



AVETA PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION HANDBOOK

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1. AUSTRALIA- The Country

Australia is a natural wonderland of beautiful beaches, crystal blue waters, amazing ancient rock formations and pristine rainforests. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world and has the world’s lowest population density per square kilometer.

Australia has 16 world heritage listed properties with its historic townships, bustling cities, vivid landscapes and exotic flora and fauna all adding to its unique appeal. Much of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world and the lifestyle is one second to none.

Culture and Customs

The culture and customs consist of a rich tapestry of nationalities including traditions, legends, myths and folklore. The indigenous 'Dream time' forms the base of tens of thousands of years of spiritual aboriginal art and culture. Modern Australian society consists of a plethora of different cultures and ethnicities.

Language

In Australia over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 indigenous languages. The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.

States and Territories

Australia is made up of six states and two territories:



For more information visit
www.australia.com

2. AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS STUDENT PROGRAMME

The State of Victoria has the second largest education system in Australia and one of the most advanced education systems in the world. Victoria is recognised as a world leader in all sectors of education and training and has earned a reputation for providing high-quality educational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment.

Primary responsibility for managing Australia's overseas student program (OSP) is shared between the:

Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

For more information visit

www.immi.gov.au

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

For more information visit

www.ausaid.gov.au

Department of Education former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

For more information visit

www.education.gov.au

The table below describes each agency's primary responsibilities.

Agency	Responsibilities
DIBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making decisions on student visa applications • Monitoring the behaviour of overseas students and ensuring compliance with visa conditions • Administering all immigration-related legislation, policies and procedures, to ensure that the administration of the OSP does not conflict with the Australian Government's overall objectives for the migration program
AusAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administering the AusAID scholarship program • Notifying DIAC of people who have been approved as AusAID students or awarded scholarships, and when a person no longer has an AusAID student status
DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring education providers that offer courses to overseas students • Note: prime responsibility for this rests with Department of Education and State/Territory accreditation agencies • Maintaining the Commonwealth Register of Institutions providing Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) • Administering scholarships and certain bilateral awards

For more information visit

http://www.immi.gov.au/business-services/education-providers/student_program.htm

Student Visa Assessment Levels

There are three assessment levels in the student visa programme. They align student visa requirements to the immigration risk posed by applicants from a particular country studying in a particular education sector. Assessment level 1 represents the lowest immigration risk and assessment level 3 the highest..

The higher the Assessment Level, the greater the evidence an applicant is required to demonstrate to support their claims for the grant of a student visa.

The passport you hold and the education sector of your principal course will determine the Assessment Level of your visa application.

For more information visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/Study/Pages/Study.aspx>

Student Visa Conditions

To study in Australia you must hold a valid student visa prior to entering the country. The visa is governed by certain conditions, some of which are as follows:

- You must enroll in a course approved by the Australian Government.
- You must satisfy all course requirements.
- You must maintain a valid enrolment, which often involves meeting attendance and/or academic progress requirements as specified by the institution.
- You must have current Overseas Student Health Cover for the entire duration of your course.
- You must notify AVETA of your change of address or contact details within seven days.
- You cannot work more than 40 hours per fortnight* when your course is in session (other than work which has been registered as a part of the course).

*A fortnight means any period of 14 days commencing on a Monday and ending at the end of the second following Sunday.

You are also expected to have enough money to cover your tuition fees and living expenses for the full duration of the course. Visas are issued by the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). Breach of any of the conditions may result in cancellation of your visa.

For more information visit:

www.immi.gov.au

Visa Type

You are required to apply for a visa that is appropriate for the education sector that you wish to study in. The following visa types are relevant to studies at AVETA:

- 570 English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS)
- 572 Vocational Education and Training
- 573 Higher Education

If you intend to work you must apply for a visa with 'permission to work' (condition 8105)

Other Requirements

Depending on your country of origin and/or assessment level you will also need to supply the following:

- Evidence of English Language proficiency
- Evidence that you have sufficient funds for the duration of your course
- A medical check
- An Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (ECoE)
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Credit for prior learning will affect the length of your course and the length of your visa. Please visit the AVETA website www.aveta.edu.au for further information.

