Living in Victoria and the Capital Territory: Melbourne and Canberra Housing Options

- Australian National University
- Monash University
- University of Melbourne
- Victorian College of the Arts
Living abroad will provide you with one of the most memorable and enriching times in your life. It goes beyond the surface attractions of traveling to fully immerse you in a new culture—challenging your identity, providing new perspectives and allowing you to grow. Living abroad is more than a bedroom and meal plan; it is about the experiences that you will have, the friends that you will make and the person that you will become. Take this time before you depart to reflect on the kinds of experiences that you would like to have when reviewing this brochure.

As a participant on an Arcadia University Center for Education Abroad program, you are guaranteed housing for the duration of your program. This housing booklet will assist you with selecting your housing preferences. While every effort will be made to accommodate your requests, specific placements and preferences cannot be guaranteed. Arcadia’s priority is to accommodate you in a place conducive to academic learning and cultural immersion. Arcadia selects accommodation venues based on these factors, in addition to considering safety, security, cleanliness and comfort. For these reasons, Arcadia reserves the right to alter or change accommodation options at any time.

The cost of your housing is included in your program fee. Additional costs will apply for meal plans. If your housing option includes a meal plan, the cost of your plan will be invoiced to your billing address after you have arrived in Australia. If your housing is listed as self-catered, you will have a kitchen facility available.

Please read through the materials carefully, complete the Housing Preference Form and return it to our office by mail or fax. All materials can be sent to:

Arcadia University
Center for Education Abroad
450 S. Easton Rd.
Glenside, PA 19038
Fax: 215 572 2174
Email: richards@arcadia.edu

In order to provide the most up to date, accurate information, refer to the websites listed throughout this brochure. These websites should provide you with information on location, proximity to university, appearance, available facilities, rules and regulations and meal plan availability. Also listed on the websites will be information on how to apply directly to the housing complex, housing application deadlines and housing fees—please note that this does not apply to you. All of your housing costs are already covered by Arcadia University. Do not issue payment or send a housing application directly to the university or college. This will only create confusion in Australia, and may lead to a delay in your placement.
In order to register your housing preferences, you will need to submit a Housing Preference Form for your overseas program. The housing forms can be found on our website at www.arcadia.edu/cea/forms. Please download, complete and return the appropriate form by the housing deadline. The housing deadline is **December 1** for Semester 1 and **April 30** for Semester 2. Students who do not submit a Housing Preference Form by the housing deadline will automatically be assigned available accommodation.

Arcadia University can only consider one roommate request. All roommate requests must be mutual and in writing. While every effort will be made to consider your request, Arcadia cannot guarantee such requests.

It is important to note any dietary, medical or physical conditions which may effect your housing placement on your preference sheet. Such conditions will be treated as highly confidential and will only be shared with those individuals involved in your housing placement.

If you intend to apply for Residential College accommodation, please note that you may be required to submit an additional application. Those colleges requiring additional materials are noted in this brochure. These applications can be found on the Arcadia website at www.arcadia.edu/cea/forms. You will not be considered for Residential College accommodation unless this application is returned to our office.
Should you have any questions or concerns about housing, please feel free to contact the Arcadia University staff.

**American Staff**

**Andrew Downs** – Program Coordinator: Australia. 
downs@arcadia.edu

Andrew Downs will be your main contact for housing questions and concerns throughout your time preparing for Australia. Mr. Downs has visited Australia numerous times and has toured the accommodation venues and is happy to assist you with any questions or concerns.

**Sue Richardson** – Assistant Coordinator: Australia & New Zealand 
richards@arcadia.edu

Sue Richardson works with all of the Arcadia programs in Australia. Ms. Richardson has visited Australia and toured the accommodation venues and is well prepared to assist you throughout the housing process.

**Australian Staff**

**Stewart Dickinson** – Assistant Director, Victoria 
dickinss@arcadia.edu

Stewart Dickinson will be your primary contact during your time in Australia. He will be available to address concerns about your housing, program choice and any other personal concerns once you arrive in Melbourne or Canberra. Additionally, Stewart’s background as a lecturer at the University of Melbourne makes him a valuable resource while you are studying in Australia.

**Melissa Boyne** – Student Administrator: Victoria 
boynem@arcadia.edu

Melissa Boyne has worked with Arcadia University in the United States and Australia and is well positioned to assist students throughout their time in Australia. Ms. Boyne has studied abroad in Australia and is familiar with many of the issues facing students.

**Mark Liddle** – Student Services Coordinator, NSW & ACT 
liddlem@arcadia.edu

Mark Liddle works in the Arcadia University Sydney Office and will the primary contact for students at the Australian National University during their time in Australia. Mr. Liddle will also coordinate activities for students in Canberra.
What is a Residential College?

“College is a safe and secure environment and truly a home away from home. Its location on campus enables students to maximize their university experience”.

A residential college is unlike the accommodation options at most colleges and universities in the US. It is less like a dorm and more like a living community. Residential colleges are located on campus, but maintain an independence from the university. They foster an atmosphere that promotes their own educational philosophy and ethical values. Residential 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 expectation of behavior; 2) they are encouraged to participate in the community life of the college, including social events, sports and other organized activities.

