

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Australia



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GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework (the national Australian system of qualifications)
ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (the ranking system used across Australia, except Queensland which uses OP, to determine admission into higher education institutes)
AUD	Australian Dollar (national currency)
COE	Confirmation of Enrolment (the online confirmation that admitted students receive -- it specifies subjects and course fee)
OP	Overall Position (the ranking system used in Queensland, to determine admission into higher education institutes -- the rest of Australia uses ATAR)
OSHC	Overseas Student Health Cover (health insurance required by all Pakistani and other overseas students in Australia)
TAFE	Technical and Further Education institutions (these are located around the country, and usually offer VET courses)
VET	Vocational Education and Training (these are courses that focus more on providing vocational training to students -- students typically receive a certificate or diploma at time of completion)
WIL	Work Integrated Learning (this is when work is integrated into a regular course, and is considered to be a part of the course assessment components.)

1: INTRODUCTION

Note: all costs listed within this country profile are in AUD (Australian Dollar) with conversions in USD (US dollar). This information has been collected in 2018-19, and may be subject to change in the future. For most accurate information on costs, you are recommended to visit university websites. If you wish to compare costs between Australia and another country (e.g. UK), you can convert the Australian cost into UK pounds and see the differential, if any.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Australia is a popular study destination for international students: it has 43 universities, and more than 22,000 courses students can choose to apply to. It is an English speaking country, so there are minimal language barriers for Pakistani students. While the quality of education in Australia is high, it is an expensive place to live in (and travelling to and from Pakistan will not be cheap).

In the table below, you can find some information about studying in the major cities in Australia.

City	Information
Melbourne	Considered to be the best student city in Australia. It has 8 universities, and a thriving student community. It has a diverse student population, but living costs are high.
Sydney	Sydney is Australia's largest city and is home to 5 universities. It is also considered to be the business hub of the country, and therefore has strong employment prospects -- but it has the highest rent prices.
Brisbane	Brisbane is home to two main universities: The University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology. However, it also contains 10 campuses from six Australian universities, including Griffith University, Australian Catholic University, and CQUniversity.
Canberra	It is home to Australian National University, and some other universities. It has higher on-campus student accommodation as compared to other cities in Australia.
Adelaide	Adelaide has 4 universities, and is reasonably priced. Accommodation is cheaper here, as compared to the other cities. It does, however, have fewer job opportunities.

Click [here](#) for more information on studying in different states and territories in Australia.

How many international students are studying in Australia?

In 2015, there were approximately 272,000 international students enrolled in the higher education sector in Australia ([StudiesinAustralia](#)). To find out which states and territories these students are studying in and where they originally come from, you can click [here](#) (do note: these enrolments include students enrolled in secondary education programs, i.e. Grade 9 onwards, too). In 2015, there were

approximately 16,000 Pakistani students studying in Australia (in both secondary and post-secondary education systems).

Which programs or specializations are most popular/reowned?

The following are some of the most popular areas of study in Australia (for international students).

Most popular courses in Australia
Accounting
Business and Management
Computing and Information Technology
Creative Arts
Engineering and Technology
Health
Hospitality and Tourism
Nursing
Science

Other courses that are renowned in Australia (not necessarily for international students) include Agriculture, Finance, Law and Midwifery.

How should I choose which part of Australia to study in?

For information on which state/territory to study in, click [here](#) and go through all the links provided.

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO AUSTRALIA

Australia is an English-speaking nation, that offers a variety of courses and degrees. Australian degrees are globally-recognized.

Information taken from sources that are marketing Australia to international students

Australia promotes learning through technology, innovation and research: students have various technology and research-based resources at their disposal during their study.

Job prospects

- Job prospects for international students are limited-- but Australia offers immigration. PR (permanent residence) may be offered as a part of some degrees. If you study longer than 2 years, you may even be allowed to work in Australia for an additional 1.5 years (Ali Malik).

- Some international students say employers tend to prefer domestic students (especially in law, finance, business, commerce) over international students. Note: this is a student opinion, so it may not be fully representative. You are advised to check your university-specific websites and/or connect with other graduates/people based in Australia for more accurate information.

Working while studying

- As a student in Australia, you can work for a maximum of 20 hours per week (under the Subclass 500 Visa). Part time jobs are readily available. Once you are able to learn how to navigate the job market, getting a job with a reasonable pay should not be difficult. Minimum wage is fairly high (close to AUD 20), but you should not expect to save many through these jobs. Most students use their earnings to fund their living expenses (Ali Malik, University of Notre Dame, Australia).

