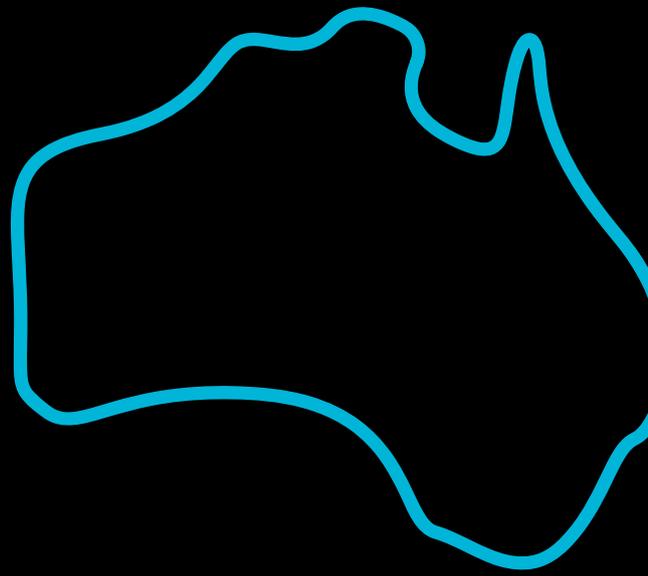
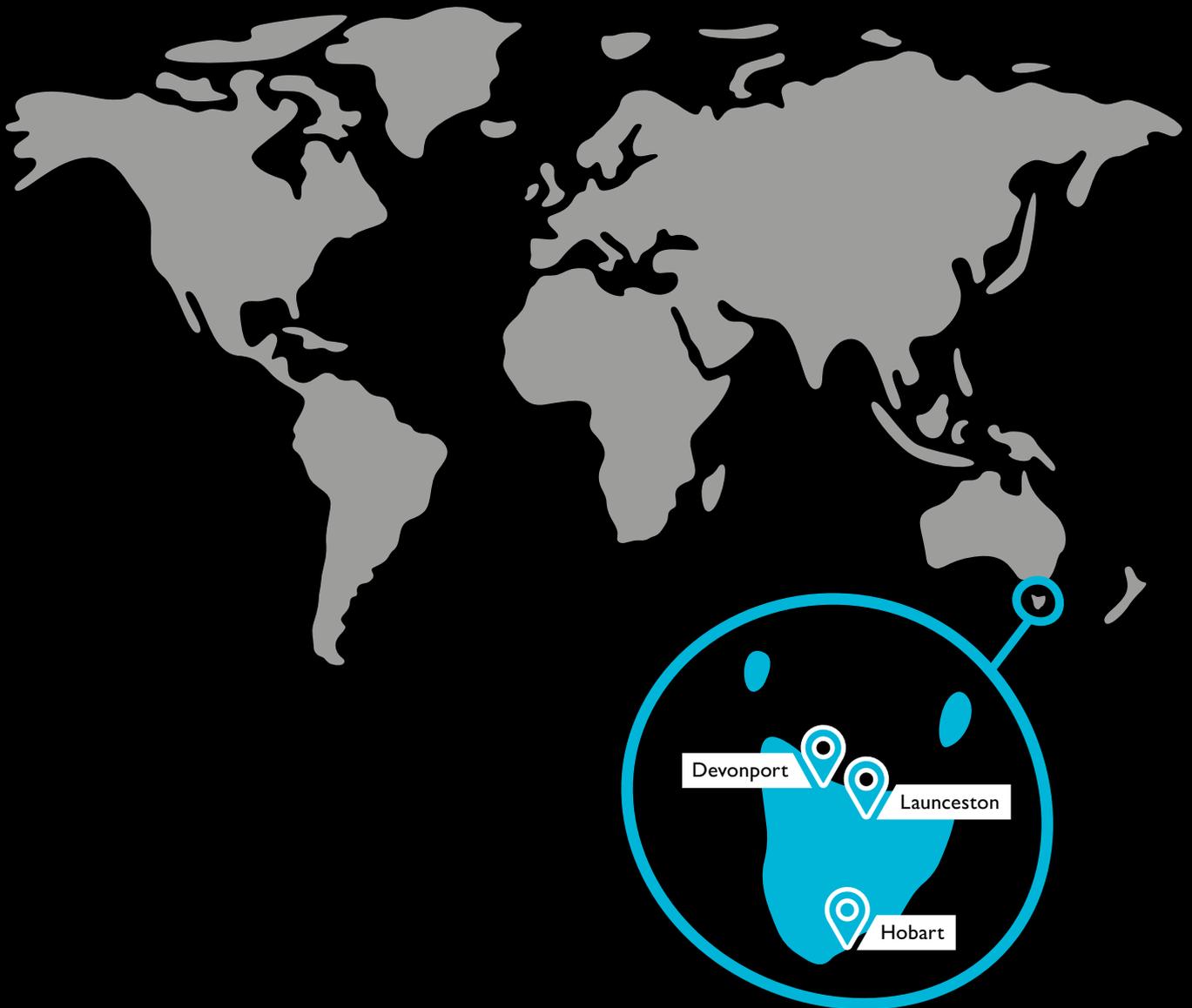


