

Life after Macquarie

For international students returning home

MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY

SYDNEY ~ AUSTRALIA



International Student Services 2010

www.international.mq.edu.au

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Farewell from Macquarie International

Goodbye! Adios!
Auf Wiedersehen!
サヨナラ, Ciao! **مآل س**, 再见,
अलवदि, Au revoir!

There is a saying that time flies when you are having fun. We hope you have enjoyed your studies at Macquarie University.

This booklet is designed to give you the information you require for preparing to return to your home country. Please read it carefully. We have included some checklists to help you get organised early, and to avoid leaving everything until those last few days in Australia.

We have also provided suggestions to ease the transition in moving back to your home country as this can be a difficult and unsettling adjustment for people who have lived in another country for over a year. When you return home, things might be quite different from your expectations.

Don't forget to make time to say goodbye to those people and places that have been particularly important to you while studying in Australia. Remember to join the Macquarie University Alumni Association as this will ensure you always have a connection with Australia.

We wish you the best of luck in the next chapter of your life and look forward to meeting with you again in the future.



Visa information

While studying in Australia, most of you have been on a student visa. While your visa has an end date, there may be other options for you to extend your stay in Australia.

Please be advised that you can only extend your stay in Australia if you do not have a **'No Further Stay'** condition on your current student visa.

The following are some reasons for extending a visa and the possible visa options you may have in these situations.

Reason for extending	Visa options
Continue further studies	Apply for new / extend current student visa
Have your PhD thesis assessed	Apply for new / extend current student visa
Attend graduation ceremony	Apply for a visitor visa
Have a holiday in Australia	Apply for a visitor visa
Work	Apply for a work permit visa
Permanent residence in Australia	Apply for migrant visa under the general skilled migration program

Please note this is a guide only, you may have other options available to you for your personal situation. Please contact the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for further information regarding your visa options.

 www.immi.gov.au



Tax returns

When do international students have to leave Australia after completing their course?

The University is required to notify the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) when you complete your studies. If you complete your studies earlier than expected we will advise DIAC. If you do not apply for any other type of visa, as in the examples on the previous page, you will be generally given up to 28 days to leave Australia.

When should I apply for another visa to extend my stay in Australia?


We recommend at least 2 weeks before your current visa expires.

Who can help me to apply for permanent residency?

Please contact DIAC or a registered migration agent for this information:

Further information


For further information about any visa related matters contact the **Department of Immigration and Citizenship** on:

 **131 881**

or visit their website at:

 **www.immi.gov.au**

Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) website:

 **www.themara.com.au**

Some of you may have worked part time throughout your studies and therefore paid tax to the Australian Government. If you have paid tax to the government you are required to lodge a tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). We recommend you do so before you leave Australia.


You can lodge your tax return through an account or a tax agent (which involves a fee of approximately \$80-\$150) or you can lodge your own return online free of charge through

 **www.ato.gov.au**

You may be able to lodge your tax return application after you have left Australia either online or you can arrange for a friend or relative to lodge it on your behalf with your consent.

Further information

For further information about tax returns contact the **Australian Taxation Office** on:

 **132 869**

or visit their website at:

 **www.ato.gov.au**

Graduation, transcripts and Completion Letters

Did you know that overseas governments sometimes need proof that Australian documents, or the signatures of Australian officials on documents, are genuine before they will accept them?

Find more information about this on:

 www.smartraveller.gov.au/authen.html

As a general rule, countries that are party to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents require an **Apostille** on documents which qualify as Australian public documents. Documents going to countries that are not party to the Hague Convention generally require an **Authentication**. These countries include China, Vietnam and most of the Middle East.

Graduation

Graduation is a time for you to be acknowledged for all your hard work and to celebrate the completion of your studies. After you finish your course, you will receive important graduation information in the mail. To be eligible to graduate, you must have fulfilled all the academic requirements specified in the Macquarie University Handbook (www.handbook.mq.edu.au) related to your award and your eligibility must be certified by the Academic Senate. You must also have finalised any financial obligations with the University. If you have any outstanding debts, including library fines, you will not be permitted to graduate.

