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Volume 2

SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

"Compiled From Actual
Student Experiences"

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Welcome Note

This is the second edition in our series called “Survival Guide for International Students in Australia”. This edition dives deeper into the lives of international students in Australia and addresses major issues such as finances, visa and accommodation issues.

It is no longer a secret that Australia is a preferred destination for higher education for many non-Australian students. Every year lakhs of students enter the shores of the country with the aspiration of a better education degree and eventually a better job. Over the years, as a lifestyle writer, I have come across various challenges that international students face in Australia, which are as small as finding a good accommodation to getting a PR. To create a comprehensive guide for international students, has always been at the back of my mind. Luckily, when I shared the idea with the management of Totalassignmenthelp.com, they were very supportive of this initiative and helped me to connect with 100s of International students studying in Australia. Thus this “**Survival Guide**” is a culmination of hours of interviews of the students and the issues they face in Australia. The guide will touch topics related to livings, job, spending, and other student related issues in a view to provide best possible advice. (Fingers crossed :))

Wish you a very Happy Reading, with a hope that it saves lots of your time and some bucks :)

Your Friend

Adam Waugh

Adam Works for www.Totalassignmenthelp.com, which has been in the business for the last many years and have helped over 1 lakh students in their education needs.

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How to get a permanent residence visa in Australia?



Australia is a place which attracts hundreds of tourists every single day, who travel there to see its beauty and glory. Australia has so much to offer to anyone who visits there, for many people it's on top of their bucket list to travel to Australia and explore its exotic wilderness as well as its well-developed cities and infrastructure.

Budding students, working professionals as well as elderly from all over the world seek to acquire the permanent residence visa in Australia, so that they can settle over there and live a happy life among the diverse population of Australian folks!

However, most people find themselves completely lost without a place to start when it comes to applying for a visa in any country. By the end of this blog article

you will have learnt everything you need about the permanent residence visa in Australia, and how you can increase your chances of getting one.

What is an Australian PR Visa?