Visa Extensions

If you need to extend your visa to complete your course of study, you must lodge an application prior to your current visa expiring. Normally your application for extension requires the following:

- A health check result
- A financial statement
- Your academic transcripts
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (ECoE)

3. BRINGING FAMILY

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants if you are:

- Assessment level 1 or 2 or
- Assessment level 3 or 4 and your course is longer than 12 months or you have been in Australia for 12 months or more.

Definition of family members

Eligible family members include your partner / spouse and you and your partner's dependent children.

A partner is your spouse or de facto partner (including same-sex partners).

Your spouse is the person you are married to that is legally valid in Australia and:

- they have a mutual commitment to a shared life as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others
- the relationship between them is genuine and continuing
- they live together or do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis.

A person is the de facto partner of another person (whether of the same sex or a different sex) if:

- they have a mutual commitment to a shared life to the exclusion of all others
- the relationship between them is genuine and continuing
- they live together or do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis and they are not related by family.

A dependent child is the child or step-child of yourself or your partner who:

- is not married, engaged to be married or in a de facto relationship
- has not turned 18

Schooling Requirements

Under Australian law, school is compulsory for all children aged between five and fifteen years. You should enroll your children in a school as soon as possible. These ages may vary slightly in some states.

Public and Private schools

Schools in Australia can be classified according to sources of funding and administrative structures. There are 3 such categories in Australia:

- Public Schools (also known as 'Government' Schools or 'State' Schools)
- Independent Schools (informally known as 'Private' Schools)
- Semi-private Schools (such as Catholic schools, or schools of other religious denominations)

At primary and secondary level, government schools educate the majority of students. The majority of their costs is met by the relevant State or Territory government. Private schools, both religious and secular (not religious, or not connected with religion) may charge higher fees.

Regardless of whether a school is government or private, it is regulated by the same curriculum standards framework. Most government and private schools enforce a uniform or dress code.

Fees

Victorian Government Schools offer extremely competitive tuition fees including discounts for siblings and students whose parents are studying in a Victorian tertiary institute. The tuition fee for different schools can vary greatly; parents should make inquiries to check schooling options that best suit their family. Private school fees can vary from under \$10,000 per year to \$20,000 and upwards.

The fee structure of Public schools for Full fee dependants (who arrive under parent’s student visa):

Primary:	Prep to Grade 6	\$6,180
Junior Secondary:	Years 7 to 10	\$8,190
Senior Secondary:	Years 11 to 12	\$9,170

For more information on school fees and annual charges and to download the Standard International Student School Application Form please check the website listed below.

For more information visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/

Pre-school

Pre-school is for children aged between 3 and 5 years old. Pre-school is usually part time and it is not compulsory. Pre-school is a gentle start for very young children to mix with their peers and to be apart from family for a couple times a week.

Primary school

Primary school begins for most children at age 5 and is compulsory. Eight themes form the basis of learning in primary school. They are English, Health and Physical Education, Language other than English, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment, Technology, and The Arts. In general, students attend school between 9am and 3pm for 40 weeks a year. Students wear a uniform at most schools. Children take their lunch and snacks to school or buy food at the canteen.

Secondary school

Secondary school is for older children. Most children start secondary school soon after they reach their teens. In early secondary school, students do core subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science. They study more subjects called electives. Students do electives to prepare for later study or because the subject is of interest to them.

4. PRE-DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Once you have accepted an offer to study at AVETA, you are ready to start your journey to Melbourne, Australia. Before you arrive in Melbourne, there are many things to consider so we have put together this pre-departure kit containing important general information and Australian Government requirements for our international students.

Obtain Travel Insurance (other than OSHC)

Your Travel agent can help you to find travel insurance best suited to you or you can access/purchase travel insurance via the internet.