Can I defer my graduation?

Permission to defer graduation will only be granted for compelling personal, professional or academic reasons. Requests must be written and received by the due date and addressed to the Graduation Unit. (See the next page for contact details).

Where is the graduation ceremony held?

The on-campus graduation venue is the E7B courtyard. Off-shore graduation venues will be specified in supplementary information or on the graduation website. If you plan to come back for your graduation, you will be required to submit an application for a visitor visa.

In support of your visa application, attach the following:

- A photocopy of your Conferring of Degrees form
- A personal letter written by you to your parents/guests inviting them to attend your graduation ceremony. You should include the ceremony date, time and the full name of your parents/guests
- A certified copy of your Letter of Course Completion (if applicable) from Macquarie International.

For more information, contact the Graduation Unit.

If you are planning to invite overseas guests to your graduation ceremony, they must apply for an Australian visitors visa. More information regarding this process can be found at:

 www.immi.gov.au/students

Transcripts

You will receive two copies of your official Macquarie University transcript with your testamur. This will be in September or April depending on your graduation time.

If you need to order additional official transcripts, you will need to order these from the Registrar's office. The cost per transcript is \$16 for normal processing and \$26 for urgent processing. You can download the order form at:

 www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/academictranscript.htm

Your transcript will contain a complete record of all academic study undertaken at Macquarie University. Academic transcripts will be mailed or can be picked up in person from Level 1 in the Lincoln Student Services Building.

Completion Letters

Once you complete your degree you are eligible for a Completion Letter. This can be issued before the official graduation ceremony. A Completion Letter confirms you have completed your program of studies.

To request a Completion Letter, pick up a form from Macquarie International or download an application form at:

 www.international.mq.edu.au/graduate

Return the completed form in person to the Macquarie International front desk Building E3A, Level 1 or by email to:

 iss@mq.edu.au

Important Points to Remember:

1. Students can start submitting their applications for completion letters in early July.
2. Completion letters will be processed within 5 to 10 working days after the results for your degree have been released.

3. No priority processing service for Completion Letters is available.
4. Only one original copy of the Completion Letter will be issued. Please speak to the Macquarie International front desk staff if you require more than one copy.
5. If you would like a friend to collect your Completion Letter on your behalf, an authorisation letter will be required (authorisation letters must state your full name, student ID, your friend's full name and student ID). Authorisation letters must be attached and emailed to iss@mq.edu.au from your student email account only (paper letters will not be accepted).

Changing personal details

Before leaving the University, ensure your contact details are up to date. Please give the address in your home country where you can be contacted. You can update your contact details online in eStudent at:

 <https://student1.mq.edu.au>

This is the ONLY way to change your personal contact details. Your testamur and transcripts will be sent to the address designated on eStudent.

Contacts

Graduation Unit

Level 3 Lincoln Student Services Building

 +61 2 9850 7354

 www.graduation.mq.edu.au

 graduation@mq.edu.au

Student Enquiries Services

Level 1 Lincoln Student Services Building

 +61 2 9850 6410

 www.graduation.mq.edu.au

 sesinfo@mq.edu.au

Alumni

Macquarie University has 119,000 graduates living in more than 100 countries.

Keep in touch!

If you are a graduate of Macquarie University, we would like you to stay in touch with us, so that we can stay in touch with you. We are keen to foster a vibrant and active alumni community. Through your participation in events and interaction with fellow alumni, you will continue to benefit from a life long connection to Macquarie.

The Macquarie University Alumni Office is your direct and continuing contact with the University, your friends and your colleagues after graduation.

Alumni services include public lectures and dinners as well as the Macquarie Matters magazine, Macquarie University's graduate magazine. You can register and update your details through the Alumni website. Through the Alumni Office you can discover how to maintain your investment in Macquarie and what your university can do for you.

