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## Merrimack in Australia

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### A partnership with the Swinburne University of Technology

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<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/>

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#### Program Overview

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##### Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne Australia

- **Melbourne** is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city of **over three million people** that enjoys clean fresh air and beautiful parks and gardens.
- Melbourne is recognized as one of the **world's most liveable cities** and Australia's cultural, culinary and sporting capital.
- Melbourne is clean, green and friendly. It came as no great surprise to residents when it was recently voted the **second most liveable city in the world**.
- Melbourne has long been recognized as **Australia's shopping and fashion capital**.
- Swinburne's Hawthorn and Prahan campuses are set in the **lively, cosmopolitan inner eastern suburbs**.
- **Hawthorn** and Prahan campuses are just a **quick 10-minute train ride** to the heart of Melbourne city.
- At Swinburne you can **choose subjects from a range of disciplines** and studying in an Australian context will broaden the focus of your home degree.
- Swinburne's relatively **small campuses** create a supportive environment for all students.
- You will be studying in **small classes** and have the advantage of learning in a nurturing environment with easy access to teachers and learning resources.
- You also have **access to a range of recreation programs - sporting facilities, trips and tours**.

- For more information about Swinburne and Melbourne, please visit:  
<http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/resources/docs/arrival-guide-0209.pdf>  
<http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/resources/docs/arrival/melbourne-city-arrival-guide-10.pdf>

## Program Dates

### Spring Semester (2013)

#### Semester 1 (Feb- Jun)

Orientation: Monday 25 February

Classes commence: Monday 4 March

Classes end: Friday 31 May

Exam Period: Friday 7 June - Friday 21 June

### Fall Semester (2013)

#### Semester 2 (Aug- Nov)

Orientation: Monday 5 August

Classes commence: Monday 12 August

Classes end: Friday 8 November

Exam Period: Friday 15 November - Friday 29 November

## Application

- Please visit the Office of International Programs (OIP) Sakowich, 340 to pick up an application.

## Cultural Activities

- **Great Ocean Road Day Trip:** see one of the most beautiful stretches of road in Australia. Enjoy the scenic beauty that is Loch Ard Gorge and then head to the spectacular view of the Twelve Apostles.
- **MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) Tour:** take a tour of the home of Australian sport and the National Sports Museum.
- **Phillip Island Koalas and Penguins:** see koalas in their natural habitat at the Conservation Centre, then head to the Penguin Parade to watch the cute little fairy penguins emerge from the water and make their way to their burrows.
- **Outback Australia Trip:** a nine-day trip to the heart of the Northern Territory – a journey of discovery into the natural history of this vast, ancient land.
- **Grampians Overnight Trip:** visit the famous McKenzie Falls and travel through the rugged mountain ranges of the spectacular Grampians
- Melbourne hosts many large cultural events each year. These include:

- The Chinese New Year Parade (February)
- St Kilda Festival (February)
- L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival (February – March)
- Melbourne Food and Wine Festival (March)
- Moomba Waterfest (March)
- Australian International Airshow (March)
- Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show March (April)
- The International Comedy Festival (April)
- The Melbourne Design Festival (July)
- The International Film Festival (July – August)
- The Melbourne Writers' Festival (August – September)
- Royal Melbourne Show (September – October)
- The Melbourne Fringe Festival (September – October)
- The International Festival of the Arts (October)
- Many of Australia's most significant sporting events are held in Melbourne:
- One-Day, Twenty20 and test match cricket (Summer months)
- Bells Beach Surf Classic (around Easter)
- The Australian Open Tennis (January - February)
- Grand Prix Motor Racing (March)
- AFL (Australian Rules Football) (March - September)
- Spring Racing Carnival (October - November)

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## Academics

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### Courses Abroad

Learn about the latest **course offerings**:

<http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Subjects/BrowseSubjectInternational.aspx>

### Classroom

Classes at Swinburne are taught using a number of styles.

- **Lectures** are held each week and students are given an overview of the week's materials.
- **Tutorials** are an opportunity for students to meet in smaller groups to discuss the lecture material.
- **Laboratory sessions** are held for some subjects to enable students to gain practical knowledge of their academic area.
- **Studio classes** are used for design students to develop their ideas.
- Study Abroad and exchange students have **full access to Swinburne Library**

**services** across all campuses. Swinburne libraries provide information resources, information literacy training (library orientation and skills in finding, evaluating, organizing and using information) and information access services. The Information Technology Services department provides computing services and support including computer labs, online library services, dial-in access and webmail. **All Swinburne campuses have wireless access.**

## Transcript and Grades

- On successful completion of the Swinburne University of Technology, an official copy of each student's transcript will be sent to Merrimack College.

