

FAQ for Visa & Travel to Asia-Pacific Australia

Fall Semester: Asia-Pacific (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand)

1. What kind of visa do I need for Australia?

Students who travel on a U.S. passport need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) which they can do online at <https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETAS3/etas>. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check the Australian Immigration Department's website for their visa options: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>. Do NOT apply for a student visa as these are for foreign students studying at Australian universities. The process of applying for an ETA online is really easy and straightforward, costs AUD\$20 and the ETA is usually granted within a day (to be safe, apply for it at least one week before your departure). Make sure your passport has at least six months' validity and at least four spare pages for entry stamps.

2. What does an ETA allow me to do?

An ETA is valid for 12 months from the date it is granted and allows multiple re-entries for a maximum of 90 days at any one time for the purposes of travel, volunteering, visits and short-term study. Students are not allowed to engage in paid work with an ETA.

3. What kind of visa do I need for Fiji?

Students travelling on a U.S. passport do not need a visa to enter Fiji for a short-term stay. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check visa requirements with their nearest Fijian consulate/embassy.

4. What kind of visa do I need for New Zealand?

Students travelling on a U.S. passport must apply for a NZeTA (NZ Electronic Travel Authorization). The ETA application can be completed online at <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/nzeta> and costs between NZD9 - NZD12. Visitors to New Zealand also have to pay a NZD35 International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) at the same time as they apply for their NZeTA. Students should print the NZeTA receipt or confirmation of the document to take with them to New Zealand. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check visa requirements with their nearest New Zealand consulate/embassy.

5. For which airports should I book my flights?

Students are responsible for organizing their own flights. Please note that the Fall Semester program starts in Byron Bay, Australia and ends in Wellington, New Zealand, so you will have to book one flight from the U.S. (or wherever you are prior

to the start of the semester) to Australia and one flight from Wellington, NZ, back to the U.S. (or another onward destination). The Asia-Pacific Australia Program is based in Byron Bay in northern NSW, with the nearest airports found at Ballina/Byron (small domestic airport; 0.5 hour to the south), Gold Coast (medium-sized airport with domestic and some international connections; 1 hour to the north) and Brisbane (large international airport; 2.5 hours to the north).

6. For what dates should I book my flights?

Students are expected to arrive in Byron Bay on Saturday, August 22nd, 2020 (most flights arriving that day leave the U.S. mainland on August 20th) for the start of the program as hostel accommodation has been organized for that night, prior to orientation starting the next day. Please factor in airport transportation times before booking your flights (see below). The program ends in Wellington, New Zealand, at 1pm on Sunday, December 6th, 2020, and students can leave any time thereafter (please take into consideration check-in times for international flights before booking). If students stay before the beginning of the semester (August 22nd) or beyond the end of the semester (December 6th), they are responsible for organizing and paying for their own food, accommodation and transportation.

7. How do I get from the airport to Byron Bay?

Students have to organize their own transportation from the airport to their hostel accommodation in Byron Bay. There are a number of private shuttle bus operators taking students from Ballina, the Gold Coast or Brisbane airports to their accommodation in Byron Bay, with prices usually ranging from \$15 (Gold Coast airport) to \$65 (Brisbane airport). It's best to check and compare operators, so please do a web search for "Byron Bay airport transports". If there are a number of you arriving at the same time, it might be worthwhile approaching one of the operators about a discount. Please note that the last shuttle for Byron usually leaves Brisbane airport at around 4:30pm, so make sure your flight arrives well before then.

8. Do I also need to book the flights to/from Fiji and New Zealand?

Our flights within the semester (to and from Fiji as well as to New Zealand) will be organized and paid for as a group booking through our program. As the semester ends in Wellington, New Zealand, however, you will need to book your return flight home (or elsewhere) from there.

9. Out of which airport should I depart at the end of the semester?

Students can fly out of Wellington airport in New Zealand after the program ends there at 1pm on December 6th, 2020.

10. For which dates should I book my return flight home?

The semester ends in Wellington, New Zealand at 1pm on December 6th, 2020 (take into account check-in times for international flights prior to booking).

11. Is there a good time for family or friends to visit?

There will be a one-week study week without classes or field trips from October 12th-18th. Please note that any visitors will have to organize and pay for their own accommodation, and students need to make sure that the dates of any visits do not interfere with program activities and assignments.

12. What is going to be my address in Australia? Can I have mail sent to me prior to the start of semester?

After a night or two at a hostel for orientation, students will move into their semester houses. Because these are rented based on student numbers and availability, we do not know in advance which houses (and addresses) we are going to get. Once students have moved into the houses, mail can be sent to their addresses. Prior to semester, mail can be sent to the program director's address but please make sure to send an email notice in advance (to: soenke.biermann@liu.edu). The address is:

[student's name]
c/o Soenke Biermann
Director, LIU Global Australia Program
12 Gloria St
South Golden Beach NSW 2483 AUSTRALIA

13. How much money will I need for the semester?

Students will receive a weekly food allowance from which they will be able to buy their own food and cook their own meals. Internet access and, where necessary, local bicycle hire costs are also met by the program, as are any transport costs associated with field trips. Students will need to bring their own money for their own entertainment, nightlife, concerts, sporting activities, clothing and gifts/souvenirs. As interest in all of these varies substantially between students, it is hard to give a general figure, although most students seem to spend between USD500-1,500 during the course of the semester. Please note that costs for entertainment and food are generally higher in Australia than in the U.S.

14. What's the local currency?

Australia has its own currency, the Australian Dollar (AUD), which can fluctuate significantly in its exchange rate with the U.S. Dollar. Fiji's currency is the Fijian Dollar (FJD), and New Zealand's currency is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD). Please check exchange rates closer to your travel dates.

