New Student Welcome Guide
Your compass to the University of Sydney
Starting university is an adventure. There’s a lot of information to take in. In this guide you’ll find the essential information you need to help you get started.

You may not be on campus just yet, but you can kickstart your experience right now by connecting with your peers from all around the world.

The University of Sydney has been challenging traditions for more than 160 years. With a network of 350,000 alumni in more than 170 countries around the world, we are delighted to welcome you to our global community.

This guide will help you navigate the start of your University of Sydney journey.
Our History

Australia's first university

The University of Sydney was founded in 1850 on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. Gadigal people continue to live, teach and learn on this land as they have done for tens of thousands of years.

Our founding principle as Australia's first university was to be a modern institution based on traditional scholarly values.

For more than 150 years our alumni have inspired, led, entertained, challenged and improved the world around them.

You'll recognise many of our famous names: lawmaker Michael Kirby, journalist and broadcaster Mary Kostakidis, writer Clive James, opera singer Dame Joan Sutherland and activist Charles Perkins.

No less than seven Australian prime ministers have studied with us, including Edmund Barton, Australia's first Prime Minister in 1901.

Our alumni continue to lead change and make a difference in their own fields.

We're delighted to now have you join us and find your place in our University's unique history.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which the University of Sydney is built.

As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning and research practices within this University may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

Learn more about the history of the University of Sydney campuses.
How to enrol

1. Plan and prepare
Once you’ve accepted your offer, you’ll need to start thinking about how your course is structured and the choices available to you.

Our course planning webpage can help you understand the structure of your course and how to choose your units of study.

You should also read your online handbook for specific course requirements and options.

For help with structuring your course, you should seek academic advice from your Faculty.

2. Activate your UniKey and log in to Sydney Student
After you accept your offer and enrolment has opened, you’ll receive an email with your UniKey. This is your unique login that gives you access to the services you’ll use regularly as a student.

Follow the instructions in your email to log in to Sydney Student and activate your UniKey. You’ll be prompted to create a new password after you log in.

3. Enrol
You’ll need to complete an online task to enrol in your course. This includes choosing your subjects, paying your fees and applying for your student card.

After you’ve logged into Sydney Student, select ‘My studies’, then ‘Enrolment’, and follow the steps to complete your enrolment.

Find out more about when to enrol and what you’ll need to enrol.

Important dates
There are key study dates throughout the academic year that you’ll need to know. Make a note of these in your calendar so you don’t miss a thing.

Each unit of study has a census date, based on the teaching session in which it is taught. The census date is the last date you’ll be able to finalise or withdraw from a unit of study, suspend your studies or discontinue your course without being financially or academically liable.
YOUR COMMUNITY

Connecting with your peers and the University community

Orientation
Taking your first steps as a new student can be as overwhelming as it is exciting. It’s a new place, a new way of learning and you’ll have lots of questions. Find your answers and transition into student life during Orientation and Welcome Week.

Our orientation programs include events, support services and information sessions. They are held during breaks and at the start of semester, to welcome you and introduce you to different aspects of University life.

It’s important to register for your Faculty’s Welcome Week events as soon as you receive your invitation in your student email.

“During orientation I joined my Faculty Mentor program, which I would recommend as a great way to meet your peers. As an international student, the first few weeks of transition can be a bit challenging. My mentor and peers in the group were there to help me when I needed it.

At Welcome Week I was so impressed by the variety of clubs and societies we have on offer at the University. By joining a few, I made many friends who share my interests. These social connections have made Sydney a second home. ”

My top tip
“From day one, use as many of the useful University resources as you need. Look out for academic and career development support, as well as extra-curricular events. They will be so helpful! “

Benny, Business School student

WELCOME TO SYDNEY

Find out where you need to go and how to navigate your first few days in our city.

Transport in Sydney
Sydney’s public transport options include trains, buses, light rail (trams) and ferries. You’ll need an adult Opal card to use the public transport network. Sydney also has metered taxis and ride-sharing services (such as Uber).

Getting around campus
From the inner city of Sydney to the Great Barrier Reef, we have teachers, researchers and students based all over Australia.

