

SECTION 2

Pre-Arrival



<http://lyndale.vic.edu.au/>

Section 2: Pre-Arrival

Application Step by Step Process Model

Introduction to Australia

- Introducing Melbourne
- Introducing Lyndale Secondary College

Arranging Visas

- DIAC
- DFAT
- Migration Agents
- Education Agents
- Visa Conditions

Arranging Travel

- Documents
- What to Bring
 - Seasonal Considerations
 - Clothing
 - Other Items You Might Need to Include
 - Your Computer
 - Mobile Phones and Laptops

On your Flight

- Entry into Australia
 - Australian Immigration
 - Baggage Claim
 - Detector Dogs
 - Australian Customs and Quarantine
 - Arrivals Hall

Keeping in Contact

Accessing Money

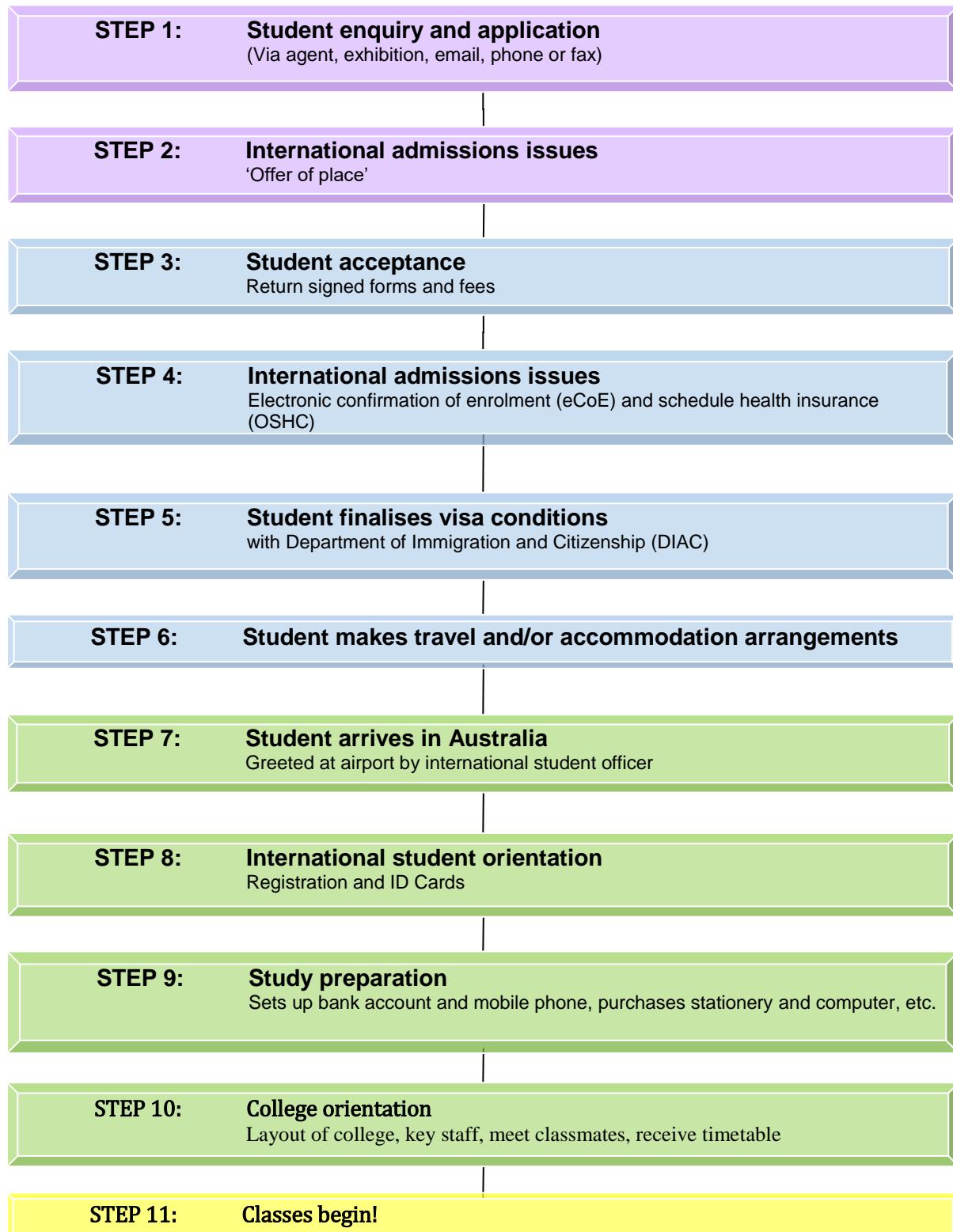
- How Much to Bring
- Currency Exchange
- Electronic Transfer
- ATMs
- Credit Cards

