

THIS IS
YOUR STUDY ADVENTURE IN QUEENSLAND!

PRE-DEPARTURE HANDBOOK

THIS IS
GRIFFITH COLLEGE



WELCOME TO GRIFFITH COLLEGE

Congratulations! You are about to embark on an incredible study adventure. We'd like to wish you a warm welcome to our campus - and to Australia.

This guide will help you to prepare for your travels. **Please read it carefully.**

Each section contains important information that will help you to plan your journey to Brisbane or the Gold Coast.

In the meantime, you can always connect with us on social media, or **send us an email** if you have any questions.

See you soon!

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QLD 4000 Australia

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E hello@griffithcollege.edu.au

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YOUR PACKING CHECKLIST

- [ ] Passport
- [ ] Flight ticket
- [ ] Small amount of cash
- [ ] Important addresses / phone numbers
- [ ] Laptop, tablet and phone
- [ ] Camera
- [ ] Travel adaptor (240V) AU (see Page 6)
- [ ] Phone charger and backup battery pack
- [ ] Pocket notepad and pen
- [ ] Comb or hairbrush
- [ ] Glasses / contact lens (if applicable)
- [ ] Medications (if applicable)
- [ ] Photos of your family and friends
- [ ] Travel-sized toiletries (you can purchase full-sized items in Australia)

SHOES & CLOTHING

- [ ] Short-sleeve shirts
- [ ] Long-sleeve shirts
- [ ] Jeans and shorts / skirts / dresses
- [ ] Jacket / jumper
- [ ] Rain jacket and umbrella
- [ ] Hat or cap for sun protection
- [ ] Casual shoes
- [ ] Sandals and/or Thongs
- [ ] Dress shoes
- [ ] Running shoes
- [ ] Sleepwear
- [ ] Swimmers
- [ ] Sunglasses
- [ ] Socks and undergarments

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- [ ] Letter of offer
- [ ] Letter of acceptance
- [ ] Study Permit Letter (Confirmation of Enrolment - COE)
- [ ] Academic transcripts / English proficiency test result
- [ ] Travel insurance documents (we recommend purchasing insurance before travel)
- [ ] Tuition receipt
- [ ] Proof of funds
- [ ] Vaccination and medical record (translated if available)
- [ ] Prescriptions / letter from your doctor for any medication you are carrying
- [ ] Translated driver's licence from your home country. **You can find a translator here.**

TIP: Scan or make photocopies of your important documents - just in case!

Source: Study Australia Pre-Departure Checklist
https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-move/preparing-to-travel



QUEENSLAND **CLIMATE**

Of all the regions in Australia, the climate of Queensland is generally considered the most liveable, year-round. Students at Griffith College generally wear comfortable, casual clothes around campus. Shorts or jeans and a light shirt are perfect for the warm weather we usually enjoy (but don't forget to bring a jacket and a jumper, just in case!) **Find out more about our weather here.**

TRANSPORT **OPTIONS**

Getting around Brisbane and the Gold Coast is easy and affordable, with public transport fares just 50 cents across Queensland. With buses, trains, trams and ferries available, getting to campus or exploring your new city couldn't be easier.

Use the **Translink Journey Planner** to plan your trip and find the best way to get where you're going.

SUN **SAFETY**

A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are essential and we take **sun safety** very seriously in Australia.

BEACH **SAFETY**

Always **swim between the red and yellow flags,** and never swim at an unpatrolled beach!



UNDER **18s**

International students under the age of 18 are required to have Overseas Health Insurance coverage from the day that they arrive in Australia.

Under 18 students must also meet specific accommodation and welfare requirements while studying at Griffith College.

In Brisbane, Griffith College recommends Student One, located just 350 metres from the Brisbane City Campus, which provides a safe and supportive student living environment. On the Gold Coast, students can choose an approved homestay through the Australian Homestay Network.

Find out more:
griffithcollege.edu.au/international-students/additional-support-under-18s/

ACCOMMODATION **OPTIONS**

Whether you decide to live on or off campus, there are a range of accommodation options to suit your needs. Accommodation can fill up quickly, so we recommend arranging yours as soon as possible after accepting your offer to study with us in Queensland. Our Brisbane and Gold Coast campuses are around an hour apart, so make sure you check your campus location before deciding where to live.

