

STUDY IN

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<sup>1</sup> Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Rankings of World Universities, 2011  
<sup>2</sup> Good Universities Guide, 1998-2011

*Enrique Vargas, Chile  
Master of International Business*

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# SOUTH AUSTRALIA - PICTURE PERFECT

ASK ANYBODY WHO'S BEEN THERE, AND THEY'LL AGREE SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF VISITING AUSTRALIA. BUT WITH OVER 5,000KM OF COASTLINE, IT'S A BIG PLACE STRETCHING FROM THE OCEAN TO THE OUTBACK, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.

WHILE YOU'D WANT 4-6 WEEKS TO PROPERLY VISIT ALL OF SA'S HIGHLIGHTS, WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU'RE LIKE THE REST OF US, AND HAVE A WEEK OR TWO BETWEEN SEMESTERS AND WANT SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM ANYWHERE YOU'VE BEEN BEFORE?



KANGAROO ISLAND MARRON

## KANGAROO ISLAND

Everyone knows Adelaide, but not everyone knows Kangaroo Island, that's just 40 minutes ferry ride away. Seven times larger than Singapore, Kangaroo Island offers diverse landscapes and environments with stunning beaches and coastlines to boot, amazing native wildlife in the wild, desert dunes, and breathtaking wilderness!

### AMAZING WILDLIFE

Kangaroo Island's home to amazing wildlife, plus it's a perfect place to cycle, with little traffic, and long beachfront roads. That means you can expect up-close encounters with everything from kangaroos (no surprise really, this is Kangaroo Island after all) to penguins which are a big surprise, roosting just off the beach.

The highlight of Kangaroo Island is Seal Bay, home to 600 Sea lions, and all visible right from the boardwalk. There are guided tours to Seal Bay.

### AMAZING LANDSCAPES

Kangaroo Island's famous for more than just animals. It's home to the "Remarkable Rocks", far from ordinary, they're a cluster of precariously balanced boulders and a spectacular backdrop for photos with the pounding surf behind them. Another famous backdrop is Admiral's Arch, a huge, wave-carved stone archway, that's a favourite hangout for New Zealand fur seals, who play in the surf.



REMARKABLE ROCKS



ADMIRAL'S ARCH



KANGAROO ISLAND MARINE TOUR

### OTHER MUST DOS

- 1) Try tasty local treats like homemade, organic honey ice-cream at Clifford's Honey Farm, or take a jar home and make your own desserts. DIY Marrons at Andermel Marron is highly recommended!
- 2) Join a nighttime Penguin tour at Kingscote or Penneshaw.
- 3) Try sandboarding the famous dunes at Little Sahara.
- 4) Join Kangaroo Island Marine Tours to swim with dolphins, and visit a seal colony.
- 5) Go looking for roos from your own quad bike through 500 acres of bushland on the way to enjoy stunning views in the Vivonne Bay hinterland.
- 6) Hand-feed kangaroos at award-winning Parndana Wildlife Park.



SEAL BAY



SANDBOARDING

EATING FRESH OYSTERS, COFFIN BAY

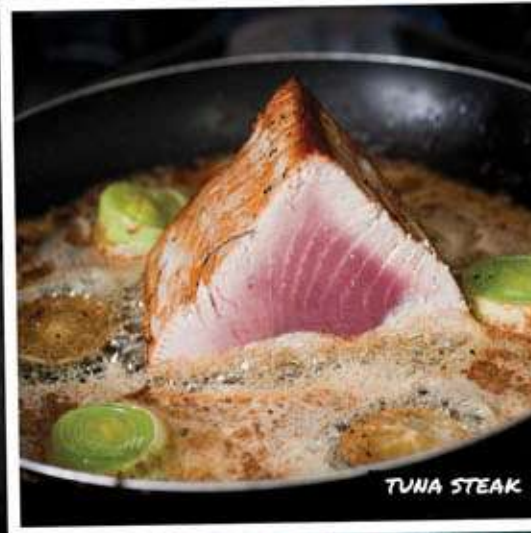


## EYRE PENINSULA

Australia's "Seafood Capital", the Eyre Peninsula is ideal for untouched coastline and awesome wildlife experiences, plus of course if you like seafood - it's a place where you'll eat very, very well.

### MIGHTY BLUEFIN TUNA

A world-first, you'll "see food" of another kind, and get to hand-feed the mighty Southern Bluefin Tuna from a platform or even swim with it if you're game.



