PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE 2018

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS.
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY HERE.
The College is located within a short walk of Circular Quay, Wynyard or Martin Place train Stations.

Our address is Level 1, 17 O’Connell Street Sydney.

Ph: +61 2 9283-1088
WELCOME TO ELS SYDNEY

We are delighted that you have chosen to study at ELS Sydney and look forward to welcoming you to our city. We hope that during your stay with us you take every opportunity to get to know Australians and their traditions. Learning about our culture will help you master our language. In the pages that follow you will find some useful information to help prepare you for your time in Sydney.

If you require further information, please contact us at Sydney@ELS.edu or call us on + 61 2 9283 1088.

Your Arrival

When Should I Arrive?

You should aim to arrive a few days before your starting date in order to familiarise yourself with the College and local surroundings. If you need pre-arranged accommodation, our friendly staff can organise an affordable place for you to stay, either in homestay or in other student accommodation.

Immigration Control

On arrival in Australia travellers other than Australian and New Zealand citizens need to present the following documents to Immigration for clearance - make sure you have them ready when you get off the plane:

- a valid passport
- a valid visa or authority to enter Australia (including electronic visas)
- a completed and signed Incoming Passenger Card, including health and character declaration

For more information please visit the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Quarantine

Australia has strict quarantine laws. You must not bring any food or drink into Australia without declaring it on arrival. Make sure you find out what you can and cannot bring into Australia before you leave home. Read about it here: What can I bring to Australia.

Changing Money

You may need to change some money before you leave the airport. However, you must declare amounts of AUD 10’000 or more in Australian currency or foreign equivalent.

If possible, wait until you reach the city centre to change your money as you will get a much better exchange rate.
Transport to the City

Airport Rail Link
This train departs from the international and domestic terminals and stops at every major city station (Central, St James, Museum, Circular Quay, Wynyard and Town Hall). You can reach the train station within minutes of collecting your baggage. Trains run every 10 minutes during peak hours and every 15 minutes during off-peak hours and weekends.

The Airport Rail Link to Central Station costs approx $18.00 one way from the International or Domestic Terminals. Visit www.transportnsw.info for public transport information.

Taxi/Cab
Taxi stands are located outside both the International and Domestic terminals. Supervisors are on hand to ensure the smooth flow of travellers and are there to assist you if you have special needs.

Typical fare range (as a guide only):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxi to</th>
<th>Fare range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>$45-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>$50-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manly</td>
<td>$60-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>$80-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bondi</td>
<td>$35-55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** You must pay for any bridge or road tolls in addition to your taxi fare.

Look for the Study NSW International Student Welcome Desk outside Gate A at Sydney Airport if you need help after you land

Airport Transfers
If you have booked airport transfers with ELS Sydney you will be provided with details and meeting places via email before you depart.
Sydney has an extensive public transport system that includes trains, buses, ferries and light rail. We strongly recommend you purchase an Opal Card, which is available at train stations and convenience stores. This will enable you to travel on any mode of transport you like. Single-ride opal tickets are also available for purchase from train stations if you need them.

**Opal Cards**

Adult: Purchase this card if you are aged 16 years and over. The minimum value is $10.
Child/Youth: Purchase this card if you are aged 15 years and under. The minimum value is $5.

**Buses**

Sydney has a large bus network that services the entire city. The main bus terminals are at Wynyard, Circular Quay and Central Station. Many buses require you to have an Opal Card or ticket before you board. You can buy single bus tickets from most convenience stores.

**Ferries**

Ferries operate between Circular Quay and several harbourside suburbs including Cremorne, Mosman, Pyrmont, Rose Bay and Balmain. You can also take a RiverCat from the Quay to Parramatta and the suburbs along the Parramatta river.

**Light Rail**

The light rail network operates from Central Station to the inner western suburbs via Pyrmont and Glebe out to Dulwich Hill.

**Hints and Tips**

* Purchase the right ticket- Be aware that in New South Wales international students are not entitled to a student concession on public transport: if you are aged 16 years and over you must purchase an Adult Opal Card (pictured). If you travel without a valid ticket and you are caught by transport officers there is a $200 fine.
* Weekly travel reward- After your first 8 paid journeys you can enjoy half price travel for the rest of the week (from Monday to Sunday)
* Daily Travel Cap- Pay no more than $16 per day with an Adult card and $7.50 per day with a Child/Youth Card.
* Sunday Travel- Pay no more than $2.60 on Sunday and take as many trips as you like!

