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Note for Program Participants: This material should be carefully read prior to the November 4th, 2003 pre-departure orientation meeting.

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BACKGROUND

History

Roughly the size of the continental United States, Australia is the world's sixth largest country and the only nation to fill an entire continent. Despite its vast size, Australia maintains a population of only about 18 million, 90% of which are found along the eastern coastline. Sydney, Australia's largest city and capital of New South Wales, contains 4.5 million people. Well over 80% of the population lives in urban areas; so, although Australia has vast open spaces, it is an urban society.

Australia was first inhabited at least 40,000 years ago at which time a land bridge existed between Australia and Asia. Generically known as Aborigines, this diverse culture now represents only 2% of the total population.

European settlement began 200 years ago when Captain James Cook from England landed at Botany Bay in 1768. After the British defeat in the American War for Independence, the Crown sought a new destination for inmates from over-crowded English jails. Between 1788 and 1868, 160,000 prisoners arrived in Australia. Some were convicted and deported for crimes no more serious than stealing a loaf of bread in England or Ireland. Others had committed far more serious crimes. Many Australian families today trace back their lineage to such convict immigrants, and with some pride.

Gradually, the Australian population grew and in 1901 the colonies of Australia united as the Commonwealth of Australia. Utilizing a system that is a cross between Britain's and the United States', Australia became a federation of states united under a constitution and a parliamentary form of government. Currently, Australia has six states--New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania--and two main territories--the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Northern Territory. The ACT which encompasses Canberra has a status similar to that of Washington, D.C.

Australia combines aspects of a modern cosmopolitan environment with one of the world's last great frontiers. It uniquely provides the opportunity to study both. For the American visitor who can no longer find a frontier at home, Australia offers a substitute and one with parallels in the way in which ours developed--an invitation for us to relive a bit of our history. The Australians themselves are a very friendly and open people. Students on previous programs have found Australians to be helpful and easy to engage in conversation. Some students have established lasting friendships with Australians they have met.

Like the United States, Australia has a federal system of government with political and administrative power shared among national and state governments. It has a significant native population (the Aborigine), the treatment of which is a matter of great public policy concern. Australia attracts significant immigrant populations from both Europe and Asia. It has tremendous natural resources over which developmental and environmental forces clash. Its educational system is a blend of the American and English models, but it also struggles with problems similar to ours. Its justice and legal systems blend the English and American models and confront a rising crime rate (although violent crime rates remain far below those in the United States). The country's health care system is a blend of public and private initiative that must meet the needs of urban and very remote populations.

With four political parties--Labor, Liberal, National and the Australia Democrats--Australia has emerged as a leading democracy in South-East Asia. The Liberal and Labor parties share center right and center left positions, respectively, on an ideological continuum and attract the vast majority of votes

and seats in Parliament. With its western background and ideology, Australia has faced many challenges within Asia. Not surprisingly, recent debate has centered around Australia's relationship to the United States and England and its emerging relationship to Asia. But many other traditional practices and beliefs are under challenge in Australia as well.

Current Issues in Australia

General current debates in Australia center around state rights, the recent Mabo and Wik decisions and multiculturalism. Others reflect direct challenges to traditional Australian values and practices. There are many issues occupying center stage in public debates because Australia is a dynamic society undergoing change in a number of fundamental areas. While in Australia, it is helpful to understand these issues because doing so helps one to gain a perspective on Australian culture and values. Understanding them may help us better to compare American responses to similar issues. The several issues listed below provide a fairly wide sampling of the kinds of issues shaping Australia's current public policy debates and Australia's future.

Change in Government: In March 1996 national elections, the Liberal Party- National Party coalition defeated the Labor Party, ending 13 years of Labor Party government in Australia. Under the leadership of Prime Minister John Howard (Liberal party), the Australian government is reassessing a wide range of public policies, on issues ranging from immigration to the environment, from federal-state elections to funding for higher education. In important ways this process parallels the Republican revolution in the United States. The Liberal Party-National Party Coalition won re-election in October 1998, albeit by a narrower margin than their 1996 election.

Mabo & Wik Decisions: In the 1992 Mabo decision, the High Court of Australia ruled that indigenous people, having resided in an area over a long period of time, have ownership of this land. This is one of the first decisions to overturn the idea of white supremacy in land ownership and marked a new beginning for aboriginal rights. In the 1996 Wik decision, the High Court of Australia further ruled that mining and grazing leases of public lands did not automatically extinguish aboriginal rights to the leased land. Legislative and legal debates regarding the extent of aboriginal land rights continue.

Franklin Dam: In 1983, citing an international treaty to which Australia is a signatory, the High Court ruled that the Tasmanian State Government could not build a dam that would potentially destroy unique habitat. This raised issues of federal versus state power and instigated environmental debates.

Green Politics: In 1996, seven Democrats and two Green senators were elected. They hold the balance of power in the Senate and may vote either with the Government (Liberals) or with the Opposition (Labor). Many feel that an independent voice, especially one centered on issues of environmentalism and equality, disrupts the Australian tradition of responsible government.

Republicanism: Many Australians are calling for a remodeling of the current governmental structure. This would involve casting off the Commonwealth, links with England and the Governor-General, in order to establish a Republican form of government. In addition to such substantial constitutional changes, there are some who suggest that a wider array of reforms in Australian federalism and parliamentary form of government should be considered at the same time. As the "republicanism" debate expands, ancillary issues arise including consideration of a new flag and national anthem.

International Relations: With a Western tradition, Australia is caught in the Asian Pacific Rim as an outsider. Australians are debating their role in the world in relationship to the United States and national defense. Some advocate a turning away from the U.S. and toward a more Asian focus.

Others advocate conscious and strategic bi-directional efforts--both toward Asia and North America. In either case, Australia has turned rather radically away from its historical connections to England and Europe.

Defense Force: The move to eliminate a standing army as we know it to create an Australian Defense Force has raised alarm about Australian security. Many perceive a threat from Indonesia and are wary of leaving such a large coastline without a defense.

Economic Development: Historically speaking, Australia's wealth and economy have been commodities based (mainly in agricultural and raw materials exports). By the end of the last century, commodity exports had made Australia one of the richest nations in the world measured by per capita income. Following World War II and most notably over the last twenty years, Australia has sought to diversify its economy, investing more heavily in manufacturing, both to develop indigenous capacity in key areas and to broaden the export of industrial output. These developments in turn prompt frequent debate about many issues: for example, about public investment in these development efforts, about realignment of historical trading partnerships (e.g., away from England and Europe and toward the Asian nations), and changes in wage and working conditions legislation. The latter issue is particularly divisive: manufacturers on the one hand argue that Australia's generous wage and working concessions make Australian products too expensive to compete in international markets. Labor on the other hand is unwilling to "backtrack" on hard won gains that have guaranteed blue collar workers one of the highest relative standards of living in the world. Investment, trade and wage and related policies remain hot issues of debate and will likely be so for the foreseeable future.

Income Distribution: Minimum wage and other national wage policies (such as "penalty rates," which are a wage bonuses paid workers for weekend and overtime work) guarantee a relatively high income level even for those in the lower paid occupations in Australia. As a result, Australia has one of the world's highest degrees of income equality. This is one of the reasons for it being affectionately dubbed the "lucky country" by Australians. These policies are, however, under attack as interfering with Australia's competitiveness and constraining free-market and entrepreneurial efforts. Implications are far ranging starting with the possible emergence of a significant number of working poor and underclass and a direct challenge to Australia's self perception as a classless society.

Multiculturalism: The majority of new immigrants, who account for a significant proportion of Australia's annual population growth, are from Asia. A little over twenty years ago, Australia's official position was encapsulated in the "white Australia policy", now the official policy is one of supporting multiculturalism. The transition from essentially a white, Anglo-Saxon to a multi-ethnic and multi-racial society is underway and, thus far, is a largely peaceful one. The transition and its impact on Australian society, culture and political institutions continue in many readily observable ways. The debates regarding multiculturalism and race relations in Australia have taken on new urgency and militancy in response to the 1996 emergence of Pauline Hanson and her One Nation political party.