Explore our teaching and research locations.

Use our helpful maps to navigate your way around campus.

Arriving in Sydney
If you’re travelling from outside of Sydney, it’s a good idea to aim to arrive at least two weeks before semester starts, so that you have more time to settle in before classes begin.

If you’re arriving by plane, both the domestic and international Sydney Airport terminals are about 8km from the city centre and linked to many public transport options.

It’s a good idea to research your transport options before you leave your home city and make sure you have the address you’ll be traveling to written down. Once you’ve safely arrived at your accommodation, please contact your family and friends to let them know you’ve arrived.

ACCOMMODATION

There are a range of housing options available to you in Sydney. Wherever you choose to live, keep in mind that most places reach full capacity before the start of the academic year, so you should start exploring your options early and ask for support if you need it.

On campus
Our University residences offer affordable self-catered accommodation close to everything you need, while our residential colleges offer a supportive dorm-style living experience rich in heritage and tradition.

Off campus
Some students prefer to find their own privately rented housing in nearby suburbs. Use this advice when looking for rented accommodation off campus.

You should keep your personal information up to date in your Sydney Student portal. If you change address, log on to update your personal contact details within 7 days. You should also make sure your next of kin details and emergency contacts are correct.
Connect with 250+ student clubs and societies

University is more than what happens in the classroom. Make the most of it and get involved in campus culture.

Join one of our 250+ clubs or societies to connect with other students with similar interests, make lifelong friends, access competitions, get freebies, practise your leadership skills and learn something new. We have something for everyone – from faculty-based clubs, performing arts and sport, to food, travel, faith and culture.

The University of Sydney Union (USU) is a not-for-profit organisation that oversees the student clubs and societies. Membership is the first step to joining a club or society and it’s free.

VSydney is an interactive virtual platform where you can browse and interact with over 250 clubs and societies at any time of the day to suit your schedule. Students can learn more about the diverse range of social, leadership and skills-based opportunities available across the University.

Student discounts

You can upgrade your USU membership to USU Rewards. This gives you discounts at all USU outlets and the USYD Store, access to competitions, freebies and discounts. Many off campus retailers also offer student deals and discounts.

Peer mentoring

Peer mentoring programs are available to help develop a supportive and effective learning community at the University. Mentoring gives you the opportunity to meet peers, learn about student life and settle in to University.

Peer Support Advisors

Our Peer Support Advisors are here to answer your questions about COVID-19, studying online and other matters. They’re all current students with training to refer you to relevant information and support services. Chat to our Peer Support Advisors over the phone or remotely via Zoom, during the hours of 12pm-7pm (AEST).

Complete this form to receive a response to your enquiry.

Staying active and healthy

Sport can be a great way to exercise your brain and body, learn new things, practise your leadership skills and make friends.

Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness (SUSF) has something for everybody. Join the gym, play social sport, learn to swim or sign up to one of 40 sporting clubs. Visit us on campus to learn how you can get involved, and stay connected on social by following @sydunisport for updates, workouts, wellness tips and more.

Exploring culture and history

Chau Chak Wing Museum brings together art, science, history and ancient cultures in the heart of the University’s Camperdown campus. The new museum is now open and free to visit for all students and members of the public.

Adapting to university life doesn’t have to be stressful.

You’ve earned the grades, accepted your offer and enrolled, but you may still be unsure of what to expect.

There are plenty of ways you can reach out for guidance and support throughout your degree, especially when you’re feeling overwhelmed.

Here are some ways to get started.

Check out our libraries

The University Library is here to support your research and learning. There are library locations across our campuses, including Fisher, Law, SciTech, Bosch, the Quarter, the Susan Wakil Health Library, CreateSpace and ThinkSpace, and the Conservatorium of Music Library in the Sydney CBD. The Library offers a wide range of facilities, including spaces for study, collaboration and creation, plus expert staff to help you access the information and resources you need.

Start your Library experience online with our Library services guide.