Arranging Accommodation

Temporary Accommodation

- Hotels, Motels & Backpackers
- Staying with Friends or Family

Application Step-by-Step Process Model:



Introduction to Australia



Many people have heard thing about Australia, the country surrounded by the Indian and Pacific oceans – perhaps the kangaroos and koalas, the summer weather, or even the outback or the beach culture. Shortly you will find out that Australia is a lot more. With almost 30% of its citizens born overseas, and the fact that over 200 languages are spoken in homes across the country, Australia's population is one of the most diverse in the world, a fact celebrated across the country several times a year throughout many of the multicultural festivals. With over 600,000 international students in Australia right now, we warmly welcome you.



Australia is the sixth largest country in the world, although the population is a disproportionate 24 million. The vast majority of Australians live near the coast in one of the many towns or cities. With six states and two territories, Australia has 8 major cities, the most well-known being Melbourne and Sydney, but each state/territory capital has its own character and charm, leaving plenty of opportunities to explore the

huge continent. Popular tourist attractions are the ancient Uluru, the snow fields of Victoria and the huge amount of wildlife parks and zoological gardens around the country.



Although a young country, Australia has a rich and fascinating indigenous history dating back tens of thousands of years. Around Australia you can see evidence of the proud, culture-rich legacies of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations and learn of their connection and relationship with others who came to Australia during the last millennium.

Moreover, with such a proudly multicultural way of life, Australians are typically used to immersing themselves in the wide range of cultures readily available in pockets of ethnic communities in major urban centres, whether it be Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek or Middle-Eastern.

Australians are proud of their country and, most of all, wish to share it with everyone who honours us by visiting. We wish you a safe journey to your second home, and hope you enjoy staying here as much as we will enjoy hosting you.

Useful links:

[Austrade: Study in Australia](#)

[Studying in Australia](#)

[Australian Government: International Students](#)



Introducing Melbourne

Congratulations on choosing to live and study in the world's most liveable city for the sixth year in a row. Melbourne is the capital city of the Australian state of Victoria and the second largest city in Australia. It is also one of the top ten safest cities in the world, according to Economist's Safe Cities index 2015, and is renowned for its focus on high quality education and idyllic settings for sight-seeing.

Melbourne also has an international reputation for its community feel and cohesion, its café culture, and its title as the sporting capital of Australia. Additionally, Melburnians would say the city has a cultured, artistic atmosphere, enabling people to express themselves through art, music, theatre and fashion.

Melbourne does have unpredictable weather each day, but the average temperature is a comfortable 20°C, providing ample temperate days to explore. This also means Melbourne is one of the most comfortable cities in Australia during the hotter months.

Useful links:

[The City of Melbourne for International Students](#)
[Student Cities Australia - Melbourne](#)
[Insider Guides - Melbourne](#)



Introducing Lyndale Secondary College

Lyndale Secondary College is a co-educational government secondary school located in Dandenong North, near the foothills of the Dandenong Mountains. Being one of the largest single-campus school in the state of Victoria, the college has a long and proud history, starting in 1961 with only 44 students. Now the college has over 1000 students, with students so culturally diverse, that they speak almost 60 different languages at home.

Lyndale Secondary College offers an impressive gamut of subjects from year 7 to year 12, including comprehensive programs for students wishing to enrol in VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education), VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) and VET (Vocational Education and Training), resulting in increased paths to further learning. With high quality Homestay placements and numerous International Student programs, including a dedicated Intensive English Language Centre for newly arrived International Students, Lyndale is well-equipped to meet the needs of international students.