If you have any other questions about transport in Sydney please visit www.transportnsw.info, call 131 500 or come see us at Reception!

**Download Citymapper**

If you have a smartphone this app will be your new best friend in Sydney. You can plan your trip whenever you like and get live updates on timetables and scheduling. You can download it on Goolge Play or the iTunes app store.

Make sure you always buy a ticket for public transport.

If you travel without a ticket or with the wrong ticket may receive a $200 fine.
YOUR FIRST DAY

Please arrive at 8.30am to register on your first day. We are located on Level 1 at the top of the staircase 17 O’Connell Street Sydney. If you are lost you can call us on 9283-1088.

Major start dates for 2018 are as follows:
January 2*, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 30, September 3, October 8, November 12, December 17. On all other dates a modified schedule will operate. Please note the times below may vary slightly depending on the number of new students attending.

YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE COLLEGE

8:30 am  REGISTER  Check in at the reception area on Level 1. (The College opens at 8am)
8:45 am  DOCUMENTATION  We will issue your student card and handbook and you will complete personal details documents.
9:00 am  PLACEMENT TEST  You will be given a test to assess your English level. As part of our Total Support, this will include a personal interview to learn about your study needs.
11:15 am  MORNING TEA AND ‘MEET THE STAFF’  (Only held on major start dates). You are invited to meet the staff and enjoy morning tea.
11:30 am  GETTING TO KNOW THE COLLEGE  We will explain the College rules and the roles of staff members.
12:00 pm  TOUR OF THE COLLEGE AND SURROUNDING AREA  You will tour the college facilities and after this you will be taken on a tour of Wintergarden (food court), Australia Square (food court and emergency meeting point), and then NAB Bank, and Hunter Connection (chemist and food court).
12:30 pm  ACADEMIC ORIENTATION  This session will give an overview of the course that you have enrolled in.
1:00 pm  LUNCH
1:45 pm  STUDENT SERVICES ORIENTATION  We will provide detailed information on work rights, visa requirements and social club activities.

2:45 pm  ACCOMMODATION ORIENTATION  Students staying in accommodation arranged by the College receive some general information and can discuss any accommodation related issues they wish to raise.
3:00 pm  APPROXIMATE ORIENTATION FINISH TIME

DAY 2

CLASSES BEGIN

8:30am  Please arrive early enough to check the notice boards and find your classroom details. High School Preparation students should arrive at 9am.
4:15pm  Evening class students should arrive to check notice boards and find their classrooms.

DAY 3

3:00pm  Welcome Tour of Sydney (Week 1 of a major start date only)

Remember to bring your passport and visa information, your Sydney contact details (address, mobile number) and a pen with you to Orientation.
We understand there is a great deal to learn apart from English when you arrive in Australia for the first time. In most cases you will be a long way from home, so to help you settle in and find your way around our student services team is available with advice and guidance. Our dedicated team will answer any questions you may have on living, studying, working and travelling in Sydney and throughout Australia.

We offer a full range of services to our students including:

- an action-packed social program
- assistance with finding work
- assistance with further study
- and much more!

If there is anything you need, just ask!

### Internet Access

Wireless internet (wi-fi) is available throughout the College. You will be provided with information on how to connect your laptop to wi-fi on your first day. If you have any problems, speak with our friendly staff at Reception.

### Mail

Students may have letters and packages sent to the College. These can be collected at Reception.

### Oz Explorer

Students can join in various activities each afternoon either at the College or around Sydney. Most activities held at the College are free and activities away from the College vary in price. Students can pick up the latest Oz Explorer activity calendar from Reception or it can be downloaded from the website: [www.Sydney.ELS.edu/en/Downloads](http://www.Sydney.ELS.edu/en/Downloads)

### Social Media

Follow us online! Even after you have finished your course with us, you can still keep in contact with the friends you have made at the College through the Alumni section on our website or on our social pages:

- [www.facebook.com/ ELSUniversalEnglishCollege](http://www.facebook.com/ ELSUniversalEnglishCollege)
- [www.instagram.com/elssydney](http://www.instagram.com/elssydney)
- [www.pinterest.com/elssydney](http://www.pinterest.com/elssydney)
- [www.twitter.com/elsSydney](http://www.twitter.com/elsSydney)