# Explore. Study. Live.

**Tasmanian Government Schools  
Pre-departure Guide | 2023**





## Congratulations on deciding to study in Tasmania!

We are proud to welcome you to Tasmania and we are committed to supporting you during your studies. Our team works closely with your agent, your teachers and the International Student Advisors (ISA) at your school to ensure that your experience is successful. We hope your study experience will empower you to develop the skills and knowledge for you to achieve your aspirations.

**Please contact our team if you have any questions or concerns, we are here to help you.**

### Useful phone numbers:

- Tasmanian Government Education International (GETI)  
Monday to Friday 9:00am- 5:00pm on **+61 3 6165 5727**  
For after-hours emergencies only phone **+61 3 6108 0679**
- Translator service **131 450**  
Please note charges apply per minute
- The number for police, fire and ambulance in case of an emergency is **000**

We recommend you save these contact details to your phone. We can also be contacted by email at **info@geti.tas.gov.au** or **homestay@geti.tas.gov.au**

This guide has been designed to prepare you for your arrival in Tasmania and life as a Tasmanian Government School student. Please read it carefully.



# Contents

## **Before you leave your home country. 4**

Essential items to pack in hand luggage  
Essential items to pack in main luggage  
Clothing  
Customs restrictions  
Airport pick-up

## **Weather. 5**

## **Australian law. 6**

Alcohol and tobacco  
Drugs  
Police  
Driving

## **Health and safety. 7**

Medications  
Mental wellbeing  
Sexual Health Service Tasmania  
Safety and security

## **Protection for international students. 8**

## **Visas and conditions. 8**

Work conditions for student visa holders

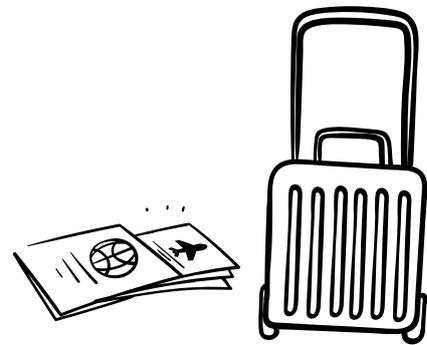
## **Living in Tasmania. 9**

Cost of living  
Homestay hosts in Australia  
Family visiting  
Getting around Tasmania

## **Adjusting to life in Australia. 10–11**

Equality – an important Australian value  
Money  
Food  
Household chores  
Water usage and showers  
Using the toilet  
Culture, customs and etiquette  
Support in Tasmania

# Before you leave your home country



Here is a check list to use before you leave:

- Passport
- Flight bookings
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) and Travel insurance (contact our office if you need help)
- Visa is finalised
- Accommodation when you first arrive (please contact our office if you need help with this)
- Medical prescriptions and records of immunisations
- Medical, optical and dental check before you leave to avoid any urgent treatment
- Copies of your identification documents including your passport and visa
- Please check travel restrictions**

## Essential items to pack

- Valid passport and visa
- Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)
- Medical prescriptions and records of immunisations
- Accommodation details (you will need to provide a contact address on the immigration form).
- Language dictionary
- Travel adaptor
- Phone and charger
- Toiletries
- Warm clothing for your arrival in Tasmania
- Masks/hand sanitizer

## Clothing

Australians usually wear casual clothes such as jeans, t-shirts, sweaters, jackets and enclosed shoes. Jeans are usually acceptable to wear unless an event has a specific requirement.

Year 7–10 are required to wear a uniform which you can purchase in Tasmania, prior to school starting. Year 11 and 12 do not require a uniform and can wear casual clothes.

## Australia's biosecurity rules

Biosecurity breaches have significant consequences for student and temporary visa holders.

Penalties apply if you fail to correctly declare high-risk biosecurity goods at Australian airports and seaports. Visa holders who do not meet their obligations face heavy penalties such as fines up to AUD\$2,600 or cancellation of their visa.