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The schooling system in Australia is generally the same across all states and territories, with some occasional minor variations. Primary education goes on for 7-8 years (from Kindergarten to Year 6/7) and secondary education goes for 3-4 years (from Year 7 or 8 till Year 10). Senior Secondary Education goes on for two years (Year 11-12). The table below gives a brief overview of the education system in Australia (secondary-tertiary education) and shows the Pakistani equivalent.

	Australia		Pakistan
13-16 years	Secondary Education	Runs for 3 or 4 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 7-10 • Or Years 8-10 	Equivalent to O-Level/SSC/Matric etc. (2-3 years)
16-18 years	Senior Secondary Education	Runs for 2 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11-12 	Equivalent to A-Levels/HSSC/FSc etc. (2 years)
18+ years	Tertiary Education	Bachelor's/Master's/Doctorate degrees	Bachelor's/Master's/Doctorate degrees

EVENTS

- [DAWN Education Expo](#)
- Australian Education Fairs (by [HR Pakistan](#))

MISCONCEPTIONS

- The academic year in Australia begins in February and ends in November, unlike the US and the UK which typically follow the September-May timeline.

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for Australia compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

Components	Importance/Requirement	How do they compare to US/UK
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	May be required for some programs; lesser focus on extracurricular activities as compared to the USA; more focus on academic standing	
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	These may be required; importance depends on your university	
STANDARDIZED TESTS	English proficiency tests are usually required by many universities. Some fields/universities may have some entry-tests/other standardized tests that you may be required to take.	Entry tests (whether those are field-specific or general aptitude tests) are extremely important.
TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)	<p>If you are hoping to study in a high-ranked university in Australia, you will need the highest grades/scores in your final years of high school. Most universities will typically list the required criteria on their website -- make sure you meet it before you apply.</p> <p>Many universities will accept the Higher Secondary School Certificate(HSSC). If your qualifications are not listed as acceptable on your university website, you</p>	Very important (especially for certain degrees? And certain universities?)

	<p>should reach out to your prospective university's admissions counselors. If your qualification is not acceptable, you may be able to apply for a foundation year (i.e. one year of introductory study in your chosen field/discipline -- after which you can transition to the normal track.</p>	
<p>INTERVIEWS</p>	<p>Interviews are common for some fields in Australia but not for all. In some fields, they may not contribute towards the application at all.</p>	
<p>TIMELINE</p> <p>The timeline for Australia is very different to that of UK or USA. Applications are typically submitted and evaluated before February, and the first term starts in February. The second term typically starts in June/July. Some schools may take students in the second term as well.</p> <p>OTHER INFORMATION (Ali Malik)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every university is independent -- this is different to the system in the UK and US. There is no 'general' application process. 2. Teaching styles are very similar to the UK/US. You may face some general adjustment issues, but these sorts of issues will exist everywhere. It is nothing specific to Australia. 		

2. UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

Undergraduate courses, in Australia, are offered by universities, private colleges and some TAFE (Technical and Further Education) institutes. TAFE institutes may offer certifications and diplomas, and short courses in vocational areas.

TYPES OF DEGREES

There are two main types of undergraduate qualifications that most institutions offer:

1. Bachelor Degree

The Bachelor's degree typically requires a minimum of three years of full-time study (some universities offer a fast-track system through which students can finish a three-year degree within two years). Entry into such courses usually require the overseas equivalent of an Australian secondary school certificate of education (meaning, a high school diploma/A-level result in Pakistan).

Some Bachelor's Degrees (such as double degrees, engineering, nursing and a few others) will typically take 4-5 years to finish.

2. Bachelor Degree (Honours)

Honours would typically require an additional year of study following a three-year degree. This is usually research based. Honours may also be awarded in the conventional Bachelor Degree (of four years or more) if a student has high academic achievement.

Types of Undergraduate Degrees	Duration (Full time programs)
Bachelor of Arts	3 years
Bachelor of Science	3 years
Difference between BA and BSc: Usually, a BA refers to programs in the Liberal Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences, and BSc includes programs like Mathematics/Business/Economics.	
Bachelor of Education	3 years
Bachelor of Engineering	4-5 years
Bachelor of Laws	3 years
Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery	5 years (or more)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

Prior education needed: The international qualifications recognized vary from institution to institution, so you will have to check whether your prospective university recognizes your qualification from Pakistan. You may find a score requirement on your prospective institution's website.

