



NEW STUDENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

HILLS CAMPUS



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New Student Information Booklet: Hills Campus

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GETTING SET UP

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WHAT TO DO NOW?

There are many important things for you to consider before you leave home. To make this transition as smooth as possible for you, we have included a checklist below:

Make sure you have a passport AND that your passport is valid for the length of time you'll be studying in Australia.

Apply for a Student Visa: a Student Visa (500) can be applied for through the Department of Immigration, please see their website [here](#).

Apply for Student Accommodation through Hillsong College OR arrange private accommodation.

Book and confirm flights to Sydney (Kingsford Smith Sydney International Airport code is SYD). You may want to consider getting travel insurance.

Set up a credit card or a debit card with a MasterCard or Visa function. Make sure you check with your bank to ensure that you can easily access your account from Australia.

Check customs and quarantine regulations.

Read through the Student Handbook available on the Hillsong College website at www.hillsong.com/college under College Life.

Learn about Australia and Sydney (some information included in this document).

It is a good idea to have a thorough medical check-up before you leave home. It may also be required for you (and your family, if they are coming with you) to satisfy visa requirements.

Visit your dentist and have any necessary dental work carried out before you leave for Australia. Also have your eyes checked and obtain contact lenses or glasses if you need them. Consider bringing a spare pair of glasses or contact lenses in case you need them. All these are advisable because dental and optical costs are expensive in Australia.

THINGS TO PACK

Many of the items you will need during your stay are available in Australia, however, the cost may be higher than in your home country. It is therefore worth doing some sensible packing and planning ahead to have enough money to get settled.

Official documents (it's also a good idea to keep a spare copy of all official documents in a different part of your luggage and to leave one at home).

Items from home including photos, recipes, music and any of your favourite things to remind you of home. It's also a good idea to bring favourite lollies (in other words, candy) or food items (just be sure to check that Customs will allow you to bring them in the country).

Clothing: Sydney's weather can be varied, with cooler winters and hot summers. The temperature ranges from 10°C (50°F) – 35°C (95°F) through the year. Layered clothing works well in the Sydney climate. Definitely pack both winter and summer clothes as Sydney weather isn't always warm and sunny!

Adaptor plugs: 240VAC 50Hz. The Australian three-pin outlet is different from most countries, so you may need to purchase adaptor plugs for any electrical appliances (e.g. Laptop). Electricity and adaptor plugs are readily available at most travel shops and department stores in Australia.

Instruments: We recommend that you bring your own when it is easily transportable, for example a guitar, bass, drumsticks, practice pad or perhaps even things like cymbals or a key-board; however pedals, amps and other electrical gear can be purchased in Australia.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Passport

Identification papers such as birth certificate, proof of citizenship, valid driver's license and credit cards are vital. If you don't want to bring originals make sure you have certified (notarized) copies.

Bring original copies of your academic history including transcripts, and educational and work qualifications as well as course outlines if you are seeking credit for previous studies. (Please refer to our RPL Policy in the Student Handbook online for full RPL details).

An up-to-date resume/CV and previous employer references in English as these will be useful for finding a job if you need one.

A copy of your Offer of Place letter, CoE, travel itineraries and any other important correspondence from the College, DIBP, or your travel agent.

If you plan to drive while in Australia, make sure you have a valid driver's license from your home country. It is also useful, if you're studying for longer than one year, to obtain an International Driver's License before you leave home. (For more information you can do to www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

Medical and Immunisation records (particularly if you've had medical conditions in the past).

If you're travelling with your spouse or children, include your marriage certificate and/or children's immunisation and school records as appropriate.

HELPFUL HINT

Unsure of what you can and cannot bring to Australia?

Check out:

www.customs.gov.au

www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/travel

STUDENT VISA INFORMATION

You can generally apply for your Student Visa within four months of the course starting (some countries even earlier). We recommend that you apply as soon as you are able to, taking into consideration medical examinations and processing time. Online applications can be done within 93 days of the enrolment date.

To help you through the process of applying for your Student Visa, you can go to www.immi.gov.au/students. This is the website for the Department of Immigration & Border Protection in Australia (DIBP).

This will show you the requirements you must meet in order to be granted a Student Visa for Australia. The requirements for Student Visas vary according to the course you will be studying and the country you are from (each country has an "Assessment Level").

Hillsong College is a Vocational Education & Training (VET) College, which is Subclass 500 for the purpose of applying for your Student Visa.