All travellers must accurately declare certain food, plant material and animal items to prevent the introduction of diseases into Australia.

Before traveling to Australia, student and temporary visa holders should review their obligations on the following websites :

- **Department of Agriculture**
- **Australian Border Force**
- Make the appropriate declaration on arrival in Australia on their incoming passenger card.

## Airport pick-up

When you first arrive in Tasmania you will be picked up from the airport, usually by your host family or a staff member and taken to your accommodation.

We provide this service free of charge.



# Weather

The weather in Tasmania can change quickly and locals say you can experience 'four seasons in one day'.

During summer the sun is extremely strong, even if it does not feel very hot, so use 'SPF 50+' sunscreen lotion and wear a hat when you are outdoors to protect your skin.

Students will need clothing and footwear suitable for warm and cool daytime temperatures ranging from 7–30°C.



## Summer

December, January, February

Warm days, long daylight hours, strong sun.

11°C - 24°C



## Autumn

March, April, May

Temperate days and cool wind in afternoons, cooler nights.

10°C - 22°C



## Spring

September, October, November

Cool wind in mornings, warm afternoons.

5°C - 16°C



## Winter

June, July, August

Clear days, occasional snow on mountain.

Wear a warm coat, enclosed shoes and gloves.

3°C - 14°C



# Australian law

## Alcohol and tobacco

Consumption and purchase of alcohol, tobacco, vapes and cigarettes is illegal for people under the age of 18.

Legal drinking age – you must be **18 or older** to buy alcohol or to drink alcohol in a licensed venue. It's against the law for someone to purchase alcohol for a person under the age of 18.

Smoking tobacco is less common in Australia than other countries. This is because of strict laws. It is against the law to smoke indoors in public places including workplaces and public transport.

<https://www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au/>

## Drugs

It is illegal to possess drugs without a medical prescription.

If you suspect someone has overdosed on a drug, call **000** immediately and ask for an ambulance. The emergency services will help regardless of circumstances.

## Police

In Australia, police officers are trusted, and their role is to protect people. Most police officers wear a uniform. Police carry identification whilst on duty. The police are a public service and are not part of the military.

It is illegal to try to bribe the police with gifts or money. They will never ask for money and you must never offer money or any other gift.

If you are questioned by the police, you have the right to seek legal advice and ask for an interpreter. It is important to remain calm and cooperative.

If a police vehicle (or any other emergency vehicle such as an ambulance or fire truck) has its lights flashing in traffic, you must give way to them, even if you are a pedestrian.

## Driving

International students studying in Tasmanian Government schools are not permitted to drive a car or motorbike.

Seatbelts are compulsory for all passengers in the car.

# Health and safety

## Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

Overseas Student Health Cover is compulsory for international students. It is a condition for student visas that medical insurance is maintained throughout the duration of your studies. If you allow your cover to lapse and you require medical assistance you could incur significant expenses.

## Health services in Tasmania

Tasmania has a very good health care system, including clinics and hospitals.

If you miss class due to illness, you may be required to provide a doctor's certificate. This means you will need to make an appointment to visit a doctor. These doctors are called general practitioners (GPs) or local doctors. GPs are qualified medical doctors and are your first point of contact for non-emergency health problems.

The role of GPs includes diagnosing and treating health problems and prescribing medications. If you explain your symptoms to the GP, the doctor may provide you with a medical certificate to excuse you from regular duties. If you are sick on a day, you have class, you must see a GP on that day, as they cannot write a medical certificate for a past date. It typically costs \$90 for an appointment with a GP. This cost may be reimbursed by your health insurance provider.

The hospital should only be used in an emergency and urgent immediate medical care is needed.

## Medications

Painkillers, allergy medication and skincare products are widely available at chemists throughout Tasmania. You may find that medications available over the counter in some countries are not available in Australia without a prescription including all antibiotics. This means you will need a doctor, who will provide the prescription.

Feminine hygiene products (tampons and pads) are readily available at chemists, petrol stations, corner stores and supermarkets. It is not something that you need to be embarrassed about asking for in Australia.

## Mental wellbeing

If you start to feel sad or flat, there are qualified counsellors at your school that you can talk to.

Headspace is a free mental health facility staffed with counsellors and psychologists in both Hobart, Devonport and Launceston.