Learning In Australia

Portions of the following materials were extracted from a publication of the Study Abroad Office of the University of New South Wales. The material is relevant for enrollment at almost any university in Australia because the academic and learning cultures are similar across Australia's top institutions. Although these materials were written to provide basic background information for international students who enroll for a semester or longer in an Australian university, students enrolled in the Michigan State University Comparative Public Policy Program will find this information useful also. Besides providing some basic information about Australian university life, it also provides insight into what guest lecturers for the MSU program expect given their own experiences as students (and some as faculty) in Australian universities.

The University of New South Wales and the Australian National University are universally recognized as in the top tier of Australian universities (commonly recognized as within the top five comprehensive universities in Australia).

The University of New South Wales

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is one of the largest universities in Australia. It consists of 54 schools, over 4,000 staff and about 20,000 students (this includes approximately 3,000 international students--the highest number in any Australian university). Over the last forty years UNSW has gained an international reputation for its excellent research and teaching in science and technology, commerce, medicine, the arts and humanities, law and professional studies.

The main University campus is at Kensington, a suburb of Sydney which is only 20 minutes by bus from the main central railway station and 30 minutes from the harbour and ferry terminals. It is close to shopping areas, restaurants, beaches and parklands. There are over a hundred University clubs and societies covering sporting, cultural, social, religious, intellectual and hobby interests. Entertainment is always available on campus in the form of plays, films, concerts and other cultural events.

The Australian National University

Since its establishment by the Australian Government in 1946, The Australian National University (ANU) has attracted scholars at the forefront of Australian and international research in the sciences and humanities. The ANU has produced some of Australia's most distinguished economists, historians, mathematicians, anthropologists, jurists, and linguists. Because it is the only university in Australia to have a separate research institute, the ANU has the facilities of a large institution with the advantages of a small one. The structure of the University combines the seven research schools and specialized research centres of the Institute of Advanced Studies, with the five faculties (known collectively as The Faculties).

The University has a total enrolment of approximately 10,000 students, (three-quarters of whom are undergraduates, and a quarter graduate students) supported by over 1,000 academic staff. About 1,000 ANU students are from overseas. The Graduate School generates a significant proportion of Australia's doctoral (PhD) and research master graduates.

For undergraduates there is a broad range of degree courses available that include professional and general subjects in numerous disciplines. Students benefit from a favorable student:staff ratio, providing students with small class teaching and opportunities to ask questions. Weekly tutorial groups vary in size from 10-16 students. In the Bachelor or Commerce tutorials, for example, tutorials are currently 14 students: 1 tutor.

The ANU campus is a park-like setting located at the edge of Canberra and bordered on other sides by Lake Burley Griffin, Black Mountain and the National Botanical Garden. Each of these adjacent areas are worth a visit.

Campus Accommodation

Residential Colleges on Australian university campuses are independent of the universities. They set their own fees, manage their own budgets and are responsible for all aspects of the running of their own institutions. They also try to foster an atmosphere which is in keeping with their own ethical values and educational philosophy. College life is regarded as more than just a matter of accommodation - it is an integral part of the education process, helping students to grow and mature as individuals. This has two important implications for those who wish to live on Campus:

- 1) Residents are expected to conduct themselves in a way which conforms to a College's expectations of behavior. *These rules apply to Michigan State students while resident in these colleges as part of the Comparative Public Policy Program.*
- 2) They are encouraged to participate in the community life of the College -- this may include social events, sports and other organized activities.

Basser College/Kensington Colleges (UNSW)

Basser College is one of three non-denominational, secular colleges making up the Kensington College Group. The Colleges are owned by the UNSW and operated by a private corporation. As at MSU, the Kensington trio are not considered "dormitories"; rather they are seen as living communities respecting and celebrating differences among their student population. Basser Hall has room for 137 residents, half-male and half-female. Staff includes six academic support staff including the Head and Deputy-Head.

Basser is the most centrally located College on campus. Classes will be offered in an adjoining building. Basser rooms consist of a study/bedroom with a sink built around two quadrangles. Bathrooms are communal (with individual enclosed toilet & shower stalls). A pillow, blanket and doona (comforter) are provided. Towels and sheets can be exchanged for fresh linens weekly.

As at MSU, Basser has computer facilities, coin-laundry facilities and common study rooms. A front desk which can provide you with information and assistance also is available; however, be aware that the desk is open for limited hours and not at all on holidays or weekends. When the desk closes, the College itself will close down. You should be aware of the College closing time and always bring your security key with you. From experience, sharing keys with your group does not work, nor does yelling at sleeping friends' windows.

Burgmann College (ANU)

Burgmann College is situated in parkland beside Lake Burley Griffin and has accommodation for 243 students and staff. The student population is mainly undergraduate with a small proportion of postgraduates. Features of the College are --

- A tutorial system fostering a learning exchange within the College
- Fully catered, three meals a day for seven days--cut lunches, vegetarian, early and late meals are available on request
- Ample recreational facilities including a Common Room, bar, shop, TV room, table tennis and billiard facilities are available; well equipped kitchenettes and lounge area available on each floor

Campus Services

As we will be spending the majority of our time at UNSW the following information is specific to that campus. However, similar services are available at ANU. For example, the UNSW Co-Op Bookstore referenced below has an equivalent at ANU.

Once you obtain your UNSW student ID, you will have access to services on campus. These include the Recreation Centre, Library and the Computer Labs. You can also use the State Library. There are a number of university, public and specialty libraries located in Canberra and at the ANU. You can access the computer labs for e-mail and word processing. E-mail access will be arranged prior to your arrival.

The Sport and Recreation Centre encourages students, staff and the community to include exercise as an essential part of their daily lives. The Centre serves the Sports Association and its 39 constituent clubs and is responsible for the continuing management of Recreation and Adventure activities which are available to students and staff.

The Centre is situated on the lower campus next to High Street, and includes eight squash courts, seven tennis courts, a 50m indoor heated swimming pool, a large gymnasium and gymnastic pit, rooms for fencing, basketball, table tennis, judo, archery, fitness circuits, weight lifting, karate, aerobics and jazz ballet. There is also a well equipped Human Performance Laboratory for health and fitness assessments. You can telephone the Centre to book any of these facilities. There are charges, however, to use these facilities.

Bookstores

University Bookshop -The Co-Op bookshop is on the ground floor of the Quadrangle Building (G). During session it is open from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Secondhand Bookshop -This shop at UNSW allows students to sell books at a maximum 70% of the current retail price. The seller of the book is charged 10% of the selling price for this service. The secondhand Bookshop is on the first floor of the Roundhouse in the Graduates' Room.

University Health Service

The University Health Service on campus provides full general medical practice facilities for students, staff, dependents and visitors. When it is necessary, students are referred for specialist, hospital or community care.

The service 'bulk bills' so that students with Australian medicare coverage do not need to pay anything. Those without Australian medicare coverage are expected to pay at the time of consultation, by cash or credit card.

The University Health Service is located on the ground floor of the Quadrangle Building. This is the same building housing the classroom for the MSU Comparative Public Policy Program. It is immediately adjacent to Basser College.

Tutors, Lecturers and Professors

The academic staff of the University are appointed at various levels. The academic ladder has various rungs of progression, as follows:

Tutor or Demonstrator – Mainly involved in teaching small classes in tutorial or laboratory situations and the marking of essays and assignments. Similar to recitation leader or teaching assistant at MSU.
Senior Tutor or Demonstrator – The same as above but with greater administrative responsibility.

Lecturer – Responsible for presenting lectures in specified subjects, assessing student progress and carrying out research projects.

Senior Lecturer – The same as a lecturer but with greater administrative responsibility, demonstrated research or teaching ability.

Associate Professor – Greater responsibility, emphasizing publishing research and lecturing. An Associate Professor is addressed as Professor.

Professor – Either the Head of the School or one of the senior members of the School, appointed because of his/her standing in the discipline, research contributions, etc. Professors are usually highly involved in administration of the School, in their own research and writing, and in lecturing to students.

Teaching and Learning in Australia

Students generally expect that there will be differences in the style of teaching between secondary school and university. Overseas students should be aware that there are also differences between cultures. Although these differences in academic culture and practices are not great between Australia and the United States, the practices differ somewhat and are worth attention if success is to be achieved. While in Australia, either enrolled in the MSU program or in an Australian university, you should be attentive to the various issues discussed below under the sub-titles, "independence and self-reliance," "critical analysis," "written academic language," "plagiarism," and "references."