TUNA STEAK

### OTHER MUST DOS

- 1) Swim with wild Sea Lions and Dolphins in the calm waters at Baird Bay, Coffin Bay or Port Lincoln.
- 2) Follow your stomach along Australia's only extensive Seafood and Aquaculture trail, feeding the Southern Bluefin Tuna, eating fresh oysters, filleted kingfish or enjoy Spencer Gulf king prawns, all right off the beach.
- 3) Earn bragging rights for life, and go cage diving with a Great White.
- 4) Join a bush safari to Gawler Ranges National Park for salt lakes, gorges and wildlife.
- 5) Take one of the scenic drives or walking trails like the Elliston Great Ocean Drive (12km) for spectacular views or climb 280 steps down to see the secluded beach at Locks Well.

SWIMMING WITH THE MIGHTY BLUEFIN TUNA



GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT



SWIMMING WITH SEALIONS



BEACH HOUSE, ADELAIDE



## ADELAIDE

Whether it's a short stop-over or a trip on its own, Adelaide is a hub for some of Australia's best festivals, food, parties and of course wine, which all mix nicely with the city's happening arts scene.

### SWIMMING AND KAYAKING WITH DOLPHINS

Most people are too busy enjoying the food and wine to realise you can swim with dolphins just 20 minutes from downtown at nearby Glenelg with Temptation Sailing, the first boat in South Australia to get a dolphin swim license. Meanwhile, also just 20 minutes from Adelaide, you can kayak among dolphins, mangroves and shipwrecks right along the beach with Adventure Kayaking SA who run tours in the Port River Dolphin Sanctuary.

### ADELAIDE BY AIR

Finally, for a totally different view of South Australia, such as upside down in a barrel roll, take to the skies in a bi-plane, piloted by stunt flyers specialising in aerobatics - don't worry though, upon request they can also do sedate, sight-seeing flight along the coast.



BIPLANE, RIVERLAND

For more information on South Australia, visit [WWW.SOUTHAUSTRALIA.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHAUSTRALIA.COM).

GLENELG JETTY



DOLPHINS



# TOP 5 AUSSIE INDUSTRIES TO BEHOLD

Home to an alluring mix of impeccable natural beauty, pulsating cityscapes and a booming agricultural and financial hub, Australia stands firmly at the paramount of growth. The ever-thriving nature of a variety of industries makes Australia an attractive market for investors both at home and abroad. As Australia evolves into a global economic powerhouse, we handpick the top 5 up-and-coming market forces to be reckoned with.

## HEALTHCARE AND FITNESS

With constant promotional campaigns and a greater emphasis on health awareness, the Australian healthcare and fitness industry is poised for continued growth. As a byproduct of quality health and fitness services, an increase in demand from hospitals, nursing homes and alternate health therapy institutes is expected to take the industry by storm. Better healthcare breeds longer lives - thusly, increasing the need for higher standards of healthcare options.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES:** Fitness Manager, Physiotherapist, Aerobics/Pilates Specialist, Nutritionist  
**AVERAGE MEDIAN SALARY:** \$136,989



## EDUCATION

Australia enjoys a reputation for providing high-quality international education. By attracting thousands of students from overseas, it has grown into an extremely competitive industry. With the expansion of top schools setting up campuses in Australia, the education industry is set to blaze new ground in academia. Elementary educators and university lecturers are the biggest earners in a country with a steady youth populace.

**Job Opportunities:** Pre-School/Elementary Educators, College Tutors, Professional Study Agents  
**Average Median Salary:** \$144,676



## ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

The organic farming industry continues to reap huge success as Australian consumers become increasingly meticulous about personal health benefits and the environmental footprint of their food choices. Once touted as an expensive and exclusive indulgence, organic food has made its way onto many plates with the help of local supermarkets. A surge in the demand of alternative farming methods and cost-efficient procedures has constructed a breeding ground for researchers and new-age farmers alike.

**Job Opportunities:** Food Sciences Consultant, Food Safety Specialists, Agro-Ecologists  
**Average Median Salary:** \$164,899



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# At UniSA you'll get to practice what we teach.

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The University of South Australia is a modern, progressive and international university with a 150 year history and a reputation for innovative research.

Studying at the University of South Australia doesn't just earn you an undergraduate, postgraduate or research degree, it gives you the opportunity to explore a new culture, develop international networks and friendships and enjoy a quality educational experience that will prepare you for professional and personal success.

The University of South Australia offers programs in:

- Business
- Education, Arts and Social Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment

"Singapore is very study based, but at UniSA I was really encouraged to think outside the box and to have my own ideas and opinions. I liked being able to have the license to express myself creatively."



