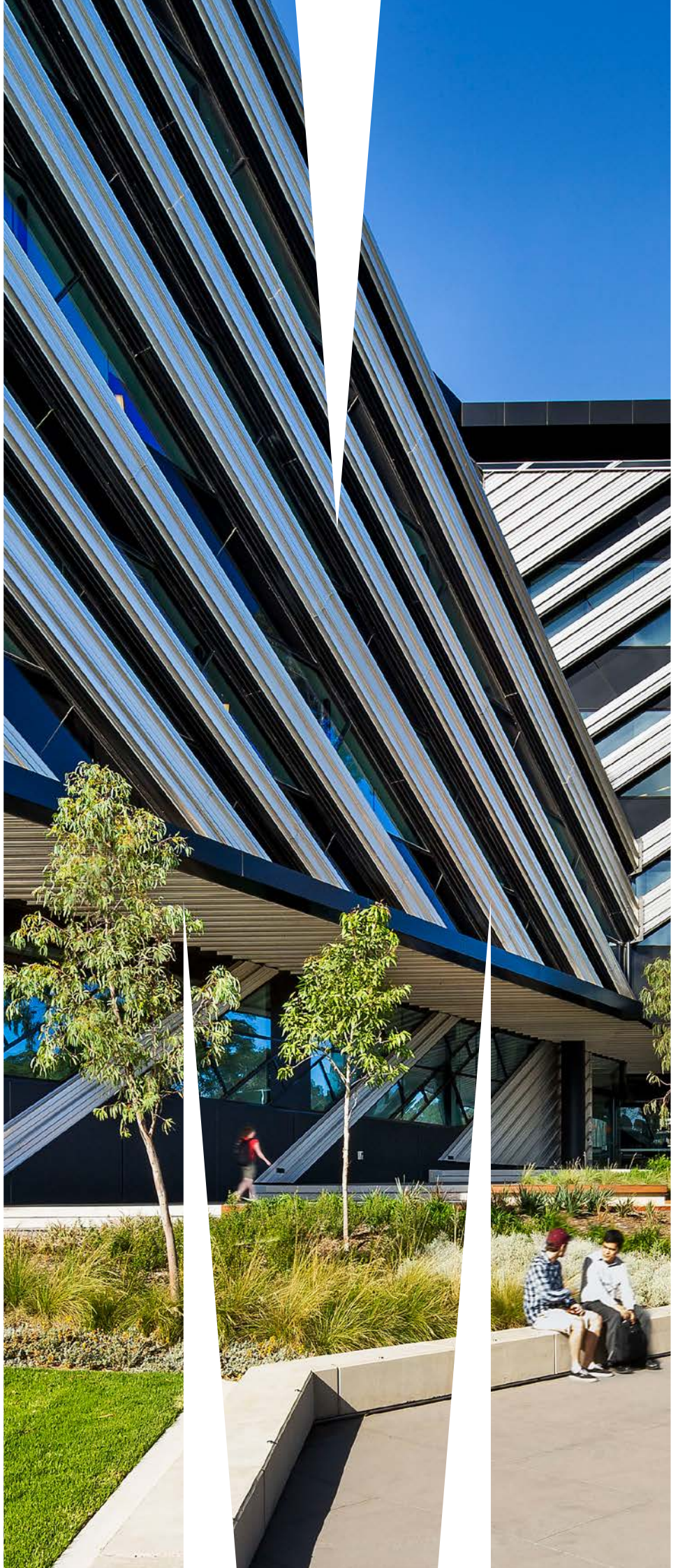


INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PARENTS GUIDE

monash.edu/study/parents



Congratulations

Monash University would like to send its biggest congratulations to your family for the acceptance of your child to study abroad.

Adjusting to university life is a major transition in a young adult's life. For many, the transition includes moving out of the family home for the first time, making new friends, and facing increased academic demands. Young adults are also searching for independence in their lives. At the same time, we find that first-year students often strive to reconfigure the relationship with their parents in ways that support their increasing need for independence but also maintain the need for support and connection. Due to a lack of life experiences, students may not be able to deal with this period of transition and stress on their own.

This guidebook aims to provide some clarity regarding what your child should expect pre-arrival, arrival day and of course their time at Monash and in Australia. It is imperative that your child enjoys their time spent at Monash and is as prepared as possible in making the journey, and transition to life at university.



Welcome

Studying abroad is one of the most transformative and rewarding opportunities of university life. Helping our students to make the most of those experiences is core to the Monash University mission.