In many countries the dominant style of teaching and learning requires students to memorize and understand what their teachers say and the authoritative texts in order to reproduce them accurately in tests and assignments. The Western tradition of learning followed in Australian universities (as well as in American) requires analysis and discussion of evidence, ideas and theories and emphasizes the following:

Independence and Self-reliance: As a university student, you are assumed to be an adult and are expected to make decisions for yourself about subjects, courses etc. You are expected to be able to work independently, with a minimum of supervision. You also are expected to be able to organize yourself and manage your time in order to complete assignments on time and cover the course work.

Critical Analysis: You will be expected to be able to analyze evidence and information relevant to an issue, evaluate it critically, draw your own conclusions and present your ideas in a logical fashion. Lecturers and tutors will not necessarily be teaching you answers, but will offer a range of different ideas and approaches and expect you to discuss and analyze them in your assignments and exams.

Tutorials and Seminars: Tutorials (toots) and seminars are smaller classes which are generally less formal, encourage discussion and frequently involve student presentations. Here, students are often given marks for their participation in tutorials, so it is necessary to prepare well for these classes. If you don't feel confident or feel too shy to speak in a tutorial, talk to an adviser at the International Student Center or a counselor from the Counseling and Careers Service (see Directory).

Relationships with Staff: Student-staff relationships in Australian universities are usually less formal than in most non-Western countries. You are expected to participate in discussion of issues with your teachers, to put forward your own ideas and to present your own conclusions with supporting evidence. Australian students are expected to question authority and will often disagree with their tutor. This sometimes is perceived to be very rude by students from other cultures, but it is quite proper to have a difference of opinion with a teacher. Challenging the norm is an important part of the Australian culture and learning experience. Do not be surprised if your opinions are questioned and be prepared to support them.

Different Learning Methods: Most teaching at university is conducted in large formal lectures, where you listen to the lecturer and take notes. However, in many subjects you will find yourself in small classes where you are able to ask questions and expected to participate in discussions with the tutor and other students. Laboratory classes in courses such as Science and Engineering also provide an opportunity for you to ask questions. Essays and library research provide the basis for learning and demonstrating the skills of critical analysis of information and the logical presentation of ideas.

Written Academic Language: The language you will encounter in your academic textbooks is different from the language used in everyday speech. How is it different?

Written language and especially written academic language is less personal and quite "dense". In other words, a lot of meaning is packed into very few words and sentences are generally much longer. The structure of sentences in academic written language is not necessarily more complicated than in spoken language, but word groups are usually more complicated.

In general, Australian academics expect more legalistic writing than their U.S. counter-parts. When writing for a course in Australia, you should concentrate on writing a succinct, well-argued paper with a minimum of words. Often, up to 10% will be deducted for papers over the page limit and special permission is required in order to write more than required.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is any attempt to use someone else's work or ideas as if they were your own. *One of the most frequent complaints made by lecturers is that students do not correctly indicate the sources of their ideas.* Students who plagiarize may be punished with failure of the assignment, or more severely.

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- Quotation without the use of quotation marks. It is a common but serious form of academic misconduct to quote another person's work without using quotation marks, even if you have acknowledged the source you are quoting from. When you are quoting something, you must show quotation marks or indent the quote if it is lengthy.

- Significant paraphrasing, i.e. taking a very important sentence, or several sentences from the original source and altering the sentence structure. Even if you have acknowledged the source, you must also mention the fact that you have paraphrased the original words.
- Using information or ideas without acknowledgment (unless such information or ideas are commonplace).
- Citing sources which you have not read without acknowledging that you found them in a 'secondary' source.

References: It should be possible for anyone who is reading your work to check the information and ideas which you have used. Your acknowledgments should be accurate, so that a reader can find and check sources (i.e. the books, articles, journals, teaching materials and newspapers) that you used. You must identify and acknowledge your source in a systematic style of referencing when:

- You are quoting the exact words of another writer
- You are loosely summarizing a passage from another writer
- You are using an idea or material which is directly based on the work of another writer
- You have used any work of your own which has or will be submitted to another lecturer for assessment
- You are citing sources which you have not read.

Any work which you submit for assessment must be entirely your own: it should not be the result of collaboration with others unless your lecturer gives clear instructions that joint work or collaboration is possible for that assignment. In this case, you should identify your co-workers and specify how you collaborated with them. You must first get your lecturer's approval if you intend to give him/her an essay which is similar to one that you have given another lecturer.

Academic Misconduct: Students on the campus are, like everyone else, governed by the normal laws of Australian society. In addition, the University has its own special rules and regulations, and it has the power to discipline students who break them. Examples of this kind of discipline include: failure in a subject, loss of privileges, fines, payment of compensation, suspension, exclusion from study for a certain period or even permanent expulsion from the University.

Academic misconduct includes many additional practices, e.g. cheating, copying, using another person's work, getting someone else to do your work for you, or doing someone else's work for them. Some practices which may have been acceptable at high school are considered to be misconduct within a university, e.g. not properly acknowledging that you have used ideas or material from other sources. If you are enrolled in the MSU program and are charged with academic misconduct during the program or in fulfilling program requirements, you will be subject to MSU disciplinary procedures.

Classroom Demeanor: It is your responsibility to attend class. If you miss a class for any reason, you will be held responsible for all the material covered and announcements made in your absence. LECTURE ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED. BE ON TIME AND REMAIN FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD. This program is too large to have people crawling over each other or interrupting our lecturers while trying to find a seat. Arriving late is inconsiderate of your classmates and our guest lecturers. This program also is too large for "private" conversations. You may not realize how far your voice carries in the classroom and how disturbing it is to your classmates to endure your idle conversations and giggling. The students who sit near you are not interested in your romantic lives, how out-of-touch you think your parents are, how stupid you think your teachers are, etc. You may not realize how disturbing your

private conversations are when others are trying to listen to our lecturers. Everyone enrolled in this program is an adult. You should be adult enough not to disturb others. Mindless talking during class is immature, inconsiderate behavior. Please ask questions or make comments that will benefit the entire class, but leave the private conversations in the halls where they belong.

STATEMENT ON STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Discipline Policy There are certain areas under which the faculty leader, local resident director or program coordinator have the authority to disenroll from a study abroad program. Some of these areas are:

Students whose conduct while on the program is undesirable and whose actions are in violation of Michigan State University's Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Students whose conduct is in violation of the rules and guidelines of the sponsoring institution.

Students whose conduct affects and violates the representative abroad, i.e., faculty leader, resident director, program coordinator, on-site contact.

Violation of the foreign country's civil and criminal statutes.

Any situation in which the behavior, whether academic or social, of the participant jeopardizes either the reputation of the program or of other participants in the program.

Participants may be dismissed from the program if they do not abide by the above rules and regulations. Students dismissed from the program for any of the above reasons will receive no credit for work done and will not be entitled to any refund.

Every applicant signs the following statement as a part of his or her completed study abroad application.

Students in Michigan State University study abroad programs agree that they will not violate the laws, rules and regulations of the host country, community, institution and program that will be communicated to them after their arrival in the host country. They must understand that acceptable behavior should show a genuine concern for the mores and social patterns of the host culture, in order that actions not be offensive to the community. Additionally, students must agree not to violate Michigan State University's General Student Regulations, including the MSU Drug and Alcohol Policy, which is stated in *Spartan Life*.

As with all academic programs, the student is responsible for learning the content of a course of study according to standards of performance established by the faculty member(s). In turn, the student has a right to a course grade that represents his or her instructor's good faith judgement of the student's performance in the course. Should the student withdraw or be dismissed from a program abroad for reasons of health, family emergency, illegal drug use or alcohol abuse, legal detention, etc. that student will not be eligible for academic credit. In the final case of dismissal, no study abroad fees will be refunded. Additional refunds are subject to the student's negotiations with contracted parties such as airlines. University tuition and fees will be refunded according to university policy, as stated in the *Schedule of Courses* publication for on-campus enrollment. In the event of a disciplinary dismissal from the program, no refund will be made.

Students are responsible for their own health care, conduct, financial integrity and travel plans while studying abroad on University-sponsored study abroad programs. In the event of serious illness, accident or emergency, a student's designated emergency contact, as indicated on the *Student Health/Emergency Treatment Authorization*, will be notified upon request of the student. Information regarding medical and other assistance can be obtained from the faculty member-in-residence, on-site resident director(s), or program assistant(s) representing the Office of Study Abroad. Students are urged to inform such individuals of problems that arise during their stay abroad so that assistance can be provided.