Caresse Kong, Singapore. Bachelor of Management (Marketing)

## AQUACULTURE

With over 60,000 kilometers of coastline, it's not difficult to imagine Australia as a leader in the aquaculture industry. Fish, mussels, oysters, prawns, pearls and crabs top the production list. The increasing demand for Australian native species, and the close proximity to Asia and Europe, means the aquaculture scene is in prime position to take on high value productivity standards. Expected to bring in at least \$3.5 billion in annual sales by 2018, this industry is undoubtedly a sustainable and rapidly-growing powerhouse.

**Job Opportunities:** Aquatic Systems Manager, Hatchery Technician, Aquaculture Technician  
**Average Median Salary:** \$177,988



Bluefin tuna!



All prices are quoted in Singapore Dollars. Sources: AusBusiness Review, Australian Innovation & Startup Smart



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# AirAsia

# STOP COMPLAINING

BY ALICIA CHAN

Melbourne was crowned the world's most liveable city in 2011.

This news went viral on social networking sites. Every post on my newsfeed discussed about the topic. As a Singaporean studying in Melbourne, I, too, was whirled into the sea of discussion. People envied my fortune. They were inquisitive about how I felt to be living in the world's best city.

As a typical complaining Singaporean, I threw out my grudges for the most trivial matters, instead of commending Melbourne for what she has.

I grumbled of the stubborn bubblegum stuck on to the soles of my new shoes, the dirty seats and beverage-sloshed flooring in the public transportation and the huge pesky houseflies that tried to steal my food in summer.

I moaned about the hustling to get shopping done after work because shops close early, and the transportation is sometimes delayed due to hiccups in the system, and the intimidation from occasional encounters with unfriendly locals who shot unpleasant comments. I even condemned the efficiency of Melbourne because of one terrible encounter with an inefficient telecommunication company.

With her clean and green environment, the strict fines that made certain that nothing goes wrong and the efficient services, Singapore seemed to be more deserving of the most liveable city title. I thought. My friends begged to differ.

They protested about the stressful culture in Singapore.

Each working day was a toiling 9am to 6pm dash to complete the never-ending, massive workload and working on Saturdays became a requirement for an increasing number of companies.

At least you do not have to face the overtime, they said. It's true.

While they were slogging their guts out after working hours, I was either reading Stephen King in a cosy café without worrying about duty calls or chilling out at a friend's place. I might even have crossed off more adventures from my bucket list than they did, namely taking vocal lessons and going for sky-diving because of the leisure time I had.

They beefed about the meagre pay in Singapore.

Unlike Melbourne, Singapore did not have a minimum wage system.

Your pay is AU\$16 (S\$20)? Lucky you, they gasped. They earned, on average, S\$6 per hour for a similar job. Some had lesser pay, especially those working in the fast food industry.

They also criticised Singapore for its fine culture, which limited citizens' behaviour.

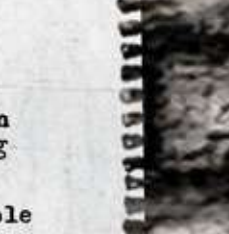
Melbourne is colourful. Her streets are decked out in graffiti. Hare Krishnans sang and danced along the streets. Hippy musicians performed in their bold dressings. People boldly demonstrated for their rights. Doing the same in Singapore, however, meant being termed as a weirdo or risking fines and harsher penalties like a jail term.

At the end of the chat, my friends and I concluded that nothing is perfect. Both Melbourne and Singapore had their own strengths and weaknesses.

I might be complaining about Melbourne right now, but I believe that I would yearn for Melbourne's culture when encountering dreadful conditions in Singapore.

Rather than grouching and comparing, people should be content with what they have. However, a little complaining would not hurt if it helps move Singapore up the liveability ladder and bring about a more relaxed culture with better welfare benefits and higher remuneration.

## MELBOURNE: THE WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE CITY





# THE NUMBERS GAME

BY PRABHU SILVAM

## AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE TOP 300

Pioneers of the international education scene, Australia has defined the groundwork for further education across the globe. With an unrivalled reputation for delivering world-class standards in the academic fields and beyond, Australian universities have garnered strong footholds in critically acclaimed university rankings across the board. Here are the coveted Australian universities which have landed a position in the top 300 of the QS World University Rankings.

### 1 UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

WORLD RANK: 60  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of Commerce

Located in the bustling city centre dwarfed by residential neighbourhoods, the University of Melbourne prides itself in educational courses that are steeped in tradition whilst maintaining modern-day relevance in its offerings.

### 2 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

WORLD RANK: 70  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of Policy Studies

As one of Australia's premier educational institutions, the Australian National University remains steadfast in its mission to maintain an international outlook and impressive track record in areas of research and education.

### 3 UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

WORLD RANK: 86  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of the Arts, Writing Single Major

With a myriad of degrees in Business, Commerce, Management and Law, students studying at the University of Queensland, will get a taste of all that the business world has to offer without having to leave the classroom.

