



International Student's Guide to Deakin Medical School

By Peace Nguyen & Nabid Abdullah



WHAT'S NEXT?

First of all, we would like to shout a big congratulation to you all. You have done an amazing job!!!

In the next four years, enjoy learning and meeting new souls, Deakin's greatest asset is its diversity. And believe us, the people that you will meet here will embark your journey of becoming a great doctor.

Next is how to obtain your Student VISA:

Documents

- Make sure you obtain all the relevant documents and their scanned certified copies (COE, Passport)

Lodge your application

- Lodge your application online with ImmiAccount
- You can contact Deakin's International Student Service or IDP for help

Waiting for results

- Organize your health examination as soon as possible
- Once your application is lodged, it takes about 2-3 weeks for the result to come through via your nominated email address

Settling in Geelong:

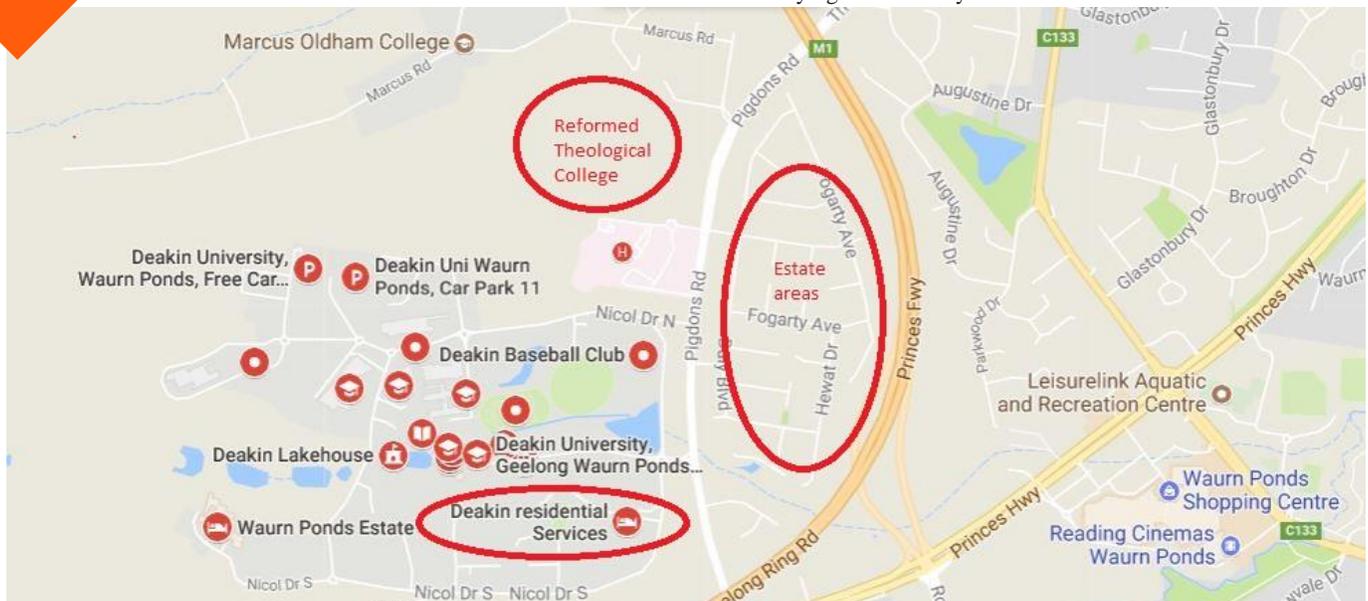
Not just international students, most students prefer to live close to campus. Although you have 8am start, sometimes, waking up at 7:50 is necessary.

There are a couple of options:

- **Deakin Residential Services** accommodation, quite expensive but more secure with new facility, costs about \$950/month. There is also a dining package provided which offers dinners 5 nights/week with extra charge.
- **Estate areas**, which is the neighborhood right opposite to Waurn Ponds Campus, renting rate is about \$150 - \$160/week incl. bills
- **Reformed Theological College** is about 10 minute walk to campus that has long-term rent package with 3 meals/day included, costs about \$900/month.

Tips: If you're not in the country, we suggest you to organize a temporary accommodation first, once you've arrived, you can decide where you would like to settle in.

As you can see from the map below, most accommodation are within 5-10 minute walk to campus, shopping centre and Leisurelink are less than 5 minute drive. Also, there are buses from campus to these places. There is also a free intercampus shuttle bus if you want to check out the Waterfront library. Nothing can beat a view of the ocean while studying in the library!



What to pack:

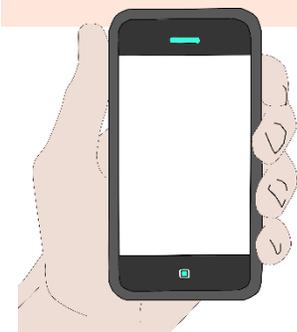
- Geelong's weather is quite unpredictable, make sure you bring with you a multipurpose jacket. What do we mean by that? The jacket that is warm, water and wind-proof so it does not matter what weather it's in, you can still wear it.
- Make sure you bring your formal clothes for clinical placements.
- Home-made delicacies? Of course, being away from home, these are much appreciated. However, having to explain yourselves and negotiating with border securities are not fun. Make sure you know what you are bringing across the border is allowed.
- Other personal belongings, bring your favorites, but don't be overwhelmed that you cannot bring everything. The truth is, Australia has everything here, just more expensive.

**Transporting:**

- There are Skybus at the airport that you can take, costs \$19/way. This will take you to Southern Cross station in about 30 minutes. V/line trains to Geelong/ Waurn Ponds station are every 1 hours so take your time, this costs \$12.60. Then you call a taxi to take you to your accommodation, costs about \$10-\$15.
- Otherwise, Deakin Airport Pick-up is also available for commencing students. A form is available online to fill in and submit.

Finance:

- Deakin International Service can assist you in setting up your own bank account.
- Otherwise, you can go to a branch office and their staff would prompt you there. Don't forget to bring your Passport with you. If you happen to have your student ID ready, bring it, you won't have to pay any fee to maintain your bank account as a student.
- Post-office also has Western Union so your parents can also send money straight to you.

**Communication:**

- There are a range of mobile phone service providers that you can choose from. Grab yourself a \$2 simcard and follow the prompt on the package to activate it. After that, you can play with the various options available, including different rates, different plans for you to try until you find that one that suits your usage.
- Some of the provider also has plan that allow you to call overseas. Choose the plan wisely and keep track of what your allowance include so you don't surprise yourself with a \$300 mobile phone bill. Trust me, it happens.
- There is Wifi on campus, most accommodation would have Wifi provided so using it to communicate with your family is the best option. Don't try using your mobile phone internet, please don't. Next minute you know, you will get a text saying you are out of credit.

Food:

- There are buses from Waurn Ponds Campus that take you to Waurn Ponds Shopping Centre. Major supermarkets like Coles, Woolworths, Aldi are all within the proximity.
- Fast-food stores including KFC, McDonald's, and Subway are also close to the Shopping Centre.
- However, these places are close by 5pm weekdays and by 9pm on weekends. Make sure you stock up or live with someone you know that always stored extra food.

**Water:**

- Don't worry about it, just drink from the tap. Australian's style!

Last but not least:

- Enjoy your flight!
- Explore the campus! There are clubs that you can join! Meet new people! Don't forget to check out MeDUSA's website: <http://www.medusa.org.au/>
- **And remember to become the doctor you want to be!**