### Headspace - Launceston

186 Brisbane Street, Launceston  
P: 6335 3100 E: [headspace@csys.com.au](mailto:headspace@csys.com.au)

### Headspace- Devonport

35 Oldaker Street, Devonport  
P: 6424 2144 E: [headspacedevonport@csys.com.au](mailto:headspacedevonport@csys.com.au)

### Headspace - Hobart

49 Liverpool Street, Hobart  
P: 6231 2927, E: [headspace@thelink.org.au](mailto:headspace@thelink.org.au)

### Headspace - Burnie

10 Mount Sreet, Burnie  
P: 6408 0251, E: [headspace@thelink.org.au](mailto:headspace@thelink.org.au)

## Sexual Health Service Tasmania

Sexual Health Service Tasmania is a free and confidential service with clinics in Hobart, Launceston, and Devonport. The service is staffed by doctors, nurses, counsellors, and psychologists. These professionals are trained to help with anything related to a person's sexual health, gender identity, sexual orientation or any other questions you might have.

For more information, visit <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/sexualhealth>

## Safety and security

Take care of your own personal safety and security including your belongings. Do not carry large amounts of cash with you in public places.

Make sure that you carry identification with you at all times in case of an emergency with a contact name, address and phone number for people to contact.

Do not carry your passport with you on a regular basis.

If you have problems or feel unsafe (theft, harassment) speak to someone right away. You can speak to school staff, teachers, host family, GETI, your International Student Advisor or someone else you trust.

# Protection for international students

The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act) is legislation that protects student visa holders.

The ESOS Act sets the standard across Australian education providers and protects all international students.

The ESOS Act requires visa related reporting for students and education providers. It also prevents education providers from offering advice on migration.

For more information, visit

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au>

## Visa requirements

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) grants, oversees and monitors conditions on all visas. You must abide by your visa conditions, including:

- Work restrictions.
- Meet course requirements.
- Maintain required health cover.
- Completion of your course of study before your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) expires.
- Apply for a renewal before the expiry of your current visa.
- Notify the Department of Home Affairs and GETI of any changes to your course, contact details or ability to attend class.

### Student Visa conditions

Student visa holders are monitored in three areas:

- Attendance
- Course progress
- Conduct / Behaviour



### Work conditions for student visa holders

Students visa holders are in Australia for the main purpose of study. Although students may be able to work, it is strongly recommended that during school term, students keep study a priority.

Check your visa conditions for work rights before commencing any paid work. During term holidays when no classes are scheduled, longer hours may be allowed.

You must get a Tax File Number to be able to work in Australia. This is available from the **Australian Tax Office**.

For more information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/>



# Living in Tasmania

## Cost of living

The annual cost of living is lower in Tasmania than other Australian states. School students should budget to cover transport, phone, personal expenses and entertainment.

## Indicative costs of living

This is an approximate weekly budget in Australian dollars.

<b>Homestay fees</b>	\$330
<b>Phone</b>	\$25
<b>Public transport</b>	\$25 - 30
<b>Toiletries</b>	\$20
<b>Entertainment</b>	\$50
<b>Total</b>	\$400 - \$500 per week (approximately)

Homestay fees cover three meals per day and some snacks. Students may wish to go out for a meal or buy additional snacks not covered in the homestay fee.

## Homestay hosts in Australia

A homestay host can be an individual person, a couple, or large family. Homestay hosts may or may not have children, they may be working or retired, and they are different ages. There is no typical Australian family. All homestay hosts are committed to your safety and wellbeing.

Australia is multicultural and our homestay hosts reflect this. Homestay hosts speak English and are selected to be hosts because of their interest in supporting students from all over the world. Some hosts are from culturally diverse backgrounds and may have experience moving from another country to settle in Australia.

In most Australian families, it is common for both men and women to work. Your homestay host may work most weekdays. It is common in Australia that children help with household chores. Your homestay host may ask you to help around the house (including laundry, vacuuming, washing dishes).

All homestay hosts are different, and your host was chosen for you by our experienced team.

## Family visiting

Your family is welcome to visit you in Tasmania.

It is recommended that your family arrive after you have had time to settle in. If they visit close to the end of your studies, it will give you a chance to show them around and they can meet your friends and your host family.

It is not possible for your family to stay with homestay host. Your family should arrange their own accommodation.

## Getting around Tasmania

### Bus

- Metro operates bus services in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. Metro is the largest public transport company in Tasmania.  
<https://www.metrotas.com.au/>
- Tassielink Transit has an extensive bus network around Tasmania. You can use your Metro Greencard on Tassielink buses.  
<https://www.tassielink.com.au/>
- Kinetic (previously Tasmanian Redline) operate Express, Intercity and Regional Services across Tasmania.  
<https://www.tasredline.com.au/>

### Derwent Ferries (Hobart)

Ferry services run between Bellerive and Hobart. You can use your Metro Greencard on Derwent Ferries Services.