Useful links:

[Lyndale Secondary College website](#)
[Lyndale's International Programs](#)



[Lyndale's curriculum handbooks](#)

Arranging Visas:

Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a **student visa**. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your country.

In order to apply for a visa you will need a **valid passport**, an **electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)** and any **other documentation** required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application. For example, if you are under 18 you must have a completed **CAAW form** to ensure your accommodation and welfare is approved by your education provider.

You must **allow enough time** for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

The Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm for the latest information.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

As well as links from the DIAC website the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website www.dfat.gov.au/embassies has a comprehensive list of Australian embassies, high commissions, consulates and representative offices around the world. Visit for more information.

Migration Agents

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIAC on your behalf, but please note that **you do not need to use a migration agent** to lodge any kind of visa application.

Education Agents

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend.

Please Note: Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are NOT licensed to provide migration advice.

Visa Conditions:



If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):

- Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions, please visit www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-s.

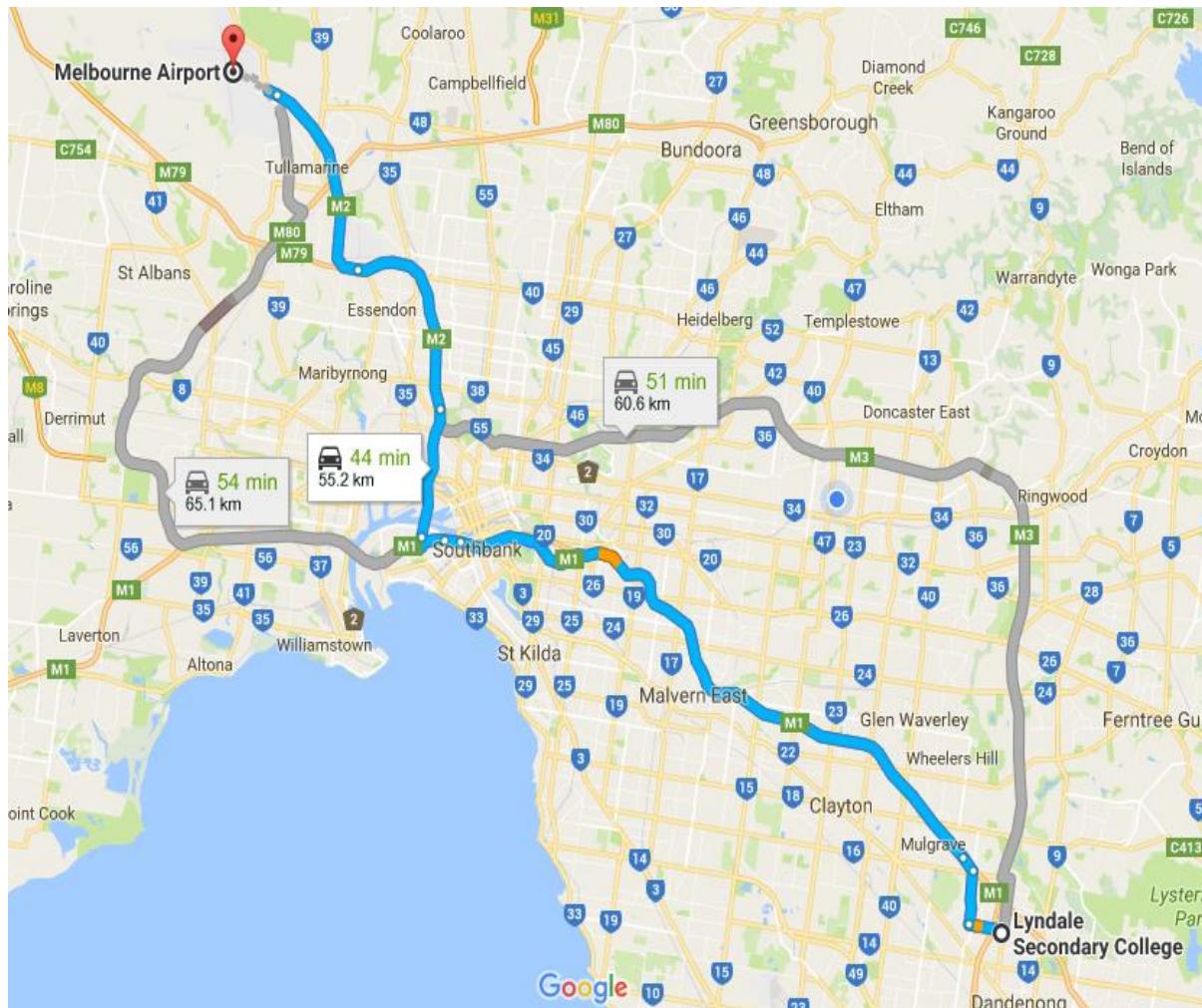
Arranging Travel:



