

Education Abroad Office  
**Pre-Departure Guide for Incoming  
Students**

Semester 1, 2008

January 2008



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SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY

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## ACCEPTING YOUR OFFER

### Offer Acceptance Form – **Deadline: Friday 1 February 2008**

Please complete your Offer Acceptance Form including payment details for relevant fees and return it to the Education Abroad Office by Friday 1 February 2008.

Email: [studyabroad@swin.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@swin.edu.au)

Fax: +61 3 9818 3645

## STUDENT VISA REQUIREMENTS

### Confirmation of Enrolment

When the Education Abroad Office receives your Offer Acceptance Form with the OSHC and tuition fee payment (if applicable) an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) will be issued to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) office that you nominate on your application form.

The Education Abroad Office will send you a copy of your eCoE. Once you receive this document you can apply for your student visa. You cannot apply for your student visa until you receive your eCoE.

### Overseas Student Health Cover

You must provide proof of payment of the OSHC when you submit your Offer Acceptance Form. A Student Visa will not be issued without OSHC payment.

**Please note:** Swedish and Norwegian students are not required to apply for OSHC but must attach a letter of approval from the Swedish National Board of Student Aid (CSN) or the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme.

### Applying for your Student Visa

The method of applying for an Australian Student Visa depends on your nationality. If you are from a country that is assessed level 1 on the Higher Education Category on the Student Visa Processing List you can apply for your visa online.

If you are from country that is assessed level 2 or below, you will need to apply for your Student Visa through the closest Australian Embassy or Consulate.

We advise all students to visit the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website: [www.dimia.gov.au](http://www.dimia.gov.au)

General information on the Student Visa Program  
[www.dimia.gov.au/students](http://www.dimia.gov.au/students)

Assessment levels for Student Visa applicants  
[www.dimia.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1219i.pdf](http://www.dimia.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1219i.pdf)

On line Visa Application (Assessment Level 1 Countries only)  
[http://www.dimia.gov.au/e\\_visastudents.htm](http://www.dimia.gov.au/e_visastudents.htm)

Student Visa Requirements – English language requirements  
<http://www.dimia.gov.au/students/english-requirements.htm>

Please be aware that there are substantial costs associated with applying for your Australian Student Visa. In January 2008 the application fee was AU\$430. Application processing time takes up to 3 weeks for students from countries of assessment levels 1 and 2.

### **Conditions of your Student Visa**

There are many conditions associated with your Australian Student Visa, including:

- Satisfaction of attendance/academic requirements
- Adequate arrangements for health insurance
- Notifying address, change of address to education provider
- Remaining with education provider

### **Permission to Work**

Once you have arrived in Australia and commenced classes you may apply for a work permit. If you are granted permission to work you are limited to 20 hours a week during teaching weeks. Employment is not guaranteed in Australia and we advise all students to have enough funds for their studies and living costs prior to arriving in Australia. In January 2008 the application fee was AU\$60.

## **UNIT APPROVAL AND ENROLMENT**

### **Unit Selection Advice**

Please refer to your enclosed Unit Selection Advice Form. This form details the units approved for your study program. The relevant Swinburne Faculty reviewed your initial unit requests. Some of the units may be different to the units you previously nominated, because:

- Your nominated units may not be available in the coming semester;
- Your nominated units were not relevant to your study program, or
- You did not meet the pre-requisites.

Every consideration has been made to approve the units you have nominated in your application.

If you change units you will need to obtain signed approval from your Home Institution to ensure you will receive credit for the Swinburne units you study. Swinburne will not take responsibility for ensuring credit transfer or suitability of the units you select. It is **your** responsibility to liaise with your Home Institution to ensure your Swinburne units are appropriate.

### **Unit Nomination**

Please complete your Subject Nomination Form including payment details for relevant fees and return it to the Education Abroad Office by **1 February 2008**.

Email: [studyabroad@swin.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@swin.edu.au)

Fax: +61 3 9818 3645

You can list units already approved and listed on your Unit Selection Advice Form or you can nominate further units for approval. You will be advised via email regarding any further units nominated for approval.

Please ensure any units you nominate are of a suitable level and are available Semester 1, 2008. Read all the information provided on your Swinburne Unit Selection Advice Form carefully.

