

G'day and welcome to your Australia Semester Abroad 2008.

Ahead of you lie 11 weeks of an action-packed agenda in Australia's "Sunshine State" Queensland. From Brisbane we will travel to rainforests, reefs, and sand islands, learning about some of the most important coastal ecosystems in the world, and, of course, getting to know the famous "Aussie" lifestyle.

This orientation guide will help you with planning your trip. Please read the following pages carefully, as they include useful information on what to bring, what to expect, and what to do upon your arrival in Brisbane.

For information and updates on the program, or simply the web-based version of this orientation guide, check out <http://www.cms.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=68042>. We encourage you, to pass this information on to friends or family, so they know what you will be up to. As we will travel to remote areas with no mobile or internet access, the website will also be a useful tool for them to know when you will be out of contact. Just enter the following details:

Username: hwsu

Password: numbat

If you have any questions please feel free to email us on study@cms.uq.edu.au. We are happy to assist you before and during your stay in Australia.

The Centre for Marine Studies is looking forward to having you along for these exciting three months.

Christine Sinclair
Programs Manager
Centre for Marine Studies
The University of Queensland

Hobart & William Smith and Union Colleges
Australia/ New Zealand Semester Abroad
Australian Program: 21 August - 5 November, 2008
New Zealand Program: 14 November - 29 November, 2008

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
							Arrival Day
							Homestays
August	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Week 1	HWSUC	Orientation Day + Lecture + BBQ	Library Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Terrestrial Ecology Field Trip <i>Limited Mobile and Internet Access</i>	
Location		UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	MBRS	MBRS
Aug/Sept	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Week 2	Terrestrial Ecology Field Trip		Marine Ecology Field Trip			AUSTRALIAN CULTURE	
	<i>Limited Mobile and Internet Access</i>						
Location	MBRS	MBRS	MBRS	MBRS	MBRS	MBRS	
September	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Week 3	Terrestrial Ecology Field Trip						
	<i>No Mobile and Internet Access</i>						
Location		Lamington	Lamington	Lamington	Lamington	Lamington	
September	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Week 4		Lectures Fryer + Anthro	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	FREE DAY	
Location		UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ		
September	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Week 5		GEOL Mid-Term Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures + ME Review	Day trip to Australia Zoo	
Location		UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ		
Sep/ Oct	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Week 6		TE Mid-term Exam	Free Day	Free Day	ME Mid-term Exam Lectures	Free Day	Late night departure to Gladstone
Location		UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	2330 Transfer
October	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Week 7	Marine Ecology Field Trip						
	<i>No Mobile and Internet Access</i>						
Location	HIRS	HIRS	HIRS	HIRS	HIRS	HIRS	
October	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Week 8		Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Free Day	Free Day	
Location		UQ	UQ	UQ			
October	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Week 9		Lectures	Lectures Free Afternoon	Brisbane Forest Park	ME Review + Lectures	ME Final Exam TE Review	
Location		UQ	UQ	BFP	UQ	UQ	
Oct/ Nov	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Week 10	Terrestrial Ecology Field Trip						
	<i>No Mobile and Internet Access</i>						
Location		Saddler Springs	Saddler Springs	Saddler Springs	Saddler Springs	Saddler Springs	
November	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Week 11		TE Final Exam	AC Final Exam	Geology Final Exam FAREWELL	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation
Location		UQ	UQ	UQ			
November	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Week 12	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Transit to NZ	New Zealand Program
November	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Week 13	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program
Nov/Dec	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Week 14	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	New Zealand Program	END OF HWSU PROGRAM	Depart NZ for USA

Abbreviation **Description**
Lectures UQ St Johns with St Lucia Campus
AC Australian Culture
TE Terrestrial Ecology
ME Marine Ecology

Abbreviation **Description**
HIRS Heron Island Research Station
Lamington Rainforest National Park
MBRS Moreton Bay Research Station
Saddler Sp Central Qld. Outback National Park

1 WHAT TO BRING?

Packing for a three-month trip is challenging! You will need to come prepared for your time on campus, for your trips to different cities, the outback, the rainforest, the beach and the reef.

You will be visiting different parts of Australia and experiencing different climates. While Brisbane enjoys a mild climate, August is the coldest and windiest month of the year: Temperatures can drop below 50°F! Expect summer to be tropical, hot and humid – temperatures ranging between 70°F and 105°F.