Active on social media? Our hashtag is #ELSSydney if you would like to share anything with us.
Our Location
ELS Sydney is located in the centre of Sydney within minutes of the Opera House and the harbour. It is also close to all public transport and the main shopping areas of the city. With a population of around 4.5 million people, Sydney is the largest city in Australia. The famous Royal Botanic Garden is a short 5 minute walk from the College, as is the State Library of NSW, the Sydney Museum, and the Art Gallery of NSW. Sydney is world famous for its harbour and students can catch one of the many ferries across the harbour from Circular Quay which is five minute walk from the school.
Being close to public transport, it is easy to catch a bus to visit the famous Bondi Beach, a ferry to Taronga Zoo or Manly Beach or a train to Sydney Olympic Park.

Climate and Weather
Sydney’s climate is very moderate. Temperatures vary from average daytime average of about 14°C in winter to around 28°C in summer. Humidity is higher in the summer months, while winter is dry and cool, but sunny. Rainfall is heaviest in the autumn. It does not snow in Sydney, but for those who like to ski, winter snowfields are only a few hours’ drive away.
You will need very light clothes for summer months but evenings can sometimes be cool, so jackets or light knitwear will also be required. You will require heavier and warmer clothing for winter in Sydney.

Living Costs
The cost of living in Sydney will obviously depend on your lifestyle. If you are living in homestay accommodation, your weekly fee covers most of your meal costs. If you are living in share accommodation, you are likely to pay anywhere from $150-$250 per week for rent, and food cooked at home will be at least an additional $60 per week. You should allow at least $6-$10 a day for your lunch. The cost of eating out ranges from about $7 for a hamburger and chips to about $25 per person in a budget restaurant. A glass of beer is approximately $5 and a bottle of wine can be purchased for about $8-$20. A ticket to the movies costs about $15, but may be as little as $10.00 with a discount. A local telephone call is 50 cents.

To see a full list of items and the approximate prices please see this government website: www.abs.gov.au. This page includes fruit, vegetables, meat, alcohol, processed foods and other household items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local phone call</td>
<td>50c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie ticket</td>
<td>approx $16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500g laundry detergent</td>
<td>approx $5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1kg bag of rice</td>
<td>approx $3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol per litre</td>
<td>approx $1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can of coke from supermarket</td>
<td>approx $1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 bars of soap</td>
<td>approx $1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton of a dozen eggs</td>
<td>approx $4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular coffee in Sydney</td>
<td>approx $3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Big Mac Meal at McDonalds</td>
<td>approx $8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf of bread</td>
<td>approx $3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 litres of milk</td>
<td>approx $2.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For up-to-date weather information in Australia please see The Weatherzone www.weatherzone.com.au
LIVING IN SYDNEY

Electrical Equipment
The electricity supply in Australia is 220-240 volts and 50 MHz. Some 110-120 volt appliances (mobile phone chargers, dryers, hair straighteners etc) cannot be operated safely.

Check with the appliance manufacturer whether the appliances can be safely operated in Australia. You should not have a problem with laptops; however, check with the manufacturer to be safe. Universal adapters can be purchased at the Airport and in various stores in Australia.

Keep Left
In Australia, we walk, ride and drive on the left-hand side, as opposed to many other countries that keep right. We also keep to the left when we use escalators unless walking quickly.

If you’re walking you should stay on the footpath unless you’re crossing the road. It’s best to cross the road at a designated crossing so motorists and cyclists can clearly see you.

Tipping
In some countries, workers depend on tips to supplement their wages. This is not the case so much in Australia, as hourly rates of pay are quite reasonable although some tipping is expected. In restaurants and cafes, it is common to leave a tip of 5-10%.

Entertainment and Tourist Attractions
Sydney is a large multicultural city. It has an abundance of restaurants representing a wide range of nationalities, and food is fresh and relatively inexpensive for its quality. Australian wines are internationally recognised for their excellence. Australians enjoy playing and watching sports and Sydney’s various sporting facilities cater for a huge diversity of activities.

The climate encourages an outdoor lifestyle with beaches and parks all very close to the city centre. Sydney also has an abundance of theatres, clubs, bars and cinemas and a variety of cultural events throughout the year. In addition, it has excellent museums, art galleries, zoos and wildlife parks, and landmark tourist attractions such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Sydney Opera House, the Rocks and Darling Harbour.