For more information visit:

www.travelinsurance.com.au

Obtain a valid Student visa

Students from some countries can apply online. Others need to apply to an Australian Diplomatic Mission. Processing time varies from one week to three months so be sure to apply early.

Health Insurance

As per the student visa condition 8501, all international students are required to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the full duration of your stay in Australia.

All fees must be paid before your visa can be issued. This will give you basic cover, however not all health services are covered. If you wish to have extra cover for additional services including dental treatment and glasses (optical), please refer to the Overseas Students section at one provider – Medibank.

For more information visit:

<http://www.medibank.com.au/oshc/>

Organise airport pickup

AVETA must receive your request at least 10 working days prior to your arrival or pickup cannot be guaranteed. Pickup is from Tullamarine airport only.

Melbourne's main international and domestic airport is known as "Tullamarine" and is approximately 25 minutes drive from the city of Melbourne.

There is a bus service that runs approximately every 10 minutes from the Tullamarine Airport to Melbourne city, the cost is \$18 AUD one way.

SkyBus offers an express bus service from the airport to the city centre. This service operates 24/7, including all public holidays. Buses run from every 10 minutes throughout the day.

- \$18 Adult - one way - return \$30
- \$41 Family 2- (2 adults and 1-4 children) - return \$70
- \$25 Family 1- (1 adult and 1-4 children) - return \$43
- \$7 Child (4-14 years) - return \$13
- \$140 - 10 trip ticket

Tickets can be purchased on arrival at the bus stop or purchased online at www.skybus.com.au

On arrival at Southern Cross Station in the city, SkyBus provides a complimentary hotel transfer service, subject to availability, during the following hours:

- 0600-2230 Monday to Friday; 0730-1730 Saturday and Sunday, (excluding Christmas day).

For more information visit www.skybus.com.au

Some airlines also fly into Avalon Airport, approximately 50 minutes away from the city of Melbourne. Sunbus meets all Avalon flights and provides transport to Melbourne for approximately \$22.

Avalon Airport Transfers

Avalon Airport Transfers runs services between Avalon Airport and the Melbourne central business district. The city stop is at Southern Cross Station coach terminal in Spencer Street (Firefly Coaches sales booth).

If pre-booked at least 48 hours in advance, buses will pick-up at CBD Hotels and Werribee RSL.

For more information and for online bookings, visit www.sitacoaches.com.au/avalon or call (03) 9689 7999

Organise your accommodation

It is best to arrange your accommodation before you come to Australia. AVETA can book accommodation for you for the first 2 weeks after your arrival. You would need to request this at least 2 weeks before your arrival date. Make copies of all important documents to bring in your hand luggage

- Letter of offer from AVETA
- Electronic confirmation of enrolment (ECoE)
- Other formal Identification
- International drivers' license and/or drivers license from your home country
- You must bring original copies of your: Year 10, Year 12 and English test certificates.

It is important that you have all these documents with you throughout your stay in Australia. We suggest that you put a second copy of each in your suitcase and leave a third copy at home with your family.

Clothing

Melbourne has four distinct seasons so you should be prepared and dress accordingly. Australians dress casually most of the time and students wear jeans and T-shirts, shorts and casual shoes. For some occasions, such as job interviews and celebrations, you will need to dress more formally.

Personal Computers

Customs fees apply on personal computers for further queries please refer to Australian Customs and Border Protection at 1300 363 263 or on their website at www.customs.gov.au

Australian Customs and Quarantine

Prior to landing in Melbourne, you will be given an Incoming Passenger Card to complete. Please read all of the information and fill out the card correctly with your flight details and the required customs information.

This is a legal document and you must tick YES if you are carrying any food, wooden material, plant material, or animal products. If you are unsure, declare them, tick yes and let the officers decide.