ATAR Score

Students who finish their secondary studies in Australia (i.e. the Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education) receive an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) or an OP (Overall Position). The ATAR score is a ranking that Australian students gain when they graduate from secondary school -- after finishing their final assessments/examinations.

ATAR scores are the most common selection method, through which Australian students are admitted into undergraduate courses. ATAR score requirements vary by university and course. You can find the required ATAR score for your prospective course listed on the institution website or course handbook.

Additional Requirements

Some schools may have additional requirements beyond the ATAR score, as well: for instance, some art/design courses may require the submission of a portfolio; some performing arts courses may require an audition; some engineering courses may require mathematics subjects to be studied in secondary school.

If you are interested in studying in Australia, you can consider doing any of the following secondary education systems:

Choice A: Completing Secondary School in Australia

If you finish Year 12 in Australia as an international student, you are eligible to apply for undergraduate degrees in the same way as domestic students. You will receive your ATAR after finishing your Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education -- and will then be eligible to apply to courses (based on your ATAR score).

Choice B: Completing Secondary School in Pakistan (or outside Australia)

International qualifications recognized in Australia vary by institution -- so you will need to check if your secondary school qualification is recognized by your prospective institution. If the university does not recognize your qualification, you may need to take additional courses to meet the requirements: for instance, your university may require you to complete a foundation course in Australia, or it may require you to complete a year of university study or some kind of vocational training in Pakistan (to find out the exact requirements, you will need to contact your prospective university).

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

If you are following Choice B (i.e. completing your secondary education in Pakistan), you can do the following:

International Baccalaureate

If you are interested in studying an undergraduate course in Australia, you can consider completing the International Baccalaureate (IB). The IB qualification is recognized in every major tertiary institution in Australia. Your IB Score can easily be converted into an ATAR score. Click [here](#) to check the conversion table for 2018.

GCE A-Levels

Some institutions also recognize GCE A-levels and the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education). It is recommended that you contact your institution to see if they accept this international qualification and what grades they require for entry.

Matriculation and FSc.

This may not be recognized by tertiary education institutions in Australia. It is recommended that you: a) check the university website to see if they are accepted, and b) email the university to see what you are required to do for equivalence (for instance, you might be required to take an additional course, or do a foundation year in Australia).

You may need to have your transcripts converted.

What should you do if you are not meeting entry requirements?

As an international student, you have the option of applying for foundation courses if you do not meet the entry requirements for the program you wish to apply for. Foundation courses are typically one year long intensive programs, but the duration can be altered sometimes (for instance, some students may choose to do accelerated learning and complete the program within 9 months; other courses may be longer to give students more time to adjust to them). Foundation courses follow typical university-style teaching to allow students to get acquainted with it. Courses are usually divided into subject streams, e.g. Humanities, Business, Science etc. Most foundation courses will offer core courses and electives. Some also provide English language support.

Some institutions may also give students the option of applying for bridging courses. These are usually shorter, more rigorous courses for those students who are about to enter a program but wish to further their knowledge/be better prepared for university study.

Entry requirements for these courses will usually vary by course, so you should make sure you go through the course website/contact admissions before applying. Generally you will need to have completed (or be close to completing) high school.

If you successfully complete a foundation course, you will be able to gain entry into specific degree courses at some Australian universities. Through these courses, you can also get a chance to get accustomed to education/life in Australia.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Doing your undergraduate study in Australia, while beneficial, is very expensive. It costs around AUD 35,000 (USD 24,078 as of June 2019), and as an international student, you will be expected to pay up front. Tuition fees do vary from institution to institution, course to course: some courses like Medicine and Veterinary Science will cost more. Before you are accepted, you will need to provide proof of: your academic achievements, your English language proficiency, your ability to support yourself financially for the **duration** of your course, and health insurance.

Application Components

The main components required in your application are:

- Filled application form, containing your personal details
- Certified proof of your level of English language proficiency
- Academic transcripts (or any previous academic qualifications)
- Your course preferences, i.e. the courses you are applying for
- A summary of your employment experience (if it is applicable)
- Any additional component required by the university, such as:
 - Portfolios (for art and design courses)
 - Auditions (for performing arts courses)
 - Secondary School Studies in certain subjects (for instance, some engineering courses will require you to have studied Mathematics in secondary school)
 - A written/online test
- Personal statements may be required by some programs. Others may not require them/list them as optional

You can find a summary of entry requirements [here](#). You are advised to visit your prospective university website to find out what the specific application components are, since these may vary by university/program. The above is intended to be a general guide.

