

CHECKLIST – TO DO's before departure

To Do	Explanation/Tips	Check
Upload all necessary documents for the partner university and select your elective modules	Check your Macromedia mail account daily – the International Office is sending you important information and papers that you have to sign until a specific date. Keep all deadlines in mind!	
Check passport	For Australia you will need a valid passport throughout your whole stay . You should always carry your passport (or at least a copy) with you since you will need it to identify yourself down under (IDs are often not accepted). If you don't have a passport, you should apply for one right at the beginning as this may take several weeks.	
Apply for a visa	<p>As an international student you will need the „Student Visa – Subclass 500“. You can easily apply for it online by registering for an „ImmiAccount“ by the Australian government.</p> <p>All student visas are valid up until two months after the end of the course (usually until the end of January if you are studying there in the winter semester). Keep that in mind before booking your return flight.</p>	
Apply for OSHC	<p>International students must have the „Overseas Student Health Cover“ which is necessary for entering Australia and should cover the length of your stay. There are several providers that differ in terms of the services and the price – thus, compare them carefully.</p> <p>Tip: Monash University has a special OSHC cover deal with Allianz which includes the University Health Services (UHS): A wide range of services including doctor's appointments and counselling support for those who are covered by Allianz Care, AHM by Medibank or Medibank.</p>	
Inform about all semester dates at Monash University	Before booking anything, check the semester dates for your upcoming semester. Note that there is an additional orientation week for all study	

	abroad students which usually begins two weeks before the start of lectures.	
Book a flight early on	<p>The earlier you book your flight, the more money you can save. Thus, compare different airlines, platforms and days! It is recommendable to book a flexible return-ticket because you will probably spend some more time down under with you new friends.</p> <p>Important: Only book your flight after you have been granted the visa!</p>	
Inform about the city structure	<p>Getting to know Melbourne in advance helps you to get around more easily once you arrive, as well as to find out where you want to live. What are nice and safe suburbs? How is the infrastructure? Is there a direct connection to public transport? How far is the accommodation from your campus and central Melbourne? Have a look at @myown_melbourne on Instagram to get insights about Melbourne's different suburbs.</p>	
Look for accommodations prematurely (on-Campus, student Accommodation, shared flat, etc.)	<p>Start your apartment-hunting at an early stage, preferably after you have received the confirmation from the partner university. Reflect whether you would like to live alone or in a shared flat, on-campus or off-campus and keep all deadlines in mind. If you want to live off-campus, hold on to the recommended accommodations on the Monash's website to avoid being "scammed".</p> <p>Tip: Depending on the moving-in date, you may need a transitional-hotel/hostel.</p>	
Attend Q&A session	That is your chance to ask all open questions and get to know Monash University a bit better.	
Register your Monash ID card (M-Pass)	As for all universities, you need a student ID to identify yourself, access buildings, borrow books and other materials from the library. Register for the so called " M-Pass " in preparation of your arrival to get access to the community and important information.	
Apply for scholarships/ Foreign student loans	Studying abroad is very expensive. In order to relief this financial burden, you can apply for foreign student loans like BaFög .	

	<p>Additionally, there are several scholarships such as the “Thomas-Heinrich-Stipendium”, PROMOS or International Merit Scholarship by Monash University.</p> <p>Don't miss these opportunities!</p>	
Connect with other Macromedia students	<p>Shortly after the confirmation for Melbourne, the International Office will send you a list with the names and e-mail addresses of your fellow students.</p> <p>Connect with them and start a WhatsApp group to exchange and help each other.</p>	
Open an Australian bank account / check if you have an international credit card	<p>It is very common to pay by credit card in Australia. Inform yourself at your local credit institutes about transaction costs when paying with your European card. However, I highly recommend opening an Australian bank account to avoid conversion fees. Most banks offer an international student account with no monthly fees (e.g. Commonwealth Bank, ANZ, Nab).</p> <p>If you are interested in working in Australia, you must get an Australian bank account and a Tax File Number to be able to work.</p>	
Inform about pre-paid sim-cards	<p>To connect with your new friends and with your family and friends at home, you should get a local sim-card. Don't use your German sim-card unless you want to pay horrifying bills.</p> <p>As in Germany, contracts usually bind for 12 months. Since you are there for a shorter period of time, it is recommendable to buy a pre-paid card which is unlimited and free to charge whenever you need to.</p> <p>Inform yourself about the different Australian providers, especially within regard of the network coverage which varies greatly. If you want to go into the outback or do a road trip, the three biggest providers Telstra, Optus und Vodafone may be the best choice.</p>	
Create your timetable	<p>3-4 weeks before your semester starts, you will get a link to create your own timetable and sign into your courses. This is different from Macromedia.</p>	
Book an airport pickup	<p>Monash University offers a free airport pickup service which you should book at least 7 days in advance.</p>	

Organize all important documents and contacts.	Before departure you should safe and organise all important documents offline . This includes all entry documents like Visa, CoE, OSHC.	
Pack your suitcases	Since Australia is on the southern hemisphere, the four seasons are opposite to European seasons, thus when you arrive in July, it will be winter. Melbourne´s weather is unpredictable – it can be really hot and then cool down to 10°C and rain within just a couple of hours. It is not uncommon to hear the phrase „ Melbourne has four seasons in one day ”!	
Make a list of trips	Start making a list of sights and trips you want to do in and around Melbourne. Usually at the beginning of the semester you will have the most free time. Thus, take the chance and explore Melbourne.	