### 4 UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

WORLD RANK: 96  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies)

With bountiful openings in the worldwide healthcare scene, students are invited to take a plunge at take a plunge at the Sydney Nursing School at the University of Sydney. Here, students are provided with a unique educational path that helps prepare them to address current and future possibilities in the world of health.

### 5 UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WORLD RANK: 102  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of Design, Landscaping Architecture

Reputed for being one of the most sought after business schools in the Asia Pacific Region, The University of Western Australia is a proud member of Australia's prestigious, "Group of 8" leading research universities.

### 6 MONASH UNIVERSITY

WORLD RANK: 151  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME: Bachelor of Science

At Monash University, students are able to participate in a number of multi-disciplinary, cross-faculty units and opportunities, which add depth to whichever course they choose to pursue.

### 7 UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

WORLD RANK: 152  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor in Biomedical Engineering

The University of New South Wales enables students to envision a diverse and career-focused range of programmes whilst allowing them to submerge themselves in a vibrant and creative university environment.

### 8 MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

WORLD RANK: 201  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of Marketing and Media

With a reputation for promoting educational excellence, Macquarie University has been empowering students to become successful business leaders through their wide range of postgraduate courses in human resource management, actuarial studies and economics.

### 9 UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

WORLD RANK: 249  
SOUGHT AFTER PROGRAMME:  
Bachelor of Computer Science

The University of Adelaide has a fine tradition of exemplary scholarship and ground-breaking research and unique relationships with related industries. Its research earnings is consistently the highest per capita of any university in Australia, while its innovative methods has given it strength in the sciences and IT.



UNIVERSITY OF  
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## WHAT'S IT LIKE

# STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA?

We interview 7 current students to give you the lowdown!

**NAME:** Lavanya Kannathass  
**SCHOOL:** Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane  
**DEGREE:** BFA in Creative & Professional Writing  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** Final year/Last semester (2nd)



### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

I went out of Singapore because of the lack of creative writing courses in the universities here at the time. We had literature degrees but not creative writing ones. So I started looking at options in the UK, US and Australia: long distance, full-time and part-time courses. After a long search, all my choices distilled to this course in QUT because of its good reputation and course structure and also because of financial conditions.

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

My best experience studying abroad would be the satisfaction I get from doing well in school, working part-time and travelling. I started working part-time the last semester and saved up to travel to China and Hong Kong. It was amazing to see how I could actually manage school, work, social life and family as well. And it was even better to know that I actually got published in an English expat magazine that's based in Dongguan called HERES as well. Another best experience (not paying attention to the definition of 'best' obviously) is the different kinds of people that I have met from various cultures. As I meet one person at a time, it just feels like we are all one and the same as human beings.

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

There's a lot of great exposure and opportunities for writers here. The lecturers and tutors in my course are open to new ideas and suggestions - they don't have a classic teacher/student mentality and even conduct classes very differently. There's great support in terms of getting your work looked at and be guided for submission. Apart from that, we also have a very nice and intimate number of people from the writing scene here in Brisbane and everybody knows everyone, so I'd say Brisbane or studying in Australia has given me many opportunities to work on my writing and get it out to potential publishers and editors.



**NAME:** Andrew Cheong  
**SCHOOL:** University of Melbourne  
**DEGREE:** Bachelor of Arts  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** 2nd year

**NAME:** T.T.  
**SCHOOL:** Australian National University  
**DEGREE:** Bachelor of Law  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** Graduating 2013

### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

I was lazy to apply to the UK universities because UCAS was super troublesome. But that's just me. Furthermore, Australia's intake timing suited me better, and because I'm really close to my family, Australia gives me the privilege of flying home every now and then - I go home about once every 6 weeks even if it's for less than a week. I figured I would advance my undergrad degree somewhere else when I'm more emotionally independent (from my family).

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

Apart from the life-skills that come naturally with living abroad (it is significant, trust me - e.g. running your own household), studying abroad has exposed me to a different culture altogether and in a sense helped me appreciate cultures other than Singapore's. It has shown me that there is more than 1 way to go about life and gives me a break from the hustle and bustle of Singapore's city life and constant corporate rat race which is probably what lies ahead of me anyway, so no rush I guess. In a sense, it also offers me another perspective of success, which I might not have considered if I had studied in a local Uni.

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

I really don't know, but I don't regret going abroad. I've not experienced studying elsewhere before so I can't compare Australia and provide any particular benefit which would be exclusive to studying in Australia. One probable feature of Australia would probably be its strategic geographical location. Being so close to Asia, Australia has strong ties with its Asian neighbours in various aspects which would probably be beneficial in terms of marketability and cultural integration.

### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

Because it was close to home and I had a lot of friends studying here. I loved the vibrant city life of Melbourne which balanced art, food, music and culture.

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

To be honest, there are many that I can recount, but the best thing is probably the independence you get. Besides cooking for and cleaning up after yourself, the freedom you get is priceless. Being able to do whatever you want, whenever you want is a double edged sword, but if you have the discipline, it should not be an issue.

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

Studying in Australia has given me the privilege of an overseas education, which is so different from Singapore's. Along with that, the benefits of travelling and exploring new places in Australia is definitely a bonus.

**NAME:** Alicia Chan  
**SCHOOL:** University of Melbourne  
**DEGREE:** Arts  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** 1st year



### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

Australia has been a country I had always been interested in; furthermore, it is relatively nearer to Singapore, had some of the world's best education institutions and it was more affordable compared to certain other countries, like Britain.

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

I'd say that my best experience was living away without my parents. As there is no one to control me, there is often the devil and angel battle in my head - to study or to play. Also, without my parents, I had to learn to become more independent - learning how to deal with real estate agents, learning how to get the best deals to save money, learning how to get things done, learning how to fit into the culture and more.

Also, the support that I have from my friends here, and of course, those back home, made my experience even more colourful. Furthermore, with friends from other countries, I now get to expand my social network, and even got to try different types of glorious food!

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

Other than teaching me to be independent, Australia has molded me to become a better person - I am now more capable in managing my time, more vocal and expressive because Australia is a place that teaches people to be more open with their mind and expressions, and I also know how to do household chores. I also learnt patience when dealing with situations. Most importantly, I learnt to have a balanced lifestyle, as the culture here prompts that. So, instead of hanging out at the shopping mall after work hours (as the shop closes early), I would hang out at a friend's place playing scrabble and just chatting. In this way, I actually learnt more about my friends than when I spent time shopping or surfing the net.



**NAME:** Hazel Leong Wai Yan  
**SCHOOL:** University of Swinburne  
**DEGREE:** Bachelor of Law  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** 1st year

### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

I picked Australia because my dad used to study here when he was my age, and he encouraged me to pursue my education overseas. I also chose Australia instead of other Western countries as it is closer to home.

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

So far, it's the new friends that I have made. They have become a family to me and have been really supportive. They helped me adapt to this new environment in just two short months and saved me from feeling sad and homesick.

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

I have definitely grown into a much more independent person. I learnt to do household chores, pay bills and cook better. At the same time, I had to manage my time well and juggle my studies with my personal lifestyle. Also, I learnt to blend into the culture here, and it's been an eye-opening experience. Honestly, if I had the chance to pick another country to further my studies, I will still choose Australia.

**NAME:** Lok Ming Chai  
**SCHOOL:** Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology  
**DEGREE:** Mechanical Engineering  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** 2nd year



### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

I came because the government sponsored me a scholarship to study in Australia.

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

I would say that the best experience studying abroad is encountering a whole new different culture and system to the way I should study. When I was in Malaysia pursuing my college degree, it was sort of like studying in a high school environment where our mentality was all about memorising texts, facts and not to think outside the box.

Over here, I like the way the lecturers at RMIT engage with students after class. It was a prized experience because it brings about a sense of belonging in the university, so instead of feeling helpless, I was encouraged.

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

I guess that I've improved a lot in terms of how I tackle a particular solution. My tutor encourages us to think about and analyse the questions rather than giving the answers and ways to do it on the spot. It has changed my way of thinking: knowing and understanding the concept outwits mere memorising.



**NAME:** Tay Shwu Yueh  
**SCHOOL:** University of Adelaide  
**DEGREE:** Arts  
**YEAR OF SCHOOL:** 2nd year

### WHY DID YOU PICK AUSTRALIA?

I think the most important factor for me at that time was the affordability. Studying in Australia was, to me, one of those few places where my family can afford to send me to for a degree. And also, it was rather heavily advertised back in Singapore, be it word of mouth or from collaterals. Besides, I'd never been to Australia before and it was a reason to visit a new country!

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD?

For now, I'd say it's the friends I've made here. Surprisingly, I have more new Asian than local friends, which was totally unexpected. I thought I'd have more Aussie mates as friends before I came, but I guess my involvement in activities, such as church commitments, brought me to more international students/professionals. It feels really good to make new friends at this age. What's more, friends from all over Asia!

### HOW HAS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA BENEFITED YOU THUS FAR?

Studying in Australia has definitely benefited me even during this short year. The culture here is so different from back home in terms of university and such. The outspoken nature of the students here motivated me to speak up during tutes as well. Studying in a culturally different society also opened up my mind and made me understand that there's definitely a unique culture in every country, and that as a student, what we ought to do to fully experience the difference is to immerse ourselves in it. Studying here has sort of made me... more globalised!