Application Cycle

In Australia, the annual year begins in February and goes on till November (with two semesters). The application process is fairly long and it is recommended that you follow the steps listed below.

- Choose to study in Australia
- Decide on a course and an institution
- Check entry requirements for course and visa
- Apply for the course
- Receive confirmation of enrolment

- Receive your letter of offer
- Apply for your visa
- Plan your arrival

HOW TO APPLY

Application Process and Timeline

A summary of these steps is as follows

<p>1. Research (1.5 years before applying)</p>	<p>You should start conducting initial research on where you want to study, which course you want to study, and at which university 1-1.5 years before you need to enrol. Try to give yourself enough time to connect with graduates, current students and prospective students of programs you are interested in.</p> <p>You can also visit this link to find out more information about specific programs. It is also recommended that you use other online resources to conduct your research.</p>
<p>2. Check entry requirements (1 year before applying)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the entry requirements (academic and language proficiency requirements) for your course prior to applying. You should generally be able to find this on your prospective university website. • Standardized Tests: for demonstrating English language proficiency, make sure you find out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which tests your prospective universities require, ○ And what the minimum score requirements are. <p><u>If you do not meet the entry requirements, you should consider:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying for a different course, • Or applying for a Bridging or Foundation course.
<p>3. Apply</p>	<p>The academic year begins in February in Australia. Some courses, however, may admit students in the middle of the year i.e. July, which is the second semester.</p> <p>A number of courses may have rolling admission, but many of them will have deadlines as well. It is recommended that you check your prospective university website, as some courses may have early</p>

	<p>deadlines (as early as May) and some may have late deadlines (December). Some courses may also have deadlines in the middle.</p> <p>You should typically apply for admission in a course anywhere between 18 and 3 months prior to the start of a course. Ali Malik recommends that you should prepare your application 6 months in advance. <u>Do note:</u> some courses (like medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, fine arts and performance arts) are likely to have earlier application deadlines for the undergraduate and postgraduate level. Apply as early as possible so you have enough time to apply for your visa, and book your flights and accommodation.</p> <p>You can apply through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online, through the institution’s website • Through an education agent (i.e. counselor), or education fair • Through having the applications form posted to you <p>When filling your application, make sure you have read all the instructions carefully. Remember to check all the specific requirements a course may have (as these may vary from course to course/university to university). Gathering supporting documents (and getting validated/certified copies) could take a few weeks, so make sure you account for that.</p> <p>Most institutions take 1-1.5 months to evaluate applications. Some may take up to 3-4 months as well to share your application result.</p>
<p>4. Accept and Fulfill your Offer</p>	<p>Accepting your offer: If you get an offer, you will need to accept it by a certain date (as specified in your letter). Read your offer letter carefully to make sure that your course details and fee amount is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have an unconditional offer, you can accept the offer immediately, and make your first tuition payment. This will result in a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). • However, if you receive a conditional offer, you will need to satisfy all the conditions before you receive a CoR. Make sure you meet all the conditions by the deadline.
<p>5. Apply for your visa and OSHC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa processing can take up to 12 weeks, so you should

	<p>apply as soon as you receive your letter of offer or CoE. If you submit only your letter of offer, your visa will <i>only</i> be granted once your CoE has been issued too. For more information, visit the Visa Section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● OSHC (Overseas Student Health Cover) is a requirement for most international students, including those from Pakistan. This Health Cover will need to be maintained for the entirety of your study in Australia. You should purchase your OSHC at the same time as you apply for your student visa. You will need to have the OSHC to satisfy the grant of your student visa and accept your offer. For more information, visit the Visa Section.
6. Accommodation	<p>You should start exploring accommodation options as soon as you receive your offer letter. When your student visa has been granted, you should try to secure your preferred accommodation. If your university does not provide on-campus accommodation, you will have to look into other options; for more information, visit the Accommodation Section.</p>

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

FEES

Figures for the table below have been taken from [Studies in Australia](#)

Education program	Average tuition cost (AUD)
Foundation Courses	\$15,000 - \$39,000 per year (USD 10,319 - 26,830 -- as of June 2019)
Undergraduate Bachelor Degree	\$15,000 - \$33,000 per year (USD 10,319 - 22,702 -- as of June 2019)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

There are a range of scholarships that are available to international students wishing to study in Australia. It is not easy to receive scholarship, so make sure that you have other means of supporting yourself financially too. The different types of scholarships you may be eligible for as a prospective student are:

1. Scholarships to help you with your tuition fees,
2. Scholarships to help with accommodation and living expenses,
3. Scholarships to help with tuition and living costs

Some scholarships will cover the full amount of these costs; others will cover a proportion of the total cost. Most scholarships are merit-based (academic merit mostly) but there is some funding available to students from developing countries who need financial assistance. (Some of these scholarships may be restricted to a specific course, a field of study or a qualification level, for example, postgraduate degrees).