<https://derwentferries.com.au/>

# Adjusting to life in Australia

Here is a guide with cultural insights that will make your Australian experience more enjoyable.

## Equality – an important Australian value

Men and women are equal in Australian society. Tasmania is considered a very safe place. You can and should expect to be respected, and feel safe, regardless of your race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. If you ever feel intimidated, it is important to tell someone and report it. You can talk to the International Student Advisers, teachers, homestay, and the GETI team. In the case of an emergency, phone 000 for police.

## Money

Australia has a large middle-class society, without the defined social classes that exist in other countries.

Australians do not place great importance on levels of wealth, status and occupation. For this reason, most Australians do not discuss income or wealth. For example, it is considered impolite to ask someone how much money they earn. It would also be considered rude to talk about how much money you have.

Australia is largely a card-based country. We rarely carry cash around and most shops are happy to accept card payment.

To open a bank account, be prepared with proof of identity, including passport, proof of residence, birth certificate. Some Australian banks allow students to open a bank account online before you arrive in Australia.

- ATM (or automated teller machines) are common to make cash withdrawals without going into a bank.
- EFTPOS (or Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale) is convenient to pay using debit or credit cards, mobile phones or smart watches.
- BPAY is short for 'bill payment', a service to make online payments via banking apps.



## Food

Most Australians eat three meals a day, plus light snacks.

- Breakfast is eaten in the morning and is often light and cold.
- Morning tea is a light snack, such as a muesli bar or fruit.
- Lunch is typically a cold meal such as a sandwich or salad.
- Dinner is the main meal; families usually eat together.

It is polite for you to chew food with your mouth closed. Generally, you should avoid slurping. Do not place food (including bones) directly on the table. It is impolite to spit, even when you are eating. It is illegal to spit in public. While cutlery (knives, forks, spoons) is used in most households and restaurants, chopsticks are widely available and very common, it is acceptable to request them if you feel more comfortable with them.

## Household chores

Very few Australians have servants, most Australians do their own housework. Men, women and children share jobs in the household like cooking, cleaning and washing dishes. If you make a meal in your accommodation, it is expected that you clean up everything you used. In your accommodation you will be expected to contribute to household chores. For example, if a homestay host cooks a meal for you, it is polite to offer to clean up afterwards.



## Water usage and showers

Most Australians are conscious of how much water they use because it is a limited resource. It is important to keep showers short (normally 5 minutes). Most Australians shower in the morning, and you will be expected to shower daily.

## Using the toilet

Toilets in Australia are western style. Squat toilets are very rare. Usually Australian toilets do not have bidets. Most toilets have toilet paper, to use for bodily waste. The used toilet paper is flushed down the toilet, not put in a bin.

## Culture, customs and etiquette

### Do's

- Australians use the words 'please', 'thank you', and 'excuse me' often. This can show respect.
- If you have a question or concern, speak with the person in the first instance.
- Stand in a queue to wait to purchase something.
- Say 'thank you' when someone has given you something, cooked for you, or tried to help.
- Be on time. Australians are easy going, however they do expect people to be on time. It is best to arrive at your class at least five minutes early.

- At dinner time try to chat about your day and join in the conversation. If you can, try to spend time with your homestay host and get to know them.
- Try to go to bed at a reasonable time, it is good for your health and wellbeing.

### Don't

- Spit in public.
- Put your feet on a table.
- Cut your nails in public.
- Enter other people's bedrooms.
- Spend all of your time in your room.
- Look at your phone when people are talking to you.

## Support in Tasmania

Our team is well travelled and many of us are from different countries.

We understand that there is a lot to learn and many differences between countries. You can ask us if you are unsure. We are here to help you.

Studying overseas can sometimes be challenging but it is a very rewarding experience. You will learn a lot about yourself and about other people. The best advice we can give, is to ask have fun throughout your journey of learning.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to welcoming you to Tasmania.





Tasmanian  
Government

**Tasmanian Government  
Education International**

Email: [info@geti.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@geti.tas.gov.au)  
Tel: +61 3 6165 5727



**[study.tas.gov.au](http://study.tas.gov.au)**  
(or scan QR Code)

---

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this publication is correct at the time of publication July 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure details are correct and accurate, however Tasmanian Government Education International reserves the right to change information without notice.

CRICOS Provider Name: Government Education and Training International Tasmania. Provider Code: 03352G

Information and prices are correct at time of printing.  
Photo credits: Tourism Tasmania