International Alumni Associations

There are various chapters of the Macquarie Alumni Associations. If there is not one in your home country, you might consider starting a chapter! More information on the Macquarie Alumni Association can be found at:

 www.alumni.mq.edu.au

or email:

 alumni@mq.edu.au



Voice of an alumni

“The most important thing I learned during my time at Macquarie is multicultural understanding. The highlight of my time was the graduation ceremony. I still get quite excited when I talk about it because my studies at Macquarie were very exciting and also very challenging. So, when I had the opportunity to stand in front of all my peers and my teachers, it was like an acknowledgement of all my efforts. It was also an opportunity for me to reflect upon the 2½ years and to say thank you to all my teachers. It was unforgettable.”

Veronica Wu, China, Master of Accounting (CPA Extension) graduate, working at PricewaterhouseCoopers

Resources for Macquarie alumni around the world:

- Social and professional networks and chapters around the world
 www.alumni.mq.edu.au/alumni/ChaptersNetworks
- Global program of events for alumni
 www.alumni.mq.edu.au/Alumni/InformationAbout/Events/

Macquarie Alumni Web Community

Registering as a user allows you to:

- Attend alumni events and access alumni benefits
- Find fellow alumni
- View and update your profile
- Register and pay online for events

Register today!

 www.mq.edu.au/alumni

Other Networking Opportunities



LinkedIn Group:
Macquarie University Alumni



Facebook Group:
Official Macquarie University Alumni



Twitter Group:
Mqalumni



Your Alumni Benefits

There are many benefits and services for Macquarie alumni:

- Networking opportunities in your city
- Special rates on offers in conjunction with external partners
Examples – AVIS Benefits Program, Toga Hospitality special alumni rates
- *Macquarie Matters* magazine
- Monthly e-News
- Library borrowing privileges and access to online databases.


For more information on alumni benefits, visit:

 www.mq.edu.au/alumni/benefits

If you have any questions, or need further information, feel free to contact the Alumni Relations staff, or visit:

 www.mq.edu.au/alumni

Macquarie University Alumni Relations
Level 2, Becton Dickinson (BD) Building
4 Research Park Drive
Macquarie University NSW 2109
AUSTRALIA

 + 61 2 9850 7310

Fax + 61 2 9850 9478

 alumni@mq.edu.au


Moving out

Selling your belongings or donating them to charity are good ways to reduce your luggage.

New international students are always on the lookout for second-hand goods and other items to help them settle in quickly.

Selling your belongings

Second-hand books, furniture and other goods can be sold in a number of different ways:

- Advertising on student notice boards around campus
 - Second-hand book and furniture dealers – a list of these in Sydney can be found in the Yellow Pages
-  www.yellowpages.com.au
- Advertise in the “classified” section of newspapers, such as the “Trading Post” or local community newspapers
 - You can also donate unused goods to charities such as the Salvation Army or St Vincent De Paul

You can also have a garage sale or sell your items on eBay!

Redirecting mail

If you are expecting important mail at your local address and will be moving soon, do not forget to have your mail redirected. Australia Post will redirect your mail to another address, including your overseas address. For mail redirecting within Australia, the cost is around \$11.50 for one month and \$24 for three months. If you want your mail redirected overseas, there will be additional costs.

Pick up an application form from any Australia Post office or download one at:

 www.movepost.com.au

See the checklist on page 15 for more information on moving out.



PHOTO: PAUL WRIGHT

Packing and freight

What should I pack?

This is definitely the most difficult task. For most flights out of Australia, you are only allowed 20kg of luggage, although this might be higher for flights to North America. Make sure you check with the airline before you start packing!

Put everything together that you are planning to take home by plane so that you can see exactly how much there is. Too much? First, pack special personal items, then necessary items, and then small gifts or souvenirs for your family and friends.

Remember, excess luggage charges can be expensive, so consider other options.

How can I send my belongings home?

- Unaccompanied baggage is often seen as the easiest and least expensive way to send belongings home. You can arrange this either through the airline you are flying with or through an unaccompanied baggage service. Make sure you shop around and check rates for your home country.

- Sea/air cargo is usually for large, container size shipments.
- Australia Post is good for small, light packages.

