

a. I am studying business here, I am taking 4 courses, Innovation knowledge and creativity, learning and development in organizations, consumer behavior and entertainment marketing, which each have 3 hours of class each week, divided between lectures and tutorials. Tutorials are more mandatory to attend than lectures, all lectures are recorded on line using echo 360. All of my classes do not have finals, they have plenty of assignments, one of which is due tomorrow and I should probably get back to.

b. The timetable is different this year due to the commonwealth games and the 2-week break that follows, but regularly semester1 starts at the very end of February/beginning or March. This year it started on Feb 19. Unit enrollment was Monday December 11th, I would recommend sending your classes to Telfer PRIOR to departing as they can disapprove your courses, so send them right away when you register. Although it says to send them once you arrive, sending them once you register gives you time to pick new classes and keep organized, rather than having to scramble last minute to find new classes. So send the classes in December rather than February as class registration opened January 29th and you will then be organized to pick the right sections and get the best time slots. Orientation was February 12th to 16, although there's only one mandatory session. Classes started on Feb 19th they celebrate Easter here so you have good Friday, Easter Saturday and the following Monday off, this year we have a 2 week break for the games from April 3 to April 15. April 27 is Anzac day, which is a public holiday; May 7th is labour day holiday. June 1 is the last day of semester 1. Exams go from June 7 to June 22. There's 3 semesters, semester 1, March – June, semester 2, is July to October, Summer program is November to February. Keep in mind due to the commonwealth games everything is different this year, they normally only have a 1 week break, but all this information can be found with a quick Google search of “QUT academic calendar”.

c. Upon arrival you can be picked up at the airport, I didn't do this so I don't know how it works. You need to attend an orientation session. I didn't use any of the services offered so I am not familiar with what they are. However, you do need to get your student card and you need to fill out documentation for your medical insurance if it is done through the school in order for them to ship you your card. Registration was very confusing because they had a “unit enrollment” date so I figured that was class registration, but it was not, you literally just pick the units you want to take. Later was “class registration” where you picked the sections of your lectures and tutorials, so you don't know what your schedule will look like until the end of January. There are many different social activities, they had a party for international students during orientation. They also email you regularly with different social events that are taking place, like day trips to Noosa and the Gold Coast. I recommend setting up your email here so that it forwards to your Ottawa u email, that way you won't miss out on anything when you are still unfamiliar with how to navigate the new websites and what not.

d. My airplane tickets were a little over \$2,000, my housing is \$180 WEEKLY, however this is very cheap here, student accommodation can go up to at least \$500 weekly. I

traveled around Australia first and went to Sydney and Arlie beach, all together that probably cost me \$1,500. I'm going to New Zealand next week and that will probably cost me \$1,000, flights were \$600. I also intend on going to Melbourn, which I assume would cost me about \$600, for a quick 3-day trip. I only needed 2 textbooks, totaled to \$260. Eating out is quite pricey here, breakfast generally ranges from \$10 to \$20. Lunchtime there are normally specials at restaurants, which you may be able to get a burger and fries for \$15. Dinner is normally \$20 or more expensive. If you're shopping at a regular grocery store (coles or Woolworths, not an IGA) groceries are pretty comparable to Ottawa. Unless you choose to shop in the American section, then prices are ridiculous. Imported things are more expensive, but your basics are similar. Wine is far cheaper here than it is in Canada, however pretty much everything else is significantly more expensive. Also bussing is different here, the busses don't have a sign telling you which stop is next, nor do they say it out loud so it becomes very tricky. You also have to tap on AND OFF the bus or else they charge you if you forget to tap off. Cost of a bus ride varies so much, if you are a student it is pretty much half price, yet the price varies from how far you are traveling, how many zones you are traveling through, if it is rush hour or not, so my prices range from \$1.60 to \$0.60 for regular daily bussing. If you want to go to the Gold cost is it about \$3-\$4. If you want to go to the sunshine coast it is around \$10. I would recommend using "Journey Planner" you can type in your current location and where you wish to go and they will provide you with options on how to get there and tell you exactly what to do. I would also recommend getting a phone plan while you're here, they are significantly cheaper than they are in Canada. I pay \$40 per month and get 15 gigs of data, unlimited text & call within Australia, unlimited text to 30 different countries including Canada and 200 international calling minutes so specific countries including Canada. I also like to exercise, so I got myself a gym membership, which costs me \$36 every 2 weeks, it is the gym at the school and I believe it is quite pricey for what you are getting, but it is convenient. They also offer yoga classes and other sorts of group fitness classes, which is fun!

e. To apply for Visa you need to fill out lots of documents, have a passport that doesn't expire soon and other pieces of ID. They recommend doing it 2-3 months in advance, but I'm pretty sure I got mine back within a week of applying, or less. I'm saying with friends so I did not need a housing deposit. And course registration was already covered.

f. I'd prefer for my address not to be given out, but I'm living in a house with 2 other lovely people, I have my own room, and bathroom, it is a shared kitchen, but there is a pool. Costs were covered in my budget description.

g. I am not working while I'm here, although that would be totally manageable with school.

h. So far, I am learning that Australia is a very hilly country, so prepare to walk up some large hills. It is also so humid and hot here that you are always sticky and sweating. But the sun is lovely and being able to sit out in the sun by the pool or ocean

is magnificent, however the sun is more powerful here so pack lots of sunscreen. They have a lot of storms here and it rains quite a bit, but when it rains it rains A LOT so bring a rain jacket or umbrella as well! There are lots of huge spiders, and bugs everywhere but you adapt to that after a bit and they don't normally bother you! There is also a large time change between Canada and Australia, which makes it more difficult to communicate with people from Canada, but it allows you to disconnect and truly enjoy the beauty of the country!

i. I would definitely recommend other students go on an exchange here, Australia is beautiful, and quite similar to the United States and Canada, and they speak English so in some ways the culture shock is easier to handle. The beaches are all beautiful and so is the campus! People are friendly and nice, and cannot stress enough how country is stunning. I am really happy with my decision to study here; it has given me the chance to make new friends and travel to places I never thought I would be able to! It's a one in a lifetime experience to travel to a new country and truly be a part of their culture, and I couldn't be happier that I chose Australia to do so.