Your enrolling Swinburne Faculty will pre-enrol you into your nominated units. Any further changes to your enrolment can only be made on arrival and will be subject to the approval of the enrolling Swinburne Faculty.

## STUDY PROGRAM DETAILS

### Program Details

You are enrolled in either the International Exchange Program (IEX) or International Study Abroad Program (ISAP). As International Exchange and Study Abroad students, you are short-term non-award students.

Swinburne University is your Host Institution, at the end of the semester you will be issued with a Transcript of Results, which will list the units you have studied and the grade you received. It is the responsibility of your Home Institution to credit these results to your overseas course award.

### Swinburne Enrolling Faculty

Although you may be studying a selection of units across several different Swinburne University Faculties, you will be enrolled in the Faculty, which is most relevant to your Home Institute course award, or the Faculty where you are studying the majority of units.

Please check your Offer Letter for the details of your Enrolling Faculty. It will be one of the following:

- Business and Enterprise
- Design
- Engineering and Industrial Sciences
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Life and Social Sciences
- Higher Education, Lilydale

### Studying at Swinburne

Students at Swinburne learn through lectures, tutorials, laboratory sessions, discussion groups, workshops and studio classes.

- Lectures are often the main form of instruction and provide students with an overview of the week's materials.
- Tutorials and discussion groups are an opportunity for students to meet in smaller groups to discuss the lecture materials.
- Laboratory sessions and workshops are held for some classes to enable students to gain practical knowledge of their academic area.
- Studio classes are used to help design students develop their ideas and skills.

Generally Swinburne students are taught using a combination of these teaching methods.

### Assessment at Swinburne

Assessment takes various forms at Swinburne. Generally students will be assessed by a combination of assignments, examinations, practicals and presentations.

The grading system at Swinburne:

- High Distinction (HD) 85-100%
- Distinction (D) 75-84%
- Credit (C) 65-74%
- Pass (P) 50-64%
- Non Pass (NP) 0-49%
- Non Attempt (NA) Did not present any work for assessment

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **On-Campus Accommodation**

Swinburne offers on-campus accommodation at the Hawthorn and Lilydale Campuses. On-campus accommodation provides modern, comfortable, safe and convenient accommodation for students.

#### **1) Student Residential College (Hawthorn campus)**

Swinburne Residential College has 84 single bedrooms, which are fully furnished. The College offers a safe and supportive environment particularly suited to students who have not lived away from home previously. Each room has a single bed with bedding, a built-in desk with bookshelf, a sink and vanity cupboard, an electric jug, desk lamp, telephone, broadband internet connection, ergonomic study chair and a visitors chair. There is hydronic heating and a fan in each bedroom and bed linen is provided.

**Fees:** The fees in 2007 are A\$225–\$250 per week. There are three contract periods available 40, 20, and 18 weeks.

For more information on Swinburne Residential College visit:

**<http://www.swin.edu.au/stuserv/residential/>**

#### **2) Swinburne Student Apartments (Hawthorn campus)**

Swinburne Student Apartments have 156 rooms with two or three bedrooms in each apartment. The apartments are partly furnished and include: single bed, desk, chair, TV and entertainment unit, kitchen with stove, oven, refrigerator, electric kettle and microwave oven. Also included are gas heating, dining table and chairs, lounge chairs and coffee table, clothes washing machine and dryer and broadband internet connection.

**Fees:** The fees in 2007 are A\$178–\$250 per week. There are three contract periods available 44, 22 and 18 weeks.

For full details and a virtual tour visit the apartment website:

**[www.swin.edu.au/stuserv/residential/apartments.html](http://www.swin.edu.au/stuserv/residential/apartments.html)**

#### **3) UniLodge @ Swinburne Place Apartments (Hawthorn campus)**

These brand new apartments accommodate 371 students in a range of one, two, three or four bedroom apartments, and two bedroom terraces and townhouses. The fully furnished apartments offer private bed/study rooms, bathroom, fully equipped kitchen with an open-plan living/dining area, broadband internet connection, TV and telephone included.

All apartments are fully secured, and bedrooms in shared apartments are lockable. Shared facilities include laundry facilities, study/tutorial rooms, an outdoor barbecue area and car parking.