Excess baggage and packing tips

- Allow ample time to get boxes to the shipping company
- Use strong suitcases, boxes or bags
- Use original boxes
- Do not overload (less than 30 kg per item)
- Pack delicate items in the centre
- Seal boxes with good quality packing tape
- Label and number boxes and make a packing list
- Check restricted items in your country
- Complete any Customs forms
- Double check the delivery information, sometimes there are hidden delivery charges with certain companies.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Career planning for international students

Before you go home, visit the Macquarie University Career Service on Level 2 in the Lincoln Student Services Building.

Now that you have graduated, many career opportunities await you. Whether you are seeking employment here in Australia, back in your home country, or in other various parts of the world, the Career Service can assist you with career options and job searching.

The Career Service can also help you with resumes, cover letters, interview skills, and much more.

Online resources can be found at:

 www.mq.edu.au/careers/students/students_home.php

Topics include:

- Jobs – graduate, full time, part time, and casual; vacation and volunteer opportunities
- Career planning timeline
- Facts about your industry
- Resumes and applications – tips and samples
- Interview success strategies
- Assessment centres and psychometric testing
- Workshops
- Graduate destinations
- CareerHub  www.careerhub.mq.edu.au

To help you prepare for a career refer to the careers checklist on page 14.


Remember, you have many career options, not just in Australia or your home country. There are numerous options in various parts of the world. On the next page, you will find useful websites where you can find information regarding careers and employment throughout the world.

Graduate destinations

Where do Macquarie graduates go?

Macquarie University conducts an annual survey of our graduates to get a picture of what they are involved in around four months after completing their degrees.

Summaries of the types of jobs, salaries and employers obtained by Macquarie graduates are available at:

 www.mq.edu.au/careers/grad_dest/grad_dest.php

Check out GradsOnline!

 www.gradsonline.com.au

GradsOnline provides summary results of the annual survey of graduates conducted by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Surveys include questions about the activities, salaries and jobs of graduates.



Worldwide

Goingglobal:  www.goinglobal.com

The Riley Guide:  www.rileyguide.com


Monster:  www.monster.com

JobServe:  www.jobserve.com


Hobsons:  www.hobsons.com

Tip Top Job:  www.tiptopjob.com

Australia

 www.graduateopportunities.com


 www.seek.com.au

 www.careerone.com.au


Asia Pacific

 www.jobsdb.com

China

 www.zhaopin.com

 www.chinahhr.com


 www.51job.com

 www.fesco.com.cn


Europe

 www.stepstone.com


 www.topjobs.net


 www.jobpilot.com

India


 www.careerindia.com

Korea

 www.koreaajoblink.com

 www.koreaweb.ws


Malaysia

 www.jobstreet.com.my

Middle East

 www.byat.com


North America

 www.jobweb.com

 www.careerjet.com

 www.latpro.com


Singapore

 www.jobs.com.sg

Did you know?

The Macquarie University CareerHub is an online resource where students and graduates can search for employment opportunities, events, and career information. The CareerHub is available for you up to a year after you have graduated. This is to help you find more job opportunities at a local and international level

You can access the CareerHub at:

 www.careerhub.mq.edu.au

Macquarie University Career Service

Level 2 Lincoln Student
Services Building

 +61 2 9850 7372

 www.mq.edu.au/careers

 careers@mq.edu.au

Voice of an alumni

"I can definitely say that Macquarie University provides strong training in the field of accounting and finance. I had the knowledge required to enter into one of the Big Four companies and the necessary basics/background to further build upon my Chartered Program."

Jonathan Leung Cheong, Mauritius, Bachelor of Applied Finance and Bachelor of Commerce-Accounting graduate, working for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Adjusting to re-entry

When you came to Sydney as a student you probably expected to be in the minority, and that making friends would take some time. So returning home should be easy – you have your friends and family there, and you know the culture. But remember, just as you have changed, so have things at home, and the environment may not be as familiar as you expect.

