Editor's Note

Upon receiving the international student life guide, you have no doubt already stood under the Southern Cross, arrived in Melbourne, and come to live your dream at Monash University. With vision and passion, you have entered this famous and unfamiliar city, everything around you fresh and full of challenges. This guide will help you start this new chapter of your life in Melbourne, Australia and provide you with an understanding of culture, knowledge and some common sense! We hope you can successfully complete your education, while also enjoying life during your study in Australia!
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Settling down

Enrolment

1. Go to MIGR (Building 26, reception desk) to submit forms (IP, ethics, etc.) for enrolling. If you have any issues Lilyanne Price should be able to assist you.

2. Go to the Student Service Centre (Building 21) to take a photo for your student ID card.

3. After registration, you will get a Monash email address (firstname.surname@monash.edu) and be allocated a desk and computer.

Mobile

- Australia has three telecom providers: Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.
- Pre and post-paid services can be obtained from these companies or their authorised resellers which include; Lyca, Lebara, Hello China, TPG, amaysim, Vaya and Dodo.
- Prepaid sim cards for use with your current phone can be obtained from phone shops, post offices, convenience stores or on the internet.
- The majority of providers also offer postpaid plans with varying caps.

Vodafone (left) and Commonwealth Bank (right) at the Campus Centre (Building 21)
Banking

- There are four major banks in Australia: ANZ, Commonwealth, NAB, and Westpac.
- Their branches are widely distributed with 24 hour ATM service available.
- If you want to open a bank account, you require adequate documentation as proof of identity, for example; a passport, student ID card and/or an international driver’s licence. If you don’t have a student ID you should take other documents to prove you are a student, as banks offer students incentives.
- If you have an Australian Tax ID (Tax File Number), take it at the same time. If not, apply later and provide it to the bank as soon as possible.
- A tax file number is required if you are to be paid and plan to stay in the country for longer than 6 months.
- The fastest way to get a TFN is online: www.ato.gov.au/individuals
- The Campus Centre (Building 21) has a branch of the Commonwealth Bank and Westpac.

Eating

Restaurants

- Melbourne’s restaurant scene is world famous.
- A wide variety of international food can be found throughout the inner city. For instance, several popular Chinese restaurants can be found along Little Bourke Street, also known as Chinatown. Lygon Street, located next to Melbourne University, is famous for its Italian cuisine and
Brunswick Street, in the central-northern suburb Fitzroy, is known for its cafés and hipster shops.

- Melbourne’s coffee culture is highly celebrated, so make sure to check out the cafés.
- There are many excellent restaurants in close proximity to Monash’s Clayton Campus, which are usually cheaper than those in the city. As a general rule, restaurants are located around the train station of each suburb. For example, in Glen Waverley and Clayton one can find a range of great eateries, particularly those dedicated to Asian cuisine. Similarly, Oakleigh is famous for its Greek restaurants.
- A diverse array of fast food options can be found on campus, e.g. in the Campus Centre, on the ground floor of the Hargrave-Andrew library and at the north end of the New Horizons building.
- Most PhD students, however, prefer to cook their meals at home and bring them to work. These can be reheated in the microwaves provided in the tea and common rooms.

**Supermarkets**

- You will likely find a major supermarket near your closest train station, for instance in the suburb centres of Clayton, Oakleigh and Box Hill.
Chadstone shopping mall houses all of Australia’s big supermarket chains.

Opening hours vary, but supermarkets are often open longer than the surrounding shops, including Sundays and late evening.

Woolworths and Coles have the widest range of groceries and homeware products. Aldi has limited choice and requires you to bring your own bags, but offers cheaper prices.

Watch out for adjacent small specialty stores (Asian, Deli, etc.), fish mongers, bakeries and butchers. You might also want to support your locally owned corner shop, such as IGA.

Australia’s major supermarkets. Look out for specialty stores.