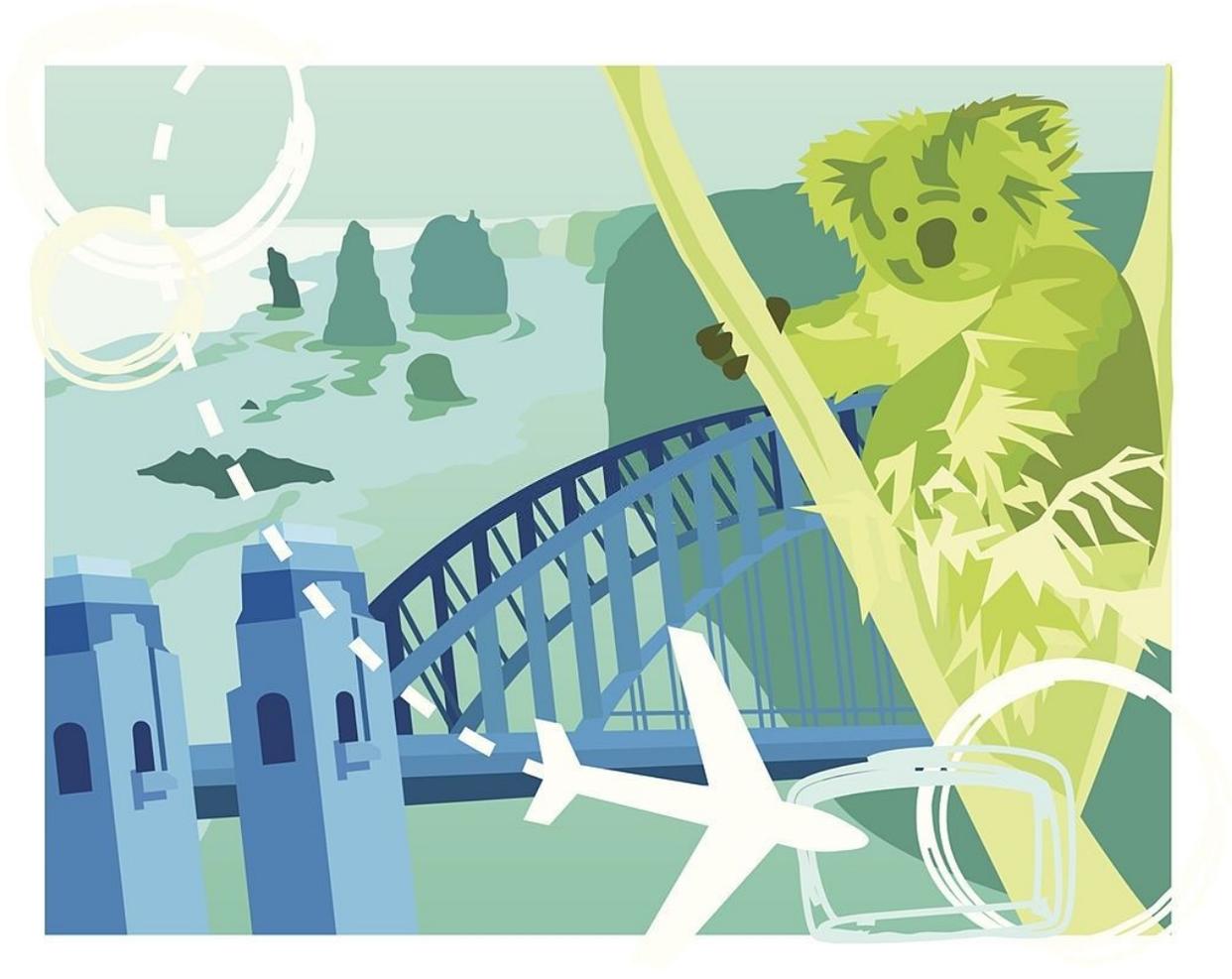


An Australian Permanent Visa is for the people who are not born on the Australian subcontinent and who wish to live there permanently and someday acquire the status of an Australian citizen.

The Australian home affairs department oversees all the applications for permanent residence visa in Australia. They carefully evaluate the credentials and eligibility of an individual in a very systematic way before granting a visa. Like most countries, they too have a points system to assess a person's capability before granting the PR visa.

A permanent residence visa in Australia allows a person to live there indefinitely under the specific terms of their visa. They can have equal rights and treatment as any other Australian citizen, including, access to healthcare, job opportunities, and many others. There is only one thing that differentiates an Australian citizen from an immigrant with a PR visa, which is, a PR visa does not allow you to vote in the federal elections or take up jobs in a government administrative authority.

A person with a PR status can sponsor members of their family into Australia, including their spouse, parents, children and other close relatives. They get access to the healthcare facilities in Australia, and other payment and economic benefits. In addition, if a person with a PR visa gives birth to a child in Australia, that child will automatically become a citizen of Australia by birth.



The Australian PR Point System

The Australian government has made it quite transparent and easy for any ordinary citizen of any country to evaluate their eligibility for the permanent residence visa in Australia or any other visa. Each person is awarded a set of points for their proficiency in language, their age factors and their employment status and a few other factors. And each category of visa application requires you to have a minimum number of points to be eligible to apply for that visa.

Below is an explanation for the number of points you can score for each criteria for a permanent residence visa in Australia:

Age:

If you are between 18 to 24 years of age, you are awarded 25 Points.

If you are between 24 and 32 years of age, you get 30 Points.

If you're between 33 to 39 years then you can get 25 Points.

Language Proficiency:

The Australian home affairs department evaluates your English language proficiency and awards points accordingly to your PR visa application. They do that by judging you in all 4 areas, i.e. Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

If you want to apply for a PR visa you must have at least competent level proficiency in language skills, which grants you 0 points, but it's the bare minimum requirement for you to be eligible to apply for a permanent residence visa in Australia.

If you have proficient Level or superior Level proficiency then you get 10 and 20 points respectively.

Education:

If you have completed your Bachelor's degree or undergraduate degree from any accredited college or university outside of Australia, then you get 15 points.

For students, who wish to study or are currently studying in Australia for their undergraduate or postgraduate degree or above, they get 5 points.

These are the fundamental categories which every individual has to evaluate for themselves before applying.

There are some additional categories in which a person can score some points for their PR application, such as getting their language proficiency certificate for NAATI, or doing a professional year in Australia, or having a skillselect occupation, or having one year of work experience in Australia and several others.