The faculty member-in-residence, on-site resident director(s), and program assistant(s) share responsibility with host country officials to inform students of the need to comply with host country laws, host institution rules and regulations, and local customs. Any behavior that endangers an individual, another person, property, or the future viability of the program is of particular concern. When the program director and the MSU Office of Study Abroad believe that a student's continued presence in the program constitutes a clear and present danger to the health or safety of persons or property, or threatens the future viability of the program, the program director, with concurrence of MSU's Office of Study Abroad, may temporarily suspend a student pending final resolution of the matter. The interim suspension shall not preclude, predetermine, or render irrelevant subsequent disciplinary action or procedures, nor shall an interim suspension create a presumption of guilt.

The following behaviors are among those that may result in immediate dismissal from the program: physical or sexual assault, harassment; unlawful possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs; alcohol abuse; setting a fire or possession of explosives; possession of a weapon, including BB guns and knives; theft.

Michigan State University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, manufacture, production, sale, exchange or distribution of illegal drugs by students participating in MSU study abroad programs. It is also illegal for a student to possess, consume, furnish, manufacture, sell, exchange or otherwise distribute any alcoholic beverages except as permitted by host country laws and local institutional regulations. Alleged violations of Michigan State University's Drug and Alcohol Policy, host country laws, host institution regulations, or local customs will be investigated on site in the most timely manner possible. A student found to be in violation will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program. They will also be academically withdrawn from the University for the semester in progress, and may be subject to disciplinary action upon their return to campus.

In the event of an infraction which does not cause immediate danger and where there is an allegation of a violation of the laws, regulations, and customs of the host country, community, institution or program or a violation of the MSU Drug and Alcohol Policy, the following procedures will apply:

1. The faculty member-in-residence, or the on-site resident director, or the program assistant representing the Office of Study Abroad will investigate the alleged violation using the resources available to him or her.
2. The student will be informed, in writing, of the alleged violation and will be given an opportunity to respond in person and present any witnesses or ask questions of witnesses, if any, that the complainant has identified. The faculty member-in-residence, or the on-site resident director, or the program assistant representing the Office of Study Abroad will immediately inform and consult with the Office of Study Abroad regarding the alleged violation and the process to be pursued in investigating it.

3. After the facts have been examined, the faculty member-in-residence, on-site resident director, or program assistant will, after consulting with and receiving authorization from the Office of Study Abroad, take appropriate action and inform the student in writing of the decision.
4. Sanctions, if the student is found guilty of the allegation, may include the following:
 1. Letter of warning
 2. Reassignment to another housing location, if available
 3. Dismissal from the study abroad program and dismissal from Michigan State University for that semester or summer session
 4. Other action deemed appropriate to the specific case

If a student is alleged to have violated the MSU Drug and Alcohol Policy while participating in an MSU study abroad program, he or she may be referred to the University Judicial System for a hearing upon his or her return to Michigan State University in addition to any action taken by the faculty member-in-residence, on-site resident director, or program assistant.

Consequences for violations may include, but are not limited to, some form of disciplinary probation, required attendance at educational programs, referral for assessment at educational programs, referral for assessment and treatment, and suspension from Michigan State University for sale of illegal drugs or repeated violations of the regulations.

Discrimination Discrimination against minorities is illegal in most countries, nevertheless it still occurs. If you believe you are being discriminated against, please discuss it with somebody: your on-site program contact, i.e., resident director, faculty leader, program coordinator, is generally the best person to go to with these kinds of problems. This person has been trained to deal with this type of situations and will be happy to hear you out.

Discrimination could be built on negative racial stereotypes which are influenced by a variety of factors, including the media. Some of these factors could reflect a certain racial mixture, social position, economic status. Furthermore, although sometimes frustrating, it is to your advantage to keep in mind that one of the main reasons for your participation in a study abroad program is to learn how other cultures operate, and understand that what you could perceive as a discriminatory act or remark may not necessarily be one, but rather a cultural difference.

Sexual Harassment The legal definition of sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual gesture, physical contact, or statement which is offensive, humiliating or an interference with required tasks or career opportunities.

You will be entering a different culture and must realize that in some instances the foreign methods of communications differ and maybe uncomfortable for you. Some cultures touch as a manner of conversing or to try to get a point across; other cultures stare to try to make eye-contact so you know that they are being friendly. However, if after acknowledging cultural differences, you still feel uncomfortable you should have an open conversation and express your own perspective. This could help you understand their way of seeing things and perhaps accept perspectives.

Australian Life

Adjusting to a new environment

On leaving a familiar environment and venturing into an unfamiliar one, you can expect to experience a period of adjustment before getting back onto an even keel. The adjustment will vary according to an individual's temperament, background and experience, but can normally be expected to last for a couple of weeks. The first several days of adjustment will be aggravated somewhat by jet lag. You will feel tired at strange times, wide awake at even stranger times, and sometimes not able to think clearly.

These problems are never severe, rather normal, and they will disappear in a couple of days. Most importantly, don't let the unfamiliar worry you to the point that you cannot enjoy and learn from the newness. Of course things are different and done differently; experiencing these differences in practices and in peoples' outlook and values is why you are on an international study experience. Enjoy the difference and learn from it.

On arriving in Sydney you will experience an environment that looks and feels different, as well as food, speech and patterns of behavior which will not be quite what you are used to. Actually, you will find that things aren't all that different, but different enough to let you know that you are in a different country and culture. As a result you may feel nervous, homesick, irritable, disoriented or unusually tired. You may experience anger and hostility towards the people in your new environment or become dependent for company on other Americans abroad. You may even begin to doubt the wisdom of leaving home in the first place. Some people experience these feelings a few weeks after arrival, when all the initial excitement has worn off. It's normal to have some of these thoughts, off and on.

Coping with this situation will call for understanding and patience on your part. Remember that most people experience similar feelings on first moving into a new town, let alone a new country--it is a normal reaction to a complete change of environment and is usually a phase preceding successful adjustment. If you are feeling "down" or homesick, talk about it to friends, program faculty or others. Don't ignore it, but don't make a big deal out of it either.

A common mistake made by American students is that they do not anticipate homesickness or culture shock. Being away at school is far different from being on the other side of the world. In addition, while Australia is an English-speaking nation with western-style values, it is a new culture. Don't feel bad if you feel out of place at first and remember a few helpful hints for making the transition:

1. Examine your expectations Your reactions to Australia are products both of the way things are here and the way you expected them to be. If you find yourself being confused or disappointed about something, ask yourself "Why? What did I expect? Was my expectation reasonable? If you find that your expectations were unreasonable, you can do a lot to reduce the amount of dissatisfaction and unhappiness you are feeling.

Try to become more aware of your own ideas and stereotypes (generalizations) of Australian culture. With this awareness, think again about people's behavior from their point of view. Be willing to test, adapt and change your own stereotypes to fit your new experience.

2. Listen and Observe You may be unfamiliar with the social rules in Australia, as well as differences in people's attitudes and habits. You may not understand the social signals used by

Australians. Try to listen carefully to what people are saying and observe their body language closely. In other words, concentrate on both verbal and non-verbal communication techniques and try and put them into a total context. If some of these non-verbal signals are insulting in your culture, don't take it personally. For example, smiling when you are introduced to someone may be a sign of respect in your culture; in Australia, if someone doesn't smile in this situation, it does not necessarily mean that he or she is not respectful.

3. Ask Questions, Seek Clarification You may not always understand what people are trying to communicate or you may not understand the significance of what people do. Most Australians will help you if you need an explanation. Don't be afraid to ask.

4. Keep an Open Mind You will probably see many things in Australia that are different from what you are used to at home. Australians might say or do things that people at home would not say or do. Try to understand that they are acting according to their own set of values. Remember that you may have misunderstood something because you did not have enough information. Try not to judge the way other people behave by the standards of your own country. Ask yourself if the behaviour you are seeing makes sense within the Australian culture, even if it seems strange or wrong to you.

If you have a negative or bad experience, don't assume that all Australians will behave in the same way.

5. Have Fun The most distinguishing facet of the Australian persona is their laissez-faire attitude toward life. This can be most distressing for the American student who lives life on the go. Learn to take things in stride and laugh at the situation. When your mates at the bar start laughing at your accent (you do have one now), laugh along with them, and by all means, if they start carrying on about "Bloody Yanks," smile and excuse yourself.

