



MEA Fil-Aus Education Consultancy

A pre-departure briefing for students heading to Australia on a Subclass 500 (student) visa covers essential preparations to ensure a smooth transition. Key focus areas include visa compliance, health requirements, documentation, accommodation, and cultural adaptation.

Key Pre-Departure Checklist for Subclass 500

- **Visa and Documentation:**
 - **Visa Approval:** Ensure your Student visa (subclass 500) is granted and you understand its conditions.
 - **Passport:** Must be valid for the duration of your stay or at least six months beyond your arrival.
 - **CoE:** Carry your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and offer letter.
 - **Documents Folder:** Keep hard copies and digital copies of your passport, visa, CoE, OSHC, and academic transcripts in your carry-on luggage.
- **Health and Insurance:**
 - **OSHC:** Ensure you have arranged Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of your visa.
 - **Medication:** Pack necessary medication with a prescription in English and a doctor's letter.
- **Finances:**
 - **Funds:** Have at least A\$2,000–A\$4,000 readily available for initial expenses.
 - **Banking:** Inform your home bank of travel and plan to set up an Australian bank account.
- **Accommodation and Arrival:**
 - **Accommodation:** Book temporary accommodation for at least the first few weeks.
 - **Airport Pickup:** Check if your institution offers free airport pickup and book it in advance.
 - **Arrival Date:** Arrive at least one week before the semester starts to attend orientation.
- **Customs and Packing:**
 - **Restrictions:** Check Australian Border Force rules regarding prohibited food, plant, or animal materials.

- **Clothing:** Pack for the local climate (e.g., warm clothes for Melbourne winter, light clothes for Queensland).
- **Electronics:** Bring a 3-pin power adapter (Type I) for Australian outlets.
- **Visa Conditions (Subclass 500):**
 - **Address:** You must notify your education provider of your address within seven days of arrival.
 - **Work Limits:** Generally limited to 48 hours per fortnight during study sessions, but you cannot work until your course commences.
 - **Study Load:** Must maintain full-time enrolment and satisfactory attendance.
- **Important Apps/Services:**
 - Download relevant university apps for campus navigation.
 - Note emergency numbers (000 for Police/Fire/Ambulance).

Key Advice:

- **Attend a session:** Many universities hold dedicated, live, or recorded pre-arrival briefings to answer specific questions.
- **Culture:** Be prepared for a relaxed, direct, and multicultural society.
- **Safety:** Familiarize yourself with emergency contact numbers and campus security services.