Any item that has a pest or disease risk will be destroyed, or if it can be treated, the choice and cost will be yours. If you fail to declare any quarantine items or make a false declaration you could:

- Be fined on the spot \$220AUD.
- Be prosecuted and fined up to \$66,000 AUD and/or risk 10 years imprisonment.

Mail

All mail arriving into Australia is also screened, so it is important that your friends and family know what items they can send to you in Australia. Anything sent by mail must be declared on the postal declaration label.

For more information visit:

www.aqis.gov.au

5. COUNSELLING AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

AVETA provides a range of Student Support Services at no additional cost to the students. Staff members are always available to assist at any time during your course. Students may talk to their teacher, or make an appointment at any time to see a Student Support Officer or Counsellor for confidential information or advice on any of the following:

- Class allocations
- Subjects you have completed
- Subjects you need to undertake
- Assessments
- Results
- Coping with assessments
- Attendance and overseas student health cover
- Ways of managing your time
- Assistance with the setting and achieving of your goals
- Tutorial support and assistance
- Looking for work
- Writing resumes and cover letters
- Finding accommodation

Dealing with Problems

It may be difficult for you at first; you have moved to a new country and culture and may be away from your family for the first time, so it is normal to have some problems whilst settling down.

Sometimes the problem is because you do not really understand the way things are done in this new country, but the best way to deal with any problem is to talk about it.

So if you have a problem, the first person to contact is your teacher, unless the problem is one with your teachers. In that case, please contact AVETA's Student Contact Officer.

Remember we have dedicated people in the administration department who are there to help you with any problems or queries you may have.

Personal Problems

Students are welcome to talk with AVETA's Student Support Officer for information on counselling or legal matters free of charge. AVETA has also compiled a list of health and legal services that students can access, which is listed in AVETA's Community Services Handbook (available online or on request at reception).

AVETA can provide students with free referral to relevant counselling services. However, students will bear the cost of any further charges incurred as a result of accessing external counselling services. Students can also check the following sites for more information:

For counseling services please check www.au.reachout.com
For legal services check www.legalaid.vic.gov.au or www.wsls.org.au

Or by calling these numbers

Melbourne Counselling Services:	(03) 9653 3250
Salvation Army:	(03) 13 7258
Anglicare:	(03) 9412 6133
St Vincent de Paul:	1300 305 300

6. LOCAL INFORMATION

AVETA

AVETA has 2 campuses located in Melbourne, one in the Central Business District (CBD) and the other in an inner suburb of Melbourne called Thornbury:

Melbourne Campus (Head office, CBD)
Mezzanine level, 51 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
Phone: (03) 96298835
Fax: (03) 96298839

Thornbury Campus (Training Kitchens)
623 High Street, Thornbury, VIC 3071

All AVETA facilities are located in well lit and high density areas.

The Melbourne Campus is centrally located, close to Flinders Street railway station and Melbourne Central Station. Many public bus and tram services depart from Queen Street and Swanston Street, which are very close to AVETA.

The Thornbury campus is close to Croxton Railway station (on the Epping Line), and is also easily accessed by the 86 Tram line.

Although AVETA's campus and facilities are well located and easily accessible by public transport, students are advised to take all practicable steps to ensure their own safety at all times especially if classes operate after 6pm. All students are advised to travel in pairs because it's considered safe to travel in numbers.

AVETA has fully equipped commercial kitchens for training purposes, state of the art computer labs and classrooms. AVETA also has library services available to students on-demand, as well as student common areas where students can relax and socialise between classes.

AVETA Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact during business hours: 0424622966
Emergency Contact after business hours: 0438021094

Working in Australia

To work whilst on a student visa, you must have a 'work permit' (condition 8105) on your student visa. You can work up to 20 hours per week, provided this does not interfere with your attendance to your studies. This is a requirement for both paid and unpaid work.

Tax File Number(TFN)

After you have a visa that allows you to work, you can apply for a Tax File Number (TFN). This ensures that the correct amount of tax is deducted from your earnings. It also allows you to claim a refund at the end of the financial year (30th June). Most students who work part time are eligible for a refund.