Websites for the major supermarkets provide a store locator and list the opening hours;
Fresh Food Markets

- Queen Victoria Market in the city centre is Melbourne’s most famous market with delicatessens, fruits, vegetables and tourist souvenirs.
- Another popular market is the South Melbourne Market at the south bank of the city.
- Springvale market is only 2 train stations away from Clayton Campus, and offers a wide selection of fresh and cheap food.
Accommodation
As an international student in Melbourne, there are several accommodation options you can choose from.

On-campus
- This accommodation option is managed by Monash Residential Services and spaces are limited at certain times of the year.
- Rent is around $200-350 per week.
- For information on potential vacancies, email the relevant campus Admissions Officer, via the contact us section of the below website.

Off campus

Apartment
- There are many apartments available for students near the Clayton campus, with rent ranging between $220 and $400 per week.
- These apartments are fully furnished with split system heating/cooling, kitchens with stainless steel appliances, study cupboard, TV etc.

House
- You can also rent a house individually or with other students.
- When you choose to rent a house, the location and condition should be considered.
- You need to check if it is close to a bus or train station, if it has a safe community environment and if the room is large enough.
- You should determine if the rent fee is reasonable,
investigate what is supplied by the landlord and consider whether the housemates are compatible with your lifestyle.

- The rent for a house is normally between $120 and $170 per week.
- Generally speaking, a house with convenient transportation, better conditions, and fewer people to share, is more expensive.
- Most students choose to rent houses located in the avenues around campus, given their proximity to the university.

![Monash University Clayton Campus and surrounding areas](image)

**Homestay**

- This option is the most suitable for young overseas students who are below 18 years of age.
- A number of useful online Chinese communities are listed below. These are rich in content and can help new students settle in.
  - Lluyuan: [www.6park.com](http://www.6park.com)
  - Yeeyi: [www.yeeyi.com](http://www.yeeyi.com)
Transportation
Australia's public transport system includes trains, trams, and buses.

MYKI
- To use Melbourne’s public transport, a Myki card is required.
- Once money is loaded onto the Myki card (topping up), you can get on the bus/train/tram and swipe on and swipe off when you get off (swiping off is not required on trams).
- Myki cards and top ups can be bought at ticketing machines found at train stations, ticketing offices at particular stations and 7-eleven stores.
- It can also be done online (https://www.mymyki.com.au/), where you can also register your card, allowing you to auto top-up if the balance is low and keep your balance if you lose your card.
- When riding the bus/train/tram, be sure to swipe, otherwise you can be fined by ticketing inspectors.

Zoning and Costs
- In metropolitan Melbourne there are two zones (1&2).
• Zone 1 is the city and the inner suburban areas, and zone 2 is for the outer suburban areas. To see this map, look at: http://ptv.vic.gov.au/getting-around/maps/.
• Monash Clayton is located in both zone 1 and 2.
• The fares for the zones are here: http://ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/metropolitan-myki-fares/.
• It is possible to buy monthly and yearly tickets which are cheaper overall than daily tickets.
• Monash commuter club offers 10% off yearly tickets, see http://fsd.monash.edu.au/environmental-sustainability/monash-commuter-club.
• Please note that it takes about a month from ordering to receive the Myki card from the commuter website.

Planning and Timetables
• If you plan to travel, you can view and schedule trips before departure with journey planner at: http://ptv.vic.gov.au/.
• Monash University’s bus loop provides buses that go to many places in Melbourne, including:
  ➢ 703: Middle Brighton-Blackburn, via Bentleigh, Clayton
  ➢ 733: Oakleigh-Box Hill, via Mt Waverley.
  ➢ 631: Waverley Gardens-Southland
  ➢ 900: Rowville-Caulfield, via Chadstone
  ➢ 862/864: Dandenong-Chadstone
  ➢ 737: Croydon-Monash University, via Glen Waverley
  ➢ Shuttle buses (free for Monash students) between select campuses
Shopping

Shopping Centres

- Some of the main shopping centres in Melbourne are:
  - Melbourne Central - Melbourne CBD
  - QV Shopping Center - Melbourne CBD
  - Chadstone Shopping Center - Chadstone
  - Westfield Shopping Center - Doncaster

Shopping Hubs

- Melbourne Central is not only one of the main train stations in the CBD but is also a big shopping, dining and entertainment integrated multi-story shopping complex. This building has the world’s largest conical glass roof and also contains the world’s largest clock.
• South Yarra/Chapel Street features local crafts and artists giving live performances, as well as several restaurants, bars and fashion stores.

