

Washington University

University of Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

Pre-Departure Handbook Fall 2018

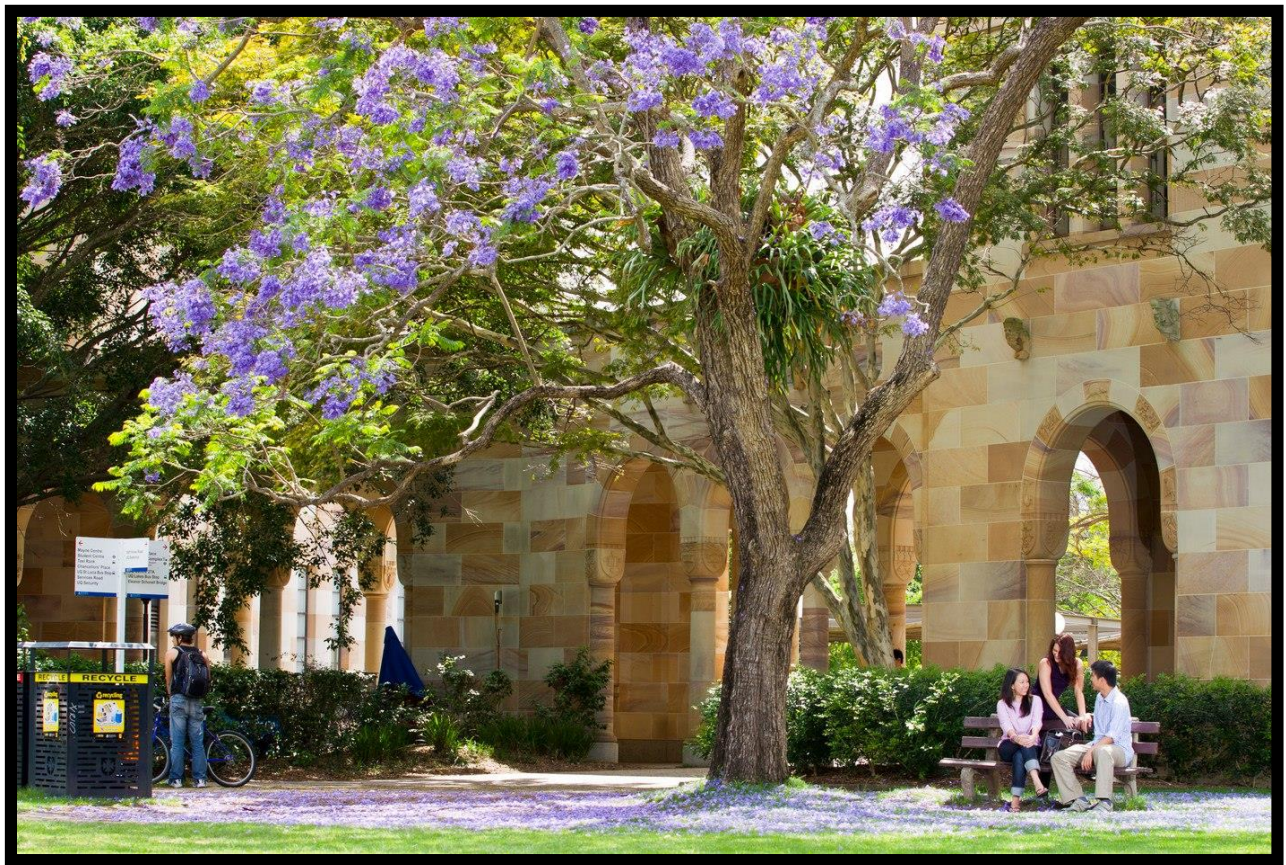


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WELCOME TO THE QUEENSLAND PROGRAM!

Dear University of Queensland Study Abroad Participant:

Greetings! Congratulations to you on your selection to be part of the group of students who will represent Washington University – St Louis at the University of Queensland during the 2018 Spring/Fall semester. An academically challenging and personally rewarding time awaits you!

In order to make your transition to Brisbane and the Australian educational system as smooth as possible, this handbook has been prepared for you. Please take the time to read the information thoroughly and share the information with your parents.

Please remember that the Queensland Study Abroad Program is a program facilitated by the University of Queensland International Education Directorate in conjunction with the Washington University – SL offices. You will receive written materials from both Washington University and the University of Queensland. If you have any questions or concerns prior to your departure, you should contact Carrie Canham at Mosebach@wustl.edu.

If you or your parents have any questions or concerns regarding living and studying at the University of Queensland as a directly enrolled “international student,” you should contact the Washington University – St Louis on-site Program Director in Brisbane, Ann Wadsworth, at **ann@semesterinaustralia.com**. Previously the Manager of Study Abroad at the University of Queensland for five years, Ann is now the Washington University - SL on-site Program Director for the Queensland Study Abroad Program and can answer any questions you may have about living in Brisbane, Australia, and studying at the University of Queensland.

Best wishes for a rewarding semester abroad!

Ann

IMPORTANT DATES

SEMESTER 1 (Spring Semester): February – June 2018

2 February	Arrival in Sydney for optional, pre-semester trip to Sydney (02-07 Feb)
7 February	Arrival in Brisbane
7-10 February	WashU On-site Orientation
12-16 February	International Student Orientation at UQ
19 February	UQ Class start and Semester Begins
	WashU Sponsored Excursion * TBA
30 March – 16 April	Mid-Semester Break (includes time off for Commonwealth Games)
2 June – 8 June	Exam Study Week
9 June – 23 June	Examination Period
24 June	Suggested Departure Date

SEMESTER 2 (Fall Semester): July – November 2018

8 July – 13 July	Optional, pre-semester trip to Sydney
14 July	Arrival into Brisbane
14 – 16 July	WashU on-site Orientation
17 July	International Student Orientation at UQ
23 July	Classes start and Semester Begins
22 September – 1 October	Mid-Semester Break
29 October – 2 November	Exam Study Week
3 – 17 November	Examination Period
18 November	Suggested Departure Date

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

WashU on-site Resident Director

Ann Wadsworth
2 Uralla Street
Ashgrove, Queensland 4060
Australia

Tel: 011 61 407 590 575 (from the US)
0407 590 575 (within Australia)
Fax: 011 61 7 3319 6584 (from the US)
Email: ann@semesterinaustralia.com