**Fees:** Temporary, Short or Long Term rates, from AUD\$188 / per week (includes utilities and Internet!)

For more information on UniLodge @ Swinburne Place Apartments visit:

**[http://www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/swinburne\\_place/index.html](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/swinburne_place/index.html)**

#### **3) Lilydale Student Village (Lilydale campus)**

The Lilydale Student Village is situated on the Swinburne Lilydale Campus, overlooking the scenic Lilydale Lake. The new student village has 25 luxury apartments each containing four to five separately keyed bedrooms, a kitchen, dining and lounge/study area. Sixteen apartments have ensuite bathrooms and nine have twin-share bathrooms. Wheelchair access and disabled

facilities are also available to a number of apartments. Each apartment is fully furnished containing dining and living room furniture, a bed, desk, chair, draws, wardrobe and washing line. The village has a common room with a pool table, lounge area, large flat screen television with foxtel and dvd, public phone, laundry facilities, wireless internet, outdoor BBQ and on-site private parking. The village has a full time on-site manager and live-in caretaker on call 24 hours. The village is walking distance to the Lilydale train station, supermarket and local shops.

**Fees:** The fees in 2007 are A\$135–\$170 per week for a 40 week contract, including utilities.

For more information on the Lilydale Student Village visit:

<http://www.ld.swin.edu.au/village/>

### **Off-Campus Accommodation**

Many Education Abroad students choose to live off-campus. The areas surrounding Hawthorn, Lilydale and Prahran offer a number of accommodation options. It is not usually possible to arrange share accommodation or independent rental properties before arriving in Melbourne.

#### **Share Accommodation**

Share accommodation is one way to reduce your rent and daily living costs. In addition to the financial benefits, sharing can also offer a way of meeting new people and making new friends, a way of learning about different cultures and a way of developing your own independence as well as a support network.

Share Accommodation ranges from AU\$90.00-\$170.00 per week. You should allow an additional \$15-\$20 per week for utilities. (ie. gas, electricity, water)

#### **Independent Rental Property**

Some students choose to rent an apartment by themselves or with friends. This can be very difficult for short-term Education Abroad students, as most rental properties require you to sign a minimum twelve-month (1 year) lease. Also, if the property is unfurnished there is the added expense of buying furniture. If you are interested in renting a furnished property near the Hawthorn and Prahran campuses, you can expect to pay quite a lot for modern facilities and a good location. Furnished properties are unusual in Australia.

One bedroom apartments start at AU\$190.00 per week.

#### **Homestay**

Homestays provide the opportunity to live with an Australian family and learn more about our way of life. We particularly recommend this option to students who want to improve their English language skills.

In a full homestay, you are provided with a furnished bedroom and all meals. The cost of a full homestay is approximately AU\$200 per week. In a part homestay, you need to buy and cook your own meals.

The cost of a part homestay is approximately AU\$130 per week. The cost of a homestay includes all bills except telephone bills.

### **Private student accommodation providers**

There are also private student accommodation providers in Hawthorn, Prahran and downtown Melbourne as follows:

Hawthorn House (Hawthorn)	<a href="http://www.studenthostel.cjb.net">www.studenthostel.cjb.net</a>
Unilodge (Downtown)	<a href="http://www.unilodge.com.au">www.unilodge.com.au</a>
Global Village (Downtown)	<a href="http://www.globalvillageaccom.com.au">www.globalvillageaccom.com.au</a>
Caryinya (Hawthorn area)	<a href="http://www.carinyaaccommodation.com">www.carinyaaccommodation.com</a>

### **Assistance and Current Vacancies**

For detailed information on all accommodation options, a list of current vacancies, helpful hints and links to important websites please visit the Swinburne Housing website: [www.swin.edu.au/stuserv/housing](http://www.swin.edu.au/stuserv/housing)

On arrival, the Education Abroad Office will provide you with some initial accommodation information and assistance. You should also speak with the International Student Advisor (Accommodation) and the Housing Officer in Student and Residential Services. Enquire at Swinburne International for their location.

## **ARRIVAL SERVICES**

### **Airport Pickup**

When you have confirmed your flights to Melbourne, please complete the online Arrival Services Form <http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/arrival/arriving/welcome.html>. You must book this service at least **3 days** before you arrive, otherwise we will not be able to guarantee a place for you.

Swinburne offers a free collection and transport service from either the International or Domestic terminals at Melbourne Airport. Please be aware there will be a fee of AU\$50.00 if you fail to notify Swinburne of flight delay or cancellation. Contact numbers and further information will be sent to you when your booking is confirmed.