## Housing & Meals

### Housing

### Meals

- After paying their study abroad bill to Merrimack, students will receive a meal stipend from Merrimack College to purchase groceries abroad.
- Learn about the host countries **Dining Etiquette**
- [http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining\\_etiquette/international\\_dining\\_etiquette.html](http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining_etiquette/international_dining_etiquette.html)

## Travel Requirements

### Passport

- You **must** have a valid passport in order to travel abroad.
- You need to renew your passport if it will **expire in less than 6 months.**
- **First time passport applicants** should visit:
  - [http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first\\_830.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html)
  - The closest Acceptance Facility (where you will turn in your forms) to Merrimack College is
    - Town of North Andover-Clerk
    - 120 Main St North Andover, MA 01845
    - (978) 688-9502
  - If you need to **renew** your passport, please visit:
    - [http://travel.state.gov/passport/renew/renew\\_833.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/renew/renew_833.html)
    - It will take **at least 6 weeks** so please plan accordingly.

- You need to have **at least four extra visa pages**, if you need to add more:
- [http://travel.state.gov/passport/correcting/add/add\\_850.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/correcting/add/add_850.html)
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- **Passport Photo Requirements**
- **Scans are not acceptable!!!** Consulates increasing will not accept scanned, photocopied, or pixilated photos, despite what their websites say.
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- **Where To Get Passport Photos**
- The closest places to Merrimack College are:

### **Walgreens**

800 Waverly Rd  
North Andover, MA 01845  
(978) 681-1530

### **CVS**

110 Turnpike Street  
North Andover, MA  
(978)686-6110

### **Rite Aid**

525 Turnpike Street  
North Andover, MA 01845  
(978) 794-8720

### **Visa**

Learn about an **Australian Visa**:

<http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/resources/docs/DIAC-how-to-apply-for-a-student-visa.pdf>

### **Travel**

- Students are responsible for **booking their own transportation** to and from the host country.
- For travel information visit Swinburne's websites:  
<http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/arrival/arriving-in-melbourne/index.html>
- Students may arrive and/or leave their host country before and/or after their program of study is complete however, it will not be part of their Merrimack study abroad program.

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## Travel Preparations and Resources

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Learn about your **Host Country**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/as.html>

Learn about the **Political Conditions And Foreign Relations**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2698.htm>

Learn about the **Time Zone**

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=152>

Learn about the **Weather**

<http://weather.uk.msn.com/local.aspx?wealocations=wc:ASXX0075&q=Melbourne%2c+AUS>

Learn about the **Local News** in your host country

<http://news.google.com/news/search?aq=f&pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&hl=en&q=australia>

Learn about the **Local Newspaper**

<http://www.theage.com.au/>

English is spoken in Melbourne, Australia. However, **Aussie English** is a bit different than American English. Visit the following website for help.

<http://www.upfromaustralia.com/aussieslang.html>

<http://www.koalanet.com.au/australian-slang.html>

Learn about **Culture and Customs**

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/australia.html>

<http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Australia.html>

Learn about your host countries **Electricity**

<http://electricaloutlet.org/>

Learn about your host countries **Holidays**

[http://www.earthcalendar.net/\\_php/CountrySearch.php](http://www.earthcalendar.net/_php/CountrySearch.php)

Questions about **Voting While Abroad**

[http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas\\_voting/overseas\\_voting\\_4754.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas_voting/overseas_voting_4754.html)

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## Finances

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As a reminder, students will **pay Merrimack room, board, tuition and program fee.**

**Extra costs that are not included:**

- Airfare
- Passport & Visa
- Books and supplies
- Local Transportation
- Personal Items
- Travel while abroad

Learn about the **local currency and currency conversions** at:

<http://www.xe.com/>

## ATM Cards

- **The best and easiest way for you to get cash on a regular basis while you're abroad will be to use your ATM card.** Withdrawing cash with your ATM card gives you a better exchange rate than exchanging travelers checks or U.S. cash. Purchases made with your credit card or ATM/debit card will get you the best exchange rate of the day. Since many ATMs abroad will only access a checking account, **do not leave your funds in a savings account before departure.**
- **The ATM withdrawal fee is usually higher abroad** and depends on your bank, so check with your bank before you go. Also, **you must notify your bank that you'll be using your card abroad;** sometimes banks have to remove a hold on the card to make this possible. And, sometimes banks simply cancel your card if they see purchases or withdrawals from outside the U.S. because they've assumed your card has been stolen.
- **Make sure your ATM card has a 4-digit PIN number.** Foreign ATM machines usually do not accept 5-digit PIN numbers. Your bank can issue you a 4-digit PIN, but be sure to request this at least 4-6 weeks before departure. If your ATM card says **Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard or Visa**, it should work at foreign ATM machines that display these logos.
- **Check with your bank AND credit card company to inquire if they charge a foreign transaction fee.** This is also called a currency conversion fee and is usually 1-3% of your purchase. Ask your bank if you can avoid this fee by making purchases using the debit function.
- Find the closest VISA ATM:
- <http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/jsp/SearchPage.jsp>
- Find the closest MasterCard ATM:
- <http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/index.html>