MUST HAVES

- Clothes for fieldtrips (see field trip requirements)
- Clothes for cold and rainy weather
- Clothes for going out
- Rain gear
- Sleeping bag (required for your trip to Sadler's Springs)
- Smaller bag or backpack for shorter trips
- Any prescribed medication you may need
- Spending money (ATMs are widely available in the cities – ask your home bank about collaborators in Australia)
- Sport clothes (if you wish to get active on campus)

FIELD TRIP REQUIREMENTS

- Waterproof coat/jacket
- Old, warm clothing that will withstand being splashed with saltwater and mud
- Comfortable, enclosed shoes or boots for hiking
- Booties, reef shoes, or old joggers to be worn during fieldwork on the reef
- Sunglasses
- Mosquito repellent
- Hat
- Sunscreen;
- Rashguard or old t-shirt
- Towel;
- Snorkelling gear if you wish (otherwise will be provided on the island)
- Field notebook, pencils, pens, eraser, calculator, and ruler;



DIGITAL APPLIANCES

(Not required, but feel free to bring along)

- Mobile phone: Your phone will need to be set up for global roaming, but it's probably cheaper to buy a SIM card here (for example from Virgin Mobile).
- Laptop (You'll have access to computers in the Library and in learning centres at UQ, including at the Research Stations, but not 24/7. There are wireless connection points around campus at UQ. Note that you may not have internet access at your homestay. If you choose to bring your own, don't forget your power supply, USB stick, power converter and installation software in case a reset is necessary.).
- Digital Camera (with charger)
- Mp3-player & iPod (we will be travelling a lot)
- Electrical adapters (Australia is running on 240 Volts)

→ PACKED EDUCATIONAL AGENDA

We believe in a hands-on approach for learning, and you will have the chance to put theory into practice. Your days on UQ campus will start at 9AM and last until approximately 4PM. Lectures are one hour long and cover either Marine Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology, or Australian Studies coursework.

On fieldtrips you will visit spectacular and sometimes remote locations that many locals never see. Be warned that some trips involve early starts, long bus rides and late returns to Brisbane.



→ COST OF LIVING

The Australian Dollar has been growing stronger against the US Dollar in recent years. How much you should budget depends on what kind of traveler you are, but please be aware that you might spend more for a meal, a coffee, or drinks than you would at home. If you use public transport during your stay in Brisbane, you might have to budget around \$5.40 per day.



→ DOCTOR'S COST TO BE PAID UP-FRONT

Remember you are required to hold a health insurance that covers you in Australia with comparable services to the one you have in the US. Most insurers require that you pay the doctor's bill yourself and then submit the receipt to them for re-imbursment. If you visit the UQ Health Service, a standard 10 minute medical consultation will cost around \$40. If you visit a 24 Hour Medical Centre on the weekend, expect to pay around \$70 for a consultation.



→ DIVING

Scuba diving is not part of the program. However, you can dive with commercial operators during your free time if you wish. Discovery dives are available with many operators, the PADI Open Water course costs around AUS\$400. You are already a certified diver? Then don't forget to bring your log book and dive certificate if you plan to dive.



→ RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

In case you cannot participate in an activity due to a religious holiday, please let us know ahead of time.

→ WEEKEND TRIPS AND PROGRAM HOLIDAYS

Fieldtrips and lectures will give you many ideas about where to go and what to do on your free weekends. However, if you decide to head off, please send a brief email to study@cms.uq.edu.au so we can contact you in case of an emergency.

Between 6 and 14 November you will discover Australia on your own!

If you plan on expanding your stay in Brisbane, you can negotiate with your homestay family, or simply book into a hostel. Some options are:

Tinbilly: 462 George St (city); Tel. +61 (07) 3238 5888; www.tinbilly.com

Somewhere to Stay: 45 Brighton Rd (West End); Tel. +61 (07) 3846 2858; www.somewheretostay.com.au

Bunk Brisbane: 21 Gipps St (Fortitude Valley); Tel. +61 (07) 3257 3644; www.bunkbrisbane.com.au



On arrival at Brisbane Airport

A coach will meet your group at the airport and take you directly to Women's College at The University of Queensland for a brief orientation session. After lunch and a few words on homestay procedures, you will be picked up by your homestay family around 3 PM.