The official Australian home affairs website, has a simple online form which lets you fill in your status and calculate your PR points and see if you are eligible for your visa application.

Categories of Australian PR Visa

There are three main ways of applying for a permanent residence visa in Australia. Each of these categories has their own eligibility criteria and specifications:

Family Stream PR Visa: This category of visa is granted to the family of an Australian citizen, or a current permanent resident of Australia. It is granted only to the dependent relatives, parents, partners, children or long term caregivers and guardians.

Work Stream PR Visa: This category of PR visa is for any individual working in Australia or those who have an Australian employer sponsoring them to work. Individuals having the skills listed under the skill select occupations list and with work experience and currently working in those industries are also eligible to apply through this stream for a PR visa.

Business Investor Stream PR Visa: This Visa category is for individuals who are currently invested or running a business which is legally registered in Australia. They are eligible to apply for a permanent residence visa in Australia.

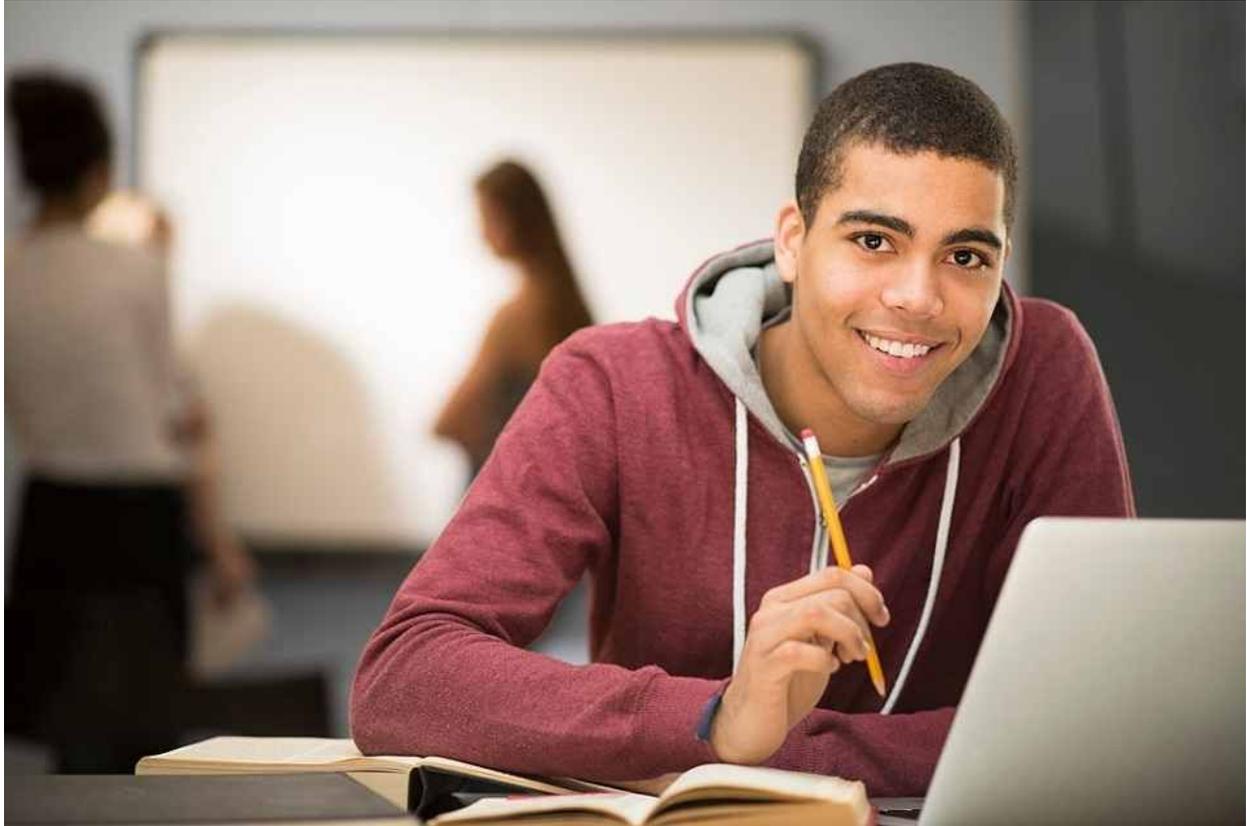
Others: This category is for individuals who do not fall under the above categories or have special circumstances of application. These special circumstances include:

Retirement Visa Pathway- for retired personnel who are well acknowledged in their community.