Scholarships can be offered to you from the following groups or education institutions:

- **The university which is offering the course you are applying to** (you can contact their admissions team, or visit the institution-specific websites to find information on scholarships that international students would be eligible for. Some larger institutions will usually have a scholarship database that will allow you to share your details, and receive updates).
- **The Australian Government** offers some scholarships to international students. For more detail, go through the table below.
- **Relevant organizations in Australia (and Pakistan)** that can give scholarship to international students

Finding scholarships that you may be eligible for:

- Search for a course by clicking [here](#)
- Select an institution

- Click the green 'Enquire now' button
- Tick the 'Scholarships' box when completing the form

Here are some general scholarships that you can apply for:

Scholarship/Grant	Who is eligible
Endeavour Leadership Program (includes scholarships, fellowships and mobility grants)	Undergraduate and graduate students, researchers and professionals; the program supports both short-term and long-term study
Australia Awards	The awards are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic course, specified by the higher education institution (not exceeding 24 months)

Tips for applying for scholarship in Australia

- Start your research as early as possible. You should make a list of all the scholarships you are eligible for, including the costs they cover, their application requirements and deadlines. Some scholarships will not require an application; you will automatically be considered for these when you apply for your course.
- Required documents could include academic transcripts, offer letter and your references. Make sure you have authorized and translated copies where required.
- Some scholarships may have additional criteria as well, such as an extra essay or personal statement with strict word limits and deadlines. Ensure you meet all of that criteria before submitting your application.
- Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Even if you get lesser amounts, some funding is still beneficial.
- If you have any questions about your eligibility or the application requirements, contact your institution/university and request them to clarify the information.

3. POSTGRADUATE STUDY

DIFFERENT KINDS OF POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS

The main types of postgraduate qualifications offered by most higher education institutions in Australia are:

Non-Degree Programs (Certifications and Diplomas)

- Graduate Certificate/Diploma: these are typically designed for specific vocational purposes; for instance, you may choose to complete a certification or diploma to broaden knowledge/skills you already gained in your undergraduate degree -- or you may choose to do so because you wish to develop vocational skills and knowledge in a new professional area. A graduate certificate will typically require 6 months to 1 year of full-time study, whereas a graduate diploma will require 1-2 years of full-time study. Entry requirements are usually a Bachelor's Degree or an Advanced Diploma.

Degree Programs

- Master's Degrees: these will typically require 1-2 years of full-time study, and are offered in three formats (coursework, research, and extended). More information on each format can be found in the table below.
- Doctoral Degrees: these typically require 3-4 years of extensive full-time study, and are offered in two formats (research doctorate, i.e. the PhD, and the professional doctorate). More information on both formats can be found in the table below.

Level of Education	Types of Degrees	Duration (Full time programs)
Master's	Coursework This degree will typically include coursework, project work and research in varying degrees. You will be required to have finished a Bachelor's Degree or a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) or a Graduate Certificate/Diploma to gain entry into the course.	1-2 years
	Research At least two-thirds of your study will include research -- and you will be required to submit a research project or thesis at the end (this will be most likely be externally evaluated). You will be required to have a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) or a Master's Preliminary Year completed to gain entry into this format.	1-2 years
	Extended	1-2 years

	This degree will usually have a work-based project. To be eligible for this kind of study, you will need to have extensive relevant professional experience (in some institutions, a relevant qualification and substantial professional experience will be enough as well).	
Doctoral	<p>Research Doctorate (PhD)</p> <p>This degree will typically consist of supervised research, resulting in the completion of a thesis. To be eligible for entry, you will require a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) or a Master's Degree (Research Format)</p>	3-4 years
	<p>Professional Doctorate</p> <p>This degree will typically combine coursework and research for professionals who wish to increase their knowledge in a specific field. You will be required to have a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) or Master's Degree (Research Format) and considerable professional experience (either before or during the course) to gain entry.</p>	3-4 years

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE/DIPLOMA

Information taken from [The International Students' Guide](#)

Postgraduate programs typically require to provide evidence that you have successfully finished your undergraduate qualification from a recognized institution (your undergraduate qualification will most likely need to be equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree from Australia) at the very least. Some courses will require your undergraduate degree to be in a field similar to your prospective postgraduate field. Others will accept undergraduate degrees in any field.