UQ Campus Liaison

Julie Huberman
Study Abroad & Exchange
International Education Directorate
University of Queensland
Brisbane, Queensland 4072
Australia

Tel: 011 61 7 3365 2638
FAX: 011 61 7 3365 7528
Email: j.huberman@uq.edu.au
Web: www.uq.edu.au/studyabroad

WashU Arts/Sciences Coordinator

Carrie Canham
Overseas Programs
One Brookings Dr. Campus Box 1088
St. Louis, MO 63130
Tel: (314) 935-5958
Fax: (314) 935-7642
Email: mosebach@wustl.edu

Consulate General of the United States Sydney

MLC Centre
Level 10
19-29 Martin Place
Sydney, NSW 2000

Web <http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/sydney/>
Ph: (02) 9373-9200
After Hours (02) 4422-2201

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pre-Departure Information

Students should refer to your Overseas Programs Handbook and any other materials distributed through the Study Abroad 101 seminar for more information on WU policies and procedures.

Payment of Fees/Financial Aid

Please refer to the Overseas Programs Handbook for information about billing and financial assistance.

Other Fees and Costs

All students should be aware of additional expenses they may incur while in Queensland that will not be covered by Washington University – St Louis. The University of Queensland and WashU offer different services to students and it is important for students to be aware of these differences prior to arriving in Queensland.

- Internet connection is free for UQ students on campus, which allows students to download up to 40GB per month. Additional download capacity can be purchased for \$10.00 AUD for 1G of data blocks.
- If the student elects to partake in clubs, intramural sport activities or in gym classes, all incurred fees are the responsibility of the student and will not be paid by Washington University – St Louis. All fees vary according to activity.
- All students at the University of Queensland are expected to make their own photocopies of classroom handouts from Professors as well as copies of necessary articles for both inside the classroom and for class research. Printing and photocopying costs approximately AUD10 cents a page.

Insurance Coverage

1. Primary Insurance

You are required to have primary insurance coverage. Your GeoBlue student health insurance organized by Overseas Programs will provide this coverage while you are abroad. For more information, please refer to your Overseas Programs Handbook.

2. Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

The Australian government requires that all international students obtain health insurance in Australia through the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) Scheme, administered by Allianz Global Assistance. UQ will enroll students in this coverage and the OSHC will be paid for by Washington University as part of your UQ Study Abroad Program costs, so your OSHC is already paid for. OSHC provides free or discounted access to the UQ Health Service and to public hospitals. You will receive an email from the University of Queensland with instructions on obtaining your policy/insurance card before you leave for Australia. Dental care and optical care are NOT covered by OSHC, so you should schedule any necessary examinations before you depart as they are considerably more expensive in Australia. For further information on what is and is not covered, visit the [Allianz Global Assistance website](#).

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

You are about to participate in a program that will, at least during the first weeks, seem confusing and at times even a little daunting. In many respects, the Australian university system is very different from an undergraduate program in the U.S. The reason is that the Australian system promotes independent study and private inquiry over structured assigned reading and continuous assessment. If you assume responsibility for your own learning, you will have a rich, rewarding experience. This task will be made easier if you make an effort to talk to your professors and take on projects that interest you. The University of Queensland is a large, public university with more than 38,000 students. Your class sizes may be very large compared to Washington University.


Below is information on choosing courses and the pre-approval process, registration for courses at UQ, the UQ grading/assessment system, and credit transfer.

Course Selection

Selecting courses at the University of Queensland is characterized by two phases – the Pre-Approval Process (selecting courses for submission to UQ) and Final Registration (enrolling in courses/final enrolment).

Pre-Approval Process

You will need to select 5 – 6 courses that you would like to take at UQ and list them on your University of Queensland Study Abroad Application. These should be the courses that were approved on your WU Study Plan submitted with your study abroad application. In most cases you will enroll in five courses at the University of Queensland. **Arts & Sciences students** are required to take five courses with some specific courses required by the major department. **Engineering students** are required to take at least four courses.

 **Reminder:** the more classes that are pre-approved, the greater flexibility you will have once you arrive. In addition, UQ rarely updates their course timetables months in advance, so you may not know the days and times courses meet until as late as one month prior to arrival – this is yet another reason to get 6 courses pre-approved in the case of time-table clashes.

Study abroad students will generally take a combination of 1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses. Course levels in Australia do not correspond to the same course level in the U.S. Australians earn an undergraduate degree in three years versus the customary four years in the U.S. Because of this, course levels (1000, 2000, etc.) are slightly different than what most students are accustomed to at Washington University. For example, a 400 level course in the U.S. generally equates to a “senior” year course, but in Australia a 4000 level course would equal a “graduate” course. Please see the chart below for more examples:

U.S. Academic Year/Level	Australian Course Level Equivalent
Freshman Year (100/1000 level)	Taken in High School
Sophomore Year (200/2000 level)	1000 level (First Year)
Junior Year (300/3000 level)	2000 level (Second Year)
Senior Year (400/4000 level)	3000 level (Third/Final Year)
Graduate	4000+ level (Honours, Graduate)

Because of these differences you should probably not take all 3000 level courses at UQ just because you are a junior – as 3000 level courses in Australia are equivalent to “Senior” year courses in the U.S. Obviously, “senior” year courses assume the highest knowledge base going into the course, which many U.S. juniors or sophomores may not yet possess.

UQ will allow you to take some 3000 level courses, but they will strongly recommend you take a balance of first, second and third year courses to insure you are not academically overwhelmed.

In Sum: As you select your 5 – 6 courses, keep in mind that your ultimate goal at Final Registration is to have:

- A full-time load consisting of 8 – 10 units,
- A balance between 1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses, and
- A combination of courses that will keep you on track to graduate.

Once you are comfortable with the above information, you can go on-line to choose your courses! University of Queensland courses offered during the academic year can be accessed on-line at www.uq.edu.au/study. In the top left corner is a “Program and Courses Search”. Tick the ‘course’ button, and in the box type in a course code (eg MARS for Marine Sciences, and a list of all the Marine Sciences courses will come up).

Please remember that Semester 1 runs from February to June and Semester 2 runs from July – November. Have a look at the courses and then have a look at when they are offered by navigating your way through the matching semester timetable.