Former Resident Visa: This visa is for individuals who previously had a permanent residence visa in Australia or a work visa which is no longer valid.

Refugee and Humanitarian Visas: This visa is given to people who wish to seek refuge in Australia due to persecution in their home country.

Tips To Maximize Your Earnings As An International Student In Australia



If you are an international student in Australia, then being able to earn the maximum amount of money during your authorized 20 working hours a week is a Priority. It's well known that many international students opt for cash in hand jobs to increase the number of hours they work thus increasing income. This is not a recommended option, as it would result in losing your student visa if the authorities catch you working above the allocated 20 hours per week. Many of the cash in hand jobs also pay less resulting in the international students needing to work more hours yet still earn the same as they would work for the maximum allocated working hours at the minimum hourly wage of \$20. So instead, it is recommended that international students weigh their options and opt to work smart rather than work extra hours. On this blog, we recommend some higher

paying job options and offer some essential tips international students must consider to maximize earnings while studying and working in Australia.

List of high paying job opportunities

Keep in mind each industry offers both high and low income earning opportunities, so it's essential to evaluate your options and select the right job to maximize your income.



Sales Departments:

Each company is dependent on sales to generate income making it among the highest revenue-generating departments for each industry. At most companies, sales personnel are offered an attractive basic weekly salary pay with sales commissions and incentives provided in addition to the weekly basic salary

packages. It allows the sales representative to increase significantly the amount of income they earn each week based on their efforts towards the job. It means sales representatives can remain within the legal working hour limitation while making above the minimum weekly base rate.



Cleaning and sanitation jobs:

Cleaning and sanitation jobs are well known to be high paying jobs due to the nature of the work, but this may not be an option for many people due to sanitation concerns. With a low number of cleaning and sanitation workforce available, the jobs automatically deliver a higher minimum hourly wage making them an option for international students looking to maximize their income within the regulated weekly hourly limits.



Handyman jobs – physical straining work:

Handyman jobs also pay high minimum hourly rates due to the physical labour and efforts required to perform these jobs. There is a wide variety of handy positions available in Australia including warehouse personal, farm, agriculture and animal husbandry helps among more. These jobs mainly require an individual to perform physically strenuous and tiring work resulting in most international students avoiding such employment.



Delivery and taxi Cab driver jobs:

Many students opt for delivery and taxi cab driver jobs mainly due to them being commonly available but this results in these jobs generating lower weekly income due to the high number of international students waiting for these jobs.

TotalAssignment Affiliate Program:

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Tips international students can use to maximize income

To generate maximum income from your efforts, international students need to establish their priorities and remain open to better opportunities.

Review added income opportunities:

While searching for jobs, remain calm and review your opportunities rather than committing to the first opportunity that presents itself. Make a list of available high paying jobs and attend the interviews. Don't commit to the first job you are hired to and make sure you visit the other jobs before making a final decision that considers the highest pay and least efforts required. If you opt to be a sales representative, find high demand products like renewable energy which is observing a rising interest among consumers. High consumer interest automatically increases sales which in turn increases the incentives and commissions.

Odd jobs pay big:

Don't merely shun a job opportunity due to its nature as some jobs will deliver high remunerations as opposed to others, making them a viable option to consider. While cleaning and sanitation may not be your cup of tea, there are many other handy jobs like house painting, woodwork and gardening that may be of interest. While considering your option relating to physically enduring jobs, look at the bright side, you would be earning while getting physical work out, which is also good for your health.

So international students in Australia need to assess their job opportunities and select jobs based on the best criteria as opposed to accepting the first opportunity that presents itself. Being aware of all available opportunities and choosing wisely as opposed to focusing on increasing working hours as this will ensure you generate high weekly income and remain within your legal immigration obligations.

How Can International Students Find Cheap Rental Accommodation In Melbourne?