Some courses (typically Master's and Doctoral Degrees) may also require a Bachelor's Honours degree, a Graduate Certificate/Diploma, relevant work experience or research ability. In a few situations, institutions might admit applicants who do not meet the academic entry requirements, but who have significant work experience in a relevant field (this is common in management programs like the MBA).

Note: the qualifications and experience that are required for entry may vary by course and institution, so it is highly recommended that you contact your prospective postgraduate institution for more details.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

You can apply to Australia for your Master's and PhD, but it will be expensive, and financial support is not guaranteed. Postgraduate studies can cost anywhere between AUD 20,000 and 36,500 (approx.) (equal to USD 13,759 - 25,110, as of June 2019). You will typically need strong grades in your undergraduate degree to get accepted.

[Here](#) is a list of all the postgraduate institutions in Australia. It is recommended that you visit your prospective postgraduate institution website for more specific information about application procedures and components after reading this guide.

Application Components

The main components required in your application are:

- Filled application form, containing your personal details
- Certified proof of your level of English language proficiency
- Academic transcripts (or any previous academic qualifications)
- Your course preferences, i.e. the courses you are applying for
- A summary of your employment experience (if applicable)
- Any additional component required by the university
 - Auditions, Tests, Portfolios (may be required by some programs)
 - Writing samples/Research proposals/SOPs (may be required; some PhD programs may require publications)
 - Letters of recommendation (may be required)
 - Interviews (may be required)

For more information on entry requirements, click [here](#).

Application Cycle

- Choose to study in Australia
- Decide on a course and an institution
- Check entry requirements for course and visa
- Apply for the course
- Receive confirmation of enrolment
- Receive your letter of offer
- Apply for your visa
- Plan your arrival

Application Process and Timeline

Each institution will have different entry requirements, and different procedures.

When to apply:

The academic year begins in February in Australia. Some courses, however, do allow students to enrol in July, which is the second semester. You should apply for admission in a course anywhere between 18 and 3 months prior to the start of a course. Ali Malik recommends preparing your application 6 months prior to the start of the course. Do note: some courses (like medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, fine arts and performance arts) are likely to have earlier application deadlines for the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

If you have gained admission into a doctoral degree program or some other research-format degree program, you may be able to select an alternative starting date after consulting your project supervisor.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

Information in this section has been taken from [Studies in Australia](#)

FEES

The cost of postgraduate programs (tuition fee) ranges from AUD20,000 to AUD36,500 annually. Some Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) courses start at approximately AUD\$4000 (USD 2751, as of June 2019) ([Studies in Australia](#)).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

There are a range of scholarships that are available to international students wishing to study in Australia. It is not easy to receive scholarship, so make sure that you have other means of supporting yourself financially too. The different types of scholarship you may be eligible for as a prospective student are:

1. Scholarships to help you with your tuition fees,
2. Scholarships to help with accommodation and living expenses,
3. Scholarships to help with tuition and living costs

Some scholarship will cover the full amount of these costs; others will cover a proportion of the total cost. Most scholarships are merit-based (academic merit mostly) but there is some funding available to students from developing countries who need financial assistance. (Some of these scholarships may be restricted to a specific course, a field of study or a qualification level, for example, postgraduate degrees).

Scholarships can be offered to you from the following groups or education institutions:

- **The university which is offering the course you are applying to** (you can contact their admissions team, or visit the institution-specific website to find information on scholarships that international students would be eligible for. Some larger institutions will usually have a scholarship database that will allow you to share your details, and receive updates).
- **The Australian Government** offers a number of scholarships to international students. For more detail, go through the table below.
- **Relevant organizations in Australia (and Pakistan)** that can give scholarship to international students

Finding Scholarships you are eligible for:

- Search for a course by clicking [here](#)
- Select an institution
- Click the green 'Enquire now' button
- Tick the 'Scholarships' box when completing the form

Scholarship/Grant	Who is eligible
Endeavour Leadership Program (includes scholarships, fellowships and mobility grants)	Undergraduate and graduate students, researchers and professionals; the program supports both short-term and long-term study
Australia Awards	The awards are offered for the minimum period necessary for the individual to complete the academic course, specified by the higher education institution (not exceeding 24 months)
Research Training Program (postgraduate)	Domestic and overseas students undertaking Research Doctorate and Research Master's degrees