**HARLAN** (the Swinburne Airport pick-up service) will drive you to the address nominated on your Arrival Services Form.

### **Temporary Accommodation**

You will need to indicate on your online Arrival Services Form: <http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/arrival/arriving/welcome.html> if you require temporary accommodation. Please note: prices as at January 2007. The rate for the double and triple room is for the room, not per person.

We suggest you pre-book yourself a week of temporary accommodation, if you do not have a permanent place to live when you arrive in Melbourne. This can be done whilst you are filling in your arrival services information. There is no minimum stay required at these establishments and rates can be adjusted if you do not stay for a whole week. The following places offer temporary accommodation and are recommended for Education Abroad students.

▪ **The Greenhouse Backpacker**

228 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000  
Telephone: +61 3 9639 6400 Facsimile: +61 3 9639 6900  
**[www.friendlygroup.com.au](http://www.friendlygroup.com.au)**

Details: Backpacker style accommodation. Shared bathrooms. Free internet. In-house activities. Small dormitory rooms (4-6 people per room). Dorms are single sex and mixed. Single, double and twin rooms available also. Communal cooking facilities.  
Location: Downtown Melbourne. 10 minute train ride to Hawthorn and Prahran, 50 minutes from Lilydale  
Cost: Dormitory – \$26 per night, Single - \$60 per night, Double - \$78 per night

▪ **Back of Chapel – Recommended for Prahran students**

50 Green St, Prahran, VIC 3181  
Telephone: +61 3 9521 5338 Facsimile: +61 3 9521 5337  
**[www.backofchapel.com](http://www.backofchapel.com)**

Details: Backpacker style accommodation. Shared bathrooms. Free breakfast everyday. Free BBQ on Sundays. Small dormitory rooms (4-6 people per room). Dorms are single sex and mixed. Single, double and twin rooms available also. Communal cooking facilities.  
Location: Funky suburb of Prahran. 2 minute walk to Prahran campus.  
Cost: Dormitory - \$21 per night, Double - \$34 per night per person

▪ **Base Backpackers – Recommended for Prahran students**

17 Carlise St, St Kilda, VIC  
Telephone: +61 1800 24 22 73  
**[www.basebackpackers.com](http://www.basebackpackers.com)**

Details: New hostel, popular with travelers. Dormitory rooms, shared bathroom, kitchen and lounge facilities. Hostel also has a 'female only' section.  
Location: Beach suburb of St Kilda. 15 minutes by tram to Prahran campus.  
Cost: Dormitory – from \$24 per night

▪ **Victoria Hotel**

215 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000  
Telephone: +61 3 9653 0441 Facsimile: +61 3 9650 9678  
**[www.victoriahotel.com.au](http://www.victoriahotel.com.au)**

Details: Moderately priced hotel style accommodation. Towels and linen provided. Rooms serviced daily. Shared bathrooms. Coin-operated laundry. Communal cooking facilities.  
Location: Downtown Melbourne. 10 minute train ride to Hawthorn and Prahran, 50 minutes from Lilydale  
Cost: Single - \$55 per night, Double - \$75 per night

Please feel free to book yourself into alternative hostels or hotels, if you find something more suitable to your needs. If you are arriving alone, we strongly advise you to consider either the Greenhouse Backpacker or the Victoria Hotel so that you can meet with other Education Abroad students.

## TRAVELING TO AUSTRALIA

### Travel Insurance

All students are advised to take out travel insurance for any travel undertaken to get to Australia and then to return to your home country.

### Baggage

When packing your baggage, please ensure that you can actually carry all your baggage by yourself. All luggage should be secure and easy to carry. If you have arranged for airport pick up, please be aware that HARLAN (Swinburne's airport reception agent) is limited in the amount of baggage they can transport for you.

Be aware of any baggage weight restrictions imposed by your airline.

### Australian Customs Regulations

Australia has very strict restrictions on what you can bring into the country. You will need to ensure that you declare all food, plant and animal products you bring into the country.

