



A COOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

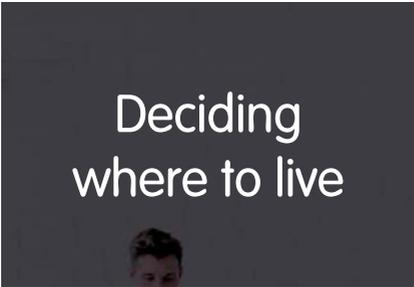
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So, you are thinking
about moving to
Australia to study.
It's a big step.



There are lots of things to think about. As a respected student accommodation partner, we have a lot of experience in this field and we have gained some great insight from our students over the years.

To help you navigate your way through the journey of moving to Australia to study, we wanted to share some of these insights.



Deciding
where to live



What Iglu
can offer



Tips for
settling in



Student
stories

On or off campus?
It's a good question.



Where you choose to live while studying can have a massive impact on your overall university experience so it's really important to weigh up all of the options before signing on the dotted line. After all, you don't just want a place to stay, you want a place to live.

For many students the biggest decision is whether to live in on-campus or off-campus student accommodation. There are benefits to both sides, but what really counts is the experience you want to create and how you can best do that.

Living on-campus does have the advantage of convenience – being so close to class means you never have far to go. But given you probably don't spend all day, every day going to classes, what happens when the lights go out at your university? In some cases, your options can be quite limited.

Off-campus living has increased in popularity as it offers all of the supportive on-campus benefits along with flexibility, convenience and some unique advantages that are worth considering.

Convenience and accessibility – With greater access to amenities and transport you can have everything you need close by such as shopping, cinemas, restaurants, cafés, bars, health and fitness, cultural activities and public transport.

Improved social network – Living with students from other universities and colleges – as well as from all over the world – this is a great way to make friends outside of your everyday university social circle. It can also provide a great academic network opportunity with people from different backgrounds offering unique and creative perspectives to problem solving and study techniques.

Real-world living – The best place to discover how the world really works is to step outside of the campus bubble. With real life eating and social options available at every corner, these experiences are invaluable in establishing your independence. It also helps open up opportunities for part-time work nearby.

Changing the scene – Many students like to separate their living and study environments, preferring not to isolate themselves away. Leaving campus each day to return to a world operating with a slightly different lense is refreshing, invigorating and keeps life interesting.

There are definitely arguments for both sides of the accommodation coin, but make sure you thoroughly research each option and consider whether the location and facilities are exactly right for your needs. At Iglu, we are always happy to simply have a chat and answer any questions to help you make the right choice for you.

At Iglu, we
are here for you



At Iglu, we care about people. We care about helping our residents develop and grow as individuals while living in a positive and welcoming environment.

We know that student living is about more than lectures and tutorials, and that education doesn't just happen inside a classroom. We also appreciate that a balanced approach is key to succeeding in all aspects of life, and that learning to achieve that balance can be challenging.

At Iglu, this is how we also help you feel safe, secure and supported.

SAFETY AND SECURITY 24/7

Very simply, your safety is our priority. All properties have CCTV throughout the common areas and entry points. We operate rooms on an electronic key card swipe system* – which means only you can have access to you. This is combined with access to 24/7 onsite assistance.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

It really doesn't take long to make good friends at Iglu, and very soon you will feel part of the Iglu family. In addition to this we have a number of Resident Leaders (RLs) living onsite who are available to talk to you about any personal stresses and strains you may be experiencing. RLs are students employed by Iglu who will understand the process you are going through, and are trained in senior first aid and emergency management.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND WELLBEING PROGRAM

Research shows that students involved in a range of high quality extra-curricular activities have a significantly higher level of satisfaction with their university experience. Iglu's supports this through our facilities and with a regular program of events and activities focusing on:

- » Academic Achievement (e.g. designated study space, internet for all residents)
- » Physical Fitness (e.g. free fruit, onsite gyms where possible, yoga sessions)
- » Psychological Wellbeing (e.g. a friendly and welcoming team including Resident Leaders, mental health training for all staff)
- » Social Engagement (e.g. table tennis and pool tables, celebrating different cultural events and festivals)
- » Meaning and Purpose (e.g. volunteering opportunities for residents and staff, raising money for local charities)

Providing environments and resources to support and enrich the journey of residents through their tertiary education is not just our job, it is why we exist. The organisational culture of Iglu, across all levels, encourages personal and professional development in a friendly, welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Our strong and supportive communities make Iglu not just a cool place to live, but a place to call home.

* Kelvin Grove has key lockable bedroom doors

Tips for settling in

Studying overseas can be one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of your life, a unique opportunity to appreciate a different culture and way of life right from the inside out.

But it's sometimes easy to get lost in all the excitement and forget about any wider challenges that may lie ahead – until they meet you face on. To avoid any dramas it is definitely worthwhile having a think in advance about the inevitable ripple effects that may impact your student experience, so that you are best equipped to deal with everything before it happens. Whether it's making friends, finding your way around or dealing with a new language, nothing is insurmountable – and in Australia you are perfectly placed to have all the help and support you need right at hand.