You will only be allowed to enroll in undergraduate level courses (1000 - 3999). Also, it is up to you to make sure you are choosing courses in the correct semester that you will be studying at UQ. UQ may approve you for a course, but if it is offered in the Semester that you are not here, you will obviously not be able to take the course! So remember to make sure you are choosing courses in the correct UQ semester.

Term	Description
Pre:	Pre-requisite. Enrollment is not permitted in the course unless a pass has been obtained in any course listed as a pre-requisite or any other prescribed requirement has been fulfilled. For international students, satisfaction of prerequisite requirements is undertaken with the assistance of academic transcripts from the home institution.
Comp:	Companion. Enrollment is not permitted in the course unless the student has passed or is concurrently enrolled in any course listed as a companion.
C:	A recommended companion, but not compulsory.
P:	A recommended pre-requisite, but not compulsory.
Points	Students must enroll in 6 - 10 units per semester
1st (Feb. enrollments)	Course is offered in session 1 (commences in February)
2nd (July enrollments)	Course is offered in session 2 (commences in July)
1, 2	Course is offered in either session
Year	A course undertaken over the two semesters, commencing in 1st semester
SS Single session	whether S1 or S2 is not known at time of publication
Contact Time (2L2P, etc)	The number and type of class contact hours each week, thus (2L2P) means a requirement of 2 hours of lectures and 2 hours of practical work each week. The codes used are (L) Lecture;(P) Practical or Laboratory work; (T) Tutorial; (S) Seminar; (F) Fieldwork; and (C) Class contact (which may take any of these forms).

Enrolling/Registering for courses via MySI-Net

You will enrol/register for courses online at the University of Queensland's "MySI-Net" website. However, you will not be able to do this until you receive your official Acceptance Letter from UQ with your Student ID, a Username and Password. With this UQ Acceptance package, you should also receive a UQ Course Approval letter, outlining the UQ courses (which were originally listed on your UQ Study Abroad Application) that have been pre-approved or not approved for your enrolment.

First go on-line at MySI-Net www.sinet.uq.edu.au and "Sign In" by entering your Username and Password.

PLEASE NOTE: You will FIRST need to enter all your personal information before the system will allow you to enrol in courses

You can then go ahead and start enrolling in your courses for the Semester. Most courses are open to Study Abroad students, with pre-requisites waived, so you don't need formal UQ Faculty approval (eg you can just enrol in it on-line via MySI-Net). However, there are a few 'restricted' courses, where you do indeed need UQ Faculty approval (for example, upper-level Psych courses). The best thing to do is to just go ahead and just enrol in the courses you'd like, *even if they are new ones that you didn't have previously approved by UQ Study Abroad (eg they weren't listed on your UQ Application and aren't listed on your UQ Course Approval list).* Remember, you can only enrol in courses from levels 1000 – 3999. Any numbers that are higher are considered postgraduate level.

- If the system rejects your enrolment with an error message like "You don't meet the pre-requisites", it means it is a 'restricted' course and you will need formal UQ Faculty approval. You will need to email the WashU Resident Director, Ann Wadsworth, who will seek formal Faculty approval for you.
- If you get a similar message for a course that WAS approved by UQ Study Abroad (eg it is listed on your UQ Course Approval list as an approved course) and MySI-Net is just not allowing you to enrol in the course, let me know – it may mean you just need a 'permission code' entered into the system. Contact the WashU on-site Resident Director, Ann Wadsworth, who will correct the problem.
- Some courses (but very few) are not open to Study Abroad students at all. You will get an error message telling you this if you try to enrol in such a course.

When in doubt, if you are having trouble enrolling in any course on-line via MySI-Net just email Ann Wadsworth (aewadsworth@bigpond.com) with the course code and name, and she can assist you.

Please note: As an international Study Abroad student, **the maximum number of UQ Units you are allowed to enrol in is 10.** Therefore, the system will not allow you to over-enrol above 10 units (5 courses). Many American students are used to over-enrolling as they figure they will drop the classes they don't want, at a later date. The MySi-Net system won't allow you to do this, so you will need to enrol in 6 to 10 units (3 – 5 classes), and then add/drop at a later date when finalizing your enrolment.

Again, you will also have time to choose new courses upon your arrival to the University of Queensland during Orientation. *You will have the first two weeks of classes to add/drop courses and finalize your enrolment.*

Choosing Lecture times and signing up for Tutorials

When enrolling for courses on MySi-Net, you will be given a timetable of lectures and tutorials for each particular course. You just need to pick the lecture you'd like to attend (eg you do not have to officially sign up for it, but you just keep it in mind in your personal schedule). You will need to follow the same lectures each week though, as the other times offered are not exact 'repeats', but may be taught by a different lecturer and could be on a different section, etc. So it's best to follow the same lecture time/stream (eg La or Lb... Not both!) throughout the semester that you choose from the start.

With tutorials, sometimes you can pick them/sign up for them on-line when enrolling. MySI-Net will indicate this, if it is possible. Otherwise, you just sign up for the Tutorial that fits your schedule once you arrive. More info is provided your first day of class, along with an outline for the course (what is required, what will be covered each week, etc). You must also stick with the same Tutorial that you sign up for. The Tutorial is where you are given assignments and where you hand in your assignments for grading by your Tutorial leader.

Lastly, there is great on-line help with enrolling via MyUQ (<https://my.uq.edu.au>) that will answer questions like what do all the codes mean (Eg “L” for Lecture, “P” for Practical, etc) and how to sign up for tutorials (which are discussion groups), etc. **Just click on the ‘Enrolment for Current Students’ under “Featured Topics” to access enrolment information.** The Enrolment Guide, which explains all the different terms, etc and codes used for Enrolment, can be found on-line at the MySi-Net home page: <https://my.uq.edu.au>

It is recommended that you print this guide or at least referring to it on-line so you know what it's all about! Enrolment in Australia is quite different than in the US -- for example, you won't get a printed schedule and if you have time clashes with courses, the system won't block you from enrolment etc -- it's up to you to keep track of what you've enrolled in, the course time table, etc!

Credit Transfer


All A&S students on the UQ Study Abroad program are required to take a course load of 5 courses (50 points) and EN students are required to take 4 courses. For 5 courses at Queensland, you will receive 15 WashU credits. Credits will only transfer if you receive the course equivalent of a “C” or better. Keep in mind that your department may require a better score in order for courses to transfer for major or minor credit. For all courses taken at the University of Queensland, the equivalent letter grades earned WILL NOT be recorded on the WU transcript or be computed in the WashU GPA.