Aussie Language

Many students expect to find a language and culture similar to their own. While Australians do speak English, it is a form of English transformed by 200 years of history. One of the primary problems Americans have with Aussie slang is the speed at which it is spoken. Your ability to understand will improve quickly with time.

A key way in which Aussie English differs from American English is the use of abbreviations when they speak. In addition, many terms are taken from other cultures such as the French or are just plain unique. Be aware of the differences and if confused, ask! Some words which may trip you up are:

American

Mosquito
Cooler
Cigarette
Gas Station
Drug Store
Apartment
Elevator
Ketchup
Bathroom
Napkin
Line (stand in a)
Bathing Suit
Sweater
Root for your team
Sex

Australia

Mozzie
Eskie
Ciggie
Petrol Station
Chemist
Flat
Lift
Tomato Sauce
Toilet/Dunny/Louie
Serviette
Queue (form a)
Cossie/Bathers
Jumper
Barrack
Root

Don't feel pressured to use Aussie English. One of the worst things you can do is assume that you are using a word correctly. After a time, phrases such as "G'Day," "No Worries, Mate" and "G'Donya" may become second nature. Be aware that some cliches about Australia are no longer used and maybe considered stereo-typical. Words like "sheila," "shrimp on the barbie," "sport" and "cobber" are considered obsolete. Other phrases such as "Digger," "bugger" and "wanker" have a subtle meaning and should be avoided. These words in particular can get you into trouble if you don't know how to use them correctly. For those of you who eat a lot, note that the phrase "you're stuffed" or "get stuffed" is rather offensive.

Be alert for other differences. Because English is the spoken language, it is sometimes easy to forget that although Australian usage of the English language is similar to that of American usage, there are differences, especially differences in meaning to some common words. If you say something that produces an unexpected reaction from Australians, politely check out what they thought you said. For example, a student in a prior program stated that his friend had "ate the fat" from the steak at the "barbie." After the comment raised some eyes, he asked about it. "Eating the fat" has a sexual connotation. If Australians use certain words in a way unfamiliar to you, don't be afraid to ask their meaning. This is part of your becoming acquainted with a different culture.

And don't try to imitate the "Australian accent." You will do it poorly, generally make a fool out of yourself, and possibly irritate a lot of good Australians. Imagine (or listen for) Australian imitations of the "American accent" and you will get the point.

Australian Culture

Individuality - Most Australians want to be treated as individuals rather than as representatives of a certain class, position or group. They dislike being too dependent on others.

Equality - Australians grow up believing that people should have equal social, legal and political rights and the Australian Constitution protects these rights. In addition, recent anti-discrimination laws try to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, gender and marital status. Most people in Australia think of themselves as your equal, and the taxi-driver, waitress or garbage man expects to get the same respect from you as the accountant or the schoolteacher.

Sense of Humor - It is very likely that you will make mistakes as you explore a new culture and, if you can laugh at them yourself, it will help you learn. Australians are more likely to be friendly if you show that you have a sense of humor.

Australian humor is directed against those people who give the impression that they consider themselves superior. Teasing (or "rubbishing" as it is sometimes called) is also a favourite pastime and, if spoken in a joking way, it is an indication that you are liked and accepted by the persons concerned.

Learning to function in a new culture is not easy. Cross cultural situations are often ambiguous and result in stress because you are not sure what others expect of you or what you can expect of them. In these situations it is natural to feel anxious and frustrated. If you recognize that these are a normal part of the experience you may be able to deal with them more effectively. Your sense of humor and openness will also help. As you gain greater understanding of the new culture you can expect the level of stress to diminish.

Remember, the more you put into the experience, the more you learn from it. Try to make an effort to meet people, form friendships, get involved in activities (e.g., sports, music, cinema) and learn about others and their culture.

Australian Currency

Australian Currency follows a decimal system. The dollar (\$) is the basic unit of exchange. It is divided into 100 cents. Paper notes are in different colours and increase in size as they increase in value. Notes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. You should be aware that the \$5 and \$10 bill comes in two types. Before leaving the United States, you may want to order some Australian currency from an international bank. This process takes about a month.

Metal coins come in denominations of \$1 and \$2, \$0.50, \$0.20, \$0.10, \$0.05. Australia has dropped the 1 and 2 cent coins. Most prices have been rounded to the dollar or 5 cent mark. If a price is not rounded, be aware that the "check-out chick" will do it at the register. Also, taxes are included in the price.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia and the State Bank of New South Wales have banking facilities on the University of New South Wales campus. Both banks have extensive branch and automatic teller machine networks. Your best bet if your plan to travel is the Commonwealth Bank or an ANZ. State Banks are prevalent in NSW only. Look into depositing all your money and getting an ATM card. This saves on exchange fees that apply to foreign and/or traveler's checks (Westpack Bank cashes them for free). The Commonwealth Bank ATMs are linked to the Cirrus network, among others, so MSU Federal Credit Union ATM cards will work at these machines. If you plan on getting money from home, note that you will not have access to the money until the check clears. This can take up to ten days.

Banks in Australia are generally open Monday to Thursday (except public holidays) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and until 5:00 p.m. on Friday. These hours may be extended on certain days depending on local conditions.

International credit cards such as MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Diners Club can all be used in Australia. ATM cards are also accepted in major stores, markets and petrol stations.

Shopping and Prices (Based on a Jan. 2002 Survey)

There are numerous large shopping areas within walking distance of UNSW. In these shopping centres, you can find most of the goods and services you need. One United States dollar equals approximately A\$1.60 to A\$1.80.

In the heart of the city are large department stores, some of which are linked by enclosed overstreet crossings with the towering Centrepoin complex shopping arcades, coffee-shops and offices. On other main streets are more arcades, each with its own atmosphere and rows of small specialty shops and restaurants. Out of town, in the suburbs, are huge regional shopping centres. In the areas around the University - Randwick, Kingsford and Kensington, the shopping tends to be in smaller specialty shops and supermarkets.

A number of weekend markets are available around Sydney. They have stalls selling a large variety of new and second hand goods. It may be possible to bargain a little (5-15%). Sydney also has its own Chinatown located near Darling Harbour.

Flemington Markets - Flemington - by train - open on Saturday and Sunday.

Paddy's Market - Redfern Eveleigh Goods Yard, accessible by train, open Saturday and Sunday.

Paddington Market - Oxford Street, Paddington - take buses 378 -380. A small market, open all day Saturday.

Balmain Market - Darling Street, Balmain - take buses 401, 433 and 445. A small market, open all day Saturday.

Sydney Fish Market - If you love fresh seafood, there may be no better fish market in the world. Located in the area of Darling Harbour, the market is open daily--early morning until mid afternoon. You will find both raw and cooked seafood of almost any type.

In general, prices in Australia are comparable to those in the U.S. Clothing is one exception. Many students felt that the clothing was more expensive and of lesser quality than in the United States. Other pricey items you may want to avoid buying are books and tapes/CD's. For more information on living inexpensively, get the Student Union Discount Book from the UNSW Student Union.

Costs for basic services are listed below:

Telephone: 40 cents local calls, extra for long distance

<u>Postal Costs (20g):</u>	<u>Standard letter</u>	<u>Postcard or "card only"</u>
Local	\$0.45	
Zone 1 (e.g., NZ, PNG)	\$0.75	\$0.70
Zone 2 (e.g., Indonesia, Malaysia)	\$0.85	\$0.80
Zone 3 (e.g., India, Japan)	\$0.95	\$0.90
Zone 4 (e.g., USA, Israel)	\$1.05	\$0.95
Zone 5 (e.g., UK, Europe)	\$1.20	\$1.00
Aerogrammes (all countries)	\$0.70	

For other charges check at the mail centre on campus or any Australia Post Office.

Eating Out

It is possible to get a meal for less than \$5 at a number of cheap eats in the Randwick/Kingsford area.

Asian Eating House	85 Belmore Road, Randwick
Orient Express	Baker Street, Randwick
Kum Tong Gourmet	142 Avoca Street, Randwick
Mekong	392-394 Anzac Parade, Kingsford
Kawi	396 Anzac Parade, Kingsford
Old Family	482 Anzac Parade, Kingsford

Other cheap eats are also within easy walking distance of the campus such as:

MacDonalds	Barker Street opposite the University
Homestead Chicken	Corner Barker & Anzac Parade

Ask your friends or other students to suggest other cheap eats in the area. You can also buy a copy of Cheap Eats in Sydney from a news agency for other comparatively cheap eating places in various parts of Sydney.