It's also important to budget for upfront accommodation costs. Many accommodation providers and rental properties require a bond before you move in. In Queensland, a rental bond can be up to the equivalent of four weeks' rent, and you may also need to pay rent in advance, so make sure you have funds available when arranging your accommodation.

GOLD COAST



Griffith University Village offers convenient on-campus accommodation at the Gold Coast campus, giving you the chance to live, study and connect in a community made for students. With classes just a short walk away, 24/7 support and plenty of shared spaces to study, relax and socialise, it's an easy way to settle into university life.

From study spaces and a fully equipped gym to a swimming pool, gaming rooms, podcasting studio and plenty of places to unwind with friends, you'll have everything you need to study, socialise and feel at home.

FIND OUT MORE

OTHER OPTIONS:

University Village (Parkwood)
Smith Collective (Southport)
University Square (Parkwood)

BRISBANE



Griffith College partners with **Student One** to offer convenient student accommodation across three Brisbane City locations, giving you the opportunity to live, study and connect in a vibrant community designed for students. With unlimited WiFi, 24-hour access to dedicated study spaces and a range of facilities included, you'll have everything you need to settle into student life and feel at home.

Enjoy access to a heated swimming pool, gym, outdoor BBQ areas, soundproof music rooms, rooftop multi-purpose space and purpose-built study zones, plus a Residential Life program with plenty of opportunities to meet new people and connect with the student community.

FIND OUT MORE

OTHER OPTIONS:

Iglu Brisbane City
UniLodge South Bank
Scape South Bank

EXPENSES & CURRENCY

Australian currency looks like this (see right).
As a student it's important to be attentive to your budget and set up a bank account when you arrive.
See below for a rough idea of your expected expenses.

ACCOMMODATION / RENT $250 to $650 per week

Accommodation costs vary depending on where you choose to live, the type of accommodation and what is included in your weekly rent.

GROCERIES $80 to $150 per week

EATING OUT / COFFEE $30 to $100 per week

GAS & ELECTRICITY $25 to $45 per week

PUBLIC TRANSPORT $5 to $15 per week

PHONE AND INTERNET $20 to $50 per week

OVERSEAS HEALTH COVER $12 to $22



PLAN YOUR BUDGET

Want a better idea of what living in Australia might cost? Try the Study Australia Cost of Living Calculator to estimate expenses based on where you live and your lifestyle

LEARN MORE

Source: australianstudent.com.au

LOCAL SHOPS

You can find groceries in your local **Woolworths**, **Coles**, **Aldi** or **IGA**.
Shopping in Brisbane
Shopping on the Gold Coast

MOBILE / PHONE PROVIDERS

Visit **Australia your way** to find out where to buy a phone / sim card and additional information about providers.

felix mobile
Saily
airalo

ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Before you arrive, familiarise yourself with what you can and cannot bring in to Australia.

Some items require permission, others will need declaring. **Read here for a complete guide.**

You will also need to arrange Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). Griffith College can organise this on your behalf - check your Letter of Offer for details.

Our preferred provider is **Allianz Care Australia** - you will meet their representatives at orientation.

Don't forget your travel adaptor!

This is what our Australian plugs / sockets look like:



BOOK YOUR AIRPORT TRANSPORT

10% DISCOUNT for Griffith College students.

Whether you are arriving into Brisbane or the Gold Coast airport, **Con-X-ion Airport Transfers** provides discounted rates for Griffith College Students.

We suggest arranging this a minimum of three (3) days prior to your arrival. **Find out more.**



SETTLING IN **TO AUSTRALIAN LIFE**

Moving to a new country is exciting, but it can take time to feel at home.

Getting to know your new city, meeting people and understanding Australian culture can all help make the transition easier.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME **TO SETTLE IN**

Adjusting to life in a new country can take time, and it's completely normal to experience homesickness or culture shock. Stay connected, get involved and remember that support is always available. Explore the following pages to find out how Griffith College can support you.

EXPLORE **YOUR NEW HOME**

Take some time to explore Brisbane or the Gold Coast, discover local events and activities, and become familiar with your neighbourhood. **Study Brisbane** offers helpful information and support for international students, while **Experience Gold Coast** is a great place to discover what's happening on the Gold Coast.