WashU uses the following grade conversion chart to determine what a “C” or better is:

7 = A
6 = A-
5 = B
4 = C
3 = F
2 = F
1 = F

Before credits will transfer for Arts & Sciences credits, students must:

- Complete the “Credit Request Questionnaire” towards the end of the semester abroad, found in sa.wustl.edu
- Submit a portfolio of work done abroad if your major/minor department requires one (as discussed when you met with the Study Abroad Advisor in your department during the application and pre-departure process)

 **Reminder:** Keep all of your email correspondence regarding course selection/approval and any class outlines/syllabi for every course undertaken at UQ to assist with credit transfer upon your return to WashU. You should also keep all graded papers, exams, and other work that you complete while in Australia.

Academic Differences Between Australia and the United States

Courses in Australia are taught quite differently than in the United States. Below we have outlined some of the main differences that American study abroad students have consistently commented on year after year:

- 1) **Limited assessment/assignments.** This will vary from department to department, but in general, most courses have limited assessment/assignments which may include only a mid-term and a final (some courses have one final exam only, worth 80% of the final grade!). This is in contrast to the American system which relies heavily on continual assessment (e.g., quizzes, essays, mid-term and final). This may make American students think that courses at the Australian university are “easier.” But, as there are limited assignments and assessment, it can be harder to get a good grade. Don’t get lulled into a false sense of security – do the coursework and research as the semester progresses, otherwise the mid-term/final can be quite difficult to pass.
- 2) **More emphasis on independent work.** Even though there are limited assignments, students are expected to do continuous independent research/study during the course. Students may not get extra points for attending class and participating, but if a student continually misses class the lecturer is going to notice and it will work against the student. Many American students are used to having the professor available daily for assistance if they are finding the course difficult. It may vary from department to department, but in general, students in Australia are expected to be independent, do the work and make sure they pass the class on their own.
- 3) **Courses in Australia can be more difficult** because the Australian degree programs are very streamlined (in the sense that if you are a business major, all you take is business courses – there are no ‘general education requirements’). Australian students have prepared for their degree in high school, and may already have a significant background in their major. In general, we compare the first year in Australia to the sophomore year in the U.S., the second year in Australia to the junior year in the U.S., and the third and final year in Australia to the senior year in the U.S. Keep this in mind when choosing courses.

ARRIVAL AND ON-SITE ORIENTATION

Arrival into Brisbane and the WashU On-Site Orientation

Suggested Arrival Date: Direct to Brisbane and pre-semester trip to Sydney

Washington University has organized a specified Arrival Date in order to run a group on-site Orientation which will allow students to settle in and acclimatize before the formal University of Queensland Orientation (see Important Dates at the front of this handbook).

For Fall/Semester 2 2018, the suggested Arrival Date into Brisbane and Day 1 of the On-Site Orientation is 14 July, 2018.

Pre-Semester Trip to Sydney: 8 July – 13 July, 2018

In addition, we've organized an awesome pre-semester trip to Sydney, where students get to spend 4-days in this iconic Australian city. Past participants rave about the trip and highly recommend it. Not only is it a great way to settle into Australia, but it's a great opportunity to meet other students studying in Brisbane and helps to 'bond' the students together. Students then fly up to Brisbane on 13 July.

It is strongly recommended that you arrive into Brisbane on the suggested arrival date (eg Day 1 of the on-site Orientation). Arriving earlier is not recommended (unless you plan to do independent travel before coming to Brisbane), as the Colleges are mostly empty. Although it seems like a good idea at the time, past experience has shown that students who arrive days earlier can feel very 'isolated and lonely', adding to their culture shock and home-sickness. **Therefore, it is best to arrive with the group on the suggested arrival date/time or if that is unavailable, any time the day before.** The On-Site orientation is informative, yet very relaxed, giving students ample opportunity to settle in, acclimatize and get over their jet-lag. There is no 'real' advantage of arriving days early.

WashU On-Site Orientation

Shortly after your arrival into Brisbane, you will meet as a group with the WashU on-site Resident Director, Ann Wadsworth. Ann will meet the group at the Airport and assist with transport back to the University to move in to the Residential Colleges.

The first two days of the on-site Orientation will provide you with information on settling in to Brisbane and what to expect while studying at the University of Queensland.

Topics to be covered include:

- Public transportation
- Opening a bank account
- Email and internet access
- Phones and cell phones
- Residential College life and meeting Australians
- Social and sporting clubs on campus
- UQ Orientation and Enrollment
- Academic life at UQ – differences and expectations

The on-site Orientation will continue over a number of days with varied activities. A more detailed schedule will be provided to you upon arrival.

Accommodation at the University of Queensland

All students will receive housing on the WashU University of Queensland Study Abroad program. So that the students receive a rich cultural experience immersed among Australian students and other international students, WashU students have the opportunity to be dispersed amongst two on-campus residential colleges.

You will have the opportunity to rank your preference of housing on a selection form, which you will need to complete and hand in to Overseas Programs. Although your preference of accommodations will be taken into consideration, your first choice is not guaranteed and you may end up with your second or third choice (or even your last choice!).

In some cases, when program participant numbers are high, students will most likely end up living in off-campus apartments/houses.

On-Campus Accommodations: Residential Colleges

There are ten residential colleges on the University of Queensland campus. WashU has the opportunity to place a limited number of students (3) at each of the following colleges: **International House or Emmanuel (1), St John's College (2)**. Each college has its own activities and traditions that will allow WashU students to interact with Australians and experience an academic lifestyle in a community setting. Although the residential colleges were founded by religious organizations, the practice of religion in the college is not mandatory (and past students have said the religion was a 'non-issue').

Each college will house approximately 150 - 250 students. Many study abroad and exchange students choose to stay in a residential college as they are conveniently located on-campus. The colleges provide single study/bedrooms (with bed, desk and closet) and shared bathroom facilities on each floor. Some also have shared kitchen facilities. All residential colleges provide meals to the residents. Most Colleges provide students with linens and a 'doona' ('comforter', or warm blanket) for those chilly nights during autumn and winter, but students will need to bring their own bath towels.