Connect with us on social media to stay up to date about services and activities at the Library:

Facebook: /SydneyLibrary
Twitter: /Sydney_Library
Instagram: /Sydney_Library

How the Library can support you

- Access to extensive resources including more than 1 million scholarly ejournals and ebooks available 24/7 from any location worldwide.
- Friendly Library staff ready to help you via Live Chat, at information desks, and through research consultations (in-person or online).
- 24/7 silent and group study spaces as well as bookable study rooms.
- ThinkSpace (above SciTech Library) and CreateSpace (in the Susan Wakil Health Building), dedicated creative technology spaces with podcast and video studios, virtual reality equipment, 3D printing, and support for research and innovation.
- Fun and free workshops, classes and events to support you to study, do research, make friends, and learn new skills.
- Peer Learning Advisors (PLAs), who are also students, to support you and answer all your questions about study and uni life.
- Fascinating rare books and special collections.
Your studies and future

2 Book a Learning Centre workshop
The Learning Centre assists students to develop academic writing and reading skills, which are necessary for learning and communicating knowledge and ideas at university.

Services include:
- A Central Workshop Program
- Faculty embedded programs
- Individual learning programs
- Online resources for self-study
- Doctoral Writing Groups
- Writing Bootcamps
- A Conversation Hub for Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences students to build the communication skills needed while on placement.

Take advantage of these free workshops and enrol via the Learning Centre website.

3 Connect with our Careers Centre
Get the career management skills you need to identify your career options, build your employability skills and find job opportunities. We offer workshops, an online jobs database, opportunities to meet employers and appointments with Career Development Officers to discuss career plans. It’s all available at your Careers Centre.

4 Ask for help when you need it
The Student Centre provides prompt and friendly advice and guidance on the following matters:
- Subject and course information
- Admission requirements
- Fees and scholarships
- Unit enrolment and timetabling
- Academic caution and sanctions
- Exams and results
- Credit recognition and concurrent study
- Graduation matters
- ID card issuance
- Student letters, transcripts and testamurs
- Navigating student systems.

Phone
1800 SYD UNI (1800 793 864)
+61 2 8627 1444 (outside Australia)

Online
If you are a current student, and have a question about your enrolment or any other issue you can make an enquiry online.

If you need support then we encourage you to:
- use our resources for self-study
- enrol in a bridging course
- attend one of our revision classes, and supplementary tutorials for certain units of study.

5 Build up your skills
The Innovation Hub helps you build entrepreneurial skills to shape your future. It can connect you with incredible entrepreneurial and accelerator programs such as INCUBATE and Genesis, as well as resources and expert mentors from a range of fields and industries. Whether you want to work with an industry partner on a project for credit, prototype a product, or accelerate your start-up idea, the Innovation Hub can provide you with information and support.

6 Boost your employability
Gain career experience and boost your employability with our Industry and Community Project Units (ICPUs). ICPUs provide you with the opportunity to engage with leading Australian and international organisations on real world issues. Together with other students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, you will work to find creative solutions to a real world problem set by a major industry partner.

Projects are open to all eligible undergraduate students to enrol for academic credit.

7 Make the world your campus
With the largest study abroad and exchange program in Australia, combine study and travel to broaden your academic experience and set yourself up for a global career.

8 Speak Up! - Workshop Program
Speak Up! is a program of online conversation workshops that will support you in your transition to university, providing you with a safe space to practice and develop your English skills, build your confidence and knowledge of university and make friends.
Register online.

"Abundant support from the University is available, such as Learning Centre Workshops, STAR team events, one-on-one consultations with the Library and the Student Centre, which I found the most useful!"
Boxuan, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences student

The Mathematics Learning Centre provides support and guidance for eligible current and prospective students to develop their understanding, capacity and confidence in mathematics and statistics.
6 TIPS TO HELP YOU STUDY SUCCESSFULLY OFF CAMPUS

1. Create a daily routine
   Structure your week with a schedule or calendar to stay motivated and on track.

2. Get your tech sorted
   Make sure you have updated your computer, have the appropriate software and a quiet working space. Now is a good time to finally do those updates you’ve been putting off!

3. Learn the live-stream etiquette
   Treat your live-streamed classes as if they were regular classes. Log in 15 minutes early and test your tech first. Remember to mute your microphone when you aren’t speaking.