To receive an income in Australia, you need a Tax File Number (TFN). Income includes wages or salary from a job, payments from the government, and money earned from investments including interest on savings accounts: all this must be declared in your annual Tax Return. In Australia, you can telephone the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and have a TFN application form sent to you. Alternatively, you can apply for a TFN over the internet.

Australian Taxation Office (ATO) contact details:

Telephone: 13 2861
 In person: ATO shop front locations
 Apply for a TFN online: Online individual Tax File Number (TFN) registration
 For more information visit:
www.ato.gov.au

Cost of Living

AVETA students in Australia typically spend between \$250 to \$400 a week on accommodation, food, clothing, entertainment, transport, international and domestic travel, telephone, and incidental costs.

The following chart is only a guide to help you understand the breakdown of costs:

Accommodation:	\$150 - \$200 per week
Food:	\$100 - \$200 per week
Public Transport:	\$25 - \$50 per week

While this is a realistic guide, it is important to remember that individual circumstances will vary according to location, course, and personal lifestyle. Some people spend a lot more than this, and others spend less. To live more cheaply, you could share a room, cook for yourself and shop at the markets.

We estimate that international students will require approximately AU\$18,610 for living expenses each year. A dependable partner is estimated to require an additional \$6,200 per annum.

Rental Accommodation

What do you need to know about renting a house?

Owners advertise houses and flats for rent in newspapers, online, and at real estate offices. The staff members of real estate offices will assist you to find, inspect and decide on a suitable house or a flat to rent. You may need to supply some paperwork before you can rent a property.

You will be required to pay rent in advance. The first payment will include a bond that is refundable at the end of the rental providing that the building remains intact. A lease is an agreement to rent housing. It is a legal contract. If you have doubts or concerns about a lease, seek legal advice before signing the contract.

As a tenant, you have rights and obligations. You can get more information on rights and obligations that apply in each state or territory from the government website in your State.

Finding the right home and getting a fair tenancy agreement are vital to overseas and Australian students living away from home. You can find more information about renting for students on the CAV website.

For more information visit:

<http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au>

It is quite common for young people in Australia to live in shared accommodation with their friends. In Melbourne, the cost of shared accommodation varies between \$150 and \$300. You may be able to pay less if you share your apartment with a number of people, but many people will not find this comfortable.

There are several ways to find somewhere to live. One way is to check the advertisements in the city and local newspapers. The Melbourne Age newspaper has advertisements for flats and share houses each week. There may be notices on the student notice board at AVETA for shared accommodation.

You can also advertise on the notice board. AVETA is not responsible for any accommodation advertised on the Student notice board. Another way to look for a flat is to search the following websites for shared accommodation:

For more information visit

www.2share.com.au
www.domain.com.au
www.realestate.com.au
www.gumtree.com.au

Public Transport

Melbourne's trains, trams and buses are an easy way to see all of the city's best attractions, sporting venues and shopping precincts. All you need is a myki card and you'll be ready to travel around the city.

As no student concession is available for overseas students, it is recommended that students buy a weekly, monthly or period rail ticket in order to save on cost.

The Victorian Government will trial discounted public transport travel for international students for three years from 2015. The Victorian Government will provide all eligible international students with a 50 per cent discount on annual public transport tickets covering trains, trams and buses.

Victoria's scheme will make available discounted tickets in all metropolitan travel zones, including Zone 1 only which covers inner Melbourne, as well as within regional centres (if education providers choose to enter into the scheme). The scheme will be trialled from 2015 for three years in partnership with education providers to reduce transport costs for eligible students in eligible Melbourne metropolitan and country educational institutions.

The Melbourne Public Transport system is divided into 2 Zones:

- Zone 1 for the CBD and inner suburbs,
- Zone 2 for the middle and outer suburbs.

Use the public transport maps to check what zones you are planning to visit and make sure you have enough value on your myki to cover your entire journey.