When you apply for a visa outside of Australia, your application is handled by the Australia Diplomatic Mission (Embassy, High Commission, Consulate or Consulate General) in your home country. After you arrive in Australia, all issues relating to your Student Visa are handled by DIBP.

You can obtain a checklist on what you will need to get your visa at the following website: www.immi.gov.au/students/checklists. The following is a list of things that you may need to do:

Medical Examinations/X-Rays: As a part of your Student Visa application, you may be asked to take a Medical Examination and X-Rays which require a separate set of forms to be completed.

Note: Your personal physician may not be on the list of qualified doctors so please check with Immigration for a list of qualified Visa Examination doctors.

Financial: You will need to show Immigration that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during your time in Australia. The amount that you need to show you need to show varies from country to country, so please refer to your Checklist for further details.

English: If English is your second language, you may be asked to provide evidence of your English capabilities in the form of an IELTS exam. You will need to have achieved a minimum score of 5.5 on the General Test.

International students can work a maximum of 20 hours per week while the course is in session and full-time during the holiday periods. Permission for an international student to work in Australia is attached to a Student Visa unless otherwise specified. Apply for a 1, 2 or 3 year visa. You will need to pay sufficient overseas student health cover to match the length of your visa. It's a good idea to apply now for a two or three year visa if you are considering doing more than one year at college. This will save you time and money as you will have to complete the whole visa process again should you decide to stay.

(Please note: There would not be any reimbursement from DIBP if you do not stay the length of your visa). The only additional cost incurred is the additional years of OSHC that must be paid upfront. Any unused portion of OSHC is refundable should you decide to finish the course and depart from Australia earlier than intended.

OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER (OSHC)

OSHC is medical insurance to cover you (and any accompanying family members) for medical and hospital costs while you're in Australia.

While you may have health insurance willing to cover you while studying overseas, it's a condition of your Student Visa that you have OSHC provided by a government approved OSHC provider. Hillsong College's provider is NIB. Information on what's covered by NIB can be found at www.nib.com.au under Overseas Students.

Please also refer to the Medical Fact Sheet included in this document for more information.



ARRIVING IN SYDNEY

ARRIVING IN SYDNEY
TRANSPORT FROM AIRPORT
CULTURE SHOCK AND HOMESICKNESS
REMEMBER TO CONTACT HOME
ACCOMMODATION Q&A



ARRIVING IN SYDNEY

On the plane you will be given an Incoming Passenger Card and a Traveller's Statement to complete. You will need to have these and your passport ready as you go through Immigration and Customs.

Once you get off the plane, you will have the chance to make last-minute duty free purchases before making your way to Immigration. It would be useful for you to pick up a copy of the 'Sydney International Airport Arrivals Guide', which contains helpful information for any newcomer to Sydney. Copies are usually available on stands in the corridors as you move towards Immigration.

Immigration

At the Immigration checkpoint, you will have your passport and Incoming Passenger Card checked and stamped. Your Incoming Passenger Card will ask you what address you will be staying at. If you do not know your residential address, you can write in the Campus Address found on page 24. You then move on to collect your luggage.

Luggage Collection

The number of the carousel where luggage from your flight will be unloaded is usually announced as you get off the plane. The flight numbers of planes are also put up on screens near the carousels. Once you have collected your luggage, head toward Customs. If your luggage does not arrive on the flight, you should report this to an airline representative and provide your contact details so that your luggage can be tracked down and forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Note: *Worship Music students bringing instruments will need to check airline requirements for baggage allowances prior to departure. There may be additional costs for oversized baggage.*

Customs and Quarantine

The Australian Customs and Service acts as the 'gatekeeper' for all visitors and returning residents to the country. You and your entire luggage must be cleared by Customs when you arrive in Australia and it may be searched. It is your responsibility to declare any goods by completing the Travellers' Statement and giving it to Customs. If you have no items to declare, you can exit through the green pathway. If you do have items to declare, you will need to go through the red pathway.

TRANSPORT FROM AIRPORT

As the Hills Campus is a bit of a drive from the airport, it is most convenient for students to arrange a shuttle through the College Accommodation team. Upon applying for College Housing, you will be able to note this request and book your shuttle along with your Accommodation Application. If you are choosing to find your own accommodation outside of College Housing, we will provide you with the campus address and contact details for taxi or shuttle companies to assist you.

CULTURE SHOCK AND HOME SICKNESS

Prepare yourself mentally and emotionally.

In the rush of dealing with practical matters – visas, tickets, documents, money – do not forget to allow yourself time

to prepare emotionally and mentally for the experience ahead of you.