As a general guide, colleges will serve breakfast and dinner, and provide materials to make a cut-lunch Monday through Friday. A brunch and dinner are served on weekends. The meal hall will be very different from what you are used to at Washington University. There will be a small choice of main meals, with side salad and dessert. There will not be as many offerings and selections as you may be used to, with drinks such as Coke on tap. If you have any special dietary needs (e.g., Kosher, vegetarian, vegan, etc.) please indicate this on your form as we will try to alert the college before hand. We cannot guarantee that the college will be able to cater specifically to your dietary needs, therefore if you have a particular diet it is best to alert us to these needs before arrival in Australia. Colleges will often have at least one night of the week assigned as a 'formal dinner' where students may be required to wear academic gowns, special guests are invited to speak, and students serve the meal to other residents. This is all part of the college tradition, and is an interesting aspect to the study abroad experience!

Rooms are available during the semester breaks and holidays, but students must notify the college in advance if they wish to remain in their room during this time. Each college will have a computer lab, and will charge their residents for internet access and printing costs. You should refer to the Residential Colleges' websites to prepare your budget for the various costs and charges at the colleges.

Students should be aware that living on-campus in Australia can be a very different experience than the dorm style accommodation provided by Washington University. Most of the colleges at the University of Queensland aim to promote a community atmosphere within the residence. Students may find that they are expected to actively participate in the social life of the college (e.g., attendance at formal dinners, participation in sporting/cultural events and orientation week activities). There is, however, a wide variation in the differing expectations of the colleges.

Past WashU participants have advised that it is easier to make friends at the college if you become part of the community and participate in college life. Students who travel often, spending less time at the college, are often regarded as 'transient' and aren't truly accepted as part of the college by the Australian residents. Advice from past WashU participants is to make travel plans at the end of your semester, with occasional weekend trips, rather than spending each weekend away traveling. *College life and expectations will be discussed further by the Washington University Resident Director during the WashU On-Site Orientation upon arrival.*

Students interested in learning more about the different residential colleges should access the following websites:

- St John's College: <http://www.stjohns.uq.edu.au/>
- International House: <http://www.internationalhouse.uq.edu.au/>

Off-Campus (Self-Catered) Accommodation:

Semester in Australia St Lucia Housing

When program participant numbers are large and due to limited places on-campus, WashU will need to utilize off-campus housing in private rental accommodation within walking distance to the University. Students will have a Single room in a fully furnished 3-bedroom Apartment or 6-bedroom House, with shared kitchen and laundry facilities, sharing with other study abroad/exchange students studying at the University of Queensland. The off-campus housing is conveniently located within a short walk to campus as well as being close to public transport and amenities (supermarket, post office, cafes/restaurants, etc.). Students will be notified of their apartment location and address before they depart for Australia.

WHAT IS PROVIDED: The off-campus housing is fully furnished, down to kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, glassware and cookware). Students will have a Single room with bed, desk and closet). Upon arrival students will need to buy their own linens and a ‘doona’ (comforter or warm blanket) for chilly nights during autumn and winter. Utilities (gas, electricity, water) and unlimited internet are included/provided to the household. Laundry facilities are provided free of charge in the accommodation (please note the apartments will have a clothes dryer while the houses will have a clothes line in the yard).

Semester in Australia Brisbane City Housing

These are 5-bedroom fully furnished apartments offering five single bedrooms, sharing the kitchen and living areas with other Study Abroad/exchange students studying at Brisbane universities. These apartments are new and very modern. Past residents absolutely love the location at popular Southbank, with just a five-minute walk to everything you need, from food and shopping to nighttime entertainment. It is a short bus commute from the complex straight onto the UQ campus. The entire complex is full of students, so it’s a great way to make friends, meeting students studying at various Brisbane universities. Students will be notified of their apartment location and address before they depart for Australia.

WHAT IS PROVIDED: The Urbanest off-campus housing is fully furnished, down to kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, glassware and cookware) as well as bedding/linens. Students will have a Single room with bed, desk and closet, a private ensuite bathroom and air-conditioning. Utilities (gas, electricity, water) and 100Gb of internet per person, per month is included. Laundry facilities are provided in a separate Laundry room in the accommodation with \$4 per wash and dry.

MEALS: Students with special dietary requirements (e.g. Kosher, Vegetarian/Vegan, etc) may prefer this, as the off-campus housing option is self-catered and students have the freedom to prepare their own meals and eat during non-designated dining hall hours.

LIVING OFF-CAMPUS: Living in an off-campus housing (which 99.9 percent of the UQ student population does) allows for more ‘independent living’, where there is no expectation of being ‘part of the community’ as with the on-campus residential colleges (where students are expected to participate in all College activities). Students living off-campus will more than likely live with other international students (rather than with Australians) however, there are plenty of opportunities to mix and meet Australian students through clubs and societies, on-campus activities and mixing with your Australian neighbors.

In addition, off-campus students wanting to join the UQ Sports Gym will also have their student membership paid for by Semester in Australia. Further information will be provided at the WashU on-site Orientation upon arrival.

Information regarding Semester in Australia’s housing options can be found at:
www.semesterinaustralia.com/city/brisbane/

Your Housing Allocation

You will be notified of your assigned housing prior to your departure to Queensland. **Once you have been assigned your accommodation, you cannot change your allocation.** Again, we will do the best we can to secure your first preference, but on occasion you may receive your second or third choice (or indeed your last choice!). You may also receive information directly from the residential college/Altitude Apartments welcoming you to your new community.

Payment to the Residential College/Semester in Australia (SiA)

PLEASE NOTE: Although your place at the College/SiA Housing is initially open and your College Application will be forwarded to the Residential College directly by the WashU on-site Resident Director, **in order to confirm/secure your place at the Residential College, you will need to complete any Housing Contracts and pay the semester fee directly to the College/Semester in Australia.** Don't lose your place by being lax/late with completed forms or payment! The housing is independent of the Program and you must pay your fees directly to the relevant Residential College/SiA Housing. WashU will NOT be paying the accommodation on your behalf, so make sure you secure your place in accommodation by paying your Semester accommodation fee in a timely manner with the relevant College.

All invoices from the Colleges/Apartments will be in AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS and therefore you must pay by Credit Card (if available – some Colleges do not offer this facility) or by Direct Deposit (international bank wire transfer) in Australian Dollars. Do not send personal cheques in US Dollars, as it will not be accepted.