On the last page of this guide you will find a detailed schedule for your first week in Brisbane. It gives you all information about times and venues for your "Get-together"-workshop, introduction sessions, and lectures.

Strict customs in Australia

Australia has strict quarantine guidelines, and customs might not allow you to import herbal medicine, or wooden products such as drums or jewelry. If you are unsure if you can bring an item, please check www.customs.gov.au – or simply declare it.

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATION

You will be allocated a homestay for the duration of the program. We aim to house our groups close to the University but Brisbane is a wide-spread city and it can take up to an hour to get to campus via public transport. It can be difficult to fit in to a new household and remember that everyone is different, so your experience will be different from others. We'll provide some guidelines to you with your homestay allocation details to help you to adapt to living in a new country.

BRISBANE TRANSPORT

Brisbane's public transport network includes buses, trains and city-cat ferries operated by Translink. You have different options to obtain information regarding routes and travel times

- Online: <http://www.translink.com.au/>
- Telephone: 13 12 30
- In person at the tourist information centre on Queen St

All fares operate on a zone system. Zone 1 & 2 include the city centre and the surrounding suburbs and should get you around for most of your trips. A single fare costs \$2.30 within one zone and \$2.70 for travelling in two zones. Please note that you are not eligible to for concession & student fares as you are not enrolled at UQ. If you are going to be using public transport for more than one trip a day, it's worth getting a daily ticket (one zone \$4.60, two zones \$5.40)

UQ has two main bus stops: Chancellor's Place and University Lakes. Buses using the University Lakes stop travel over the Eleanor Schonell Bridge connecting UQ with the south side of Brisbane (Dutton Park) and the city. The Chancellor's Place stop has greater bus traffic for the city and other suburbs. All of your field trips will depart from the Chancellor's Place bus stop.

You can call a cab by dialling 13 19 24 (Yellow Taxis) or 131 008 (Black & White Cabs) from all over Australia.

“Brissie”, your base from August to November, is the state capital of Queensland and Australia’s third-largest city with a population of approximately 2 million people. The city is located around the Brisbane River with bike and footpaths along its banks.

Brisbane’s small central business district is the main hub for business or shopping, and home of most of the city’s sights. On its southern end you find South Bank, a large parkland area with Brisbane’s famous man-made beach, shops, restaurants, weekend markets, and the city’s Cultural Centre. Most exhibitions are free and worth to pay a visit. West End and ‘The Valley’ are popular places for the young and restless to hang out at bars, clubs, pubs, or to enjoy diverse music and food.



The University of Queensland is situated in St Lucia and is about a 20 minute bus ride from the CBD or 10 minutes to Toowong which is the closest suburb with a shopping centre, popular student pubs, take away restaurants and basic businesses and services.

More information on Brisbane can be found at <http://www.ourbrisbane.com> or <http://www.timeoff.com.au>

BRIEF HISTORY

Originally inhabited by the Turrbal people, the first Europeans settled at Redcliffe in 1824. After the unsuccessful settlement at Redcliffe, a harsh penal colony was established on the present site of Brisbane. In 1842 the Moreton Bay area was opened to free settlement and the colony grew and developed with the discovery of gold in various locations around Queensland, banishing a great extent of the aboriginal communities from this area. Brisbane was incorporated as a city in 1902.

It is believed that hosting the Expo '88 had a great impact on Brisbane’s popularity worldwide. In 2007 Brisbane was voted as one of the five International Music Hotspots by the Billboard magazine.

THE WEATHER

The seasons in Australia are the opposite of those in the USA. You will be arriving in Queensland’s coldest month! Temperatures vary: While Brisbane is relatively warm during the day (59 °F and 70 °F) it could drop below 50 °F at night or during your stay in Lamington National Park, with cold winds on North Stradbroke Island.

Expect summer to be tropical, hot and humid. Temperatures will range between 70 °F and 105 °F during the day, and 59 °F to 70 °F at night. Heavy rain in the afternoon is common, so bring raingear with you when you go out. Note that Brisbane is currently on Level 6 water restrictions and all residents are requested to reduce shower times to 4 minutes and households are targeting 140 liters of water usage per person per day. Please be aware of your water usage at all times.