A significant problem international student's face immediately after immigrating to Australia for higher education is rental accommodation costs. Finding Cheap Rental Accommodation in Melbourne is not easy and you need to develop some skills to locate the cheaper rental. Rental accommodation in Melbourne will range anywhere from \$250 to \$1000 depending on the locality you choose. For a student visiting Melbourne for the first time, this is a heavy price to pay, considering they are students and most likely do not have an income source. It is

therefore essential to understand some basic tips linked to rental accommodation and how you can reduce rental costs in Melbourne.

Location

The first point you need to focus on while searching for Cheap Rental Accommodation in Melbourne or considering your rental accommodation options is the location of the rental property. Properties located in the central suburbs will be considerably costlier than those situated in outer suburbs. Well, we all know there are multiple factors to consider for young students while selecting the accommodation as shall be discussed below:



Entertainment

If you are a party goer and like visiting, pubs and restaurants after classes than suburb accommodations are the best option. Outer suburb accommodation tend to be in quiet residential areas with little nightlife, but this also comes at a cost as you would be required to pay no less than \$250 per week for rental. If you prefer

a quiet life than the outer suburbs offer a cheaper and quieter option. Here you can get Cheap Rental Accommodation in Melbourne for \$150 per week but would likely be required to abide by strict residential society guidelines.



Transportation

Living in the suburbs will reduce your transportation costs and time considerably as you would be living much closer to your university, college and workplace. It helps minimise commuting time, thus allowing you to move from one institution to the next without overexerting your body physically. For individuals who don't mind spending 25-30 minutes extra travelling home, the outer suburbs are a preferred choice. It is important to remember that outer suburbs also increase transportation costs in addition to time but allow you to live in a more pleasant residential surrounding with friendly community members.



Type of Accommodation

A major mistake many international students make while searching for Cheap Rental Accommodation in Melbourne is limiting themselves to the traditional rental accommodation like houses and flats. Look out of the box if you intend on saving some money and keep a lookout for alternative accommodation options. Many property owners today have converted their attics and garages into small cosy rooms perfect for single individuals. More importantly, they offer this alternative rental accommodation considerably cheaper than standard rental housing. If you are searching for low-cost accommodation, you must keep your options open while searching and be prepared to occupy these unconventional rooms which cost less than \$100 per week.



Weekly Rental includes bills

Also, keep in mind while searching for rental accommodation if the utility bills have been included or excluded to the rent. It will help if you remain mindful of four main bill charges, including electricity, water, gas and internet. These are essential utilities that should be included in the weekly or monthly bills, thus helping reduce the expenses you incur while renting accommodation. Most independent rooms or housing would require you to pay the bills separately, thus increasing the rental costs. So if you are looking for low-cost rental accommodation, opt for the outer suburbs and target different shelters such as attic's and converted garages which tend to be Cheap Rental Accommodation in Melbourne and mostly include the utility bill charges.