If you have any questions/concerns about the invoices or information provided by your residential college or the University of Queensland, you should contact the WashU Resident Director, Ann Wadsworth, who will follow up the matter: ann@semesterinaustralia.com.

Some Important Things to Note regarding the Housing Allocation Process

2) All the Colleges are 'equal' in standard (cleanliness, facilities, services, etc). – so no one College is 'better' than another.

3) We have limited places (3) at each of the Colleges, and the students will be dispersed amongst those places. There are over 51,000 students at UQ, with only 2,000 places on-campus in the Colleges. Of those 2,000 places probably only 800 go to International students. We have to work hard to get a certain number of places at each of the colleges, and places allocated to us changes year to year. There are 10 Residential Colleges at UQ – 5 single sex and 5 co-ed. The Co-Ed Colleges are extremely difficult to get into and most place restrictions on numbers they will accept (ie. St John's College will only take 2 of our students – 1 female and 1 male). Therefore, we must also utilize the single-sex Colleges.

4) We can't guarantee students will get any of their first couple of choices. Although most students will receive their first or second choice, sometimes students DO get their last choice. We try our best to honour preferences, but the bottom line is we have to spread the students out in the various slots/places we have at each college – the placements aren't ruled by our demand, but rather we are given a set number of limited places at each College each semester in which to disperse the students.

5) We cannot guarantee students who are friends that they will all be able to live together for several reasons, one being we don't control the Colleges, the students they select and the restrictions they put on numbers. It's also just on principle -- everyone should have the same chance to live at the College of their choice. We have limited places at the Colleges, and all program participants should be able to have a chance at one of those places, regardless of whether they are friends with the other WashU occupants or not. If we allow friends to live together just because they are friends, we are taking away spots from other program participants. If you want to be with your friends – go on a holiday together! ☺

Mail/Telephone

Once settled into your residential college, you will be required to email the Resident Director your Queensland contact details (e.g., room number, telephone number and mobile number) as assigned upon arrival.


MAIL: You will be able to receive mail and packages at your Residential College and off-campus housing address. You will be provided with your College mailing address when you receive your Housing Allocation (before departing for Australia). Friends and family may write to this address and there is no need for a specific room number/mailbox. Mail is held in the College's main reception for students to collect. Large packages sent to off-campus housing, will be held at the St Lucia Post Office (just five minute walk from the housing) for collection.

TELEPHONE: After you have arrived in Australia, if you want to make a direct call to the U.S., dial 800 682 2878 for the AT&T Australian customer service line. They will assist you with instructions for calling the U.S. directly. They will also be able to assist you with placing collect calls and calling card calls. You may also purchase an Australian Calling card which will allow you to call home for around 2 Aussie cents per minute!

To dial the USA from Australia: 0011 1 (area code) then the telephone number.
For example: 0011 1 (617) 648 1234

To dial Australia from the USA: 011 61 (Australian area code without the '0') then the telephone number

For example, the area code for Brisbane is '07' so to dial from the USA: 011 61 7 3721 1234

 **Reminder:** There is a 15 hour time difference between the U.S. (East coast/EST) and Australia (e.g., 8.00am on Tuesday in Brisbane is 5.00pm EST Monday in the U.S.).

Internet and Email at UQ

Computers and Internet Access:

Your on-campus Residential College (but not off-campus housing) will have a small computer lab with approximately 8 – 15 computers available for use by its residents. However, if you do own a laptop computer, it's a good idea to bring it with you to Australia given that on-campus computer labs are limited and/or restricted (e.g. some computers in the library are for library use only and do not allow for email use, but will still draw from your internet quota). Laptops aren't totally necessary, but students have found that having one makes life easier during your semester in Australia and are good for communication. In any case, you are encouraged to limit your Internet use to create a healthy balance between staying in touch with your friends and family in the U.S. and taking advantage of the time you spend.

Voltage in Australia is 240 European Volts (as compared to 120 Volts in the U.S.). Most modern laptop computers will have a 'switch' on their connector/adaptor plug that automatically converts the voltage so you should not need to purchase a voltage converter. You will need a plug adaptor (to change your US plug end into an Australian plug), which you can normally purchase from any travel store. If you are unsure whether your computer will adapt to the 240V, please contact your computer dealer for further information.

Complete information on student use of computers and email/internet at the University of Queensland can be found at <https://its.uq.edu.au/services/student-email>. Printed information will also be provided to you upon arrival by the Resident Director during your on-site orientation, and by your Residential College.

Students at UQ are provided with a free student internet service (<http://uqconnect.net/student-free>). You do not need to apply for this service as it is set up automatically for all students. Your University of Queensland Acceptance Letter will include your UQ username and password. These details are used for this service and other online services around UQ such as mySI-net. Your free student account includes:

- National dial-up
- 40GB download (if you run out of download quota, you can buy additional blocks of download through your Residential College ranging in price from AUD\$5 for 350MB to AUD \$10 for 1GB- these costs are subject to change)
- Unlimited download from AARnet3 and Internet 2 sites
- Unlimited usage hours
- Wireless access on-campus
- An official UQ e-mail address
- 100MB disk space
- Private IP

If you have a laptop computer with wireless capabilities, you can connect to the Internet from many places around the UQ campuses. When you are on-campus look out for the wireless hotspot signs. If you are in range to access the Internet, you will be redirected to a login screen. Enter your UQ username and password. For more information about connecting to UQ wireless, go to <http://uqconnect.net/helpdesk/wireless/>

Money and Banking

Like the currency of the United States, Australian currency comes in the form of coins and notes. The notes are unusual because they are colorful and plastic, a process developed in Australia, and are highly durable. The basic unit of currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD). Australia has no pennies and everything is rounded to the nearest five cents. Taxes (“GST” – the Goods and Services Tax) are also included in list prices.

Obtaining Australian Currency Before You Leave

For security and safety reasons, we do not recommend bringing large amounts of cash with you, but if possible bring some Australian currency. Most major banks in large U.S. cities have Australian currency on hand, but the smaller, regional type banks may have to order Australian dollars. Therefore, don’t wait until the last minute to place your order. Alternatively, you can simply exchange money at the airport at the currency exchange before you depart for the 14-hour flight. This is slightly more expensive than using a local bank (1%-2% higher fees), but much more convenient. Currency exchanges are not open 24 hours/day in Brisbane, so you should get Australian currency in the US just to be safe.

