

ENGLISH COLLEGE OF ADELAIDE PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION



We look forward to welcoming you to the English College of Adelaide (ECA). This information will help you to find us easily, bring the things you need on your first day at school and understand our school routines.

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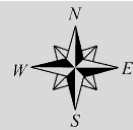
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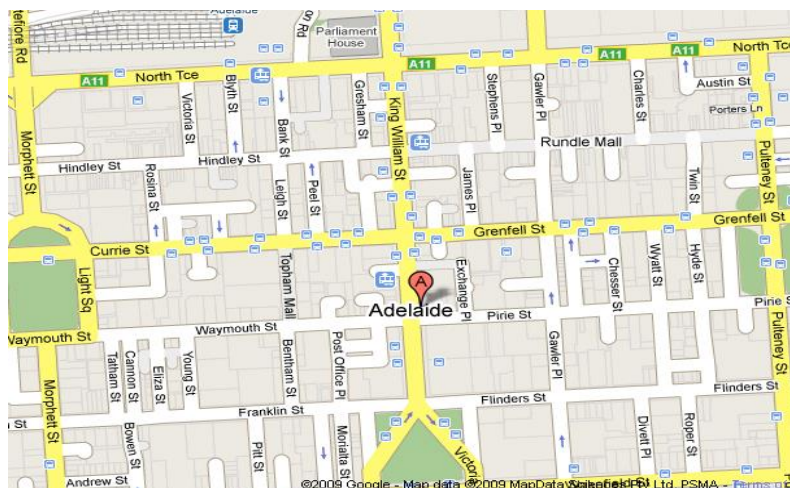
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LOCATION



The English College of Adelaide is conveniently located in the centre of the city, close to public transport, shops, food markets, libraries, museums and entertainment.

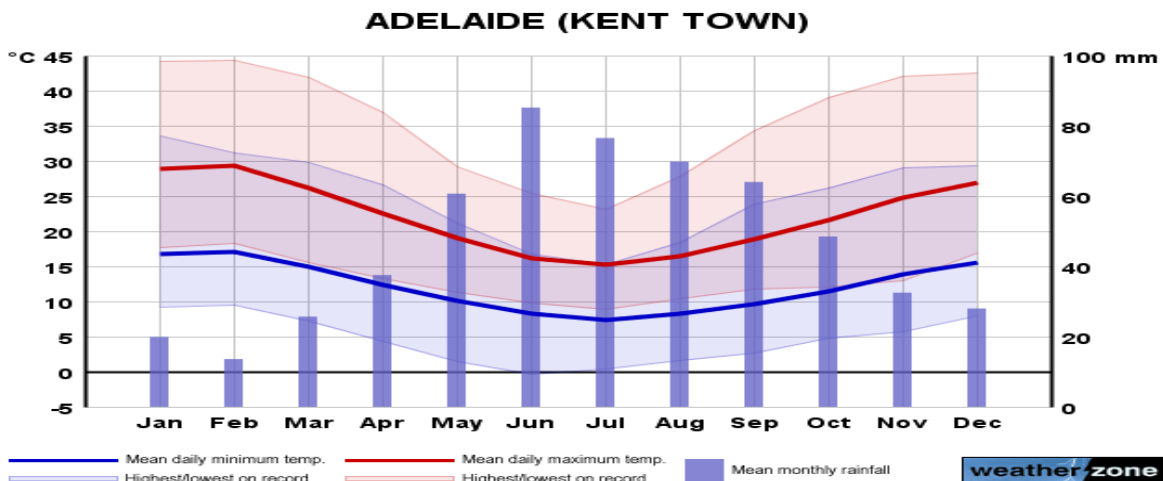
English College of Adelaide, Level 5, 118 King William Street, Adelaide, 5000



WEATHER



Adelaide typically experiences four seasons (Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring). We have a Mediterranean climate. In summer it can be quite hot and dry, but winters can be quite wet and cold. The graph below shows the average temperatures experienced in Adelaide throughout the year.



Map from weather zone website – data provided by Bureau of Meteorology

WHAT TO BRING



Electrical Equipment - Australia has a 3 pin electrical plug. The electricity supply in Australia is 240 volts.

Clothing - The weather graph above will help you to plan what type of clothing to bring. Australians generally wear quite casual clothes, but if you want to work part-time or go out socially you may need some more formal clothes.

Personal Items - Toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, perfume, sanitary items. You can buy these items in Adelaide, but, you may have your favourite products you wish to bring with you. Don't forget to bring your camera, iPod, bi-lingual dictionary and a spare pair of prescription glasses.

Mobile phones - If you have a mobile phone, check that you can use it in Australia. We can help you to buy a mobile phone or sim card if you need.

Laptop - If you are enrolled in EDE 1 or EDE 2 you must have your own laptop or notebook. Please note that if you have an Apple Mac, due to compatibility issues some extra work may need to be completed after class.

ACTIVITIES & USEFUL WEBSITES



Location - The city of Adelaide is conveniently located 20-30 minutes from our most popular beaches, 20 -30 minutes to our lovely hills and about 60 minutes to our major tourist attractions such as the Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Victor Harbor and many others. It is also a great base to make your tours to stunning natural sites such as the Flinders Ranges and Kangaroo Island. We are happy to help you book any tours you want.