You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least 1-2 weeks before the start of International Student Orientation to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet-lag.

You should fly into Melbourne International Airport which is Victoria's largest and most frequently used airport. Visit [http://melbourneairport.com.au/..](http://melbourneairport.com.au/) Upon arrival at Melbourne International airport a staff member from Lyndale Secondary College's International Students unit will greet you and take you to your place of accommodation.

North Dandenong is located approximately 60 kilometres from Melbourne International Airport. Travelling along the Tullamarine expressway and the Monash Freeway, this trip can be made in between 40 to 60 minutes, depending on the time travel is made. Refer to the map below:



Documents

You should prepare a folder of **official documents** to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with student visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from Lyndale Secondary College
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by Lyndale Secondary College
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents (e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver's licence)
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.

If you are travelling with your family you will need to include their documents as well. **Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage.** In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

What to Bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, **declare it anyway** on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on-the-spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the [Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service \(AQIS\) homepage](#) for more information.

- Read "**What can't I take into Australia?**"
- And also let your family and friends know "**What can't be mailed to Australia?**"

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (35kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

Seasonal Considerations

Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February which can reach around 45°C and are characterized by a dry heat.

If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive. Melbourne is known for its unpredictable weather, so it is wise to wear layers of clothing where appropriate.

Clothing

When not attending school or work Australian people tend to dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months when sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

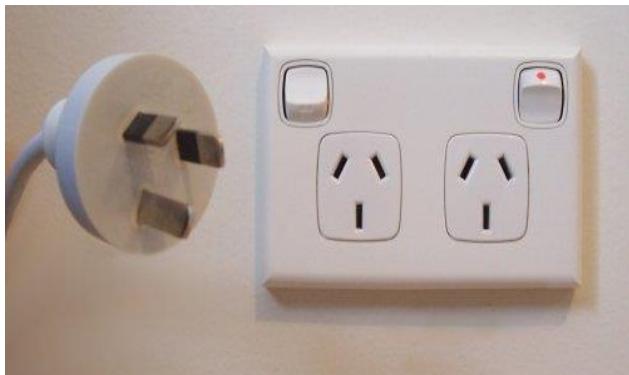
A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, graduation ceremonies, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring your traditional dress and accessories.

When attending school all students will be required to wear a full school uniform to classes and other school activities. Lyndale has a strict school uniform policy which stipulates that no other visible clothing may be worn other than the uniform. There is also a Physical Education uniform students must wear during sport lessons and sport-driven co-curriculum activities. All items of school uniform can be purchased upon first arriving at the school. More information on Lyndale's school uniform can be found at <http://lyndale.vic.edu.au/learning-at-lyndale/uniform/>.

Other Items You Might Need to Include

Most of these items can be purchased in Australia:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alarm clock<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dictionary (bilingual)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small sewing kit<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music CDs or iPod<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sporting equipment<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> toiletries<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> umbrella | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific or graphics calculator<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> camera<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> micro recorder for lectures<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spare spectacles or contact lenses<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> your optical prescription<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photos of friends and family<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swimming suit<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> small gifts from home |
|--|--|



The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins, one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

Bringing Your Computer

Lyndale Secondary College has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy, which means students are expected to bring their own computer to all classes. Smart phones and tablets are not permitted as part of the BYOD program. All teaching areas are fitted with Wifi and students access the daily operations program Compass throughout the day. The college has two options when considering a computer:

- you purchase a laptop after arriving in Australia, or
- you bring your laptop from your home country be **set up using English as the main language** (additional languages may be added to suit your needs) to ensure that ICT support can be provided when required.