For most students, even those who have lived and studied abroad before, a move to a new culture and new education system will involve a period of transition and adjustment. Being away from home can result in feelings of sadness or loneliness. However, if you know what to expect you will find it easier to cope. There are usually three stages of change:

At first, there is often a period of excitement when preparing for your departure. Saying goodbye to family and friends is a little sad, but the sadness is masked by the anticipation of living abroad. The first few days in the new country can be exciting and overwhelming all at once.

As the excitement wears off, you may begin to notice the differences between Australia and home. You may start to miss the life you are used to, and may start to feel lonely or isolated. It is not uncommon for students to feel quite unsure and wonder if they have made mistake moving to Australia.

Then, as time passes and classes begin, you will meet people, make friends, become familiar with the way of life and you will find yourself feeling more at home.

You can make this transition more easily if you remember that changes in your emotional state are a normal reaction to the major life changes. Adequate preparation will help you adjust. It may help to bring some favourite items with you from home – something that has special importance to you.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT HOME

To call out of Australia dial:

0011-(country code)-(area code)-(phone number).

If you wish to arrive before College Accommodation opens, you will need to arrange for your own stay in a hotel or hostel. A great website to look at hotels is www.wotif.com.au; a good hostel in the heart of Sydney is Wake Up www.wakeup.com.au

ACCOMMODATION Q&A

Q: What is the Application Fee?

A: This is a fee collected by the College as part of the initial application process. It covers the administration costs associated with processing applications for enrolment.

Q: What is the Accommodation Application Fee?

A: The Accommodation Application fee is collected by the College to secure accommodation on behalf of the students.

Q: How much will my rent/living expenses be?

A: The College recommends that students budget between AU\$300-\$400 per week for living expenses including rent, bills and food.

Q: Should I bring money with me?

A: It is a good idea to have some AU\$ to get you through the first few weeks in Australia. You can change money at the Sydney Airport if you do not want to travel with cash. We would recommend having \$400 - \$500 in AU\$ so that you can buy goods etc. when you arrive. Also, check with your bank/credit card company BEFORE you leave - find out what your daily withdrawal limit is, ensure that you will be able to use your card in Australia and that there are no international restrictions on your accounts.

Q: Who will meet me when I get to College?

A: The College has a "Welcome Team" that will meet you when you arrive and generally arrange to take you to the grocery store or shopping centre so you can buy anything you need. They will also take you to your house/apartment and help you get settled. After hours and weekend arrivals will be taken directly to accommodation.

Q: Do I have to pay a Bond or Deposit?

A: The College leases unfurnished apartments, townhouses and houses on behalf of students and is required to pay a Rental Bond, based on 4 weeks rent, to the NSW Department of Fair Trading as well as 2 weeks advance rent to the Real Estate Agent.

Students moving into Hillsong College Accommodation are required to pay a non-refundable AUD\$250 Utility/Maintenance Deposit

which is used to cover part of the final electricity, gas and water bills at the end of the student's tenancy, plus any maintenance and re-painting, gardens and garbage removal at the end of the tenancy.

Please keep in mind that excessive damages will be billed to the students responsible.

Q: Will I have to connect the Utilities?

A: The College arranges for electricity and gas connections with the utility companies, on behalf of the students. Water bills are sent to the College by the landlord. Utility and water bills will be paid by the students on a pro-rated basis and payment is made in the same way that rent is paid.

Q: Will I have to arrange internet and phone connections?

A: The College does not arrange anything in relation to internet or phone connections. It is up to the individual students to arrange.

Q: Do I have to share a room?

A: The majority of our rooms are shared. Please note that we do have a number of single rooms, however, we cannot allocate students to those single rooms as we leave it up to students within each household to determine who will be in what room.

Q: Will I need to buy furniture?

A: College Accommodation is offered on an unfurnished basis. Furniture is often donated to the College, which in turn is distributed to College houses. Please be aware that this does not generally make up everything you will need in the house and the cost of additional furnishing is the shared responsibility of the household. The College can direct you to the best available local retailers to purchase furniture and household items.

Q: Can I live with a church family?

A: The College does not provide home-stay style accommodation.

Q: Which airport do I fly into?

A: Sydney Airport (also known as the Kingsford Smith Sydney International Airport).



ORIENTATION AND ENROLMENT

ORIENTATION AND ENROLMENT
CREDIT TRANSFER AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING
WHAT WILL I NEED FOR MY COURSE?
INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN



ORIENTATION AND ENROLMENT

Orientation and Enrolment is an exciting time where you will be introduced to life at Hillsong College! Attendance is mandatory for all new students.