Useful Smart Phone Apps
Do you have a smart phone? Just search for the name of the apps below in Google Play or the Apple Apps store. These are free or have free versions.

- **OPAL TRAVEL**
  Check your balance, plan your trips and top up your credit.

- **SYDNEY CULTURE WALKS**
  Learn more about Sydney with these great self guided walks from Sydney City council.

- **SYDNEY AIRPORT**
  Find your way around Sydney airport.

- **CITYMAPPER**
  Essential for navigating around Sydney. Easy to use and covers all forms of transport.
Personal Safety

While Sydney is generally a safe city, there are a few important things you should remember.

• Avoid carrying large amounts of cash – $50-$100 is enough to cover your daily needs.
• Never leave your bag unattended at any time. Take extra care with your bag, telephone, purse, etc. in food courts and game centres, where many people assemble.
• Never carry your bank account PIN (Personal Identification Number) in your purse or wallet with your credit or debit cards.
• When at the beach, swim only between the yellow and red flags. The surf may be dangerous outside the flags. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels in Australia are higher than in other parts of the world, even during winter. Wear sun screen and a hat to protect your skin, even on cloudy days.
• Travel with a friend on trains or buses after 10.00pm.
• For your safety, booking a taxi is the best way to get around late at night. Contact Taxis Combined on: 13 2227 (13CABS) or book online at: www.taxiscombined.com.au

Emergency Telephone Numbers

In case of emergency **000** is the phone number for fire, police, and ambulance.

**NOTE:** Land line telephones use 000 and mobiles phones use 000 and 112.

It is important you are familiar with this number, your name and your address in Sydney in case of emergency.

If you dial **000** the operator will put you through to either ambulance, fire or police. Be prepared to give as much information as possible so they may help you.

Important Australian Telephone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency (fire, police, ambulance)</td>
<td>000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Assistance Number (non-emergency)</td>
<td>131 444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poisons Information</td>
<td>13 11 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeline (telephone counselling)</td>
<td>13 11 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translating and Interpreter Service</td>
<td>13 14 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College phone number - day</td>
<td>9283 1088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College after hours emergency - within Australia</td>
<td>1800 029 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College after hours emergency - from outside Australia</td>
<td>+61 7 3377 3955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VISA INFORMATION

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
If you are a student visa holder, you are required to have private health insurance for the duration of your visa in Australia. Allianz is the primary health insurance provider for our students. This insurance will help you pay for any medical or hospital care you may need while studying in Australia and will contribute towards the cost of most prescription medicines and emergency ambulance transport, but it does not cover dental or optical expenses.

Once we receive your OSHC fees, we then forward the payment to Allianz on your behalf. You will be covered by OSHC from 1 week before your course start date until the end of your visa with us, or if you have a packaged enrolment with a course at another institution, you will be covered up to the start date of that course. If you plan to arrive in Australia more than one week before your course start date, you will need alternative insurance cover, such as travel insurance, to cover you for the intervening period. Please remember that OSHC is not travel insurance, so it will not cover theft or loss of property.
For details please see the Allianz website: www.allianzassistance.com.au

Student Visa
If you are a Student visa holder, you are able to apply to work in paid employment for a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight, during your course of study. You will automatically receive permission to work when your visa is granted. This will apply to you and to any family members travelling with you on your visa.

Before you can start work you will need to apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) from the Australian Taxation Office. You can apply online at: www.ato.gov.au/individuals

If you have school-aged dependants who will accompany you to Australia, it is a condition of their visa that they must attend school. You may be required to pay full fees for their schooling whether they enrol in a government or non-government school.
You can find more information about schooling options online at: www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

Working Holiday Visa
If you are on a Working Holiday Visa you can study for a maximum of 4 months (17 weeks). With this visa, you may work in Australia for a maximum of six months with any one employer. You will require a Tax File Number (TFN).

Most students work in supermarkets, restaurants and shops. Job advertisements can be found in major newspapers or free local papers, and on websites such as www.careerone.com.au. We also offer regular job skill sessions after class.

Other students are often a very good source of information on job opportunities as well. However, please note that you are not likely to find a job until your English level is at least Intermediate level.

Tourist Visa
With this visa you can study for a maximum of 3 months (12 weeks). If you are on a Tourist Visa, you are not permitted to work in Australia.

Please note you are more likely to find a suitable job when your English has reached intermediate level.