Monash demonstrates the highest standards of excellence in education and research. Through our deep ties with institutional, industry and government partners we are helping to solve some of the most pressing challenges of the age, instilling our students with enterprising capabilities to make a positive impact on their communities and the environment.

Our excellence is further enhanced by the University's commitment to ensuring students graduate with a global outlook, building the skills and confidence needed to prepare them for careers that will be truly international.

Monash provides a wide array of co-curricular activities, clubs, and support services to support new students who are making the transition to Australian university life. From their first day at Monash every student becomes part of a remarkable community that reflects a world to which each of us aspires: one that is diverse, inclusive, innovative and sustainable.

I am delighted to welcome a member of your family to Monash University.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
President and Vice-Chancellor



Before university starts

To make sure everything is organised before your child leaves for Monash, we have created this guide to help ease what might be a stressful time.

What to pack

Determining what to pack before heading to Australia is an important component of planning for life in another country. Melbourne is known for its uncertain weather, so make sure your child packs sufficient clothes for all seasons. [Destination Monash](#) provides a good overview of what to pack, and what to expect.

It's important to know that Australia holds strict regulations on items that can and cannot be brought into the country. Find out more [here](#).

Travelling to Melbourne

Make sure your child has enough time to adjust to living in a new country, and to get used to the layout of your campus before classes start. It is vital that your child attends [academic engagement day](#) and [orientation](#), both are compulsory and important to attend. Arriving at least a few weeks before academic engagement day is recommended.

OSHC

International students on a student visa must have health cover for the length of their visa while studying in Australia. Make sure you are aware of exactly what is covered prior to taking out insurance. monash.edu/fees/other-fees-charges/overseas-health-cover

Airport pick up services

Monash University and Monash College welcomes all new international students with a free airport pick-up service to their accommodation. To use this service, you must [submit a request](#) at least 3 working days before arrival in Australia. A confirmation email will be sent, in which your child needs to print it out and bring it with them. Your agent may do this on your behalf.

Orientation week

Orientation is the best time of the year for your child to learn more about the campus, facilities and services on offer. Through the array of activities held during orientation, your child can make friends, form lasting connections and get involved in campus life! Encourage them to utilise the Orientation Planner and join the New To Monash 2018 Facebook group for a smooth transition to the Monash community.

For further questions and queries have a look at our [pre-arrival briefings](#) and webinars, which give you the opportunity to ask questions and hear from other Monash students before they arrive. Staff from Monash Residential Services will also be involved to assist with any accommodation queries.

University life

With more than 70,000 students currently enrolled at Monash, our University is a thriving community of people from all walks of life. Whatever pathway our students take, we hope their years at Monash become some of the most rewarding times of their life.

It is important to manage your expectations of how often and how you will communicate with your child. They may be presented with new challenges in managing their time and workload, therefore getting support from family is crucial in laying a good foundation for university life.

Differences between school and university

University differs from high school in many ways from class sizes to class hours, attendance, types of assignments, expectations and learning styles. The biggest difference between school and university is that your child gets to take control of their study options and make decisions on how they would spend their time. It can be tricky for your child to adjust to how different some things work at university as compared to school.

At university in Australia, plagiarism is not allowed, correct referencing will help your child avoid accidentally plagiarising others work. Working in groups, independent thinking and more assignments rather than just exams are also quite common in Australia.

Staying connected with families

Staying in contact with family helps make life in Australia easier for your child. Making regular phone calls, blogging or utilising social networking applications such as Whatsapp, Skype and Facebook Messenger are fantastic ways for your child to stay connected and remain up to date with what's happening back home.

Student life cycle

- 1** Pre-arrival

Students decide what to study and finalise visa applications, accommodation and services available in Melbourne.
- 2** Arrival, orientation and transition

Students adapt to university life and familiarise themselves with their new living environment.
- 3** Learning and development

Students begin to specialise in their chosen area of study, at the same time develop communication and leadership skills through getting involved in university.
- 4** Graduation and completion

Students are ready to embark on their professional life or prepare for further study.



Common student issues

A usual semester workload entails up to 40 hours a week made up of tutorials, lectures, revision, assessment tasks and independent research. Organisation and time management skills should be developed over a student's life at Monash. It is imperative students balance study, work commitments, extra curricular activities and a social life to ensure their health and wellbeing is looked after as well as helping develop interpersonal skills and relationships.

It is each student's responsibility to ensure they are taking advantage of the range of support services available for students.

English as a second language

English Connect programs can help students enhance their English language skills and cross cultural communication.

Your child can access a variety of programs designed to support their time at Monash; academically and socially.