Some people quickly settle back in to their home culture with few, if any, problems. For others, it takes time and effort before feeling comfortable at home again. Many of you will experience “reverse culture shock,” a feeling of being a stranger in your own country.

Whilst in Australia, you have experienced a different lifestyle, and this will affect your expectations about how things will be when you finally return home. For instance, while in Australia, you may have experienced different levels of personal freedom, developed new relationships, and changed your views on your future employment.

When you return home you will need to once again adapt to a different culture, and you may not be aware of how your thinking, beliefs and ideas have changed.

These changes can lead to a number of issues you may encounter on your return home:

Cultural adjustments

- Identity problems
- Lifestyle changes
- Different male and female roles
- Less personal privacy.

Language issues

- Using different verbal styles or body language
- Using a different speaking manner
- Unfamiliarity with new expressions in your home country.

Social adjustments

- Change in balance between individual needs/family and friends
- Difficulty relating to friends or family due to new international experiences and travel
- Different facilities to those in Australia
- Dissatisfaction with expectations regarding social interaction
- Conflicting attitudes and values.

Educational issues

- Difference between Australian and home country education styles and expectations
- Australian education not always relevant to home situation
- Difficulty in undergoing professional development to keep up-to-date with new knowledge and practices.

Professional issues

- Difficulty finding employment in chosen occupation
- Employment in an unrelated field
- Difficulty applying or communicating new knowledge
- Feeling superior/inferior because of Australian training
- Unrealistic expectations
- Viewed as a threat by colleagues.

Political issues

- Change in government
- New political conditions
- Different national priorities and policies
- New political views different to those in your home country
- Dissatisfaction with the political situation.


What can you do to prepare?

- Expect a period of adjustment
- Be realistic about the adjustment period
- Be patient and understanding
- Prepare for changes in your family, friends or country
- Don't judge others
- Don't idealise one country and criticise the other – nowhere is perfect
- Be flexible and open-minded
- Keep a journal or diary of your feelings, before leaving Australia and when you return home
- Keep in touch with friends in Australia
- Share what you have learnt in Australia with family and friends back home
- Renew contact with friends in your home country.

Having problems coping? Seek further help

If you believe returning home will cause you a considerable amount of stress and affect your wellbeing, then we recommend you speak to a health professional.

Macquarie University offers a confidential and free counselling service on campus. To book an appointment with a qualified health professional at the counselling service please call:

 **+61 2 9850 7497**

or visit them at Level 2, Lincoln Student Services Building.

If you have any questions about returning home you can also approach an International Student Adviser for further advice.

Advice from an Alumni

"I was both scared and excited to return back home. The scary part was thinking of things to come, the awkward situations I would have to face when people would question why I did not stay in Australia and find a job. But, as time grew closer to the day I flew, the only thing in my head was, I was going home.

How ready are you to accept that you are returning home to things different from what you have experienced overseas? Remember, every country has its positives and negatives; no country is perfect. So embrace what your country has to offer and forget the rest."

George Mampilly, India, Master of Biotechnology with Master of Commerce in Business



PHOTO: FERNANDO SOTO

Get organised

These lists will help you organise some of your tasks before heading home. **Don't leave things to the last minute!**

Careers checklist – personal

- Have I identified my range of skills and abilities that could be useful to a graduate employer?
- Have I researched graduate employment opportunities in my home country?
- Have I updated my database of career contacts?
- Have I sought career advice from people in my network?
- Have I prepared a professional resume?
- Have I analysed and practiced my interviewing skills?
- Do my interview skills place me in an advantageous position?
- How effective are my job application presentation skills?
- Have I explored all the resources available to me both in Australia and in my home country?
- Am I prepared for the cultural readjustment needed to work efficiently in my home country?