Before arriving in Australia you will be required to complete an Incoming Passenger Card – this is handed to you on the flight to Australia. This is a legal document and must be completed honestly. Any false declaration may lead to a fine of up to AU\$2000 and/or imprisonment. For further information on what you can and can't bring to Australia, please visit [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)

### About Australia

Australia is a large island continent. It is the world's sixth largest country and its smallest continent. The total land area of Australia is more than 7,000,000 square kilometers (slightly smaller than mainland USA) and is bound by the Indian Ocean on one side and the South Pacific Ocean on the other. Australia is home to many unique animals and vegetation. It has a varied and wondrous landscape from deserts to snow-capped mountains to tropical rainforests.

Australia has a total population of approximately 20 million people, most of who live on the eastern and south-eastern coastline. Australia has a large multicultural society with people from over 150 nationalities calling it home.

## HEALTH

### Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

OSHC WorldCare provides Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for Swinburne students. For more information visit: [www.oshcworldcare.com.au/](http://www.oshcworldcare.com.au/)

What it covers:

- Doctors (including specialists) at a surgery, at home, or in hospital OSHC pays 85% of the government scheduled fee for treatment at a Doctors surgery, you must pay the difference
- OSHC pays 100% for medical services if you are an in-patient at a hospital
- Pathology services such as blood tests
- X-rays
- Full cover in a shared ward in any Public Hospital
- Part cover in a Private Hospital (see website for more details)
- 100% Emergency Ambulance Transport
- Part cover for prescription drugs (see website for details)

What it will NOT cover:

- Dental, Optical and Physiotherapy
- Pregnancy related services
- Treatment for pre-existing medical conditions or disabilities
- Treatment required while travelling to and from Australia
- Treatment such as health screening services or cosmetic surgery

You will be able to order your OSHC membership card during orientation.

### **Vaccination History**

The Swinburne Health Service recommends that you bring your vaccination history with you to Melbourne. Check with your doctor before you leave to see which vaccinations you have had and which might be useful.

### **Current Medication**

If you take medication prescribed by your doctor, make sure you check with the Australian Diplomatic Mission in your home country to ensure that you are able to bring that medication into Australia. You should also ask your doctor to write a letter stating that you need the medication you are taking and what the medication is. You might need this letter when you go through Customs. It may also be useful if you need to see a doctor in Melbourne.

## **FINANCES**

### **Australian Currency**

The official currency of Australia is the Australian dollar. To find out conversion rates for your home currency please visit: [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/)

Australia uses the decimal system of currency (100 cents = \$1.00). Notes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coins come in denominations of 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, \$1 and \$2.

### **Banking in Australia**

Banks in Australia are generally open 9am – 4pm on weekdays. If you choose to open an Australian bank account you will usually receive a card for use with an Automated Teller Machine (ATM). You will also be able to use this card in supermarkets and other stores using Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale (EFTPOS).

### **Credit Cards**

VISA and MasterCard are widely accepted in Australia. American Express and Diners Club cards are also acceptable at some shops and restaurants.

### **Getting Money from Overseas**

If you need to obtain money from overseas you will need to arrange a bank draft in Australian dollars or send money by telegraphic transfer.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Calling Cards**

If you decide to purchase a calling card before coming to Australia we advise you to get very clear instructions on how to use your card from an Australian public phone.

Calling cards are widely available in Australia from convenience stores and other outlets. We advise students to purchase a calling card on arrival to make sure the card will work from Australian public and landline phones.

### **Mobile (Cellular) Phones**

Many students choose to bring their mobile phone from home. We recommend students purchase prepaid SIM cards on arrival and use with their handset. It can be expensive to purchase a mobile phone in Australia.

Mobile telephone rates depend on the amount of usage and the time of the call. When you call from a mobile phone or call a mobile phone from an external telephone, you (the caller) incur the charges. It does not cost you anything to receive a call on a mobile phone.

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Public Transport in Melbourne**

Melbourne has one of the best public transport systems in the world. An extensive network of trains, trams and buses will help you discover the city and beyond. The metropolitan Melbourne transport system (or the Met) is divided into two zones – Zone 1 covers the inner city, including Hawthorn and Prahran. Zone 2 covers the outer suburbs of Melbourne, including Lilydale.

Information about Melbourne's public transport system can be found at: [www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au)

### **Cars**

If you are thinking about driving while you are in Australia, you will need to check the licensing requirements. It may be necessary for you to obtain an International Driver's License. This can only be done in your home country.