Enrolment

During Enrolment you will confirm your stream, collect your student ID card, pay any outstanding fees and pay your rent (if applicable). You will also have the opportunity to apply for a Credit Transfer or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Please note that we do not accept cash payments. A Late Enrolment Fee of \$250.00 AUD applies to students who do not arrive on time (9am) for the first day of Enrolment and Orientation and enrol on the specified date.

Orientation

At Orientation you will be introduced to College personnel, Australian and Hillsong culture and other helpful information to assist you during your time at College. You'll need to bring a Bible, notebook, pen, water bottle and lunch. There are shops and cafes within walking distance of both campuses if you would like to purchase lunch.

Evaluation Day

At Hillsong College we focus on equipping you to use your artistic gifting to minister to the global Church. We seek to empower you to use your leadership capabilities excellently for God. For our students in our Creative Streams (Worship Music/TV&Media/Dance) we need to know the current level of your ability in order to determine how we can offer the best possible support for you. During the week of Enrolment and Orientation, we hold an Evaluation Day to help us find the right placement for you to grow. Please see the Evaluation Day information pack that will be sent to you near Enrolment Day for more detail.

CREDIT TRANSFER AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Hillsong International Leadership College is committed to the recognition of students' prior learning and provides advanced standing in courses for competencies already held by students whether gained by previous studies as well as work or life experience.

Credit Transfer is a process that provides credit for a subject successfully completed with a government-accredited institution. Recognition will be granted based on the official documentation you will be required to present as well as the degree of equivalence of your previous studies with the current course offered by our college.

Recognition of Prior Learning (or RPL) is for students who have gained their skills and knowledge through unaccredited studies, work or life experience. If you consider yourself as having met the learning and knowledge requirements needed to satisfy the Learning Outcome and Assessment Criteria in any subjects in our courses, please bring to Enrolment as many forms of evidence as possible in support of your RPL claim.

If you are interested in applying for Credit Transfer or Recognition of Prior Learning and would like more information, including acceptable forms of evidence, please email admissions@hillsong.com.

WHAT WILL I NEED FOR MY COURSE?

Textbooks

As a part of your studies we recommend that you can bring a NIV Student Bible. Any other textbooks are available for students in the College Library and class materials are provided on our Student Portal.

Computer and Software

While it isn't required for you to have a laptop, it would be incredibly useful for you in completing the course, particularly for the Worship Music Stream. The program Garageband (Mac) is used in the Worship Music Stream and students may want to familiarise themselves with this program before arrival.

Stationery

You will need to have notebooks and pens, however, these can be purchased once you arrive in Australia.

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Dependent children of school age (5 – 18 years) must be enrolled in either a government public school or a private school during your stay in Australia.

Schools

In Australia, children attend primary school (Years K – 6) and secondary school (Years 7 – 12).

School education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 18 years. Where you live in Sydney determines the school your child can attend. Once you have found permanent accommodation, you should enrol your child at school. For all details contact the NSW Department of Education and Training.

The state education system (i.e. government schools) is mostly co-educational (boys and girls together). It is not always possible to arrange enrolment at a boys only or girls only school as there is often a waiting list at these schools. If you are interested in a single-sex school for your children, you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after you arrive.

If you are intending to bring school age children with you, you should be aware that you will need to pay fees for primary and/ or second schooling.

You can visit: www.decinternational.nsw.edu.au/study/schools/temporary-residents or www.schools.nsw.gov.au for more details.



COLLEGE INFORMATION

COLLEGE INFORMATION
SERVING



COLLEGE INFORMATION

Clothing/Dress Code

You will find most people in Australia prefer to dress casually, even on campus. Suits and formal wear are usually worn only for work and formal functions such as graduations, formal dinners or ceremonies. While dress or smart clothing can be expensive in Australia, casual clothing – as well as bed linen, towels and the like – can be reasonably priced. In summer, most people wear T-shirts, loose shirts or blouses, skirts, shorts or lightweight trousers with open toe shoes such as sandals. The weather can sometimes change suddenly and evenings are often cooler than daytime, so if you are out for the day bring a lightweight jumper. If you want to go to the beach or swimming pools, bring appropriate swimming items with you.