There are similar possibilities and variety in Canberra. The center city area has a number of restaurants at varying price levels. Outdoor dining is a favorite in this area. The numerous Canberra suburbs, easily reached by bus or taxi each have a few marvelous ethnic restaurants.

In both Sydney and Canberra, you will find superb ethnic dining.

Public Transport

Public transport to the University is by bus. Timetables are available from the library, the Union Shop or from the Urban Transport Authority. Travel passes, weekly tickets and Metro Tenpass can be purchased from the Union Shop on lower campus or newsagencies. Your best value is a red or green weekly pass. This ticket will get you on the ferries as well as the bus.

Bus Fares: \$1.20 minimum

Passes:

- Green Weekly (\$33) unlimited bus/ferry with limited train for a week
- Red Metro Ten (\$20) - 10 trips anytime (no time limit) into city
- Metro Ten (\$9.50) 10 short trips (no time limit)

Train Fare: \$3.00 1 day unlimited travel in city centre

Taxis are numerous and cost about \$14-16 (depending on traffic) from the University to the city \$2.20 minimum charge and \$1.15 per km, \$1.00 extra for radio call). In general, rates are \$2.20 minimum charge, and \$1.15 per km. Extra charges include radio booking, luggage and bridge toll fees.

Bus transportation in Canberra is convenient to almost anywhere in the Capital Territory and relatively inexpensive. It always takes two buses to get everywhere, but the system is easy to use.

Books

For students interested in Australia, this trip presents the rare opportunity to buy texts on subjects unavailable in the United States. Avid reader's should note however, that popular fiction books run around A\$10 for a paperback (about USA\$6.50) The Students' Union operates a second-hand bookshop as a service to both buyers and sellers. The bookshop is located on the first floor of the Roundhouse.

Police and the Law

Police duties and the rights of individuals

In Australia, there are State and Federal Police forces. Police have a duty to preserve the peace, to prevent and detect crime and to protect life and property. The Police Department is a part of the Public Service and is not part of the army. In certain situations, the police have the right to arrest people and take them to a Police Station if they suspect the individual of having committed a crime.

Whether you are in trouble with the police or they are helping you out of difficulty, things will run more smoothly if you cooperate with them and explain your situation politely and calmly. You can cooperate with the police without giving up any of your rights.

Federal Police

Federal Police administer federal laws which deal mainly with immigration, customs and the security of Commonwealth property. In the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory, they have similar powers to State Police. Federal Police are controlled by the Federal Government.

State Police

State Police are concerned with state laws, which may vary from state to state. The government of each state has control of its own police force. There are no local or community police forces. All officers are part of the state police force.

Australia has several other enforcement agencies that are concerned with particular laws only. Commonwealth Investigators, for example, are only concerned with federal tax and customs laws; State Inspectors and Investigators are concerned with fisheries and wildlife, motor vehicle testing, etc.; while Local Government Inspectors are concerned with public parks, health and building regulations, etc. The police are always responsible to an elected parliament, never to the armed forces.

Your legal rights

- Your most basic right is to be considered innocent until you are proven guilty in a court of law.
- Unless you have been arrested, you do not need to answer police questions, give your name (except for traffic offenses) or even make a statement.
- You have a right not to say anything which might incriminate you.
- The police must not threaten or injure you (if you resist arrest they can use "reasonable force"). You can refuse to go with Police unless formally arrested.

If you have been arrested

- You have the right to be given details of the charge;
- You only have to give the police your name and address;
- You should be allowed to make one telephone call;
- You have the right to ask for an interpreter or to contact a lawyer or a friend or relative;
- If you want to make a statement, you are entitled to write it yourself;
- You have the right to ask for bail.

Laws which may affect you

Alcohol – In Australia people under the age of 18 are not permitted to buy alcoholic drinks. There are also heavy penalties for people who drink and drive. Police are allowed to pull over cars at random for breathalyzer tests. If you are drinking in a hotel (also called a pub) or a night club, you should pay for each drink as soon as you receive it, and not when you are about to leave. It is also against the law to be drunk or to consume alcohol in public places (e.g., on the footpath).

The Australian custom of "shouting" means that if someone buys you a drink you are expected to "shout" him back by buying him a drink. Draft beer sizes vary from middies to schooners to pints. Be careful of your drinking. Aussie beer is on average about 5%, but some pubs have their own brew which can reach as high as 8.3%.

Gambling – Gambling (especially on horses and lotteries) is a common pastime in Australia. Of course, it is much easier to lose money than to win at gambling and Australia is no different from other countries in this respect. All gambling must be carried out through official agencies. It is against the law to gamble outside official agencies.

Bribery – It is a serious crime to bribe anyone, especially a policeman. It is a crime even to try to bribe someone. Be very careful not to let anyone mistake your actions as offering a bribe, e.g. don't try to pay the policeman who gives you an on-the-spot fine. Officials are not allowed to accept money or gifts but appreciate it when people are courteous and say, "Thank you."

Noise – It is against the law to make loud noise which may annoy your neighbors between certain hours (e.g., 8:00 pm - 7:00 am). For further information, contact the State Pollution Control Commission (see Directory, p.VIII).

Legal aid and advice – On campus, students may obtain free legal aid and advice on campus from the Solicitor employed by the Students' Union (see Directory, p.XII). Off campus there are a number of agencies in Australia which offer cheap or free legal advice and help (see Directory, p.VIII).

Phone Numbers

- U.S.A. Consulate: Car Park & Elizabeth Streets Sydney
(to register passport before 12 noon) 9261-9200
- American Express Office 9271 1111
- USA Direct 0014-881-011
(this will reach a US operator and allow you to receive US rates)
- Ambulance 000
- Fire 000
- Poisons Information Centre 51-0466
- Hospital 399-0111
- Bus/Train/Ferry timetables 29-2622
- Buses 20543
- Trains 20942
- Ferries (Manly) 27-9251

- Taxi Companies
 - ABC 13 2522
 - Legion 13 1451
 - Premier 13 1017
 - St. George 13 2166

- Airlines
 - Qantas 13 1313
 - Ansett 13 1300

- Coach Companies
 - Greyhound Pioneer 13 2030
 - Oz Experience 9368 1766
 - Firefly 9211 1644

Other Important Numbers (to be filled out in Australia)

NAME	NUMBER

Tips for Travelers

Packing

The first rule of packing is to pack light; what you take, you will have to carry--sometimes up several flights of stairs. It really doesn't matter how long you are going to be in Australia; you will find that you often wear the same clothes anyway. Also, the more you plan to travel, the more you'll learn to hate your luggage. Many students need to buy another bag, send luggage with a friend or ship goods home. Depending on the method, mailing 20kg home can cost between A\$125 and A\$200.

The best advice is to take one large bag or backpack, or one large bag or backpack and one medium bag with some room. Make sure that you can lift the bags and carry them when fully packed. Bags should have good wheels and a handle to pull them.

The airlines will inform you of baggage weight allowances. Flyers are allowed two pieces of luggage and a carry-on. For coach class passengers on international flights, you are permitted two pieces of checked luggage weighing no more than 44lbs combined and one piece of cabin luggage weighing no more than 11lbs. Airlines can be very strict about this rule.

Below is a guide to aid you in packing. Many students in the past have packed a limited variety of clothes. You should be aware of the wide range of activities you will be participating in while overseas.

Dress clothes (suit, sport coat, blazer, nice dress or dressy pantsuit) will be required for most field trips. Many bars and clubs require at least moderately dressy attire for entrance. For men this means slacks, leather shoes and a collared shirt. Women generally will not be permitted to wear open-toed shoes or sandals or sleeveless tops or dresses. Many bars and other entertainment spots do not allow tennis shoes and jeans. Finally, remember your interests. Trips into the tropical forests, to the beach, camping and hiking may warrant special gear (including shower shoes and a single sheet). Certain goods, like towels, are bulky and may be purchased in Australia.

Australia operates on 220-240 volt AC. If you plan to bring electronic appliances (hairdryers, laptop computers, radios, etc.), you need to purchase models that adapt to 240 volt or purchase a 110-240 volt converter or transformer. You will also need adaptor plugs because the Australian electrical outlets differ from those in the U.S. Voltage converters and adaptor plugs are not the same thing; you will need both.