Accessing Money in Australia

Cash (ATMs)

The use of an American ATM card is a convenient and fast method to withdraw money in Australia. Most of these transactions are assessed the wholesale exchange rate that applies to large foreign currency transactions – which ultimately means savings for students. Please check with your bank to insure their PIN number and ATM card will work abroad. Australian banks currently do NOT charge any fees for using ATMs, but check if your home bank will assess fees for foreign withdrawals.

Credit Cards

Major credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express are most commonly accepted in Australia. Visa and MasterCard are accepted more regularly over American Express. Please keep in mind that there must be someone readily available to pay your credit card bill or your finance charges will quickly add up. In today’s computer age, some credit card bills can be paid via the internet so you may be able to pay from within Australia without involving a third party.

Additional Information

Your credit card must be in your name as shown on your passport. Be aware that most credit card companies charge 2% for foreign currency transactions. Currently, Capital One and MBNA do not charge these foreign currency fees (check with your credit card company for details). Credit cards can also be used for cash advances.

TIP: American Express cardholders have the convenient option of writing a personal check within Australia drawn on their home U.S. bank account to get local currency or travelers checks. Stop by any American Express office in Australia to utilize this option. This is not available with the Optima card from AMEX.

Opening an Australian Bank Account

If you decide to open an account in Australia you will need to bring your passport and some other form of photo ID. If you plan to work in Australia, most employers will direct deposit wages, making an Australian bank account a must. There is no need to open an Australian checking account, but having an Australian ATM card will insure that you can access money from anywhere in Australia without worrying if your U.S. issued ATM will work. When in Brisbane, you will undoubtedly have a good idea of the ATMs that accept your card. But when traveling within Australia (outside of Brisbane) it may not be that easy to find an ATM that will accept your American card simply because you will be new to the city. While this may seem like a rare

occurrence, it can happen. Therefore, if you also hold an Australian ATM card from an Australian bank you can greatly reduce this possibility and insure that you can access money 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our recommendation is to take 15 minutes and open an Australian bank account (and get a free ATM card) with at least AUD\$100 of emergency cash. Don't forget to withdraw the funds at the end of the semester. With an Australian bank account you will also be able to deposit funds into your account with travelers checks and personal checks from U.S. accounts (or other foreign accounts) and make the Aussie bank your main financial source. However, please note that checks drawn on non-Australian banks (e.g., a check from Grandma Jones in Nebraska) might take up to four weeks to clear. Therefore, it is highly recommended you open an account with travelers checks. Most Australian banks will accept wire transfers from any U.S. bank, but the fees are generally high. Sample rates include USD\$40 for an outgoing wire from the U.S. bank and AUD\$15 for an incoming wire to Australia.

During the WashU On-Site Orientation, the Resident Director will discuss opening a bank account and it will also be discussed at the UQ Study Abroad Orientation. There are banks on-campus where you can open a bank account. There is normally not a fee for opening an account, but policies vary from bank to bank.

Health Care

The University Health Service (UHS) is available to all international students and most costs are covered by the Overseas Student Health Care (OSHC) plan. A range of general medical services is provided to help with health and/or personal problems. It is suggested that students who need to go to hospital while in Australia, attend a public hospital (eg Royal Brisbane Hospital) as most charges are then be covered by the Overseas Student Health Care (OSHC) plan.

Details regarding health care and services in Australia will be covered in more detail during the WashU on-site Orientation.

WashU-Sponsored Excursion

WashU has arranged for a 3-day excursion at the start of each semester to Byron Bay, NSW which allows students to settle in, meet and bond with other UQ students, and start their semester travels off with a great start! The excursion is a fun and relaxing time, and gives students an insight to another aspect of Australian life. The excursion is to Byron Bay, in Northern New South Wales, about a 2 hours drive south of Brisbane. The three days is spent relaxing and learning new skills (like sea kayaking and learning to surf!). A more detailed itinerary will be given to you upon arrival to Brisbane. Past students have loved it and highly recommend the trip!

TRAVEL PREPARATIONS

Applying for the Student Visa - Overview

Passport and Visa Information

The responsibility for ensuring that you have a valid passport and visa in time for your program is ultimately yours.

Passport Information:

A valid passport **that does not expire for 6 months beyond the end date of the program** is required to enter any country. If your passport expires before the required validity, you will have to acquire a new passport before departure and/or before applying for a visa. **If you have not applied for your passport, you must do so immediately.**

Applying for the Student Visa:

All students are responsible for coordinating their Student Visa. Please review this section to familiarize yourself with the student visa process.

- You need a valid passport that does not expire for 6 months beyond the end date of the program.
- In order to apply for the visa, you must have the compulsory Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC), which is included with your WashU program fee (so you do not need to pay this separately). Enrollment for OSHC will take place online and delivery of your health insurance card will take place in Australia.
- You must maintain good academic standing at the University of Queensland during your program abroad.

As a Study Abroad/Exchange student, you will be applying for the **Student Visa (Subclass 500)**.

All students are able to apply for the Australian Student Visa online. By applying online, you do not need to send your passport in to the Australian Embassy. The approximate cost is AUD\$560 (as of Sept 2017).

To apply for the Student Visa online, you will need:

- Your current Passport
- Credit card to pay the visa fee
- Confirmation of Enrollment Form (COE): Once your acceptance form has been submitted and your admission to UQ has been officially processed, UQ will send your Confirmation of Enrollment Form (COE) to you and the WashU Overseas Programs Office

Please Note: Once you have your official Acceptance Letter and CoE from the University of Queensland, it is recommended that you apply for your Australian Student Visa (Subclass 500) as soon as possible, and at least 4 weeks prior to your departure.

Detailed information on applying for the Student Visa Subclass 500 can be found at <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/500-> You should look at this information before starting the

online application process, as it provides information on how to save your application, check on your application status, etc.

You may apply for your visa online at: <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/500->

When your visa has been approved, you will receive a confirmation email that you should **print and carry with your passport when traveling to Australia. You will not receive anything to put into your passport. Instead, your visa information will be electronically administered;** when you enter Australia, immigration control will swipe your passport and your Student Visa details will show up on their computer/system. However, it is advisable to carry your visa confirmation in case of confusion.