Sydney usually has mild winters. Often you will be quite comfortable in jeans, running shoes, a shirt or T-shirt and a warm jacket. There are some cold and wet days in winter when you may need wool scarves, gloves, jumpers, waterproof jackets, winter coats, warm socks and waterproof shoes. Also, most houses are not centrally heated. We do ask that students dress in a “smart-casual” manner, keeping in mind that you will often be around our Senior Pastors and their guests (as church and college run in the same buildings). There are a number of times throughout the year when you will be required to dress in a specific manner, as follows:

College Hours

As a guide, we suggest that students dress to the same standard they would at a Sunday night church service. During College hours dress can include jeans (though no ripped items of clothing are permitted), skirts, training shoes/sneakers, etc. Strapless tops, short skirts/shorts are not permitted to be worn during College. Any student that is dressed immodestly may be asked to change into more appropriate attire by College Staff /Head Students.

Weekend Services

Students are asked to dress respectably during their involvement in weekend services. For example, smart shirts and pants/trousers.

Conferences and Events

During your time at College you will be involved in the various conferences and events hosted by Hillsong Church, including Hillsong Conference, Colour Conference and our live album recording. During these events you are likely to need black pants/skirt and smarter clothes. We would also recommend that you have comfortable, black shoes. Students who are rostered onto Security or Senior Pastors/Guest Hospitality will be required to dress to a higher standard.

Graduation

At the end of the year (around November), College hosts a Graduation Ball for all of current students to attend. This is a formal event where men normally wear a suit and tie and women can wear a formal attire.

SERVING

As students are in training for church ministry and leadership, serving within weekly and weekend ministries is a central part of the College curriculum. These form an integral part of the Leadership subjects at all levels. If you are new to Sydney, you are expected to make Hillsong Church, either City or Hills, your home church. For those who attend Hillsong Church whilst studying, there are three criteria you need to fulfil to meet your course requirements in this area:

Criteria 1 // Serve in a Weekly Ministry. Hillsong Church has ministries that run throughout the week. Students are involved in a breadth of these areas each week as allocated by Hillsong College.

Criteria 2 // Serve in two individual Weekend Services each weekend. Whilst fulfilling the first criteria, you also need to serve in two individual services over the weekend. These are also allocated for students by the College team.

Criteria 3 // Be present during the worship and preaching in one service each weekend. In fulfilling the first two criteria, you need to attend one of the weekend services, engaging in worship and receiving the sermon. If you already attend a local church in the Sydney Metropolitan area, we would encourage you to remain and become actively involved in that church. The same guidelines outlined above will apply. Please note that there may be times throughout the College calendar that you will be required to be at Hillsong Church (for College related activities).

Worship Music Students

For Worship Music students who may be on the platform during weekend services, the following applies:

Sunday Morning Services

Shirts/ Must be elbow length or longer and not tight fitting, low cut or too short (showing skin).

Shirts can be collared or non-collared.

Shoes/ Clean, black and closed toe.

Pants/ Tailored black pants, not tight fitting, too low cut, showing flesh or underwear.

Skirts/ Anything above the knee must have leggings underneath.

Sunday Night services

Shirts/ Sleeves can be slightly short, but no singlet tops. Tops must cover shoulders.

Shoes/ Stylish, clean, closed toe (no thongs/ flip flops).

Pants/ Tailored black pants, not tight fitting, too low cut, showing flesh or underwear.

Jeans must be clean with no tears.

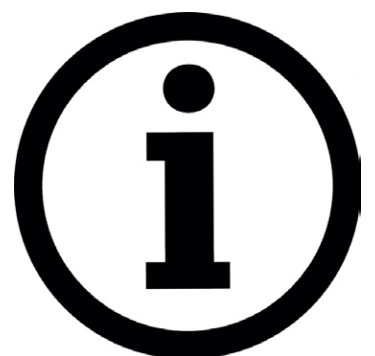
Skirts/ Anything above the knee must have leggings underneath.

Layering is good, we love layers! Also, accessories are great! Wear them, but please no facial piercings.



USEFUL INFORMATION

LOCAL SHOPPING MALLS / MONEY / BUYING A CAR
PUBLIC TRANSPORT / WEATHER / BANKS
MOBILE PHONES / MEDICAL CENTRES



LOCAL SHOPPING MALLS

Local Shopping Malls

Castle Towers Shopping Centre
Rouse Hill Town Centre

Grocery Stores

Coles // 4 Century Circuit, Bella Vista
Food Works // 107 Bella Vista Drive, Bella Vista
Woolworths // 60 Glenwood Park Drive, Glenwood

Furniture Stores

Ikea // 1 Hollinsworth Rd, Marsden Park
Fantastic Furniture // 12/6 Victoria Ave, Castle Hill

Shops to buy household items

Kmart, Target, Big W and Reject Shop

MONEY

Australia has decimal currency with 100 cents to the dollar. Australian bank note denominations are \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5, and coins are \$2, \$1, 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. The exchange rate for the Australian dollar (AUD) is a floating rate based on the foreign exchange market.