# DEBUNKING AUSSIE MYTHS

by Bruce Jr.

Admittedly we Australians are a colourful bunch. We speak Strine, we like boardshorts (but not on formal occasions) and we can watch cricket for hours without blinking once.

But there's a few common misconceptions it's worth dispelling before you come for a visit and those are:

## DANGEROUS ANIMALS

**MYTH:** Australia's full of creepy-crawlies lurking in wait for you under every rock, root or rip.

**FACT:** The truth is, we've got box jellies and salt water crocs, and snakes, but you're not going to be meeting them all fresco, the same way we've got kangaroos, koalas and wombats, but you're unlikely to find one grazing in your yard. As long as you don't go reaching down dark holes or swimming in remote billabongs, you'll have no worries.



## SPORTING AUSTRALIA

**MYTH:** Aussies are sport-obsessed.

**FACT:** Well, maybe this one is true. We love cricket in summer, rugby in winter, swimming and surfing all year round. Sport is a way of life, and it's our spirit of sportsmanship, that's at the core of giving everyone a "fair go", routing for the underdog and generally accepting everyone as part of Team Australia; OECD findings show that Australia's the second most tolerant country in the world, when it comes to being multi-cultural.



## PUB GRUB AS FINE DINING

**MYTH:** Australians only eat pub grub?

**FACT:** The average Australian loves a good night out as much as the next bloke/shiela, but that night's not necessarily spent in a sticky-floored pub and while there's nothing more Aussie than eating meat pies and watching AFL, or Rugby for anyone not from Melbourne, Australia's trendy nightlife and bar scene has come to the forefront, and become the stuff of legend in recent years.

## TYPICAL AUSTRALIANS NAMED BRUCE

**MYTH:** "Typically Australian" means being named Bruce, while sitting in an outback pub, swatting flies away from your Foster's Lager, watching sport or in a pinch, reruns of "Neighbours" on the Tele.

**FACT:** That's a trick question! There are no "typical" Australians. If that's because we're all above-average, so be it. But really it's because nearly 25% of Australians are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants, hailing from Brazil, Italy, Vietnam and everywhere in between. These days more than 2/3 of Australians live in major cities. They almost never wear hats with corks on them, unless they're Paul Hogan, or imitating Paul Hogan at a mate's barbie, where chances are they're more than likely to be drinking a fine Australian wine, rather than a can of Foster's Lager.



## RED HOT

**MYTH:** Australia's Red Hot and not in a good way

**FACT:** Yes we've got a Red Centre, but we've also got the Top End, Tropical North and even the Snow-capped Victorian Alps. We must be doing something right, since Australians are the 3rd longest lived people in the world (behind the Japanese and Swiss), with the great outdoors having a lot to do with it. And helping to insure the outdoors stay that way, we recycle 99% of our rubbish - making Australia one of the greenest countries on earth.



## LIFE'S A BEACH

**MYTH:** We spend our lives by the beach.

**FACT:** Is that such a bad thing? You can generally tell the true blue Aussies, as we're nice and golden tan from a long career of surfing and swimming, unlike our many lobster-red visitors (aka tourists), who've just come from a blizzard back home in Norway or Alaska and overdo it on their first day in Paradise.



# LIVIN' LARGE IN QUEENSLAND

BY PRABHU SILVAM

Read more!

Photos © Tourism Queensland



## THE SPIELBERG CONNECTION...

Less than an hour's drive away from Gold Coast's city centre, Bonogin is reminiscent of a land lost in time. Coveted for its meandering creeks and sweeping valleys, Bonogin was also the primary shooting location for Steven Spielberg's science-fiction spectacle, **TERRA NOVA**. You'll be thrilled to know that the backdrop for most of the scenes shot

in the series weren't CGI enhanced. Bonogin is a great balance between acreage and country living, and the scintillating views are proof of the pudding. Also, located within the Lamington National Park is the legendary O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse with its canopy treetop walk and discovery tours.

Spectacular tropical escapes, sun-kissed locals and golden beaches embody Queensland as the ultimate Australian getaway. A holiday in Queensland is more than a retreat - it is a culmination of the senses as mind and body meet nature in this intertwining of grandeurs.



## GETTING THERE

Whether it's Cairns, Brisbane or Gold Coast, Queensland's easy to reach from Singapore, with many direct flights including Emirates, Etihad, Jetstar, Qantas and Singapore Airlines. Remember Queensland's a huge state, so leave yourself a few extra days to enjoy the open road on drives like Brisbane-Cairns, or just hop a domestic flight or train. For more on Queensland and planning your trip, visit <http://www.queensland.com.sg>.