• Chadstone Shopping Centre is the largest shopping center in the southern hemisphere and contains hundreds of outlets and restaurants.

Chadstone Shopping Centre

Harbour Town Shopping Plaza

• Docklands/Harbour Town Shopping Centre is an open air plaza located near the beautiful seaport of Docklands.

• For those who are after bargain deals and looking for cheaper branded products, DFO is THE place to be! As its name suggests, they are direct factory outlets and offer attractive prices and bargains. Prices are reduced by up to 70%. DFO can be found next to Docklands, as well as in Essendon and Moorabin.
DFO and Crown Entertainment

- Might not be Las Vegas but Crown Casino is the only casino in Melbourne and is a place that never sleeps. The building contains several top-notch restaurants, bars, clubs, clothing outlets as well as movie theatres.

Specialty Stores

- Myer and David Jones are department stores which sell a range of goods from fashionable items to household goods. Both can be found in Chadstone, as well as other places around the city.

Myer and David Jones

- Electronics stores include JB-HiFi, Harvey Norman and Dick Smith Electronics.
- Budget furniture can be found in IKEA, located in both Richmond and Springvale.
Health & Medical
If you are sick or feeling unwell, visit a doctor's clinic or medical centre. An appointment is normally required to avoid a long wait.

Clayton Campus Medical Clinic
- The medical clinic at the Clayton campus:
  - Is open from 9am - 5pm weekdays
  - Accepts phone or drop-in appointments
- If you are a student or staff member, bring your:
  - Monash ID card
  - Medicare, OSHC or Health Care Card with you
Pharmacy
If a doctor prescribes you medication you will need to go to a pharmacy to collect your prescription. Pharmacies also offer a variety of non-prescription drugs which can be used to treat colds, headaches, allergies etc. A pharmacy is located in the Campus Centre.

Monash Clayton Campus Pharmacy

Dentist and Optometrist
The Clayton Campus is also home to dental and optometry services. You will need to check whether your health insurance covers you for the cost of dental and optometry services.

Monash Clayton Optometrist
**Safety & Emergency**

The Triple Zero (000) service is the quickest way to get the right emergency service to help you. You can contact Police, Fire or Ambulance in life threatening or emergency situations. More information can be found at [http://www.triplezero.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.triplezero.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx).

At Monash Clayton, dialing 333 from an internal phone or 99053333 from a mobile will contact campus security who can help you in the case of an emergency on campus.

**General Contact Numbers**

Rebecca Bulmer *(For General Enquiries)*
Telephone: +61 3 9905 3555  
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Ms Lilyanne Price *(For Postgraduate Studies)*
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Finally, we hope all new students cherish the opportunity to study in Australia and enjoy every day!
**About Us**

CEPA (Chemical Engineering Postgraduate Association) is the postgraduate student committee for the Department of Chemical Engineering at Monash University. We run several academic and social events for the department. We liaise among postgraduates, to put forward student views and organise a number of activities throughout the year. Our constitution highlights that “we provide academic support to fellow postgraduates and thus foster communication of research ideas and collaborations”. Our CEPA Conference is held annually in October, allowing students to present their research to an academic audience and obtain feedback from their peers. Additionally, we hold a number of social events including Thank God It’s Friday (TGIF), trivia games night, and bowling competitions. These events allow the postgraduate students in the Department the chance to meet in a social environment. We hope you can join us as a committee member at the next election!

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