



Australia – Fact Sheet for Lakehead University Placements 2023

Flights

- From Toronto to Queensland, the cost of a round trip ranges from roughly \$2000-3000 Canadian.
- The flight duration is approximately 20 hours with no direct flights, typically 1-3 stops/layovers.
- There are multiple airlines that fly to Queensland.

Visas

- A visa (called an Electronic Travel Authority, or ETA) must be applied for, and received, prior to leaving for Australia. There is a small processing fee (approximately \$20) for this visa.
- Upon entering Australia, you must present a valid passport and you may be asked to show your return ticket, proof of sufficient funds for your trip, and proof of lodging.
- A letter will be provided by the University outlining the purpose of your trip, in case it is needed.

Language

- English is the official language of Australia, spoken as the primary language in the home of approximately 73% of the population. There are however many Australian expressions and slang words that may be unfamiliar! For example:

beaut = fantastic, great

cheers = thanks

bloke = man

brekkie = breakfast

the bush = the land, backwoods, away from settlement

daks = pants

g'day = hello

mate = buddy

thongs = flip flops

docco = documentary

Sheila = woman

Aborigonal = First Nations, Indigenous

Maccas = McDonald's

Currency

-The official currency of Australia is the Australian Dollar. \$1 AUS = \$0.88 CAD.

-ATMs are widely available throughout the UK. Credit cards and debit cards can be used widely.

Food

-There are lots of meat-based foods. Meat Pie, Sausage Sizzle, and Dim Sum are popular.

-There are quite a few vegan/vegetarian restaurants.

-Popular foods include: fish and chips, Vegemite on toast, Tim Tams, fairy bread, BBQ, Bowen Mangoes.

-Traditional foods are filling, heartwarming, "comfort foods."

-You may wish to partake in a "Snag" which is akin to a hot dog served outside the Canadian Tire, served on white bread.

-Note: In restaurants, the average tip is 10-15%, although you need to confirm it hasn't automatically been added to your bill.

Water

The tap water is safe to drink, and has had a reputation of being among the safest in the world.

Vaccines

-You do not need to take any COVID-19 tests or fill in a passenger locator form. This applies whether you are fully vaccinated or not.

-The World Health Organization recommends the following vaccinations for Australia: Yellow Fever (required for entry), Hepatitis B, Measles, Japanese encephalitis, Influenza, COVID-19

Travel Advisories

- Visit <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/australia> for latest notifications.
- Currently, there is no travel advisory, recommending that visitors exercise regular caution when visiting.

General Information about Queensland and Travel Tips

- Queensland is 14 hours ahead of Ontario.
- For emergency, dial 000.
- Public transportation prices are fairly reasonable for buses, trains, and ferries. Go Cards and Smart Ticketing make travelling by public transportation easy and quick.
- Queensland can be expensive, so take advantage of free nature experiences and attractions.
- Inexpensive lunches can be purchased at Bang Bang Fresh Noodle, Frida Sol, Woolies (Woolworths) or Cole's, and many of the same American franchises that we enjoy in Canada.
- Come prepared to charge your devices: bring an adaptor for the type I ports. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. For other tips about powering devices, see [power plugs and sockets - Australia](#).

Cellphones and Wi-Fi

- It is recommended to purchase a new SIM card, or to use an app that allows you to talk and text over Wi-Fi. Apps such as WhatsApp and TextNow that allow you to text/call over Wi-Fi are alternatives to buying a new sim card.
- Wi-Fi networks are widely available, including [in many Queensland national parks](#).

Temperatures and Weather in March/April/May

- Remember, while it will be spring for us, Australia (and the rest of the southern Hemisphere) will be entering Autumn and Winter
- Temperatures will fall to between 15 - 25°C (59 - 77°F)
- Expect low humidity and less rain.

Travel and Tourism

Australia has a massive tourism industry, so take advantage of being able to see this wonderful corner of the world. For further information, see

<https://www.queensland.com/au/en/home>

Further information to prepare students for placements and travel in Queensland, including a packing list, will be organized through Lakehead University.