These programs also provide opportunities to meet other students and discover new perspectives!

monash.edu/english-connect

Managing finances

Monash University offers students loans for students whose academic progress is being or may be impeded by a lack of financial resources. Students can also apply for family discount and payment extension on their course fee.

More information about fees at Monash is on our website: monash.edu/fees/payment/payment-options

Living expenses

It is important to plan and prepare a budget for your child's living expenses prior to arriving in Australia. You can use these [tables](#) as a rough estimate, however bear in mind that living costs can vary depending on your child's location and lifestyle.

Academic support

There are a range of academic support services available both online and in person.

The library offers skilled based workshops and consultations to assist with researching for assignments, academic writing, referencing and general study skills advice.

The library's [researching and learning website](#) also provides high quality assignment structures, time management advice and searching tools to ensure your child is equipped with as much academic support as possible.

Faculties also provide services in form of one-on-one and group consultations for each unit your child undertakes. Our tutors and lecturers are also widely available for out-of-hours support via email or online question forums.

Accommodation

[Monash Residential Services \(MRS\)](#) offers a range of accommodation options, both on campus, and off campus in surrounding locations to Monash campuses.

Your child can apply to [live on campus](#) at Monash, we do encourage you to apply as early as possible. MRS also provides advice on [off-campus accommodation options](#), an idea of comparable rental costs, things to look out for before signing a contract plus more.

If your child is considering living off campus, they should never sign a lease or rental contract until they have inspected the property and are satisfied with it. More information about living in Victoria can be found on the [Victorian Government guide](#).

Culture shock

Moving away from home and adjusting to a new culture can be challenging. A lot of individuals experience some form of culture shock and it is important for you to remind your child that for some it is mild and over quickly, but for others it will take more time and effort. Students are advised to get involved in university activities and talk to other international students for support.

Personal/family issues

Monash University aims to facilitate and promote positive mental health and wellbeing by providing a safe, healthy and supportive environment for all students. If, for whatever reason a student needs help, they can always access the [counselling service at Monash](#) which provide a wide range of support. No issue is too big or too small.

Anxiety, depression and substance abuse

Social anxiety affects people from all backgrounds. It may become so distressing that it affects a student's mental health and wellbeing. Therefore, encourage your child to talk to a [counsellor](#) and seek treatment as early as they can.

Respectful relationships

The University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment where all members of the community are treated with dignity, courtesy and respect. Unacceptable behaviours such as bullying, discrimination, harassment, victimisation and vilification will not be tolerated. [Support services](#) and [counselling](#) are available to all students for guidance and assistance.

Student complaints and grievances

The University is committed to addressing complaints and grievances through a resolution process that is impartial and fair. Your child has the right to [make complaints](#) without fear of reprisals.



Under 18 students

International students under 18 years of age, on a student visa, need a guardian while studying in Australia. Students need to have their guardian and accommodation arrangements approved by Monash before applying for a visa.

The guardian can be a parent or eligible relative who will be living with the student in Melbourne and taking responsibility until they are 18. This has to be approved by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Alternatively, Monash can arrange for the [Monash College Guardianship Service](#) to take on the role. They have a dedicated team of guardians who can take care of under 18 students. If your child is under the care of the Monash Guardian service, they must live in accommodation approved by Monash. It is important to apply for this accommodation early.

The Guardianship team and International Student Engagement staff provide extra support for our underage students.

monash.edu/students/international/under-18



Explore the many programs and services available for international students”

monash.edu/students/international



“

Joyce embarked on her journey at Monash in 2015. The transition of moving away from home is challenging for any international student. Therefore, seeing my daughter adapt well and integrate smoothly to her environment gives me great joy and comfort as a parent. Joyce has been actively participating in many clubs and societies available at Monash. I can see how her involvement in the university has truly enabled her to step out of her comfort zone, make new friends and be accustomed to the Australian culture. With the support, facilities and welcoming community of Monash that caters to the needs of international students, parents can be rest assured that their children will experience a seamless transition to university life.”

CHRISTINE THAM

Mother of Joyce Tan Wei, Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing and Communications and Media Studies), Malaysia

Support services

Monash Connect

[Monash Connect](#) provides advice and access to a range of services for students, including financial, verification of qualifications and administrative processes, plus more. Monash Connect is the first contact point for any enquiry a student may have during their time at Monash. [Ask.Monash](#) is also a useful tool when seeking answers to questions.

International student support

To support international students before and after arriving in Australia, the International Student Engagement team offers an array of services and programs to ensure your child experiences a seamless transition into university life. This team can be accessed through [Monash Connect](#).