4. Communicate with your lecturers
   Just because you aren’t face-to-face, you can still communicate with your lecturers and tutors. It’s best to communicate using your official University email address and to keep your emails short, polite and to-the-point.

5. Keep in touch with your classmates
   Use Zoom to set up regular study groups, participate in discussion forums on Canvas or set up group chats on social media or messaging apps.

6. Look after yourself and stay positive
   Take regular breaks and reward yourself for completing tasks and keeping a routine. Exercising, eating well and getting plenty of sleep will also help you stay motivated and healthy.

YOUR WELLBEING

It’s important that you stay on top of your health and wellbeing needs when you’re studying. Our diverse range of student support services means that you’ll be able to access the help you need, when you need it.

Mental health
You have access to 24/7 mental wellbeing support.

One-on-one professional and confidential psychological and mental health services are free and available through our Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

However, if you need to speak to someone for immediate support, you can access the Mental Wellbeing Support Line at any time, day or night. Call or text for free and confidential access to wellbeing support and advice to help you find relief from current emotional distress, explore coping strategies and advice pathways for longer term solutions.

- Call 1300 474 065 (accessible within Australia)
- Text 0488 884 429 (for SMS chat option)

If you require specialist mental health assistance, call the Mental Health Access Line 1800 011 511.

University Health Service
The University Health Service offers appointments with our General Practitioners (doctors) and nurses for students and staff.

Whether you need treatment for an injury, illness, or have a general health concern, the University Health Service can help.

Services include:
- Management and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses
- Assessment and management of musculoskeletal and other injuries, including suturing and wound care
- Assessment and advice for mental health and psychological problems
- Vaccinations
- Sexual health
- Women’s health
- Referral for pathology testing and imaging
- Referral to specialists and allied health services
- Clinical psychologist services.

Meet Batyr
Batyr aims to encourage, educate and empower students to speak out about mental health. They are your student mental health champions, online and on campus.

TalkCampus app
Download the TalkCampus mental health support app for free and instant access to online peer support 24/7, for as long as you need it and from wherever you are in the world.
Your wellbeing

Disability support
We're dedicated to ensuring students with disability have equal access to learning.

By registering with Disability Services students who have a disability which directly impacts on their study can gain access to reasonable adjustments and support, to provide them with an equal opportunity to succeed in their studies.

As a student with disability, Disability Services Officers are your main point of contact and are able to liaise with your faculty or school to ensure that you're supported.

Each faculty or school also has at least one Faculty Disability Liaison Officer (FDLO) who can provide quick advice and support specific to your learning environment.

Multifaith chaplaincy
Members of our chaplaincy come from a range of faiths and work with student faith organisations and societies to provide spiritual guidance and leadership to students.

Financial support
If you experience financial difficulties that impact on your studies, you may be able to apply for financial support. The University has a number of bursaries and interest-free loans to assist with essential study and living costs.

Moneysmart has free tools, tips and guidance on managing your money.

LGBTIQ+ – Pride Network
The University’s Pride Network supports the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) members of our community.

OUT for Now is a website facilitated by Student Support Liaison Officers (SSLOs) from the Pride Network, for those seeking an online university community for LGBTIQ+ students. It showcases fun activities and events that strengthen the University’s values in diversity and inclusion, provides the latest NSW public health information and several resources for our queer communities.

COVID-19
Together, we can help stop the spread and stay safe and healthy. Understand the current status of the Australian Government’s COVID-19 restrictions and latest safety advice, in your own language.

Students can submit a query using the Coronavirus enquiry form.

In an emergency
Dial triple zero (000) for emergency services (fire/ambulance/police). Calling the police is the quickest way to get help in an emergency.

On campus security
Call the University’s security team, Protective Services on +61 2 9351 3333 or 1800 SYD HLP (1800 793 457). Protective Services are available 24 hours a day to assist with an emergency or safety threat.

Safety alerts
Sydney Uni Alert is an emergency notification system we use to help manage serious on-campus emergencies. If you’re in an affected area, we’ll send a direct alert message to your phone and University email with information and clear instructions to help ensure your safety.