15. Any further questions?

Contact the Asia-Pacific Australia Program Directors via email: Mr. Soenke Biermann at soenke.biermann@liu.edu

Spring Semester: Australia and Bali

1. What kind of visa do I need for Australia?

Students who travel on a U.S. passport need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) which they can do online at <https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETAS3/etas>. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check the Australian Immigration Department's website for their visa options: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>. Do NOT apply for a student visa as these are for foreign students studying at Australian universities. The process of applying for an ETA online is really easy and straightforward, costs AUD\$20 and the ETA is usually granted within a day (to be safe, apply for it at least one week before your departure). Make sure your passport has at least six months' validity and at least four spare pages for entry stamps.

2. What does an ETA allow me to do?

An ETA is valid for 12 months from the date it is granted and allows multiple re-entries for a maximum of 90 days at any one time for the purposes of travel, volunteering, visits and short-term study. Students are not allowed to engage in paid work with an ETA.

3. What kind of visa do I need for Bali, Indonesia?

The Australia Program includes a 2.5-week stay in Bali, Indonesia. Students who travel on a U.S. passport can enter Indonesia visa-free for up to 30 days, so you do NOT need a visa. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check online or with their nearest Indonesian consulate or embassy whether their country also has a Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival arrangement.

4. For which airports should I book my flights?

Students are responsible for organizing their own flights. Please note that the Spring Semester program starts and ends in Byron Bay, Australia, so you will have to book one flight from the U.S. (or wherever you are prior to the start of the semester) to Australia and one flight from Australia back to the U.S. (or another onward destination). The Asia-Pacific Australia Program is based in Byron Bay in northern NSW, with the nearest airports found at Ballina/Byron (small domestic airport; 0.5 hour to the south), Gold Coast (medium-sized airport with domestic and some international connections; 1 hour to the north) and Brisbane (large international airport; 2.5 hours to the north).

5. For what dates should I book my flights?

Students are expected to arrive in Byron Bay on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 (most flights arriving that day leave the U.S. mainland on January 21st) for the start of the program as hostel accommodation has been organized for that night, prior to orientation starting the next day. It is important NOT to arrive earlier than this date as the semester has been planned so that we leave for Bali close to the end of the 90-day visa stay. If you book flights that arrive before January 23rd, you may have to leave and re-enter the country during the semester (at your own cost) in order to reset the 90-day clock. The program ends in Byron Bay, Australia, on Sunday, May 9th, 2021, and students can leave anytime that day or thereafter. If students stay before the beginning of the semester (January 23rd) or beyond the end of the semester (May 9th), they are responsible for organizing and paying for their own food, accommodation and transportation.

6. How do I get from the airport to Byron Bay?

Students have to organize their own transportation from the airport to their hostel accommodation in Byron Bay. There are a number of private shuttle bus operators taking students from Ballina, the Gold Coast or Brisbane airports to their accommodation in Byron Bay, with prices usually ranging from \$15 (Gold Coast airport) to \$65 (Brisbane airport). It's best to check and compare operators, so please do a web search for "Byron Bay airport transports". If there are a number of you arriving at the same time, it might be worthwhile approaching one of the operators about a discount. Please note that the last shuttle for Byron usually leaves Brisbane airport at around 4:30pm, so make sure your flight arrives well before then.

7. Do I also need to book the flights to/from Bali, Indonesia?

Our flights within the semester (to and from Bali, Indonesia) will be organized and paid for as a group booking through our program.

8. Out of which airport should I depart at the end of the semester?

Students can fly out of any Australian airport after the program ends on May 9th, 2021. Students are responsible for getting themselves from Byron Bay to their departure airport.

9. For which dates should I book my return flight home?

The semester ends in Byron Bay, Australia on May 9th, 2021 (take into account airport transportation and check-in times for international flights prior to booking).

10. Is there a good time for family or friends to visit?

There may be a one-week Study Week without classes or field trips (TBC). Please note that any visitors will have to organize and pay for their own accommodation,

and students need to make sure that the dates of any visits do not interfere with program activities and assignments.

11. What is going to be my address in Australia? Can I have mail sent to me prior to the start of semester?

After a night or two at a hostel for orientation, students will move into their semester houses. Because these are rented based on student numbers and availability, we do not know in advance which houses (and addresses) we are going to get. Once students have moved into the houses, mail can be sent to their addresses. Prior to semester, mail can be sent to the program director's address but please make sure to send an email notice in advance (to: soenke.biermann@liu.edu). The address is:

[student's name]
c/o Soenke Biermann
Director, LIU Global Australia Program
12 Gloria St
South Golden Beach NSW 2483 AUSTRALIA

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Students will receive a weekly food allowance from which they will be able to buy their own food and cook their own meals. Internet access and, where necessary, local bicycle hire costs are also met by the program, as are any transport costs associated with field trips. Students will need to bring their own money for their own entertainment, nightlife, concerts, sporting activities, clothing and gifts/souvenirs. As interest in all of these varies substantially between students, it is hard to give a general figure, although most students seem to spend between USD500-1,500 during the course of the semester. Please note that costs for entertainment and food are generally higher in Australia than in the U.S.

13. What's the local currency?

Australia has its own currency, the Australian Dollar (AUD), which can fluctuate significantly in its exchange rate with the U.S. Dollar. Indonesia's currency is the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR). Please check exchange rates closer to your travel dates.

14. Any further questions?

Contact the Asia-Pacific Australia Program Directors via email: Mr. Soenke Biermann at soenke.biermann@liu.edu.