## **SHOPPING & FOOD**

### **Supermarkets**

There are supermarkets located close to the Hawthorn, Prahran and Lilydale campuses. These supermarkets are open 24 hours a day and stock a wide range of products.

### **Markets**

Melbourne has some great markets for fresh produce and also for secondhand goods. Many students find shopping at the market a great way to save money. There are markets all over Melbourne, including the Queen Victoria Market, the Camberwell Market and the Prahran Market.

### **Eating out**

Melbourne is the culinary capital of Australia. Home to over 140 different ethnic groups, in Melbourne you can find an amazing collection of foods from around the world. Within the inner city areas there are some great places to eat multicultural cuisine including African, Chinese, French, Italian, Malaysian, Spanish, Vietnamese and much more.

There are places to suit everyone's budget from great meals for less than AU\$10 to meals costing much more. For those with dietary restrictions, you will find places that serve strictly vegetarian, halal or kosher food.

### **Tipping**

Tipping is not mandatory in Australia and in many cases is not expected. If you receive exceptional service in a restaurant then it is quite usual to leave a small tip. The amount you tip is completely up to you but commonly people tip about 10 percent of their total bill.

## **RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT**

### **Things to do and see in Melbourne – The Cultural Capital**

Melbourne is a fantastic city to live in and you are encouraged to make the most of the city by getting out and about. As the Cultural Capital of Australia, Melbourne is home to some great galleries and museums. A night out in Melbourne might include a play, the ballet or an opera. The city is also well known as a great place to check out live music with lots of local and international acts.

Melbourne has many festivals and events on throughout the year and we encourage all students to start planning for the months ahead. We recommend you buy a Melbourne guidebook and start reading. The web is also a good way to start planning your time here. Some of the following sites might be useful:

Lonely Planet

[www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/australia/melbourne](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/australia/melbourne)

Melbourne Visitor Information

[www.thatsmelbourne.com.au](http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au)

CitySearch Melbourne

<http://melbourne.citysearch.com.au>

Melbourne Museums

[www.museum.vic.gov.au](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au)

The Age Newspaper

[www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au)

### **Sports**

Australians love sports – well, watching them anyway! Melbourne is the home of Australian Rules Football (Aussie Rules or AFL). Aussie Rules is an important part of Melbourne culture and we recommend all students check out a game. The season begins in late March and finishes in late September.

Melbourne is also home to some great sporting events including the Australian Open tennis, the Melbourne F1 Grand Prix and the Melbourne Cup horse race.

### **Alcohol and Drug Use**

The legal drinking age in Australia is 18 years and older. Australians commonly socialise in bars and hotels. While social drinking is common, binge drinking is discouraged. You do not have to drink alcohol if you don't want to.

All illicit drugs are illegal in Australia. Students found using or possessing drugs will have their program terminated.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Time Zone**

Melbourne uses Eastern Standard Time (GMT plus 11 hours). Daylight saving (add one hour) is in effect from the last Sunday in October to the last Sunday in March). Melbourne is about 3 - 6 hours ahead of Asia, 7 - 10 hours ahead of Europe and about 12 - 18 hours ahead of the Americas.

### **Weather**

Melbourne has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons. Being in the Southern Hemisphere, Melbourne experiences winter in the middle of year and summer falls between December to March. A guide to average temperatures in Melbourne is:

- Spring (Sept – Nov) 10°C - 25°C 50°F – 77°F
- Summer (Dec – Feb) 14°C - 35°C 58°F - 95°F
- Autumn (Mar – May) 11°C - 25°C 52°F - 77°F
- Winter (June – Aug) 7°C - 14°C 45°F - 58°F

### **Electrical goods/Voltage**

The electricity voltage for domestic use in Australia is AC 240 volts, 50 cycles. The sockets used for electrical plugs are three pinned.

Adaptors can be bought from travel shops in your home country or from electrical and hardware shops in Melbourne.

### **Weights and Measurements**

Australia uses the metric system of weights and measurements. Speed and light are measured in kilometers, weight in kilograms, volume in litres and temperature in degree Celcius.

## **We look forward to welcoming you to Swinburne!**

Education Abroad Office

Swinburne University of Technology

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

Email: [studyabroad@swin.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@swin.edu.au)

Phone: + 61 3 9214 8811

Fax: + 61 3 9818 3645

CRICOS: 00111D