How much should I carry?

It is advisable to have some money for immediate use when you arrive in Sydney. You will need to pay for transport from the airport, as well as accommodation, food, telephone calls, postage and other expenses. You should bring at least AUD \$400 – \$500 in cash and have easy access to at least \$1,200 more (e.g. a credit/debit card, or in AUD traveller's cheques). Do not bring all your funds in one cheque that needs to be cashed at a bank. It can take several weeks for cheques from some countries to be cleared for cashing by the banks here. This could leave you in a difficult situation with no money for accommodation or other necessities.

What if I am sending items to Australia?

If you send items to Australia by post or a freight service, they will need to be cleared by Australian Customs. You can clear the goods yourself or have a nominated person, such as a relative or Customs broker, do it for you.

You will need to complete an 'Unaccompanied Effects Statement' (available from all Australian Customs offices and Customs brokers) and produce your passport and a detailed packing list. If you do not use the service of a broker, you should contact the Australian Customs office nearest to the location of the arriving goods to arrange your own clearance. Customs may inspect the goods on arrival in Australia. Duty free concessions will not apply to goods sent in Australia.

BUYING A CAR

There are some legal requirements you need to know if you are buying a car. If buying second-hand, read the information available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au. There is a compulsory annual car registration fee which includes 'third party personal' insurance. This insurance will only cover damage sustained by a person injured in an accident caused by you. It is strongly advisable for you to also take out an extra insurance policy ('comprehensive' insurance) for the car, which will cover any damage to another car or property and also, if you wish, cover for damage to your own car. The financial cost of a car accident without car insurance is very high. You may need to register or re-register your car while in Australia. Cars over three years of age will need an inspection by a registered mechanic before being accepted for registration each year. This is known as a Safety Inspection Report or 'Pink Slip'.

Do I need an international driver's license?

If you are on a student (temporary) visa and have no intention of becoming a permanent resident, you can drive in New South Wales with your driver's license from your home country. You should have the original and a letter (in English) from the licensing authority in your country or the relevant consulate or diplomatic office confirming your license details and status. Whenever you drive in New South Wales you should have documentation (license, copies of a passport and visa) with you. If you take out a NSW driver's license it will no longer be legal for you to use your home country license in NSW. If you intend to visit other countries when returning home, you may want to obtain an international driver's license. You will need to do this in your own country when you return for holidays. You can obtain information from the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) directly on 13 22 13 or visit the website www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Sydney has a public transport card system called an Opal Card, you can purchase one when you arrive at the local store. Most transport still take cash, however you will find the card a lot easier to use.

WEATHER

During the summer, the weather in Sydney can be quite hot and humid, reaching 38°C. The average temperatures in Sydney are:

Summer (Nov – Mar) T: 25°C – 38°C

Autumn (Mar – Jun) T: 15°C – 23°C

Winter (Jun – Aug) T: 8°C – 13°C

Spring (Sept – Nov) T: 18°C – 25°C

BANKS

Here are a few links to the major national banks in Australia. They all offer Student Accounts, so check out which account will be best for you during your time here. Please feel free to check these banks out, but you shouldn't open an account until you get to Australia.

Commonwealth Bank // www.commbank.com.au

St. George // www.stgeorge.com.au

Westpac Bank // www.westpac.com.au

National Australia Bank // www.nab.com.au

MOBILE (CELL) PHONES

To use a mobile phone within Australia you will need to have a handset that accepts SIM Cards as our mobile/cellular networks work exclusively on the SIM card system. If you're bringing a mobile phone with you to Australia, you should check with your local provider in your home country that your mobile phone is unlocked and will accept SIM Cards from other providers. The SIM Card stores all information required to use a mobile phone including the phone number, the plan you are on and any data you store on the SIM (such as phone numbers, photos, etc.). The SIM Card can be removed from one mobile phone and inserted into another phone that is configured to accept the SIM Card and used as normal. The two options for mobile phones in Australia are Pre-Paid and Post-Paid. With Pre-Paid you will need to purchase a mobile phone and then buy credit on your phone in advance simply by buying credit vouchers or paying by credit card over the phone. With Post-Paid you sign up with a provider for a set contract (normally 12, 18 or 24 months) and receive a monthly bill. With this option, you usually get a phone included. SMS (text messaging) is a big part of the Australian culture, and you will find that you need a mobile phone simply for this function!

