \(Queensland\)](#) say you must:
    - Keep left and give way to pedestrians
    - Travel at a speed that allows you to stop safely to avoid colliding with a pedestrian.
    - Travel at a safe distance from a pedestrian so you can avoid a collision
    - Keep left of oncoming bicycles and other personal mobility devices. Only use the bicycle side of a shared path.

### Part-time work

In order to remain compliant with the conditions of your student visa, you are not allowed to work until you have commenced your classes and can work up to 40 hours per fortnight while your course is in session (excluding any work undertaken as a registered component of your course of study or training). You can work unlimited hours during mid-semester and end-of-year holidays.

### Orientation

Attend Orientation so you can meet other new international students and get help with enrolment, accommodation and adjusting to life in Brisbane.

You can also find valuable information at Education Queensland and the Tourism and events Queensland (<https://teq.queensland.com>)

### Further information

Your one-stop-shop for student services. Leaders Institute general enquiries: +61 (07) 3161 5566