If you have questions about visas, please contact the Information Service for Australian Visas (ISAV) hotline by calling (905) 280-1437. The phone lines are open Monday to Friday from 9 am - 5 pm EST, and you will be able to speak directly with an immigration officer.

Information for International Students

Visas for Students that do not have a U.S. Passport:

Students that do not hold a U.S. passport need to visit the Australian Embassy website to determine the visa requirements for their home country at: http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/students.htm.

For students from certain countries, Australia requires students to take the IELTS, an English assessment test. You may be required to take this test before the University of Queensland can begin processing your enrollment application. Depending on your home country, Australia may **not** accept the TOEFL score as a substitute. You do not have to take the IELTS test if you have studied for 5 years in the English language medium in one of the following countries: US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, U.K., Ireland, or South Africa. In order to qualify for this exemption, you must provide proof of your 5 years of study by submitting a transcript from your institution(s).

If you have to take the IELTS, you will be responsible for arranging and paying for the test. You may check your home country for testing centers. To access more information on the IELTS, visit <http://www.ielts.org/>.

Permission to Work

A “Permission to Work” permit is included with the Student Visa. With this Permission to Work, students are allowed to work 20 hours during the Semester, and full-time during scheduled breaks (eg. mid-semester break and when the Semester has finished). However, you cannot commence work until classes have started at the University of Queensland.

International Flight/Arrival Information

Washington University has organized a specified Arrival Date in order to run a group on-site Orientation which will allow students to settle in and acclimatize before the formal University of Queensland Orientation.

Airport Reception/Arrival into Brisbane

You will need to arrange your Airport Reception through the University of Queensland as this is a FREE service to newly arrived international students. The UQ Accommodation and Airport Reception Services will provide you with Airport Reception and transportation back to your accommodation – either your Residential College or your off-campus rental accommodation.

You can do this by completing an Airport Reception Form on line at the UQ Website: <https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/accommodation/about/airport-pickups>

You will need to have your UQ Student ID number (which is provided to you with your official University of Queensland acceptance letter) and your flight arrival details into Brisbane in order to complete this form.

You will not need temporary accommodation, as you have pre-arranged accommodation with a Residential College or off-campus accommodation, and just need to be transported from the Airport directly to your accommodation address.

For students who arrive on the suggested Arrival Date, the on-site WashU Resident Director will meet you at the Airport and travel with you back to the UQ Campus to settle you into the College accommodation.

For students who arrive a day earlier than the suggested Arrival Date/on-site Orientation, you will need to meet the group the next day for Day 1 of Orientation.

Ann Wadsworth will send an email to all students regarding Arrival into Brisbane and providing instructions for those students who will be arriving earlier/on different flights. Also, upon arrival, students will receive a “WashU Arrival Package” with detailed information on when/where to meet for Day 1 of Orientation, among other information pertinent to your arrival in Brisbane.

Immediate Cash/Travel Funds

You will need some ready cash before you arrive at your program site. It is recommended that you have approximately \$100.00 in cash. **See *Money and Banking* under the *Residential Life* section above for more information.**

At the time of this publication, 1 US Dollar = 1.28 Australian Dollars.

Packing Tips

Clothing should be comfortable and warm without being cumbersome. In general, what you wear at WashU is appropriate in Brisbane. When packing, you may wish to keep in mind that the weather is humid December - March. Light, loose clothing and layers are the key to comfort. Remember, too, you may also encounter abrupt changes in temperature while traveling around Australia, as southern states such as New South Wales and Victoria are much cooler than the sub-tropical climate of Brisbane. The highs from February to June (Summer/Autumn) tend to be 80F with the lows reaching 60F as winter approaches. February tends to be the

hottest month, with temps around 90F and high humidity. The highs from July to November (Winter/Spring) tend to be 70F in Brisbane with very low humidity, while the lows may reach 50F.

Here are some suggestions:

- Pack everything in vacuum pack bags (“space bags”), as this will save on space in your luggage
- Work around a basic scheme of coordinated colors to minimize the number of clothing items you bring with you (black is always appropriate)
- Wash-and-wear shirts or blouses
- Pullover sweaters and sweatshirts
- Colleges normally have one formal/social dance each semester, so pack at least one outfit for special events (does not have to ‘black tie’ but nice!)
- Men need pants, closed toed shoes and a collared shirt (golf shirt) to go out or they may not be admitted to pubs/clubs in the city
- Warm sleep wear and slippers (nights can get cool during Queensland Winter/Spring)
- Sturdy, comfortable pair of walking shoes that have been WELL BROKEN IN (you will walk more than you have ever walked before!)
- Swim suit and beach towel
- Pair of sweats for studying in your room and sleeping (it can get very chilly at night in the winter months of late May – end of August)
- Voltage converter and adapter plugs--available in larger department stores (if you plan to use U.S. appliances)
- Laptop computer if you have one; you can buy an inexpensive adaptor cord at an electronics store
- Alarm clock (wind-up or battery-powered/extra batteries)
- Swiss army knife (handy when traveling, but be sure to pack in checked baggage)
- Pocket calculator (for currency conversion)
- Sports clothing/equipment (if you plan to play or do PE)
- If you plan to buy a bike in Brisbane (the area is very flat and has many built-up bike paths), take along a strong lock.
- If you wear contact lenses, you should take your eye care products with you
- Prescription medicine – enough to cover your entire stay, or at least the first month. You will not be able to mail the medicine from the United States to Australia so bring a copy of your prescription and a letter from your doctor outlining your medical condition and the medication required just in case you run out
- If you take a Walkman or portable CD-player, you will want to take a supply of batteries.
- Take along a few favorite photos of your family and friends. You can decorate your room with them and show them to your newly-found friends
- You may wish to take along a few small token gifts; something typically American or representative of the area in which you live in the U.S..
- If you plan to take a backpack (internal frame is better), then you will most likely have to check it as one of your allotted checked baggage items
- Some students recommend that you leave room in your bags when you go so you'll have more room on the way home (even pack items in “space/vacuum bags” to allow for more room)
- Make sure each piece of luggage (even carry-on) has an address tag. It is also a good idea to put a copy of your address inside each piece of luggage. And be sure to make a list of everything you take with you--leave a copy of the list at home
- Finally, before you leave home, make sure you can comfortably carry all of your luggage at one time (try it for 15 minutes)