Mobile phones can also be used to access emails and Internet (depending on the plan and phone you choose).

Here are some of the common providers:

Vodafone // www.vodafone.com.au

Optus // www.optus.com.au

Virgin // www.virginmobile.com.au

Telstra // www.telstra.com.au

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Overseas Health Cover Your overseas health cover care provider is NIB.

www.nib.com.au

Ph: 131 642

Medical Centres

Norwest General Practice

24-32 Lexington Dr, Bella Vista, NSW 2153

Ph: 8824 4716

Opening Hours: Mon – Thurs: 8am – 7pm

Friday: 8am - 6pm

Saturday: 9am – 12pm

Sunday: closed

Norwest Medical Imaging

6 Meridian Pl, Bella Vista, NSW 2153

Ph: 8882 8882

Opening Hours: Mon–Fri: 8am – 5:30pm

Saturday: 8am – 12pm

Sunday: closed

What you need to do:

Phone in when you need to see the doctor. Make an appointment. Remember to bring your NIB card (OSHC) with you to the appointment.

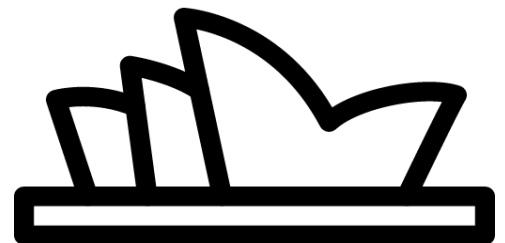
HELPFUL HINT

If you are suffering from mild symptoms, a Pharmacist might be able to help you so that you don't have to go to a doctor. Stores can close earlier than you might be used to, so please be sure to ask or tell someone during the day if you are not well.



AUSTRALIA AND SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA AND SYDNEY
THE SYDNEY LIFESTYLE
TAKE SOME TIME TO ENJOY SYDNEY!



AUSTRALIA AND SYDNEY

Australian people and their customs

When you arrive in Australia you will find many social customs that are different and may seem strange to you. We value equality between people and consider people of different status, wealth, authority and occupation to be equal. People speak politely to each other regardless of the person's status. Men and women are considered equal in society. Australian women in general are independent and expect to be treated as peers by their male colleagues or fellow students. Tasks within a family are shared between children and adults, males and females. We tend to dress quite casually in Australia for most occasions. If more formal dress is required, it will usually be indicated in advance. At Hillsong, you may notice that students and many academic staff dress casually.

The Australian accent

When you first arrive, you will probably find the Australian accent difficult to understand, but you will soon become accustomed to it. Because there are many people in Australia who have non-English speaking background, interpreters are available in health services and hospitals to provide assistance. Government information is also available in many different languages in Australia.

If you do not understand what someone says, it is polite to ask them to repeat it. People will generally speak more clearly if they are aware you are having some difficulty in understanding. You will find that your language skills will develop once you are studying and living in Australia.

Informal Language

Australians are generally informal in how they speak. First names are used early in the relationship. The formal title or family name is used only in very formal situations. You will find that many of the Hillsong lecturers, staff and Pastors will encourage you to use their first name once you have met them.

Joking and teasing

One of the interesting things for a newcomer to Australia is the joking humour which we use. This teasing and joking behaviour is often quite difficult to accept for people from another culture. Language

difficulties can also make understanding the humour difficult. The style of humour is commonly said to be sarcastic.

Directness

Australians are often very frank and open in what they say. If you're from a country where delicacy and consideration are important, you might feel this directness is rude. Australians, however, can be tactful and will try to avoid hurting another person's feelings or causing embarrassment.

Time

Australians value punctuality, and the time arranged for a meeting or get together or meal is the time you are expected to arrive. Being late is considered rude.

Refusing an invitation

It is considered polite in Australia to say directly if you do not want to accept an invitation. When refusing an invitation, Australians will usually explain why, such as having another obligation or not being able to attend for some other reason. If you do accept an invitation, it is expected that you will definitely attend. It is considered rude to accept an invitation and not arrive as agreed. If you're unable to attend at the last minute, it is very important to contact your Host and apologise before the event.