Sexual misconduct
If you need to talk to someone about an incident of sexual or indecent assault and/or sexual harassment call our confidential helpline service: 1800 SYD HLP (1800 793 457) or make an online report.

To speak to NSW Police about an incident of sexual harassment or assault, dial triple zero (000) or contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Safer Communities Office
Your personal safety and recovery from any experienced trauma is our first priority.

Our Student Liaison Officers are specialist staff members with expertise in providing support to those that have experienced sexual assault, harassment, bullying and domestic/family violence.

You can organise an appointment with a Student Liaison Officer to discuss what support you may need. They will also help you navigate the support services and reporting options available to you.

Student Liaison Officers are available from 8.30am-5.30pm, Monday to Friday. To organise an appointment:
- Call +61 2 8627 6808
- Email safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au

Staying safe online
In partnership with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Universities Australia has prepared a Student Toolkit to help you understand the types of online abuse you could encounter and how to take action to prevent and respond to online safety incidents. If you need assistance, you can also contact the Safer Communities Office.
Your wellbeing

Know your rights
You have the right to a safe and enjoyable experience while you’re studying.

Legal rights and support
Several student organisations at the University look out for you and represent your interests.

There are student representative organisations to support you with any academic issues, legal advice or support you require.

SRC and SUPRA
SRC and SUPRA are student-led organisations that provide free and confidential casework and legal services, independent of the University, as well as offering free social activities and student representation.

For undergraduate students:
Student Representative Council (SRC)

For postgraduate students:
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Work Rights
- If you’ll be working alongside your studies, you have rights relating to minimum wages, work conditions and your treatment at work.
- There are protections in place in Australia against deceptive recruitment practices, modern slavery, servitude, forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage and slavery-like offences.
- All students have access to Anti-Slavery Awareness training, which will appear in Canvas once you have enrolled.

Consumer rights
Whether you are buying a car or signing up to a mobile phone contract, you have consumer rights.

MY CHECKLIST

My essentials
- Log in to your systems including: Sydney Student, MyUni and Canvas
- Activate your UniKey
- Access your unit of study outline
- Visit your course planning webpage
- Read your online handbook for specific course requirements
- Find out when to enrol and start the enrolment process
- Plan your arrival to Sydney
- Check your housing options

My community
- Find out when your Welcome Week events are on and register
- Find out how to join your Faculty’s peer mentoring program
- Join the clubs and societies that interest you

My studies and future
- Explore Learning Centre workshops
- Connect with our Careers Centre
- Check out the Innovation Hub to build your entrepreneurial skills

My wellbeing
- Learn about your consumer rights, work rights and legal rights
- Download the Universities Australia Student Toolkit to find out how you can stay safe online
- Read and follow the University’s Student Charter

What’s expected of you as a University of Sydney student?
Read the Student Charter to make sure you understand your responsibilities.
MY GLOSSARY

**Credit for previous study**
The recognition of previous studies, either at the University of Sydney or another institution that can be granted as specific or non-specific credit towards your current course. Credit for previous study is also called ‘advanced standing’ or ‘transfer credit’.

**Credit point**
A credit point is the value that each unit of study (single subject) contributes towards the completion requirements for your course. Most units of study are worth six credit points.

**Honours**
Some degrees may be completed with honours. Honours differs depending on the degree, and usually involves: the completion of a large project and some advanced level coursework, additional work in the later years of the course, or high-level achievement over all years of the course.

**Major**
A field of study which will be the main part of your degree. Requirements for majors are outlined in your handbook.

**Semester**
A semester is the academic teaching period and is about 16 weeks in duration. There are two semesters each year and they usually run from late February to June, and August to November, although this is subject to change.

**Session**
Units of study are run during a set period of time known as a session. Sessions often relate to semesters, but can vary in length. For example, intensive sessions are when units are delivered in intensive mode over a shorter time period.

**Unit of study (UoS)**
An individual subject that you study as part of your degree.

**Unikey**
A unique electronic ID provided to you after you enrol. Your UniKey gives you access to a range of University resources and systems such as your University student email account, online learning systems, library borrowing, printing and more.