Tips for applying for scholarship in Australia

- Start your research as early as possible. You should make a list of all the scholarships you are eligible for, including the costs they cover, their application requirements and deadlines. Some scholarships will not require an application; you will automatically be considered for these when you apply for your course.
- Required documents could include academic transcripts, offer letter and your references. Make sure you have authorized and translated copies where required.
- Some scholarships may have additional criteria as well, such as an extra essay or personal statement with strict word limits and deadlines. Ensure you meet all of that criteria before submitting your application.
- Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Even if you get lesser amounts, some funding is still beneficial.
- If you have any questions about your eligibility or the application requirements, contact your institution/university and request them to clarify the information.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

If you do not have a valid Australian visa and have been accepted to a course in Australia, you will need to apply for the SubClass 500 Visa, i.e. the Student Visa.

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

The visa processing time is variable. For the higher education sector, applicants usually receive their applications in 42-45 days. Sometimes, the application may require more time to be processed if:

- You have entered information incorrectly,
- Your information is incomplete or the embassy requires more information,
- Or it takes the embassy more time to verify your information.
- You do not pay the correct visa application cost (your application will not be processed if this is the case, and you will be informed).

For more information, click [here](#).

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

Applying for the visa will usually cost AUD 575, unless the cost has been waived off.

Overseas Student Health Cover

You will also need to apply for Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), i.e. health insurance. You will most need to have this to apply for your visa. For more information, click [here](#).

The OSHC is required for all international students studying in Australia and their dependents, i.e. spouses or children under the age of 18. The OSHC covers the cost of visits to the doctor, treatment in

the hospital, ambulance charges and some medicines. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Australia requires all overseas students to maintain their OSHC for the duration of their study in Australia.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN AUSTRALIA

This is a temporary visa so the type of course you have enrolled in and its length will determine your length of stay.

If your student visa expires before your graduation, you might be eligible for a [Visitor Visa \(Subclass 600\)](#). You will require an authorized letter from your education provider specifying the date of your graduation when applying. If you have completed specific qualifications in Australia in the last six months, you might be eligible for a [Temporary Graduate Visa \(Subclass 485\)](#). If you are a recent engineering graduate from a recognized institution, you may be eligible for the [Skilled Recognition Graduate Visa \(Subclass 476\)](#). If you want to stay in Australia for a longer period of time, you can look into other visa options.

OTHER INFORMATION

Travel

You can travel outside Australia and return as many times as you wish to *while* your visa is valid. Spending time outside Australia does not extend your visa.

Visa label

Your visa will be digitally linked in your passport. You will not get a label in your passport.

APPLYING

This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.

To apply for the Subclass 500 Visa, click the Apply button at the bottom of this [page](#).

Eligibility

You can find eligibility requirements for the Subclass 500 visa [here](#). A summary is also provided below, should you need it (*updated 2018*).

A Subclass 500 visa requires the applicant to:

- Be enrolled in a course of study in Australia
 - Give proof by giving your CoE (Confirmation of Enrolment),
 - You can take two or more courses on the Subclass 500 Visa, such that one course clearly leads to the next one. For this, you need to provide the CoE for each course or give evidence that the CoE is no longer required for a course.

- Have enough funds to meet the costs and expenses of your entire stay
- Meet the English language requirements (to find out what the minimum score requirements are and when applicants can be exempted, click [here](#).)
- Hold Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Give proof of a welfare arrangement if under eighteen (for more information regarding this, click [here](#)).
- Meet the [health requirement](#)
- Meet the [character requirement](#)
- Acknowledge the [Australian Values Statement](#)
- Be a [genuine temporary entrant](#)

Note: A previously cancelled or rejected visa might affect your eligibility. Click [here](#) for more details.

Which language proficiency tests are acceptable for the Australian student visa?

Taken from [Studies in Australia](#)

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System)
- CAE (Cambridge English: Advanced)
- OET (Occupational English Test)
- PTE (Pearson Test of English)

Useful resources

- [Document Checklist Tool](#) (to find out which documents you need to attach to your application)

VISAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDENTS

If you wish to have your family members or guardians traveling with you, you should find out which visa they are eligible for. For parents or guardians, you should look into the [Student Guardian Visa \(Subclass 590\)](#). For other family and partner visas, visit the 'Family and Partner Visas' section on [this page](#).

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

There are various types of accommodation that you can opt for when doing further study in Australia. Some of the options available to international students are shown in the table below. (information for table taken from: [Studies in Australia](#).)