EMBRACE **AUSTRALIAN CULTURE**

Australian culture is generally friendly and informal. You may notice people using first names, making casual conversation and using plenty of Aussie slang. In the classroom, asking questions, sharing your ideas and participating in discussions are encouraged. **Learn more about Australian culture.**



YOUR PRE-ORIENTATION **CHECKLIST**

It's important to complete your pre-orientation checklist before joining us at orientation.

This checklist takes you through each of the steps to:

- Log in to the Digital Campus
- Select your timetable / enrol in classes
- Access your student emails
- Set up your Griffith University S-Number
- Connect to Griffith WiFi
- Organise your Student ID card

Click here to complete the checklist

KEY DATES

Bookmark **these key dates** or download an academic calendar for your study trimester.

REGISTER

You will receive an email invitation to orientation. Please keep an eye on your inbox and remember to register for the event so that we can cater accordingly.

During orientation, you will:

- Find out important information about your program
- Learn to use the Digital Campus
- Obtain your student ID Card
- Make new friends
- Meet our counsellors and find out how to make appointments
- Meet the support team, your teachers and staff
- Meet the IT team and request assistance if needed
- Find out how to access WiFi
- Take a campus tour and learn about our services and facilities
- Get help with enrolment and timetable if required
- Enjoy a free lunch and morning tea

ACADEMIC **INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research - even in the event of adversity or challenges faced.

At Griffith College, it's important that you act with Academic Integrity by always understanding your learning content and presenting your own work.

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is a technology that learns from existing systems, and can generate new content, such as text, images and music.

These tools will be an essential part of many industries and professions going forward.

You might use GenAI to brainstorm ideas or work on projects in class guided by your teacher, however you should never use GenAI for:

- homework
- assessment (essay, reports, quizzes)

It is important that you learn the content and skills required for each course. As such, any inappropriate use of GenAI may result in a breach of Griffith College's Academic Integrity Policy and Assessment Policy.

STUDENT **SUPPORT**

Starting life in a new country can be exciting, but it's also completely normal to experience things like homesickness, loneliness or feeling a little overwhelmed as you settle in.

At Griffith College, we're here to support you every step of the way. Whether you need help adjusting to life in Australia, making new friends, managing your studies or looking after your wellbeing, support is available.

We offer clubs, events and opportunities to help you feel connected and at home, along with dedicated academic and student support staff who can provide guidance, advice and practical tips whenever you need them.

ACCESSING COUNSELLING **AND WELLBEING SUPPORT**

Studying can come with challenges, and you don't have to navigate them alone. Our Student Counsellors are available to provide confidential guidance and support with issues that may be affecting your studies, health or wellbeing.

You can book a virtual or face-to-face appointment to talk about:

- Loneliness or homesickness
- Culture shock
- Relationships
- Academic stress or difficulties
- Financial concerns
- Employment options and visa conditions
- Personal health and wellbeing
- Accessing health services (e.g. booking a doctor appointment)

Appointments can be booked through the Digital Campus. We'll show you how to access the Digital Campus and book an appointment when you arrive for Orientation.

Note: All international students who are under the age of 18 years are required to attend appointments with the student counsellor at certain times throughout the trimester. Find out more here: **griffithcollege.edu.au/international-students/additional-support-under-18s/**

EMERGENCY AND **CRISIS CONTACTS**

When in Australia, in case of an emergency **dial 000 or 112 to reach police, fire or ambulance.**

For Griffith University Campus Security:
Phone 1800 800 707

Crisis Support (24 hours / 7 days):
Phone 1300 785 442



Some policies you should be aware of and can read before you arrive are:

Student Code of Conduct: explains our expectations of you and outlines what you can expect from us.

Academic Integrity Policy: explains what you can and cannot do in terms of your work or assessment.

Program Progression Policy: explains what you need to do to remain studying and to reach your goal of transitioning to Griffith University.

Student Complaints and Appeals Policy: provides guidance should you wish to make a complaint or lodge an appeal against a decision you don't agree with.

Student Support Policy: shows you the types of support we have and how to access them.

YOUR **FEEDBACK**

You can provide feedback at any time to our friendly staff at reception on campus.
We look forward to welcoming you at Orientation.



GRIFFITH COLLEGE

Part of the Navitas Group

navitas

For more in-depth information, including videos on campus life, student experiences and support services, please visit **griffithcollege.edu.au**

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