## Credit Cards

- Credit cards are widely used abroad; **Visa and MasterCard** are the most widely accepted. American Express is also accepted but not as frequently as Visa or MC. **Discover Cards are usually not accepted abroad. Check with your credit card company to see if they charge a foreign transaction fee.**
- **Notify your credit card company that you will be using your credit card abroad.**

## Foreign Currency

- Many U.S. banks offer currency exchange for before you leave. This way, you will already have currency of your host country when you arrive to study abroad.

## Travelers Checks

- Don't rely on traveler's checks as your only source of cash because exchanging them can be inconvenient, and you will get a **better exchange rate by withdrawing cash using your ATM card**. You are usually charged a commission for exchanging traveler's checks.
- However, traveler's checks may be **useful in case of emergency, i.e. your credit or debit card is lost or stolen**, because it can take several weeks for you to get a replacement card. Traveler's checks can always be used as American dollars upon returning home. **Keep your travelers checks a safe place at your residence, with the receipts and photocopies of checks in a different place than the actual checks.**

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## Health and Safety

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### Emergency Contacts

#### Swinburne University of Technology Emergency Number:

#### Swinburne International

Swinburne Place West

Level 1

20 Wakefield Street

Hawthorn, VIC 3122

Tel: + 61 3 9214 6741

Email: isa@swin.edu.au

[www.international.swinburne.edu.au](http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au)

Australia 000, 112 on a cell phone

## **Important Contacts**

### **Swinburne International**

International Student Adviser - 9214 6741

First Aid Assistance (internal telephone) - 3333

Health Service - 9214 8483

Student Counselling - 9214 8025

General Enquiries - 9214 8000

**Merrimack College** (978) 837 - 5000

**Office of International Programs** (978) 837 - 5210

**Merrimack College Police Department** (978) 837 - 5555

## **Cell Phones And Calling Abroad**

There are many mobile phone service providers in Australia, offering pre-paid accounts and/or periodical bills. You will normally pay a connection fee plus a rate per minute for phone calls and a flat rate for SMS. Shop around for a deal which suits the way you use your phone. If you want to bring your mobile phone from overseas to Australia, check if it is compatible with Australian networks first.

### **How to call United States from Australia:**

dial 0011 + 1 + area code + phone number

### **How to call Australia from the USA/Canada:**

dial 011 + 61 + area code + phone number

## **Medical Insurance**

All students will be covered through **HTH Worldwide:**

<http://www.hthstudents.com/>

## **Vaccinations**

Learn about the Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule to make sure you have had all your **Routine Vaccinations:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5901-Immunization.pdf>

Learn about the health information for you host country to find **Recommended**

### **Vaccinations:**

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/united-kingdom.aspx>

## Prescription Medication

- **If you take prescription medication, you must bring enough to last the duration of your program. It may be difficult and expensive, or impossible to fill prescriptions while abroad.** Students may not be able to find the exact equivalent of their medication. Medications shipped abroad may be blocked by customs, making it impossible to retrieve them.
- All prescription medication and copies of the prescriptions **should be packed in your carry-on luggage**, in case your checked luggage is delayed. Prescription medication must always be carried in the original container so it can be clearly identified as belonging to you.

## Embassy

- Find out where the **Local Embassy** is located: <http://melbourne.usconsulate.gov/>
- **Register** with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate:
- <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

## Important Documents

- Students should make photocopies of all their important documents, such as **passport, visa (if applicable), credit cards (front and back), ID cards, medical insurance cards**, etc. Bring one set of photocopies abroad and leave another set at home with your parents. In addition, you should pack a photocopy of your passport in each of your suitcases.
- **Students should bring their driver's license to use as a form of everyday ID while abroad** and carry a photocopy of their passport at all times. It's not a good idea to carry your passport with you unless you are traveling. While you're not traveling, keep your passport locked in your suitcase.

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## Re-Entry

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- Upon returning from study abroad, students are encouraged to enroll in:
  - **"Telling Stories: Exploring and Enhancing the Study Abroad Experience (WLC 4000)**, a 4-credit course designed specifically for students who have studied abroad
- The **syllabus** can be found at: <http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/EngagedLearning/StudyAbroad/Pages/default.aspx>
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience

**“reverse” culture shock.** The following may help students transition back to home:

- <http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
- <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>