English Connect

[English Connect programs](#) can help students enhance their English language skills and cross cultural communication. Your child can access a variety of programs designed to support their time at Monash; academically and socially. These programs also provide opportunities to meet other students and discover new perspectives!

Health and dental services

[Monash Health Services](#) provides appointments and information to keep your child healthy in mind and body, so they can excel at Monash. Students can access Doctors, Counsellors, Dentists, Pathology, Nutrition and more through Monash Health Services. You can talk to an OSHC advisor at Monash to discuss your cover. monash.edu/fees/other-fees-charges/overseas-health-cover/adviser-availability

Monash counselling

Counselling can help you with problems coping with study or university life, stress and anxiety or depression, loneliness, drug and alcohol abuse and addictions, negative feeling or suicidal thoughts, relationship or family issues. [Monash Counselling services can be access online.](#)

Careers and employment

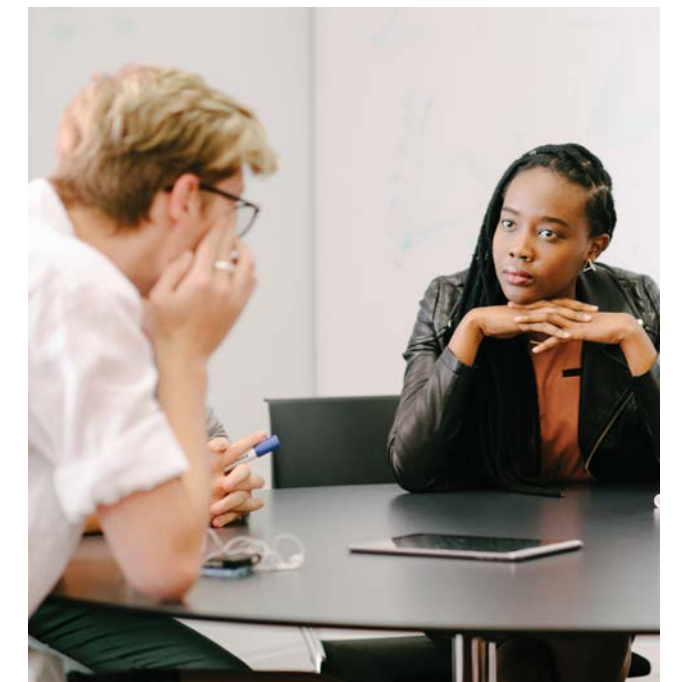
Students can develop their employability skills by utilising resources that Monash provide such as the Career Gateway and Student Futures. [Contact Career Connect](#) for enquiries.

Disability support services

Monash University promotes access and equity for students who have a disability, medical or mental health condition. [Visit the website](#) for more information. To assist you to study independently, you can access disability services and arrange adjustments. You'll need to register with us first, and then contact us to make a private and confidential appointment. monash.edu/disability/for-students/register

Safer community

The Safer Community Unit provides advice and support in managing threatening behaviours impacting the campus community. Students can [visit the Safer Community Unit online.](#)



Semester dates 2018

Orientation Week	19 – 23 Feb
Semester one teaching period	26 Feb – 25 May
Mid-semester break	30 Mar – 6 Apr
Swot Vac	28 May – 1 Jun
Exams	4 – 22 Jun
Results published	9 Jul
Deferred and supplementary exams	6 – 10 Aug
Orientation Week (mid-year)	16 – 20 Jul
Semester two teaching period	23 Jul – 19 Oct
Mid-semester break	24 – 28 Sep
Swot Vac	22 – 26 Oct
Exams	29 Oct – 16 Nov
Results published	3 Dec
Deferred and supplementary exams	28 Jan – 1 Feb 2019

University emergency information and contacts

Monash University offers a range of security services including 24/7 security patrols, security control room, safety escorts, security buses and emergency help points to make sure students always feel safe at Monash.

Your child can call +61 3 9905 3333 for any emergencies (or 333 from any Monash phone).

There is a range of safety and security information available online, including videos in a variety of languages:

monash.edu/about/safety-security

“

Monash has a comprehensive orientation program, which has helped my son transition well into Australian university life. Even before arrival, my son had been well-informed by the pre-departure information sessions on campus life and the services available to him should he need any help. We maintained weekly contact through Skype, but many of the activities on campus, such as non-residential colleges and clubs, have helped him find friends in a diverse community of students which he has developed an identity of belonging to.

HELEN TAN

Mother of Jeryl Lim, Bachelor of Psychology, Singapore





Further information

monash.edu/study/parents

Telephone: 1800 MONASH (freecall)

Email: future@monash.edu