GENERAL CHECKLISTS

Prior to leaving for Australia (and bring with you):

- _____ PERSONAL HEALTH INSURANCE THAT COVERS YOU OVERSEAS (if traveling before or after the program)
- _____ TRAVELLERS CHEQUES IN USA OR AUSTRALIAN \$
- _____ CREDIT CARD (OPTIONAL- VISA OR AMERICAN EXPRESS BEST)
- _____ PLANE TICKET
- _____ PASSPORT
- _____ VISA FOR AUSTRALIA (Secure through MSU)
- _____ MSU STUDENT ID (OR FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSITY)
- _____ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ID (OPTIONAL--SEE OVERSEAS STUDY)
- _____ A DRIVERS LICENSE
- _____ PHONE CREDIT CARD WITH INTERNATIONAL NUMBER (OPTIONAL)
- _____ LETTER FROM DOCTOR: ABOUT PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION CARRIED
- _____ PROGRAM HOUSING INFORMATION (ADDRESS & PHONE)
- _____ CLOTHES
- _____ BOOKS
- _____ INTERNATIONAL YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION CARD (optional)

BRING WITH YOU ON THE PLANE (IN YOUR CARRY-ON LUGGAGE – DO NOT PACK IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGE)

- _____ MEDICATIONS: Also see below, item #9.
- _____ PASSPORT AND VISA
- _____ MONEY AND CREDIT CARDS
- _____ TRAVELLERS CHEQUES
- _____ DRIVER'S LICENSE
- _____ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ID CARD (optional)
- _____ MSU STUDENT ID CARD
- _____ INSURANCE CARD
- _____ PHONE CREDIT CARD WITH INTERNATIONAL NUMBER (optional)
- _____ PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
- _____ LETTER FROM DOCTOR PRESCRIBING MEDICATION
- _____ CAMERA AND FILM (Note that film is relatively expensive in Australia)
- _____ A GOOD BOOK
- _____ PROGRAM ADDRESS AND HOUSING SHEET
- _____ HEADPHONES, RECORDER AND TAPES (optional)

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MSU PROGRAM

1. Take at least one "office-type" ensemble for special field trips and class formal events. There will be several occasions when you will have to be in such dress two days in a row. "Office-type dress" is defined as shirt and tie, slacks and sport coat (or suit) for men; and a nice dress or skirt/blouse/blazer combination or dressy pantsuit for women. Dress as you would for a formal job interview.
2. You will be able to do laundry as often as every 4 days, but are likely to find it convenient to do so every 5-6 days.

3. Class dress: Neat and clean for guest lecturers. Presentable and in keeping with general practice at MSU other times (shoes, shirt, pants/shorts -- relatively clean please for the benefit of your colleagues and guests).
4. Out of class / on your own: Weather can be hot, therefore, consider shorts, light tops, swimming suits, tennis shoes, and warm weather pants, skirts, sun dresses etc.; in case of cool weather, a sweater, sweatshirt or jacket.
5. Field trips: Some will be casual wear such as neat shirt and slacks. Some will require shirt/tie/sport coat for men; and a nice dress or skirt/blouse/blazer combination or dressy pantsuit for women. For the field trip to Lithgow Prison, women are to wear conservative, non-revealing attire, i.e., lightweight, billowy pants, long-sleeved blouse or sweater.

6. Consider taking at least one of the following:

Light Sweater	A "rain proof" light jacket
Tennis Shoes	Good Leather But Comfortable Shoes
Swimming Suit	Tasteful "Bermuda" Type Shorts
Blue Jeans	Suit or Sportcoat (Equiv. For Women)
Leather Shoes	"Rain Proof" Jacket
Tie	

Take two of (or mix and match) the following:

Office type ensembles (see #1)

7. Please take a 5-6 day supply of socks, underwear, and a few causal shirts. Laundry facilities are generally readily available but your schedule will be such that you will probably find it most convenient to do laundry every 5-6 days.
8. Other items that you may wish to consider bringing include:

Grooming items	_____
Suntan Lotion	_____
Camera	_____
Film	_____
Hat	_____
Hiking Boots (only if you plan bush walking)	_____
Sports Sandals (e.g. Tevas; for canoeing)	_____
Fanny Back or Small Backpack	_____
Sunglasses	_____
Playing cards	_____
Frisbees	_____

9. **Medication:** If you are on prescription medication, make sure that you have an ample supply for the period of the program. Prescriptions written by American physicians are not honored in Australia (you would have to see an Australian doctor).

If you are on prescription medication: bring your supply IN the bottle issued by the pharmacy with the correct label affixed--this is for customs officials should they ask. Also bring a letter

from your doctor indicating that s/he has prescribed the medication (medication name and dose information is recommended).

10. **Linen and Towels:** The dorms supply linen and towels. The dorm towels are on the skimpy side, however, so you may want to purchase a larger beach towel in Australia (or bring one with you). We recommend purchasing one in Australia, unless you have lots of room in your suitcase. For camping and hiking you may also want to buy a flat sheet and shower shoes.
11. If you are planning to stay in Australia from mid-May through August, and will be in Canberra or Sydney, supplement the above clothing list with a few items that you would wear during November or early December in Michigan. Nights can be cold during these periods but the days are often pleasant.

Managing your Luggage

Most airports will offer free or low-cost carts for you to use. Bringing your own luggage rack can be useful, but usually only gives you one more thing to worry about. Remember that you have to carry everything you bring and buy. If you are traveling alone, this means you will need to take all your stuff everywhere in the airport with you.

Also, be aware of your carry-on bag size. Sometimes bulky or odd shaped bags have a tendency to not fit in overhead lockers or under the seat. If you have a large or many carry-ons, make sure you board early to get a good storage space. If you can, try to store important things under the seat. This allows you easy access to your goods without the turmoil of trying to get into the aisle and into a locker.

Handling Your Money

Money Handling for Students on the MSU Program: Bring spending money in travelers checks (in US\$ is fine) or bring an ATM card. Do not bring cash (except a small amount to cover expenses while still in the USA). Leave a record of your traveler check numbers with someone in the USA and keep your copy of the numbers separately. If you have one, bring a credit card. Most major credit cards are accepted in Australia. Visa seems to be the one honored by the most establishments. Master Card and American Express also work fine.

Program fees pay for housing, most meals, field trips, text books (on loan), and all administrative costs as part of your program fee. However, you will probably want to travel on the weekends and after the program, attend concerts and other entertainment, buy a few Australian products (e.g., souvenirs), and purchase other miscellaneous items and services. And although your meals are sufficient, you also will want to vary your dorm diet and culinary experiences by dining out on occasion, possibly including one (or more) expensive meal(s) in an upscale restaurant.

Because student spending habits vary greatly, it is difficult for us to recommend how much to take in spending money. As a general target figure, we recommend that you take \$150-200 for each week that you will be in Australia. Although it can be done for less, this will provide you with a comfortable minimum to do some of the things listed above. Take more if you plan to travel extensively on your own, or if you plan to make several purchases of Australian products (e.g., clothing or art work).

If you intend to stay in Australia for a Semester or longer, you may wish to consider opening a bank account. You will notice that banks vary their policies considerably. Some will offer different interest rates on savings accounts and many will charge you to exchange your money, but at a reduced fee if you have an account with them. It is advisable to cash these cheques in and open a savings account. Banks will only charge you one service fee and you can access your money via an ATM if you choose.

For students who do not wish to open a savings account, check into locking your cheques away in the UNSW Study Abroad Office.

When entering Australia, avoid rushing to the nearest bank. If you don't need to, exchange your money outside the airport--although exchange of a small amount at the airport is fine. Westpac, one of Australia's major nationwide banks, has a full-service bank located within the international airport terminal. Their exchange rates do not vary much compared to other banks located in town.

Practically all students bring traveler's checks of some type while traveling. However, ATM machines are widely available. ATM cards will give you access to your U.S. bank account and will dispense withdrawals in Australian currency.

Other good tips to consider are:

- Keep your checks separate from your registers.
- Try Australian Traveler's Checks if you are traveling in Australia. Although US\$ will work fine as well.
- Remember there is a fee (usually small) for cashing a US travelers check.
- Do not plan on being able to cash a personal check.
- Money from foreign checks (including cashier's checks) is not immediately available.
- Look into credit card limit increases before you go.
- Leave money for your parents/have them pay-off credit card bills.