As you touch on and touch off your myki, the system automatically calculates the lowest fare for your trip. Please note: your myki need to be valid for each zone travelled in; however, when travelling in a zone boundary overlap, your myki can be valid for either zone.

The free iPhone app lets you view service times, use the journey planner and set your favourite stops throughout Victoria for faster access to public transport information on the go.

Free city services - City Circle tram

The Free City Circle Tram travels the perimeter of the CBD, taking in many of Melbourne's landmarks every day of the year except Christmas Day and Good Friday. The route uses iconic W-Class trams offering you a historical tram experience, while automated audio commentary announces points of interest along the route. Catch the tram at any of the specially marked tram stops. Services run approximately every 12 minutes 10am - 9pm Thursday to Saturday, and 10am - 6pm Sunday to Wednesday. For timetable and route information, see City Circle tram.

Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle

The bus shuttle stops at 13 key city locations. It runs every 30 minutes, seven days a week between 9.30am and 4.30pm (except Christmas Day). The full trip takes approximately 90 minutes and includes on-board commentary. Tickets cost \$5, while children aged under 10 travel free. For more information, please visit thatsmelbourne.com.au/shuttle

Trams, trains, and buses all run under the MYKI system, so you can use your ticket on any or all of these.

For more information visit:

<http://ptv.vic.gov.au/>

Driving

If you are in Victoria on a valid student visa, you can drive on your overseas driver licence for as long as it is current providing it is in English or accompanied by an English translation or International Driving Permit. In Australia we drive on the left side of the road. The driver and all passengers must wear seatbelts.

To obtain a Victorian full driver licence you must:

- be 21 years of age or older; and
- hold an overseas full driver licence; or
- have held an overseas probationary driver licence for at least three years from your 18th birthday (you must provide evidence).

Your overseas driver licence must be current or not expired by more than five years. Any period where you have been suspended or disqualified from driving is excluded when calculating the period of time you have held a licence.

To obtain Victorian driver licence (full or probationary) you need to make an appointment to undertake a road law knowledge test, hazard perception test (HPT), eyesight test and a drive test (unless you are exempt from the test - see 'Exemptions from licence tests') at a VicRoads Website. You must complete and pass the road law knowledge test and hazard perception test before you attempt the drive test. In Australia, driver licence are issued by state and territory governments.

For more information visit:

<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/>

Car Rental

Most rental agencies require you to be 25 and on a full license to rent a car. Some rental companies have lower minimum age requirements, such as 21-25, which may incur a surcharge. Please contact the car rental agency for full details. All drivers of the vehicle need to be present and provide a valid drivers licence and credit card in their own name. Drivers with an overseas licence must provide their country licence, international licence and passport.

For more information visit:

www.avis.com.au

www.europcar.com.au

www.vroomvroom.com.au

www.budget.com.au

www.thrifty.com.au

Bicycles

A bicycle is a vehicle that has two or more wheels, built to be propelled by human power through a belt, chain or gears. Pedicabs, penny farthings and tricycles are considered to be bicycles. However, wheelchairs, wheeled toys and scooters are not. You don't need a licence to operate a bicycle in Victoria. A motorised bicycle is not classed as a bicycle if:

- the motor is the primary source of power
- the motor's power output exceeds 200 watts (whether or not the motor is operating).

These are considered to be motorcycles. The rider will be required to hold a motorcycle licence and have the vehicle registered before it can be used on the road network.

Riders of bicycles and their passengers must wear an Australian Standards approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened on their head. This rule applies when riding on roads and road-related areas like bike paths, bike lanes, shared and separated footpaths.

Riding at night is illegal unless the bicycle or the rider has a white light (flashing or steady) on the front, a red light (flashing or steady) at the back and a red reflector at the back.

Under the Road rules obeying traffic signals, stop signs and give way signs are a must for all riders.

A cyclist must use the bicycle lane if there is a bicycle lane on a length of road in the same direction as they are riding, unless it is impracticable to do so.

