

FAQ for Visa & Travel to Asia-Pacific Australia

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

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

Students do not need a visa to enter Fiji.

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

Students do not need a visa to enter New Zealand.

3. 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 <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601->. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check the Australian Immigration Department's website for their visa options: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visi/Visi>. Do NOT apply for a student visa as these 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 a week before your departure). Make sure your passport has at least six months' validity and enough spare pages for entry stamps.

4. Into which airport should I fly at the beginning of the semester?

Students should fly into Suva, Fiji (Nausori International Airport).

5. For which dates should I book my flight?

Students should arrive before 12pm on Saturday, September 2, 2017. Due to crossing the International Dateline, flights arriving in Fiji in the morning of September 2 will most likely leave the U.S. mainland on August 31 (students need to make sure to double check this when they are booking). Students will most likely land in Nadi, Fiji's largest international airport, and have a domestic connection to Suva.

6. Do I also need to book the flights to Australia and New Zealand?

We will fly to Australia on September 22 and to New Zealand on November 25. Both flights will be organized as a group booking through the program.

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

Students can fly out of Auckland airport in New Zealand after 12 noon on December 10.

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

The semester ends in New Zealand on December 10.

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

Students will receive a food allowance every two weeks 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 US\$1,000-1,500 during the course of the semester. Please note that costs for entertainment and food are generally higher in Australia than in the U.S.

10. What's the local currency?

Fiji's currency is the Fijian Dollar (FJD), Australia's currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD), and New Zealand's currency is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD). Please check exchange rates closer to your travel dates.

11. Any further questions?

Contact the Asia-Pacific Program co-Directors via email: Mr. Soenke Biermann at soenke.biermann@liu.edu and Mr. Kerry Mitchell at kerry.mitchell@liu.edu.

Spring: 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 <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601->. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check the Australian Immigration Department's website for their visa options: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visi/Visi>. 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 a week before your departure). Make sure your passport has at least six months' validity and enough 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 at the end of the semester. Students who travel on a U.S. passport can enter Indonesia visa-free for up to 30 days. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check online or with their nearest Indonesian consulate whether their country also has a Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival arrangement with Indonesia.

4. For which airports should I book my flights?

Students are responsible for organizing their own flights. Please note that the program starts in Australia and ends in Bali, 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 Bali back to the U.S. The 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). In previous semesters, some students have found cheap deals by breaking their journey into two legs with a short stopover in Hawai'i and booking a separate flight from Honolulu to the Gold Coast with one of the cheap Australian carriers like Jetstar. As always, it pays to look around for a good deal.

5. For what dates should I book my flights?

Students are expected to arrive in Byron Bay on Saturday, January 27 (most flights arriving that day leave the U.S. mainland on January 25) 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 at the end of the 90-day visa stay. If you book flights that arrive before January 27, you will have to leave the country and re-enter the country during the semester in order to re-set the 90-day clock. The program ends in Bali on Sunday, May 13, and students can leave in the afternoon/evening of this day or any time thereafter. If students stay before the beginning of the semester (January 27) or beyond the end of the semester (May 13), 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 transport 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 \$20 (Ballina airport) to \$65 (Brisbane airport). It's best to check and compare, so here is a list of operators: <http://www.byron-bay.com/transportation/airporttransfers.html>. 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 7pm, so make sure your flight arrives well before then.

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

We will leave for Bali on April 25 and our flight will be organized as a group booking through our program. As the semester ends in Bali, however, you will need to book your return flight home (or elsewhere) from there.

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

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.

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

After two nights 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
45 Clarrie Hall Dam Rd
Uki NSW 2484
AUSTRALIA

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

Students will receive a food allowance every two weeks from which they will be able to buy their own food and cook their own meals; all houses have fully equipped kitchens. 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 US\$1,000-1,500 during the course of the semester. Please note that costs for entertainment and food are generally higher in Australia than in the U.S.

11. 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. Bali is part of the Republic of Indonesia, which uses Rupiah (IDR). Please check exchange rates closer to your travel dates.

12. Any further questions?

Please contact the Australia Program Director, Mr. Soenke Biermann, via email: soenke.biermann@liu.edu.