Activities - Adelaide is well known for hosting many international sporting and cultural events such as the Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under professional bicycle race, the Clipsal 500 Touring V8 car race, Fringe Festival, Womadelaide (live International Music Festival), many food and wine festivals and more. Go to the sites listed below to see how much there is to do. Mark them in your diary for when you are in Adelaide.

South Australian Tourist Commission Website: www.southaustralia.com/

What's on in Adelaide: <http://www.bcl.com.au/adelaide/watson.htm>

SHOPPING HOURS



Shopping hours in Adelaide and the suburbs are as follows:

Suburbs

Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:30pm
Thursday	9:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday	11:00am – 5:00pm (some shops do not open on Sundays)

City

Monday – Thursday	9:00am – 5:30pm
Friday	9:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday	11:00am – 5:00pm

Supermarket opening times can vary. Some are open Monday to Friday 6am – 9pm.

The English College of Adelaide is also conveniently located near the Adelaide Central Market. This is very popular with students looking to purchase foods from their home countries in Asia and Europe. Large shopping centres with department and speciality stores can also be found in the suburbs.

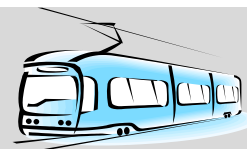


BANKING

The Australian dollar is the basic unit of currency. 100 cents = 1 dollar. Australia has \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5 notes. Coins are \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c, and 5c. The most common credit cards in South Australia are Mastercard, Visa, Bankcard, American Express and Diners Club. We recommend that you open a bank account in South Australia. We can help you with this on your orientation day. You will need your passport and Student Identity Card (we can make this for you) to open an account.

Banking hours: Monday to Thursday 9:30am – 4:00pm, Friday 9:30am – 5:00pm

Most banks are not open on weekends. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are available in many places in the city and in some suburbs. Many of the larger shops have EFTPOS (electronic funds transfer at point of sale) facilities, which you can use to pay for things and withdraw extra money.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Student Identity Card

If you are a full-time student, ECA will give you a Student Identity Card. **You will need to email a passport size colour photograph to ECA at info@eca-jca.edu.au before you start your course.** Your Student Identity Card gives you 50% discount on the cost of public transport.

Tickets

You can buy a single trip ticket on the bus, train or tram, but this is expensive. It is better to buy a metro card which you can easily re-charge at many shops and convenience stores where advertised.



HOMESTAY/SHARE ACCOMMODATION/DORMITORY

The English College of Adelaide can organise accommodation for you if you want. You can choose from full-accommodation (Homestay), share accommodation or dormitory accommodation. Please look at the accommodation details on our website for more information about accommodation options that are available. Please also read the expectations that we have of both our students and host families.



AIRPORT ARRIVAL

If you have requested airport pick up, one of our staff and a member of your host family will meet you at the airport on your arrival. They will have a sign with your name on it. They will give your host family a cheque for the first 2 weeks accommodation. Your host family will take you to their house. If you have any difficulties or your flight details change please call our emergency school contact number: 0405 784 056 or please contact your host family.

If you have not requested airport pickup, you can take a taxi from the airport to your accommodation, or a bus from the airport to the city. The airport is about 15 minutes from the city. Make sure you have your Adelaide address on a piece of paper.



YOUR FIRST DAY AT ECA

Please arrive at school no later than 8.45 am. You will have Orientation at 9am and an English language test. After this you will start your English class. If you are studying full-time your class will finish at 3pm. Please bring:

- your passport and a color passport-size photograph with you
- two exercise books, a pen and pencil and a USB flash drive.
- a dictionary. (It might be cheaper to bring a dictionary, writing materials and photos from your country).
- Lunch, drink and snacks or money to buy lunch (our college has a fridge for you to keep your food cold and a microwave to heat your food up).



STUDENT VISA REQUIREMENTS

Students who enroll for a course of study on a Student Visa must obey the conditions of their visa. These conditions are Australian Government – Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) – conditions

You must:

- Attend class for 25 hours per week
- Must have at least 80% attendance
- Arrive for your lessons on time
- Take your study seriously
- Be an active and positive participator in all learning activities
- Phone the college if you are sick
- Tell us if you change your address
- Apply to the Australian Taxation Office for a tax file number if you plan to work part-time. You can apply on line.
- Make sure that your part time job is not more than 20 hours a week, is not in school time and does not make you too tired to study.

WORKING HOLIDAY/VISITOR VISA REQUIREMENTS

1. You do not have to attend classes as a condition of your visa. However, if you know you will be absent, you should tell your teacher before. If you are sick and cannot attend class, please phone ECA and tell us you will be absent.
2. You should arrive on time for your class. If you are late come into your class quietly and sit down. You can explain to your teacher at break time.
3. You must not work if you have a Visitor Visa



OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER

BUPA Australia is ECA's Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) provider. OSHC is only available for student visa holders and is valid in Australia for the duration of your student visa.

What does my contribution pay for?

It helps pay for:

1. A doctor to treat you in hospital, at home or in the doctor's surgery.
2. Services requested by a doctor, for example X-rays and Pathology services such as blood tests.
3. Eye examinations

Sometimes there will be a difference between the amount of the doctor's bill and the amount refunded by BUPA. You will have to pay the difference.

Your OSHC does not pay for treatment by dentists or physiotherapists or for glasses or contact lenses or medicines. We strongly recommend that you have a health check (especially your teeth) before coming to Australia as treatment can be very expensive.