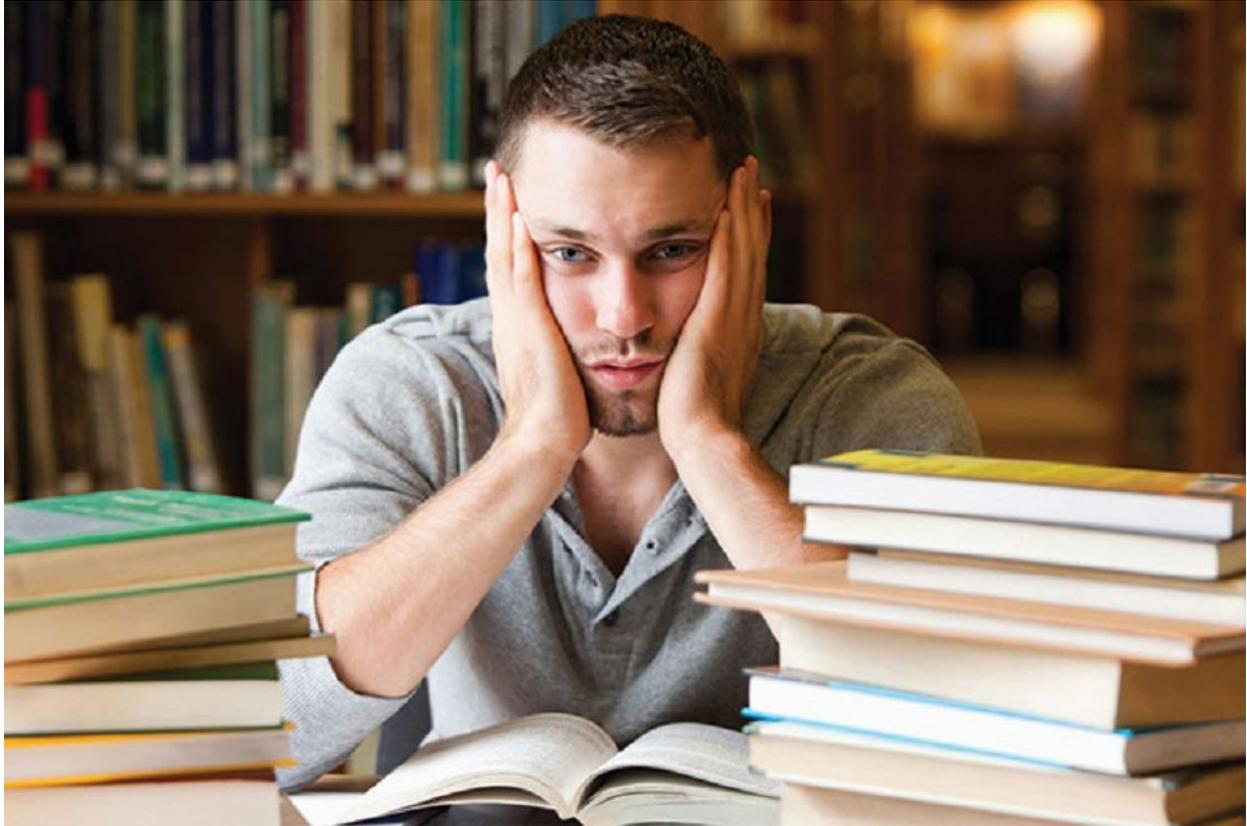
Sharing/ Roommates

Now that you have decided on the type and costs, you can turn your attention to locating a roommate to reduce the rental accommodation costs further. The number of roommates you opt for will depend on the room size, but two roommates is an ideal number to consider. Merely adding a roommate would help you further slash your rental accommodation costs by 50%, thus reducing your weekly rent to \$50-\$75 per week, which is considerably affordable for international students looking for Cheap Rental Accommodation in Melbourne.

So consider using the above tips to help you select the right rental accommodation that is affordable and best suits your needs. It is especially crucial for new Melbourne residents who have limited income and finances and running

on low budgets. Once you become stable and secure a job and pay, you can reconsider your option to select one that best suits your routine and budget.

3 Mistakes I Made While Studying In Australia



We hereby believe that you have made up your mind if you wish to go for studying in Australia to pursue your academic course. Before initiating your course abroad, you should be aware of some misunderstandings and risks that may even affect the outcome of your grades. We have collected feedback from the students who have completed their masters and are now applying for better jobs in the country. It has been observed in most of the cases that three factors hampered the international students from attaining their desired goals. We have considered our research by placing ourselves on the same page as that of an international student in Australia. You could take into account these factors and avoid them beforehand for the effortless commencement of the academic course. This article would also be beneficial for international students who are already pursuing their academic courses in Australia.



Poor Networking

The former and major mistake that the international students commit while studying in Australia is making a small cluster and limiting their communication in that cluster itself. Proper networking should be maintained with people who retain higher academic brilliance in the same stream. The benefit in the wake of having a strong network while pursuing an academic career is uncontested. The significance of the same would increase if the student is from an international background. Having even a decent network would help the student in receiving academic help from colleagues, augmenting professional growth, bettering communication skills, etc.

Lacking a good network would keep the international students on the bay from language and cultural diversities. The ignorance regarding this field would

negatively impact on their ambition to find a good job in Australia. Proper communication would diminish the impact of culture shock on international students.

How to overcome this mistake committed by a student while studying in Australia?

In the modern era, it is the social media which would reflect the basic interest of a person. Designing the social media profile with academic interests would help you in creating the right network for your academic growth. One of the best platforms for this task is using LinkedIn services.

The network could be further strengthened up by taking part in the alumni meetups and hence interacting with them.