Types of Accommodation		Details
<p>University Accommodation</p> <p>Prices and on-campus accommodation options vary from university to university. You should contact your university early to find out what options are available to you as an international student enrolled in their course.</p> <p>On average, on-campus accommodation costs around AUD 90-280 per week. (USD 61-193)</p>	Residential Colleges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide accommodation, meals, cleaning and a number of other services (for social and academic needs) - Offer private rooms, with communal bathrooms, dining halls and recreational areas - Are more expensive than halls of residence because of the range of facilities and support services offered
	Halls of Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer private rooms, with communal bathrooms, dining areas and recreation spaces - Some meals and cleaning services may be included - Self-catering facilities are provided
	Apartments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer the freedom of fully self-catered living - Provides security (because it is institution-approved accommodation) - Single and shared apartments are usually available - This is a popular choice for older students
<p>Homestay</p> <p>Many accommodation facilities in various institutions keep an</p>	<p>International students have the option of living with an Australian family in their home. Single or shared rooms are available, and the cost varies according to the type of room. This type of accommodation is popular for students who are studying short</p>	

<p>approved list of reputable and authorized homestay providers, so connect with your university if you are interested in this option.</p> <p>Typically the cost is AUD235-325 per week. (USD 161-223)</p>	<p>courses.</p>
<p>Hostels and guesthouses</p> <p>This type of accommodation is usually less expensive, compared to the on-campus accommodation options. The average cost is AUD90-150 per week (USD 61-103)</p>	<p>Students use hostels and guesthouses as temporary places of stay. Most hostels/guesthouses provide private rooms, with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities (meal plans are not included, but you can use the kitchen facility).</p>
<p>Private Rental</p> <p>Your institution's accommodation service should be able to help you find suitable rental accommodation options if you are interested. Otherwise newspapers and websites (realestate.com.au and domain.com.au) can be helpful.</p> <p>On average, rental properties cost \$165-\$440 per week (USD 114-303). Shared rental options can be much cheaper: \$85-\$215 per week.</p>	<p>This is when students choose to rent a property either on their own or with their housemates. You can move into an existing household, or rent a new property with a group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rental properties are usually not furnished, so you will need to do that on your own. - Rental agreements do require payment of rent in advance and an up-front security payment (usually one month's rent). - You will also need to pay for utilities on your own (they are not included in the rental package).

COSTS

The following information has been taken from [studyinaustralia](#). These costs are an estimate, and may vary by location.

The cost and availability of accommodation in Australia depends on the type of accommodation you want to select. On campus accommodation, for instance, is very popular and students need to apply for rooms well in advance. Rental accommodation, on the other hand, is more readily available and can be

finalized after your arrival in Australia. Do note: costs and availability varies between states and territories, and also between metropolitan and regional areas ([Studies in Australia](#)).

Accommodation	Cost Range
Hostels and Guesthouses	AUD90 - AUD150 per week (USD 62-103, as of June 2019)
Shared Rental	AUD85 - AUD215 per week (USD 58-148, as of June 2019)
On Campus	AUD90 - AUD280 per week (USD 62-193, as of June 2019)
Homestay	AUD235 - AUD325 per week (USD 161-224, as of June 2019)
Rental	AUD165 -AUD440 per week (USD 114-303, as of June 2019)
Boarding schools	AUD11,000 - AUD22,000 per year (USD 7567-15134, as of June 2019)

- For other living expenses, click [here](#) (note: these are tentative costs).
- You will be required to meet a minimum cost of living (these are financial requirements by the Department of Home Affairs that you must meet in order to receive a student visa for Australia).

Usable Resources:

- [Converting Currency to AUD](#)
- [Calculating your living cost](#)

Cities ranked according to living cost

Melbourne and Sydney are generally considered to be the most expensive places to live in. Victoria (Melbourne), however, has housing costs that are almost half of Sydney and other states in Melbourne. Western Australia (Perth) and South Australia (Adelaide) is considered to be some of the least expensive places in Australia, especially in terms of accommodation cost.

Other

Here are some additional links to help you find places of residence on your own:

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CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. The contributors to this tip-sheet include the following people:

- [Ali Malik - Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame, Australia](#)

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile. We encourage you to consult these sources for additional information and guidance.

- [Save the Student](#)
- [Studies in Australia: The International Students' Guide](#)
- [Study in Australia](#)
- [Australian Government: Department of Home Affairs](#)
- [Research Training Program](#)
- [Australia Awards](#)
- [Endeavour Leadership Program](#)

Furthermore, the following sources were also consulted in developing this profile:
[UniversityinAustralia.](#)