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# BRISBANE IN 3 TAKES

As Queensland's cultural capital, Brisbane has continually developed itself as a diverse and edgy city for fashion and emerging talent.

## FORTITUDE VALLEY

Revered as Australia's mecca of live seminal music, Fortitude Valley has always been dedicated to bringing together the most up-and-coming fresh sounds of Brisbane's live music scene. It is Australia's first dedicated entertainment precinct. Audiophiles can expect a concoction of urban sounds, al fresco restaurants and a night of aural indulgence.

The whimsical Cloud-land at Fortitude Valley



## THE CLIFFS OF KANGAROO POINT

Kangaroo Point is situated on the Brisbane River directly across from Brisbane's botanical gardens, making it a popular recreation spot. Rock climbing or abseiling the steep, weathered walls of Kangaroo Point gives you an unmatched perspective of Brisbane's city centre. Head to the landmark Story Bridge - one of the focal points of the annual River Fire celebrations - for one of Brisbane's best drinking venues!



Abseiling is so much fun...

## KOALA FUN

Be one with nature as you cozy up to the remarkably intelligent and friendly pockets of koala at the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary over a mug of lemon bitters or two. Try your hand at feeding a Red Kangaroo, the world's longest living marsupial as you indulge in Brisbane's premier wildlife sanctuary.



Koalas are so cute!

# CAIRNS IN 3 TAKES

Blessed with the beauty of the world's largest coral reef and centered at the heartbeat of extreme sports, Cairns is Australia's adventure capital.

## WHITE-WATER RAFTING AT TULLY RIVER

Prepare for a swash-buckling good time as you negotiate the rocky river rapids of Tully River in the fastened comforts of a mega raft. Or jump off Heeder's cliff into the inviting blue waters of the Tully as you fire up the Barbie (Aussie for BBQ) for an outback dining experience - Crocodile Dundee style.



Momeeee!



## GREAT BARRIER REEF

Slap on some sunscreen and zip up that diving suit as you prepare to snorkel along the majestic underwater escape that is the Great Barrier Reef. Don a bubble helmet and walk underwater amid the 3000 individual reef systems and coral cays or ride the Scuba Doo, an underwater motorbike for a quirky reef exploration experience.



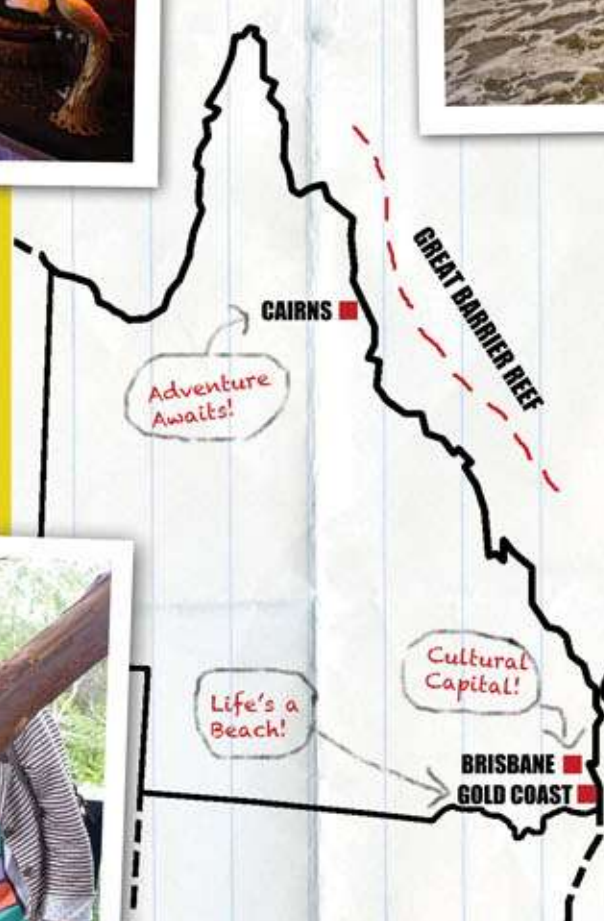
What colour!

Cheers, mate!



## PARTY AFTER DARK

Pub crawlers and dwellers of the night are in for a treat at Cairns' enigmatic nightlife scene. Foam parties, home-based breweries and theme inspired bars take centre stage at this nocturnal bonanza of the senses. The Wool Shed, Ti Nomo and Salt House are bars that offer backpackers and tourists excellent nightlife deals. Try your hand at salsa dancing or sit back and enjoy a tipple or two as you gaze at the waterfront.