Like you, there would be other international students studying in the same university. Try to widen your linguistic prospects so that such students could also be included in your vast network. Try to have a better hold over the local language, it would surely help you in multiple prospects.

The best unit in your network which would benefit you the most would be your professors. Their experience in the related academic field is priceless and acquiring even a fragment of their knowledge would help you in finding an appropriate job. To maintain a good working relationship with your tutors, the student must regularly interact in the class.

We understand that it is very hard to maintain a proper network for an international student since he would be busy with his assignment, examinations, presentations, part-time jobs, etc. Apart from social websites like LinkedIn, the student could also use apps like Meetup which would help in building frivolous friendships and networks.



Abstaining yourselves from public competitions

The international student studying in Australia has been observed to be too shy and the same had abstained from the activities which would attract the attention of others. Only relying on the academic examination for checking their personal advancement in a particular subject would be a little riskier. By taking part in public competitions, the student could regularly check the level of knowledge they have acquired through the course.

By taking part in the competitions, students could develop a better understanding of the team effort and its significance in a corporate environment. The ability to taking crucial decisions in difficult situations, discrimination in between good and bad choices, etc could be developed by taking part regularly in the competitions. If you refer to the top-class universities all over the world, it is the regular participation in the competitions that had paved the way for the emergence of academic heroes.

How to overcome it?

At the initial stage of your academic career while studying in Australia, try to build healthy competition among your colleagues. This would inspire a competitive spirit in you that would surely help in the learning process. The student should keep in mind that it is only the competitive approach that would bring out the best performer in him.

You should be clear with your friends or colleagues about the decision you have made about competitive performance. The active competition from the counterpart would encourage you to perform better than you usually do. Though it should be noted that the level of the contest should only be limited to a healthy level.

You should understand that the real competitor is no other person but you. The sole aim should not be to win against another person, it should be to increase the level of your performance.

The same excuse of lack in time could be used to abstain from the competition that could be used by the students. But they should understand that achieving the academic brilliance would be very difficult without it. The experience of winning competitions could be included in your resume for a better job. Acquiring an upper hand on the learning subjects over others is far easier by active participation in the competitions. The development of extra skills at the personal level would always be an asset and it would surely help him in his professional career.



Poor balance between the personal and academic life

It is only through following the busy schedule even from the academic career that the students could find a way to balance both their personal and professional life in the future. While pursuing his academic career, a student has to play different roles, which are that of a friend, a classmate, a partner, a leader, a subordinate, etc. It is quite often that the student may face some psychological barriers while commencing these roles. In their academic course, the students are expected to display a very high level of critical reasoning abilities with their surroundings. If he would fail in balancing these factors, the direct impact on the overall academic grades could be observed.

It has been majorly observed in the international students that they provide much more importance to their academic life as compared to the personal aspects. The

students may even perceive it rubbish to maintain a healthy relationship with their colleagues while studying in Australia.

The higher concentration on the academic perspective would sabotage their relationships and consequently decrease their support from the network. For the psychological well-being and the regular maintenance of the network, a balance between the personal and professional life is crucial.

How to overcome it?

Conducting your studies in the public libraries with your friends would help in spending time on both your studies and friends simultaneously. The group studies would help in the transfer of useful ideas and provide the students with easy access to academic aids.

Effective time management is another tool that you could use in balancing both your personal and academic life. Get used to using the time management tool, the same would get effective in meeting the tight deadlines in the future.

You should prepare a list of goals and set them according to your priorities. The clarity in the goals would help you in saving a significant amount of time.

Don't let your personal quarrels with friends or roommates affect your academic routine. The students are expected to be very proactive in their classes.

Six Things To Know Before Moving To Australia



We have received many inquiries from students on what precautions and other essential things to know before moving to Australia. First of all, we like to congratulate all the students whose applications are verified for an educational visa in Australia. This blog would be quite helpful for the students who have just created an imprecise idea of Australia via visual media and social platforms.

It is a common perception that the continent of Australia is full of beautiful beaches and the climate is considered to be a perfect tropical one. In the visual media, Australians are always being displayed as enjoying the beautiful beaches while engaging themselves in activities like paragliding and surfing.