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated.

Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD\$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

Minimum operating requirements are:

- Internal disk capacity of 128GB or more
- Windows 10 OS preferred, anything from Windows 7 OS acceptable
- Wifi capability

Office suite products are provided by the Victorian Department of Education and Training as part of its EduStar package. More information on Lyndale's ICT BYOD policy can be found at <http://lyndale.vic.edu.au/learning-at-lyndale/netbook-program/>.

Mobile Phones and Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority www.acma.gov.au before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be **Austel Approved** in order to function in Australia.

On Your Flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be **very HOT** so wear light weight clothing underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively, extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an **Incoming Passenger Card** to fill in. This is a legal document. **You must tick ✓ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products.** This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don't be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than **AU\$10,000** in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is **strongly recommended** however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.

Entry into Australia

Australian Immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia. It is not common that airport workers will be able to speak your home language, some English may be required to communicate with them.

Baggage Claim

Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged go to the **Baggage Counter** and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

Detector Dogs

You may see a **Quarantine Detector Dog** at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

Australian Customs and Quarantine

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn't have. You must **declare ALL** food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has **strict quarantine laws** and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU\$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require **treatment** to make them safe. Items that are **restricted** because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the **Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)**.

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit www.daffa.gov.au/aqis.

Arrivals Hall

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays. A international students staff member will meet you **in the arrivals hall** after you provide your Incoming Passenger Card to the customs officer. Look for a sign with your name on it.

Keeping in Contact:

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and Lyndale Secondary College, with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. Do not change these details without informing them. Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have **arrived safely**. It is important to **ALWAYS** let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by post.

Provide a copy by email of your itinerary to Mr Chuc Hua at hua.chuc.n@edumail.gov.vic.au and put your full name in the subject field.

Accessing Money:

You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.

How Much to Bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately **AU\$1500 to AU\$2000** available for the first two to three weeks to pay for incidental expenses such as transport. You should bring most of this money as either **Traveller's Cheques** or on an international credit card. Traveller's cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia, however financial institutions in Australia tend to be closed on the weekend and public holidays.

Please note that it is **not safe to bring large sums of money** with you! Lost credit cards or traveller's cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who says they are also studying at Lyndale Secondary College.

Currency Exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Dandenong North you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at Waverley Gardens Shopping Centre or Dandenong Plaza.

Electronic Transfer

You can transfer money into Australia by **electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer** at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately **48 hours**, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

ATMs

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at **ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo** (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home. It is common in Australia that ATMs are located in areas of most convenience, including shopping centres and service stations (petrol stations), but be aware that even when using an Australian bank card, there may be extra fees if you utilise an ATM that does not belong to your bank.



Credit Cards

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that **repayments** to many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

Arranging Accommodation:



If you will be staying with a homestay family during your studies at Lyndale Secondary College, the Homestay coordinator at Lyndale Secondary College will endeavour to arrange the most suitable family for you. All Homestay families offer their homes and hospitality out of kindness and an interest to learn more about other cultures, languages and countries. Living with a Homestay family who speaks the same language as you is discouraged and often not possible to arrange – the purpose of Homestay is to comfortably experience how Australian families live and share your culture with them while gaining further exposure to English.

Additionally, all Homestay families must satisfy range of strict criteria to ensure your safety and happiness while studying in Australia. Please remember they are opening their homes and lives to you, so follow any house rules and demonstrate courtesy and consideration at all times with your Homestay family. If there are any issues concerning your Homestay family, contact Lyndale Secondary College's Homestay coordinator.

Temporary Accommodation:

Hotels, Motels & Backpackers



Homestay accommodation is strictly for students studying with Lyndale Secondary College and in no way provides accommodation for family members accompanying the student. Any visiting family member or friend will need to independently arrange and pay for temporary accommodation for the duration of their stay. Such accommodation can be booked by conducting an internet search of the area.

Staying with Friends or Family

If you know someone in Australia, this is a great way to settle-in to life here. Your friends or family can provide advice, support and encouragement in your first days in Australia. However, if you are under the age of 18 you must obtain approval from the International Student Program Coordinator before undertaking accommodation with your friend or family member.