International Student Welcome Guide
Your compass to the University of Sydney
WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus safely in the future. 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.
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 and progressive institution.

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

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.
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 who in 1901 won the country’s inaugural federal election.

But, for every famous alumnus or alumna, you’ll find thousands of people who have led change and made a difference in their own field.

We’re delighted to now have you join us and find your place in our University’s unique history.
You’ve done the hard part already by selecting your course. Now you’ll need to get familiar with the University systems you’ll use every day as a student.

**Your digital tools**

- **Current student website** – Our student homepage, where you can find information about enrolment, course planning, fees, graduation, support services, student IT and more.
- **Sydney Student** – Where you can complete administration tasks such as updating your personal details, submitting enrolment information, and managing your student finances.
- **MyUni** – A portal that gives you access to all of the main university system logins and is also the gateway to your timetable.
- **Canvas** – Your online learning platform, where you’ll find information and resources for your units of study, including materials for online learning.
- **University student email account** – Make sure you check your university email regularly for important information.

Find out more about logging into University systems.

**Textbooks and resources**

You’ll be able to access your unit of study outline on Canvas in the week before semester starts, so you can find out what books, course readers and equipment you need. It’s best to buy these early to avoid missing out.

**Connect with us**

We love connecting with our new students via our social media channels.

Join the Sydney University International Student Community on Facebook and Instagram.

Follow the University’s accounts to stay up-to-date with the #usyd community online.

Facebook: /sydneyuni
Twitter: @sydney_uni
Instagram: @sydney_uni
YouTube: /uniofsydney
WeChat: UniversityofSydney

Use WeChat app to scan QR code
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 when to enrol and what you’ll need to enrol here.

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 will be able to finalise or withdraw from a unit of study, suspend your studies or discontinue your course without being financially or academically liable.
Welcome Week
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 at Welcome Week.

Welcome Week is a series of events and information sessions, held 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 events when you receive your invitation in your student email.

Find out more about orientation and Welcome Week.

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 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.

Student discounts
You can upgrade your USU membership for Rewards. This gives you discounts at the USYD Store and many other retailers off campus, as well as most of the cafes, restaurants and shops on campus for when you arrive.

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 who are fluent in English and Mandarin and trained 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 12m-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. Follow @sydunisport on Instagram and Facebook for updates, workouts and wellness tips.

Jobs on campus
The University of Sydney Union (USU) offers a range of student leadership and volunteering roles as well as paid employment in USU Cafes and Restaurants on campus – helping you gain valuable skills and experience.
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.

1. **Check out our libraries**

The Library is here to support your research and learning. There are library locations across our campuses, including Fisher, Law, SciTech Libraries and ThinkSpace in Camperdown/Darlington, Camden Commons and The Conservatorium of Music Library in Sydney CBD. The Library has a wide range of facilities available, including spaces for study and expert librarians ready to assist you.

Start your library experience online with our Library services guide.

**How the Library can support you**

- Access to extensive resources including over 1 million scholarly ejournals and ebooks available 24/7 from any location worldwide.
- Friendly Library staff ready to help you, via online chat or an online consultation.
- 24/7 silent and group study spaces as well as bookable study rooms.
- **ThinkSpace**, a dedicated creative tech space with 3D printing, a one-button recording studio and Virtual Reality.
- Fun and free workshops, classes and events to support you to study, meet friends, and learn new skills.
- **Peer Learning Advisors (PLAs)**, who are all students too, to support you and answer all your questions about study and uni life.
- Fascinating rare books and special collections.
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
- Workshops for English Language and Learning
- 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 our Careers Centre.
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 in mathematics or statistics
- attend one of our revision classes and supplementary tutorials for certain units of study.

Build up your skills

The Innovation Hub helps you build entrepreneurial skills to shape your future. It can connect you with incredible entrepreneurship 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.

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 a major industry partner and find creative solutions to real world projects.

The projects are 6 credit point units and are open to all eligible undergraduate students.

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.
LANGUAGE AND CONVERSATION
Improve your English.
Get to know the University. Connect with new friends.

Speak and Connect – Workshop Program
Speak and Connect is a series of peer-facilitated workshops designed to help you meet new friends, practice and develop your English language and communication skills, and get lots of useful tips and strategies for connecting at university. By joining the program, you will be empowered to participate more fully in all aspects of university life.

Register online.

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.
During this unique time we want to make sure you have the tools and support to continue your studies, no matter where you are in the world.

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.
Health and 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 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
- A Health Promotion Program for international students run by our Health Promotion Officer.

University health and social chats

Chat with Peer Health Educators and Centre for English Teaching (CET) Student Leaders, share self-care tips and find out where to go for help and support. Sessions will be running online via Zoom.
Health and wellbeing

**Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is health insurance for international students that helps to cover medical costs in Australia. It is a condition of your student visa that you maintain OSHC for the duration of your studies.

You can organise your cover through the University’s preferred provider Allianz Global Assistance Overseas Health Cover or through one of the Australian Government’s approved providers.

If you don’t have OSHC yet, find out how to arrange your health cover.

**Disability support**

We’re dedicated to ensuring all students have equal access to learning.

By registering with Disability Services students who have a disability can gain access to the adjustments and services they need to succeed in their studies.

As a student with a disability, Disability Services Officers are your main point of contact. They can liaise with your faculty or school to make sure you’re provided reasonable adjustments and support. 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.

**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.
Health and wellbeing

YOUR SAFETY
We’re committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students.

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.

In an emergency
If you are in Australia, 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 the trauma of sexual assault or sexual harassment 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
**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

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

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**Legal rights and support**

International students studying an Australian course are protected under the *Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000*.

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.

For undergraduate students:

Student Representative Council (SRC)

For postgraduate students:

Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

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**What’s expected of you as a University of Sydney student?**

Read the Student Charter to make sure you understand your responsibilities.

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**Work Rights**

- If you plan to work in Australia, you have rights relating to minimum wages, work conditions and your treatment at work.

- The Subclass 500 student visa is the most common for international students and allows you to work 40 hours per fortnight once your course commences. We strongly advise you to read and understand the conditions attached to your visa, such as maintaining satisfactory academic progress, OSHC and study load.

- If you are enrolled in a course for six months or longer, you may be considered an Australian resident for tax purposes, allowing you to earn $18,200 before paying tax.

- We encourage you to apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) before opening a bank account or starting work. If you do not have a TFN you will have the maximum 46.5% of tax withheld from your wages. Apply online for a TFN on the ATO website.

- International students can claim their Australian superannuation (pension) balance upon returning home.

- There are protections in place in Australia against deceptive recruitment practices, servitude, forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage and slavery-like offences.

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**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.

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**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

My orientation
☐ 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
☐ Book a Learning Centre workshop
☐ Connect with our Careers Centre
☐ Check out the Innovation Hub to build your entrepreneurial skills
☐ Register for English language workshops

My health and wellbeing
☐ Learn about Australian healthcare and your OSHC insurance
☐ 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
**AEST/AEDT**

In Sydney, Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) is the timezone used in winter. This switches to Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) in summer.

**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.

**Degree**

A bachelor’s, honours, master’s or PhD qualification.

**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.

**Lecture**

A formal presentation to a large group of students by a lecturer.

**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.

**Tutorial**

A tutorial or ‘tute’ is a smaller and less formal learning setting. Students are guided by a tutor, and can ask questions and have group discussions.

**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.