But the reality is far different from the displayed representation. Australia is a huge country and the perception regarding it varies for different locations. If the area of Australia is taken into account, it covers around 3/4th of the surface area of Europe. The major cities like Perth and Sydney are 3934 kilometers apart, which is approximately the distance between Ukraine and Portugal (far apart countries in Europe). This helps to give you an idea of the size of Australia.



Huge gap in the weather

It is mostly the students from Indian subcontinent, who have raised the queries regarding this issue. There are very few fluctuations in the weather of Indian subcontinent throughout the year. The scenario is much different in Australia, you could observe the scorching heat of 42 degree Celsius and freezing temperature of 3 degree Celsius round the year at the same place.

In the cities of Melbourne and Sydney, the winter becomes unbearable and this is one of the things to know before moving to Australia. Hence the students should consider jackets and winter wears as a precaution before traveling to these cities in winter. The winter is generally observed in the months from June to August in Australia, which is quite opposite to the weather of the countries situated in the northern hemisphere. The weather in Australia alters suddenly and hence it is very hard to predict it. It is very hard to say whether you should consider a coat or an umbrella while leaving home the next day.

The temperature of 42 degree Celsius could be perceived as a very minor issue by the students from the Indian subcontinent since they experience the same heat every summer in their native place. But it should be understood that the weather conditions in Australia are intense and different from that of the Indian subcontinent. You may suffer sunburn even at the temperature between 30 to 35 degree Celsius.

It was in recent news that the heat waves in Sydney have resulted in the melting down of tarmac roads and caused substantial loss to the wildlife. The scientific study has shown that the ozone layer above Australia is extremely thin which leads to the direct exposure of UV rays.



Dangerous insects and animals

There are a vast number of freely wandering organisms in Australia that has the potential to kill you. The students from the Indian subcontinent may consider it a trivial factor since they would have already witnessed elephants, cows, camels, etc. on their local streets. But the range of venomous organisms you have to deal with in Australia is entirely different.

You may encounter poisonous spiders that may creep into your room and hide in concealed places like shelves, boots, clothes, etc. Everything should be shaken and properly checked before its use. The continent is full of venomous reptiles and insects and it is highly recommended to take high precautions before visiting the woods.

Even a harmless-looking koala could infect you with chlamydia. Though the animals like kangaroos are portrayed as very special and calm beings in visual media, they are perceived as the regular trouble makers in farmlands.



Local Slangs

Though the official language of Australia is English, the presence of local dialects makes it very hard to understand it. Even a person with excellent knowledge in English communication would get confused in Australia. Some terms and dialects in Australia are very confusing if compared with the English followed in both USA and UK and it is also one of the things to know before moving to Australia. Every dialect resembles the nickname for the respective English words.

The nicknames are generally created by chopping the syllables of the words into half, following the addition of 'y' or 'o' in the end. We have listed down some of the Australian dialects in the below section for your convenience.

- **Doona – Comforter**
- **Servo – Gas station**
- **Manchester – Bedsheets**
- **Mozzy – Mosquitoes**
- **No worries – You are welcome**
- **Thongs – Flip flops**
- **Arvo – Afternoon**
- **Tinny – Beercan**
- **Firie – Firefighter**
- **Bottle-o – Beverage shops**



High cost of living

Australia is a well-developed country and the per capita income of the population is very high. The lower margin of wages (almost \$20 an hour) is much higher for Australia if compared to that of other western countries. By the dint of high spending capacity, the daily cost affairs are very high in Australia.

Especially if the person is from the Indian subcontinent, he would find it very costly to meet his basic daily requirements. Even a simple breakfast costs 20 dollars in Australia (no need to mention the price of basic beverages like coffee which costs \$5). A person requires comparatively huge revenue to carry out basic activities like traveling and commuting, medical care, housing, etc.

Existence of casual racism

The delivery of casual racist jokes is not such a serious matter in the Australian community. You should be prepared for it and such jokes should not be treated with surprise or anger. It is one of the essential things to know before moving to Australia. It is just casual racism and there is no violence or intent of malice entailed in it. Australia is a multicultural country and is well known for its respect for diversity.

Hence, we recommend our students to not feel humiliated or isolated while facing such casual racism. Try to control the build-up of negative emotions and focus your sole target of career building.

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