Tipping

Attitudes to tipping in Australia are changing. It's common now to leave a tip of 10% in a good restaurant if you are happy with the service. It's uncommon to leave a tip in coffee shops or cheaper restaurants, though people will sometimes leave the small change from payment of the bill for the waiter. On weekends and public holidays, a surcharge is often added to your bill to cover the cost of higher wages on these days.

Taxi drivers will not expect a tip, though if you want to, you may choose to leave small change or to 'round the fare' to the taxi driver's benefit (e.g. round \$9.50 to \$10.00). Hotel desk clerks, bus drivers, theatre ushers, shop sales assistants, flight attendants and petrol station attendants are not tipped in Australia.

It is important not to offer to tip a public official, police officer or government employee as this is against the law in Australia and may be considered an attempt to bribe the person.

Saying 'please' and 'thank you'

In Australia, it is usual and expected that people will say 'please' and 'thank you' for any request of anyone – friends, family, academic staff, shop attendants, taxi drivers, restaurant staff, and so on. Children are taught from an early age to use these words in making requests.

THE SYDNEY LIFESTYLE

Sydney is the capital of the state of New South Wales and the oldest city in Australia. It has grown from a small colony of 1000 convicts in 1788 to the largest city in Australia with a population of more than four million people. A thriving business district is combined with historic attractions situated around a magnificent Harbour. You will find a variety of architectural styles from different eras, cultures and various nations. Sydney's city streets are lined with old sandstone buildings, best seen at The Rocks. Sydney is a cosmopolitan city with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. You can find groups and associations of almost every culture, ethnic and religious identity. The city also has many different spiritual centres for people to worship according to their tradition.

Arts and culture

Sydney has a dynamic arts and cultural life, with theatre, cinema, opera, dance, and music performances throughout the year. The Festival of Sydney is held during January each year, with cultural events, street entertainment and many free performances for the public. International and Australian artists perform in Sydney at the many excellent venues, including the Sydney Opera House. Discount tickets are available to students at many venues. The Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW) and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) house many works of Australian and international artists and hold international exhibitions throughout the year. There are also many other museums and galleries throughout Sydney for those wishing to explore local culture.

The Harbour

People in Sydney enjoy the beautiful Sydney Harbour with its many swimming bays and foreshore walking tracks, the beautiful Botanic Gardens, Darling Harbour and The Rocks area. Cruises and ferries leave Circular Quay regularly. Major attractions include Taronga Zoo, Manly, Darling Harbour, and the Opera House. There are also many other organised tours throughout Sydney, the beaches and the surrounding suburbs to help visitors experience what this city has to offer.

Restaurants and cafes

Australians enjoy eating out in the many fine restaurants available in Sydney. Restaurants cater for every taste, with expensive elegant restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops. Sydney's cosmopolitan nature is reflected in the wide variety of ethnic restaurants, providing the opportunity to experience cuisine from around the world.

Prices

Prices are 'fixed' in Australia, even in Paddy's Market and other markets. Bargaining or 'haggling' is not expected when you purchase food or other items. However, if you are purchasing a major item, like a car, television or refrigerator, it's possible to ask for a 'discount' and the shop may then take a percentage off the price for you.

You can gain a good idea of prices and variety from many of the local papers and advertisements on television and in the daily newspapers, as well as exploring shopping options and typical costs of specialised items on the Internet.

TAKE SOME TIME TO ENJOY SYDNEY!

Studying in a foreign country is very demanding and it is important for you to take time to relax and enjoy yourself. To find out what is on in Sydney at any particular time, check one of the daily newspapers. Every Friday, the Sydney Morning Herald includes 'metro', a weekly guide to movies, theatre, exhibitions, live music, and other interesting things to do.

Contact Information

1-5 Solent Circuit, Baulkham Hills, NSW, 2153
Ph: (02) 8853 5353
college@hillsong.com

Admissions Coordinator

Sarah Christie
sarah.christie@hillsong.com

Admissions Assistants

Sarah Sgroi and Kimberly Baxter
admissions@hillsong.com

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Ph: 131 881
www.immi.gov.au

Emergency

Ph: 000

Transport Information Line

www.transportnsw.info
Ph: 131 500

Post Office

26 Brookhollow Ave, Baulkham Hills
Ph: 13 13 18

I SEE A CHURCH WITH A WORLD-CLASS COLLEGE THAT RAISES, EQUIPS, AND EMPOWERS GENERATIONS OF YOUNG, ANOINTED LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. GRADUATES WHO SERVE GOD IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE, RELEASED TO SALT THE EARTH WITH DYNAMIC MINISTRIES AND CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD.

Brian Houston (The Church I Now See)

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