There will be stretches of time where you have no telephone or internet access – for example, Saddler Springs is a remote property in Western Queensland, with no services. You should expect that you will not have internet or mobile access during field trips. Make sure your parents know that you'll be out of contact during these times.

INTERNET

For your time in Brisbane, you can access the internet at the University of Queensland with your own laptop or a UQ computer. Please note, on your visits to the research stations your level of connectivity will be limited, as the internet is often very slow on the islands.

In Australia we pay for our internet by quota, usually on a monthly basis for a certain amount of GB. Not everyone has the internet at home, and many homes still have dial-up, not broadband. Internet access is not a part of the homestay fee, so you may need to negotiate with your host family for access and pay something towards their access fee.

OVER THE PHONE

If you choose to bring your cell phone from home, it will need to be set up for global roaming. Alternatively you can buy a pre-paid card here in Australia, for example, Virgin Mobile's "Motor Mouth" card (\$25). Whilst it will be useful to communicate with people from the program, the more economic way to keep in touch with the US is to buy a calling card. You will only be charged for a local call plus the minute rate on the phone card. Some cards we recommend are:

"Hello China" costs \$10, 0.9cents per minute, valid for three months

"Asia Connect" costs \$10, 1.4cents per minute, valid for three months

MAIL

All mail to participants should be addressed with the name of the student and sent to the following address:

NB: Please enclose return address.

STUDENT NAME
HWSUC Australia Semester Abroad
Centre for Marine Studies
University of Queensland
St Lucia Qld 4072
AUSTRALIA



Australia Semester Abroad
Orientation Week 23 - 29 August 2008
Hobart & William Smith and Union Colleges

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
Arrival Day				
Saturday 23-Aug	10.55	Arrival at Brisbane International Airport	Women's College Playhouse Theatre	Christine Sinclair
		Pick up service		
	13.00	Lunch		
	14.00	Homestay Introduction		
	15.00	Pick up by homestay families		
"Get together" workshop				
Sunday 24-Aug	9.00	Team Building	Women's College Playhouse Theatre	Lianne Cook
	12.30	Lunch		
	13.30	Pre-Course Orientation		
Orientation Day				
Monday 25-Aug	9.00	Start Introduction Sessions	St John's College Mellick room	Christine Sinclair Ian Tibbetts John Hall & Bill Casey
	9.30	Programs Administration		
	10.00	Marine Ecology Introduction		
	10.30	Australian Studies & Terrestrial Ecology Introduction		
	11.00	Morning Tea		
	11.30	Occupational Health and Safety Introduction		
	12.00	Campus Tour		
	13.00	Lecture: Australian Studies 1		
	13.00	Campus Tour	Behind Gehrman Labs. # 60	Dave Harris Christine Sinclair Bill Casey Christine Sinclair Christine Sinclair
	14.00	BBQ		
Library Induction and Lecture Day 1				
Tuesday 26-Aug	9.00	Library Induction Group 1	Biological Science Library E-Zone	Greg George
	10.30	Library Induction Group 2	St John's College Mellick room	John Hall
	14.00	L: Terra Australis: Welcome to the Great South Land		
	15.00	L: Ozymandias: Australian Geology & its Ecological Significance		
Lecture Day 2				
Wednesday 27-Aug	9.00	L: Introduction to Australia's Marine Environment	St John's College Mellick room	Ian Tibbetts
	10.00	L: Estuarine & Coastal Communities		
	11.00	Morning Tea		
	14.00	L: Ocean margin processes and sea level changes		Nan Arens & David Kendrick
	14.00	L: Ozymandias: Geologic time, history and rates of geologic processes		
Lecture Day 3				
Thursday 28-Aug	9.00	L: Origin & Ecology of Moreton Bay	St John's College Mellick room	Ian Tibbetts
	10.00	L: Marine Invertebrates I		
	11.00	15 Minutes Break for Morning Tea		
	11.15	L: Marine Invertebrates 2 / Marine Parasites		
	13.00	L: Waiting for the Rain: Australian Climate & its Ecological Significance		John Hall
	14.00	L: Botany Bay: An Overview of Australian Vegetation		
Field Trip to North Stradbroke Island				
Friday 29-Aug	9.15	Departure at Chancellor's Place bus stop near the Biological Science Library Return Thursday, 5 September, appr. 17h	Chancellor's Place Bus Stop	John Hall