Passport and Money Security

Keep your passport, travelers checks and other important papers safe and secure at all times. Although by American standards Australian crime rates are not serious, your passport and your money are a target of thieves. Do not leave such items in your room unattended unless doors and windows are securely locked. Do not leave such items out in the open. Hide them in your room. Check into locking your traveler checks and passport in the office of your residence hall or at the Study Abroad Office (remember, however, that these items may not be available outside normal business hours). Regardless, when carrying such items do not have them hanging out of your pockets, but rather securely tucked away. Do not set purses or handbags down unattended. They may disappear without a trace.

Jet Lag and Plane Sickness

The most common cause of getting sick while travelling is dehydration. Make sure you drink every non-alcoholic beverage they offer you on the plane and avoid caffinated products like colas and coffee. In addition, when traveling with a cold, take a decongestant before you fly. Nothing will ruin a plane ride more than a head cold. Limit alcohol intake on flights; negative after effects of alcohol ingestion are magnified by long flights at high altitudes. The best fluid is and remains water (lots of it) and non-carbonated fruit juices.

If you suffer from motion sickness you may wish to have your doctor prescribe an appropriate preventive medication. However, the jets flying the trans-Pacific route are large (usually Boeing 747s) and offer a very smooth ride.

To combat jet lag, try to make yourself sleep on your destination's time. For example, reset your watch to Australian time once you board the plane. Then try to gauge your sleep around your watch. Once you arrive, fight the urge to sleep until it is a semi-normal time to do so.

In general, you will find that on the way there you adjust faster than on the way home. For a few weeks, you will experience the pleasure of seeing the sunrise each morning. This will lessen over time.

On the way back, make sure you have several days of down-time before any major activities. One important factor to remember is lay-overs. If you have day-long lay-overs on the way there or back, your adjustment will be easier.

Arrival in Sydney for the MSU program participants: We will inform you if we are able to schedule a coach for program participants for travel from the airport to Basser College. Otherwise, you will need to take a cab from the airport to the University of New South Wales. As many of you are arriving on the same flights, share cabs. A cab ride will cost A\$15-20. Tell the driver that you want to be dropped at Kensington Colleges (Basser Hall), University of New South Wales in Randwick (Gate 6 on High Street). It is about a ten minute ride from the airport. Don't plan to arrive at Basser Hall before 8:00 AM. If you clear customs much earlier than that, hang around the airport for a while.

Making Reservations

A majority of students choose to travel on the "group flight" under the program's reservations. There are still decisions to be made, however. First, you will need to decide about traveling within Australia. The Boomerang passes offered through travel agencies can be very good deals depending on your post-program travel plans. You can choose to have your parents purchase these tickets and mail them to you. **YOU CANNOT BUY THEM IN AUSTRALIA.**

Once you know about your travel plans, you can begin to form an itinerary. It is advisable to leave your return tickets open and make the plans in Australia once you have formed friendships and find out what others are doing. After a few weeks, students can start to make plans and contact airlines and other travel companies for reservations. These can be done in person or over the phone. In order to make a reservation you will need to have your ticket numbers and an idea of when you want to leave and where you want to go.

Traveling Outside the Program

Where to Stay: Youth Hostel cards are available prior to departure. These cards allow students to stay in the many Australian Hostels for a lower rate. Often these cards are a waste of \$25. The fee to stay in a Hostel is only a few dollars cheaper with a card, and there are many hostel-style accommodations around Australia which do not require special membership.

Good sources for accommodation are current travel guides. Be sure to pick-up tourism brochures from the airport on arrival. These will list cheaper accommodations targeted at students. Often students can find accommodation for under A\$15 a night. Where ever you decide to stay, attempt to make plans prior to departure. Sometimes you will arrive at a destination early in the morning or late at night. It is nice to be able to know where you are headed when you step off the plane, bus or train.

Cost: Depending on taste, the cost of travelling will vary considerably. Food and lodging will usually cost between A\$30 and A\$50. Special excursions like snorkeling, tours, rainforest trips and other adventure trips cost around A\$100.

Renting a car is often the most affordable method of seeing an area if you have more than one person.
Your U.S. license will be valid in Australia.

Things to Do and See

Sydney

No matter how much time you spend in this metropolis, you can't see and do everything. This is only a partial list of all the things you can see and do while staying at the UNSW:

Day Trips

Taronga Zoo
Botanical Gardens
The Rocks
Palm Beach
Wilderness Parks
Contemporary Art Museum
Sydney Aquarium and Oceanworld
Opera House
CentrepoinTE Tower and shopping complex

Repeat Trips

Coogee Beach
Manly Beach
Darling Harbor
Bondi Beach
Circular Quay

Night Life

Hard Rock Cafe
Paragon
Hero of Waterloo
the "Rocks"
Coogee Bay Hotel
Coogee Beach Palace

Special Events

Sydney Festival
Blue Mountain Abseiling Trip
Concert in the Park
Opera House shows
Australia Day Fireworks
Big Day Out Concert
Bondi-Coogee Walk

For a more complete guide of things to do in Sydney, read the materials provided by the UNSW Study Abroad Office and pick up a copy of The Harbour Connection at Circular Quay or a Qantas office. Getting around to these places is not hard once you are used to it. To get into Downtown Sydney and the Harbour, take the Circular Quay bus from bus stop across the road from New College (ANZAC

Parade). A bus will also get you to Bondi via Bondi Junction. To get into Coogee, take a bus, cab (about A\$8-10) or walk.

Canberra

Canberra, the nation's capital, has a population of about 300,000. It is about a three and one-half hour drive from Sydney and two hour drives east from the coast and south west to the snow fields and the snowy mountains. Canberra is a garden city situated inland among rolling hills. Its modern government buildings, especially those on Parliament Hill, are engineering masterpieces. Canberra is a planned city, much on the order of Washington, D.C. After Sydney, Canberra may appear tame, but it has much to offer. It certainly is far less congested than Sydney and has many parks and green areas. Sites such as the High Court, Parliament House and a Sheep Farm are a part of the MSU trip. Other points of interest are:

- Canberra has all the facilities you would expect to find in a national capital with a multicultural community - including restaurants, societies and places of worship.
- Over 70 countries have diplomatic representation in Canberra.
- Students from over 60 different countries study in Canberra at ANU.
- Canberra is the seat of national government and has many national institutions, including: the Parliament House.
- Australian Academy of Science
- Australian National Gallery
- High Court of Australia
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Library
- National Science and Technology Centre

Canberra is the headquarters for the Australian Federal Public Service, which researches and implements government policies. It includes a number of research-based government bodies, such as:

- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Institute of Health
- Australian Institute of Sport
- Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization - including divisions such as: Plant Industry, Soils, Water Resources, Wildlife and Ecology, Mathematics and Statistics, Information Technology, Space Science
- National Museum of Australia

Day Trips

Australian Institute of Sport
Australian War Museum
Parliament House
Questacon
Royal Mint
Telecom Tower
Botanical Gardens
National Art Gallery
Aboriginal Embassy

Repeat Trips

Olympic Pool
Hume Go-Karts
Belconnen and Woden Shopping
Canberra Centre (Mall)

Night Life

Canberra Inn
Casino Canberra
La Grange Boutique Bar & Brasserie
Mooseheads
Pandora's at Night
Rascal's

Special Events

Tour of the Embassies
Canberra Festival
Bike/Rollerblade tour of Lake Burley Griffith
Snowy Mountains
Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
Tidbinbilla NASA tracking station

After the Program

Once the program is over, each student will have places of interest that they want to see. Key travel destinations most favored by the groups in the past include: Cairns/Port Douglas, New Zealand, Gold Coast and Brisbane, Melbourne and Hobart.

When organizing your travel, take into account the difference in Australian seasons. If you want to go to Queensland or the Northern Territory, go later in the season. February and March are the end of the rainy season. The weather is better if you wait until Fall. Melbourne and Hobart start to get chilly as you enter March, so you start here and go up.

If you want to go to Melbourne and Tasmania, a good idea is to fly into one, take the ferry across the Tasmanian Straight and then leave from the other. Similarly, Ayres Rock (Ulluru) and Alice Springs are within driving distance. If you want to view both, fly into one and out of the other.