CONNECT

Arriving in a new country it can be tempting to seek out others from a similar background and isolate yourselves from the local community. Try to avoid this if you can. The fastest way to settle in and make friends is to simply get involved and reach out. The Aussies are known for being a friendly bunch, connecting in with your peers is a sure-fire way of making new friends, sharing experiences and getting the best out of your new environs. Keep yourself busy by trying new activities, be open to new customs and habits and perhaps pick up some of the local slang. Most importantly, an open-minded attitude will deepen the connection with your new home and help enable you to feel part of the collective community.

ADJUST

Australia may feel like a million miles away from everything you are used to and it can be hard to know where to begin. First up: don't panic – adjusting to your new home will take time and this is completely normal. Once the excitement of the move has died down, prepare for a natural period of acclimatisation before you truly feel like you are at home. The quickest way to stop feeling like a tourist is to live like a local – shop where the locals shop, use public transport to get around town, stick to the necessities and use your extra cash for the fun stuff. Australia is all about experiences and embracing this aspect will help you assimilate to your surrounds.



SHARE

Feeling homesick is part and parcel of living somewhere new. Be sure to bring along some mementos of home such as photos and small items that can be comforting to have around. The wonders of Wi-Fi make it super easy to stay in touch with family and friends and setting up a regular touch-point each week can be a reassuring appointment especially in the early days. Sharing your amazing experiences with family and friends reinforces the incredible opportunity you have to study in Australia.

ENJOY

Overseas study is not just about achieving the best academic results, this is also a chance to create some forever memories. Take advantage of your fantastic new home. Learn and experience new cultures and landscapes through travel and exploration, try new foods, venture out into the vastness, open your mind to the history and really absorb your new environment. If possible, try not to work for the first few months to enable you to fully immerse yourself in the experience.

BALANCE

Living overseas can be expensive and living costs can be more than you are normally used to. Whilst it is important not to overspend it is not only the finances that have to balance out. Ensure that your studies do not take priority over your health and that your schedule is an even balance of academic, social and physical activities. Maintain a healthy diet and in turn this will impact your energies and academic output – happy body, happy mind.

Finally, feeling supported is crucial to the success of a fantastic overseas experience. Be sure to utilise all the resources that are available to you from student services for any help you may need – academically or beyond.

Iglu is you. Iglu is everyone.

When settling in to your new environment, the important thing to remember is that there are lots of other students in the same boat. Everyone at Iglu is living away from home. Some will be from further afield than others, but they are all navigating their way through the exciting, rewarding and, at times, daunting experience of being a student. Some of our residents have been kind enough to share their story to help you navigate your own.



Hadi
Iglu Brisbane City

From Indonesia

Studying Bachelor of
Business at Torrens
University

'Iglu provides
socialisation with
students like no other'

Why did you choose to study in Brisbane, Australia?

I chose to study in Australia due to its cultural diversity and the global recognition of the Australian education system. Also, living expenses and tuition fees are considerably lower in Australia compared to the US or the UK. I chose Brisbane because it is close to major tourist destinations such as the Gold Coast. Also, it is more affordable to live in Brisbane compared to other Australian capital cities.

What is your favourite thing about being a student?

As a student, I've been given the opportunity to test myself and the world as well. I'm allowed to explore various areas of interest and express my creativity in different ways. I'm allowed to meet new people and embrace new cultures. I'm allowed to make mistakes as long as I correct them. Lastly, I'm allowed to establish and solidify my own opinions and stand firmly for them; I've gained independence and will continuously seek change in the world around me for the betterment.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In 5 years, I see myself in Bali managing my own successful and exclusive beach club and having the time of my life.

Why did you choose to study in Australia?

I chose to study in Australia because I fell in love with this country when I came to visit for a holiday when I was 8. I remember telling my parents how I would definitely want to come back in the future. 10 years later, here I am studying in Australia. The weather here is amazing and not forgetting the clear and blue skies. AND THE BEACH, OH MY!

What is your favourite thing about being a student?

Being a student, we have a lot of time that we can decide what to do with it and also we only have one main responsibility – which is just to study.

What is your favourite thing to do when you're not studying?

Sleeping, hanging out with friends, watching shows/movies and SHOPPING.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

A successful physiotherapist that is able to help as many people as I can and a volunteer to help people in less developed countries.



Nicole
Iglu Central Park

From Singapore

Studying Physiotherapy
at University of Sydney

'My favourite thing
about Iglu is super
friendly and always
willingly to help staff'

Why did you choose to study in Australia?

It is rich in diversity and culture and has a very high quality in education.

Why did you choose to study in Melbourne?

Melbourne has so much to offer in terms of entertainment. It is a safe city and it is easy to get around.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself as a political counsel (representative) in a country allocated by my home country, paving my way to be a diplomat.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

Read books on women empowerment, to broaden my understanding on gender inequality in all developing countries, cooking and baking.

What is your favourite thing about being a student?

Freedom of movement. Being able to go anywhere you want without having to check in and check out. Exploring the world on your own and making your own mistakes is the joy of being a student.



Philasande
Iglu Melbourne City

From South Africa

Studying Bachelor of Arts
in Politics & International
Relations at Australian
Catholic University

'I love the interior of the
building and my room'



Iglu Property Locations

BRISBANE

IGLU BRISBANE CITY

65 Mary Street
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IGLU KELVIN GROVE

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MELBOURNE

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