Bicycle riders must not ride on a freeway or other road that has a sign showing that bicycles are not permitted beyond the sign.

To look up these rules and check for other related rules, please refer to the Acts and Regulations administered by VicRoads.

Shopping

Most Melbourne suburbs have a shopping area or mall where students can find a variety of shops, so there is no need for them to travel to the CBD for their daily requirements.

As a multi cultural country, Australian supermarkets stock a large variety of products from different countries, especially from the Indian sub-continent, China, Thailand and Malaysia as well many European countries.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are plentiful, and most other goods can be bought in our large supermarkets. Many perishable goods are sold at reasonable prices at fresh food markets such as Preston, Prahran, Footscray, South Melbourne, and Queen Victoria Market.

Banking

Students will need to set up an Australian bank account on their arrival in the country to avoid the necessity of carrying large amounts of cash. Students can also open an Australian bank account before arriving. You can transfer money into this account and when you arrive in Australia you can access your funds once you have provided your 100 point ID check to your bank. Student will need to show their passport and evidence of residency. You will need to supply a residential address. (This could be your temporary address until you find permanent accommodation). Remember to notify the bank when you change your address.

Most shopping centers have Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) facilities. These machines can be used for deposits and, in many instances, withdrawals 24 hours a day. Many department stores, supermarkets and specialist shops have electronic transfer terminals (EFTPOS) where cash withdrawals can also be made in addition to purchasing goods.

Most banks open from 9.30am – 4pm Monday to Thursday, and 9.30am – 5pm on Friday. Some branches also operate on Saturdays.

There are a number of major banks with branches in Melbourne CBD, close to AVETA, where students can open an account.

COMMONWEALTH BANK

385 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Ph: (03) 9675 8926

WESTPAC BANK

447 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Ph: (03) 9602 2322

ANZ BANK

100 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Ph: (03) 9273 555

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK

500 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Ph: 1300 889 398

Legal Services

If you need legal advice from a solicitor, you can go to LIV's online Legal Referral Service. This is a free referral service, and the solicitors who you will be referred to provide the first 30 minutes consultation for free, after that you will have to pay.

For more information visit:

www.liv.asn.au/

As this is the Law Academy of Victoria, it has a listing of all solicitors and their specialisations, so it is the most reliable place for information regarding solicitors.

Medical Services

If you cannot find a doctor locally, you can go to Outpatients of any public hospital.

In an emergency call 000 and ask for an ambulance, police or fire brigade.

Chemist or Pharmacy

The pharmacist can give you advice on the choice of medication and provide medication prescribed by a doctor.

The cost of medication is not covered by your Medical Insurance.

Choosing a doctor

Your health insurance allows you to consult a doctor of your choice, but it may be difficult for you to choose a doctor. If you cannot find a doctor in your area, you might wish to see one close to the school. To find a doctor in your area visit:

For more information visit:

www.doctors-4u.com/melbourne/areas.htm

Melbourne Public Hospitals

Austin Hospital
145 Studley Road, Heidelberg, 3084
Phone: (03) 9496 5000

St Vincent's Hospital
41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, 3065
Phone: (03) 9288 2211

Alfred Hospital
Commercial Road, Prahran, 3181
Phone: (03) 9276 2000

Box Hill Hospital
Nelson Road, Box Hill, 3128
Phone: (03) 9895 3333

Dandenong Hospital
David Street, Dandenong, 3175
Phone: (03) 9554 1000

Monash Medical Centre
246 Clatyon Road, Clayton, 3168
Phone: (03) 9594 6666

7. Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

Please phone the Department before coming into any office so that you know what documentation to bring with you. In some cases, you may find that you do not need to visit an office in person or that you will need to make an appointment.

For more information

visit: www.immi.gov.au

General Enquiries phone: 131881

Post: GPO Box 241, Melbourne 3001

Melbourne CBD
Casselden Place, Ground Floor,
2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000
Monday to Friday - 9am – 4pm