A New World Awaits
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Congratulations on your decision to study overseas. You will be taking the first steps towards a new life and abundant opportunities. You will have many new experiences including but not limited to new environment, new language, new culture and new friends. Some simple planning and research can help make a smooth transition towards your new experiences.

The team at Study Query put their heads together and came up with this pre departure guide to kick start your journey so that we can be a part of your new journey.
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Country Basics

When you are moving to another country to study or even just a holiday, some basic background research of where you are going can always get you a long way. As the saying goes “Failing to plan is planning to fail”. Here are a few things that we think would be helpful to know.

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Preparing to Study

Striking the right balance between study, work and play is one of the most common struggles of students studying abroad. Some students feel immense pressure to do really and spend most of their time studying abroad without enjoying the culture and recreation. On the other hand some students are so excited with gaining new experiences that they neglect studying completely.
Incorporate study and fun

Studying doesn’t have to be boring and mundane. It can also be a really good way to build friendships, so instead of being cooped up at home go to the local library with some classmates and study together.

Manage time and priorities

Write out a list of things that you would like to get out of your time studying abroad and make sure there are some academic and personal goals. Then prioritize and allocate some time to each of them so you are sure to make the most of your time. If you feel you may have allocated too much time to having fun or studying share your plan with some family and friends and ask for their opinion.

Don’t procrastinate

After you have made your plan stick to it and try not to procrastinate. As it has been said “Procrastination is like a credit card: it’s a lot of fun until you get the bill”.

Manage expectations

Sometimes our plans don’t also go as we expect and that’s ok, just readjust and keep moving forward. Everybody falls over at some point, just get back up and keep going.
Travel & Accommodation

Once you’ve decided where you are going to study one of the first things to consider doing is finding a place to live. If you have friends or family who you can lodge with or your university provides lodging that is great. If you don’t have those options and wish to find your own accommodation here are a few points that may help.

Ask the education provider for help

Your education provider will most likely have a student services department that assist international students with finding a place to live. If they don’t, they will definitely be able to connect you with some trusted resources that you can use.

Make sure getting to school and back is easy

While looking for a place to stay there are some other points to consider in conjunction with rental prices. Factor in how far you will be from class and how you will get there. Also try to find out how much transportation cost so you can factor that into your weekly spending budget and cost.

Ask lot of questions

Don’t be afraid to ask a lot of questions when looking for a place and don’t rush into anything. It’s also best to get a second pair of eyes to help to be sure. Don’t be afraid to ask the college or university to help too.
Financial Support Tips

Studying overseas doesn’t just seem just feel like a huge life transition but trying to calculate the costs can be daunting as well. Here are some financial tips that can help you prepare for the move.

**Government Aid**

Apply for financial assistance is difficult for foreign students so it is important to know what options you have. If you require financial assistance you may be able to request aid from your home government to fund your education abroad. Some key things to keep in mind are whether or not the institution you are applying to study at qualifies for overseas financial aid.

**Scholarships**

Universities and education providers may be able to offer you a scholarship which have been specifically designed towards helping international students. It is worth speaking to you counsellor or representative to make enquiries to your chosen education provider.

**Student Loans**

Student loans are also an option for financial assistance when studying abroad. It is very important that you carefully consider and plan the amount you will be borrowing and how you will be paying it back. It is best to speak to a professional and you may want to get advice from your family and friends.

**Bank Accounts & FX**

Once you have your finances arranged don’t forget to set up a bank account and a forex exchange provider. Some schools have recommendations with who to use so don’t be shy about reaching out to the institution for help with this.
Some initial cause of culture shock can arise from being overwhelmed with learning a new language, friends, food, culture and lack of support when in a new country. As time passes and you become more confident adapting to the new changes culture shock will fade away.

Keep in mind culture shock doesn’t last. Reach out to some close friends and family and let them support you if you feel too overwhelmed.

Culture shock affects thousands of people every year, from frequent travellers to international students. Culture shock is more than just a realisation and feeling and sometimes can lead to severe symptoms such as nausea, frustration, depression and confusion.

As culture shock is typical for international students here are some top tips from the team at Study Query about dealing with culture shock.

When moving to a new country it can seem as though there is so much to do and so much you don’t know. Even simple things that should be easy such as how do I catch public transport can feel tough. Try to remember to take things one step at a time so you do not feel too overwhelmed.

You can do it and don’t be shy to ask for help. Ask someone or just search your question on the internet.

Small and big changes are all part of life. Some people love to embrace change and others reject it. Embracing what is different doesn’t always mean it has to affect your lifestyle. Making peace with what has changed and acknowledging them will make moving forward to your goals and ambitions a smoother transition.
Finding Work

While studying overseas it’s also a great to get some work experience under your belt. This will help you stand out from other candidates as you can show diversity in work culture experience. Here are a few great tips in help you get a job.

- **Always come prepared**

  Going into an interview without preparation is one of the worth things to do. The person interviewing you can usually tell and you won’t stand out much from other candidates. Some good research points would be who is the company, who are they looking to hire and what you think about the company.

- **First Impressions**

  First impression play a huge part when looking for a job, so don’t forget to look fresh and dress well. When being interviewed speak clearly and confidently and don’t be afraid to tell them when you don’t know how to answer a question. As long as you let them know you are willing to learn it, that is what counts.

- **Follow Up**

  Most manager are normally busy and can forget to contact you after an interview. Always send an email after your interview and thank them for their time. This will help increase you chances of getting the job.
“Moving overseas is the best experience of my life. Travelling has always been something I wanted to do. Take that leap of faith, you won’t regret it” – Tasha

“Thinking back I never thought I could speak English let alone be working in Australia. You will be surprised at what you can accomplish, you’re stronger than you think” – James

“Live, Experience and Love. Life is short, make it count. I watched some friends move overseas and they still refuse to embrace life. Don’t be one of them” – Jessica

“Trust yourself. You will be surprised with what you can do. My family used to do all the house chores before I moved to Australia. Every time they come to visit my mum is so surprised with how much I’ve grown up and how I can take care of myself. You can too – Trust yourself.” – Brian

Closing

The team at Study Query hope some of these tips and suggestions will help your transition moving to study overseas. We are excited for you and if you have some questions or concerns don’t hesitate to reach out to us at support@studyquery.com.

What are you waiting for?

– A New World Awaits