# GOLD COAST IN 3 TAKES

At crossroads of coveted beaches and gastronomic perpetuity, Gold Coast is truly a paradise for the free spirited.

## SURF'S UP!

Tuck into "Big Hal's", a brunch-inspired orgy of runny eggs, crisp toasts mingled with chunky bratwurst and run it down with an icy glass of orange squeeze as you see the world go by just beyond your table. Learn to ride the legendary waves at Kirra or Main Beach like you were born to, by signing up at The Spit - a beginner friendly artificial wave joint that dishes out surf classes by the hour.



Cool boards!



## BIG DAY OUT

You've never been to a concert till you've been to Big Day Out - Australia's most sought after one day music festival. Boasting a line-up of the most electrifying acts in world music today, BDO has garnered a notorious reputation for featuring the likes of Coldplay, Foals and Muse. Expect nothing less than 24 hours of pure ecstasy as you shatter your inhibitions and let the atmosphere take over. The next BDO is scheduled for Jan 22!



Rock on!

Pickin' choice seafood...



## FEASTS GALORE

The sheer assortment of food varieties available at dining precincts like Marina Mirage Waterfront, Teddler Ave and Broad Beach are meant to whet palates and make stomachs groan. On offer are a selection of contemporary Australian wines paired with the freshest, succulent seafood picks dished out by internationally-renowned chefs.



# STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA By : Prabhu Sivam

## FAST FACTS

A willingness to use "mate" liberally, CHECK. An indescribable obsession that involves dangling from the tip of a Bungee cord as your heart tries to retrace its original placement. CHECK. A penchant for beach parties even when the temperature meter reads 5 Deg Celsius. CHECK.

So you've set your heart on studying in Australia but not sure what to expect? Fret not. By the time you're done reading this, the only thing more Australian than you will be Crocodile Dundee.



### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

A passport and postal address are all that you need to sign yourself up for a handsome account at a reputable bank. AMP Bank, National Australia Bank Ltd and Commonwealth Bank of Australia are a handful of banks with accounts designed for international students.

Thankfully, most banks graciously waive monthly account fees if you provide proof of enrolment as a full-time tertiary student.

### GETTING A JOB OR INTERNSHIP

A little extra moolah is always a welcomed commodity. Which is why international students are granted legal rights to work whilst studying in Australia. On a student visa, they can work part-time for 20 hours a week and up to 40 hours a week on semestral breaks. Casual jobs in the F&B industry have decent payouts of A\$20-25/hr.

Scoring an internship is common for students studying in Australia because most companies prefer the Australian education style where students are given the liberty of self-exploration. Internships in Australia usually last for 3-6 months and this will give your portfolio that extra oomph factor.

### BUDGETING

A measured and concise budget will ensure you'll never have to do the freak-out dance routine at the ATM when you eventually take notice of your fast depleting bank statement.

#### - FOOD

Price tabs on food and beverages are considerably low but eating out will set you back by \$10-\$14 a meal. With pleasantly low grocery prices, a cheaper and much healthier alternative would be cooking at home. Dishes like pasta and meatloaf are dorm favorites for their quick and hassle-free preparation.



Most dorms have designated kitchen units with microwave and oven facilities - something the Iron Chef in you will definitely approve of.

#### - CLOTHES

Dressing up like a model from Milan without having to go bust can be a breeze if you know to shop. Major department stores like Myer and David Jones offer trendy clothing at decent prices. A pair of denims can go for as low as \$25 with pullovers going for \$30.

#### - ACCOMMODATION

Students who choose an off-campus accommodation should set aside at least \$80-\$350 a week depending on size, location and facilities provided. On campus dormitories usually start from \$80-\$250 a week providing meals, fitness facilities and round the clock security. Scamper around newspapers and noticeboards as they generally provide cheaper alternatives.



All prices are in Singapore Dollars

passes so a weekly travel budget is a must. Internal bus services in cities like Sydney and Queensland provide student bus shuttles so hop onto one and save those pennies.

Once acquainted with the travel routes in Australia, students can car pool with other passengers or drivers to share costs on the ride to school.



### GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endeavour Awards, Australian Leadership Awards and Australian Development Scholarships are some of a few grants that are open to international students.

A typical grant covers tuition fees, living expenses and accommodation for the duration of the programme, while there are other grants that hand out a lump sum to students.

As with anywhere else in the world, Australian grants and scholarships are handed out based on merit.

### GETTING AROUND

Bus, train and ferry networks run on clockwork timetables, so plan your trips with an astronaut's precision. Missing a bus or a train could mean a 2 hour waiting time before the next scheduled journey. International students are not entitled to travel with concessionary



Poh Nean,  
Bachelor of Business and Commerce,  
Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems (2008)

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