PHOTO: PAUL WRIGHT

Returning home checklist – personal


- Provide notification in writing of the date you will leave your accommodation. For Macquarie International housing, you will need to fill out a Vacate Details Form four weeks before you plan on leaving. For private accommodation, you should also give at least four weeks notice in writing prior to leaving.
- Arrange for your accommodation to be inspected, and request the return of bond money, assuming you having met all the conditions of your tenancy agreement.
- Settle your utilities accounts and arrange for disconnection of services such as telephone, gas and electricity, water, internet connection and pay TV.
- Return keys for your accommodation to the appropriate office or person.
- Redirect mail through Australia Post (Refer to page 8).
- Close your bank account and keep aside cash for excess baggage, taxes and souvenirs.
- Check that your passport is current.
- Check you have correct visas if you are transiting or stopping over in another country on your way home.
- File any outstanding medical insurance claims to ensure you claim any money owing to you.
- Lodge a Tax Return (Refer to page 3).
- If you worked in Australia as an international student, you may be entitled to superannuation. Your employer may have been paying money into a superannuation or retirement savings account for you. This legal requirement is called the Superannuation Guarantee. If you are eligible, you may be entitled to receive this money when you permanently leave Australia. This payment is called the Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP). To find out more about superannuation or to apply online for your DASP, visit:
 www.ato.gov.au
- Check with your Embassy or Consulate regarding any customs regulations for taking your belongings home.
- Look for cheap alternatives for excess baggage.
- Confirm your flight date and time with your airline at least 48 hours prior to departure.
- If you are selling a car contact the Roads and Traffic Authority for information.
 www.rta.nsw.gov.au/registration/buyingselling.html
- Say goodbye to friends and colleagues.

Returning home checklist – University

- ❑ Change your personal contact details online on eStudent:

 www.graduation.mq.edu.au/


- ❑ Pay outstanding money in your University account (library fees, tuition fees, student loans) so that your degree and transcript can be released and you can graduate.
- ❑ Visit the Graduation Unit for information about your graduation. See them in person at Level 3, Lincoln Student Services Building or visit:

 www.graduation.mq.edu.au

- ❑ Consider purchasing University merchandise (clothing, stationery) to take back with you as a souvenir or gift. You can find merchandise at the Campus Experience shop:

 www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/shopping

- ❑ Register as a Macquarie alumni (refer to page 6 and 7).
- ❑ Check the Alumni Association website for any returning home events that may be taking place in your country:

 www.alumni.mq.edu.au

- ❑ Return any library books.
- ❑ Ask lecturers and employers for reference letters.
- ❑ Apply for membership to professional bodies.
- ❑ Take pictures of the campus and your accommodation.
- ❑ Say goodbye to your lecturers and staff at Macquarie University.
- ❑ If required apply for a Completion Letter.



PHOTO: MARNI PILGRIM


Important contact numbers

If you have any further questions after reading this guide, or upon returning home, please feel free to contact Macquarie International Student Services.

Macquarie International Student Services

Level 1, Building E3A

 www.international.mq.edu.au

 +61 2 9850 6320


Fax +61 2 9850 7733

 iss@mq.edu.au

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Level 2, Becton Dickinson (BD) Building
4 Research Park Drive

 www.mq.edu.au/alumni

 +61 2 9850 7310


Fax +61 2 9850 9478

 alumni@mq.edu.au

Career Development Centre

Level 2, Lincoln Student Services Building

 www.mq.edu.au/careers

 +61 2 9850 7372


Fax +61 2 9850 7388

 careers@mq.edu.au

Macquarie International Accommodation Office

Level 1, Building E3A

 www.international.mq.edu.au/accommodation

 +61 2 9850 7965

Fax +61 2 9850 7733

 iohousing@mq.edu.au

Energy Australia

 131 388

 www.energy.com.au

Telstra

 132 200

 www.telstra.com.au

Optus

 1 800 500 002

 www.optus.com.au

Qantas Airways

 131 313

 www.qantas.com.au

Jetta Excess Baggage

 +61 2 9319 2636

 www.jetta.com.au

AGL (Gas)

 131 245

 www.agl.com.au

Australia Post

 131 318

 www.auspost.com.au

Seven Seas Worldwide

 +61 2 9624 7240

 www.sevenseasworldwide.com

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

 131 881

 www.immi.gov.au



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