While many residential colleges were founded on religious or social traditions, they have evolved into open, tolerant institutions accepting students from a variety of religious, social, ethnic and international backgrounds. In many cases, religious services and social events are on offer, but they are not mandatory components of college life. In fact, students of differing backgrounds have found that they offer an extraordinary opportunity to meet and interact with students from within Australia and around the world.

While Arcadia University strongly encourages students to consider college life, admission into residential colleges is highly selective. Unfortunately, not all students who request to live in a college can be accommodated. When completing your Housing Preference Form, it is important to present yourself as a well-rounded individual interested in joining the college community. Applications are reviewed on an individual basis, weighing the academic and social contribution that each student offers. Because of the selective nature of residential colleges, it is advisable that you review the alternative accommodation options and indicate these on your Housing Preference Form. Additionally, students who choose to live in the colleges should be aware that local students do not generally return to the colleges until the weekend before lectures begin.
Student Testimonial #1

Before leaving for my semester at the University of Sydney, I had been told much about the college system. With a friend living at St. Andrew’s the year before, I felt pretty knowledgeable about colleges and felt comfortable with my decision to live in St. Johns. In my experience, however, verbal (and probably written) accounts of college life pale in comparison with the actual experience. Looking back, I would not trade my time at Johns for living in the nicest apartment in Sydney. This is not to say that the college experience is for everyone, because I am confident that there are many people who would prefer to live in apartments. It depends primarily on what you are looking for in your abroad experience.

After living in college and spending the past five months living, talking, and spending time with Australian students, I can point out big differences between Australian and American cultures. As I near the end of my time here, I find myself very sad about being forced to leave a number of people who have become extremely close friends. While other Americans went out with their American friends, I spent my time with my Australian friends, sometimes being shocked by them, but overall loving them. The best way for me to describe the college experience is perhaps to say that I will define my experience in terms of the people that I met, rather than the places that I visited, unlike many other American students.

Despite the not so good food, and smallish rooms that look like closets compared to some of the rooms in the apartments, I would still choose to live here if I had the semester to do over. I truly love some of the people that I have met over here and plan to come back this summer, if not sooner. I am so thankful to my friends who told me about the college system before came here – it made my experience.

Student Testimonial #2

You will be surrounded by Australians, who will not only welcome you, but actually drag you into their social circle. Starting from the minute you drop your bags in your room, you will literally have a full calendar until the day you leave. The first month is the highlight: a month packed with sporting events, dinners, pub crawls, games, movies, and finally culminating in the great Baxter Ball. The Ball is a formal dinner/dance in the heart of Sydney that Baxterians look forward to immensely each session. The best part of all the millions of social events is that they are all handed to you. You arrive in a city that you know nothing about and Baxter will ensure you see every part.

Much more than the social extravaganza, the real reason to live in Baxter is the people. I arrived for Session 2 as one of twenty Americans moving into Baxter. All the Aussie residents had of course started in Session 1 and friendships had already been forged. From memories of similar situations, I was immediately on edge and uncomfortable. I was convinced that I would only make friends with the Americans I showed up with and may as well have lived elsewhere. Half way through day one, my fears were laid to rest after doing a few lay-backs and being inviting into a pick-up soccer game. From that moment on, I was as much a part of the group as anyone.

I made some amazing friends in my time here. With one, we started a weekly coffee outing just as an excuse to see the city. The two of us drove to the far reaches of the city and saw all the different neighborhoods in Sydney. Another friend taught me to surf and dragged me out of bed every morning at 6:00 am to go to the beach because we had to beat the wind. If nothing else, living in Baxter gives you the local’s advantage. I went to all the best bars, clubs, and restaurants because of the resource of local knowledge I had at my doorstep.

When you are deciding where to live in Sydney, evaluate your reasons for coming. Will you make friends with large groups of Americans who are just like you? Probably not. But will you be exposed to true Australian culture and true Australians? Absolutely. You will make friends with people on the other side of the world who are nothing like you, yet have so much in common. Leaving is harder of course. Being an Ex-Ressie is sad because all of your friends are now over 8000 miles away. But if it were easy to leave, what was the point in going at all? I hope you choose to have a real adventure and experience all that you can with your time in Australia. Good luck.
Living Abroad in a Student Apartment or Flat

For many students, living in a student flat or apartment while overseas allows them a new sense of independence. It is often the first opportunity for students to prepare their own meals and manage many aspects of their daily lives. Living in a student flat or apartment fosters an atmosphere more conducive to independent living. In addition, apartments and flats enable students to create an environment that is comfortable to their individual lifestyle. Whether you are a night-owl or prefer the quiet solace of your room, living in a flat or apartment will allow you to manage your life as you prefer.

You will typically be housed with other American students, or other international students studying in Australia. In most cases, you will be preparing your own meals and commuting a short distance to campus. Please review the websites for each housing complex for specific details pertaining to services and location.

Independent Living

While Arcadia University guarantees housing for all students, you reserve the right to opt out of program accommodation and seek independent accommodation. If you choose to live independently you must notify Arcadia University in writing by November 30 (for Semester I) or April 30 (for Semester II). If Arcadia University does not receive your written notification by these dates, you will be automatically assigned accommodation and be subject to our published withdrawal penalties.

Should you choose to live independently, your account will be credited the housing portion of your program fee. As with most large cities, housing in Melbourne or Canberra can be very expensive. The housing allowance credit may not be sufficient to cover all your housing expenses.

Arcadia University will provide a temporary five-night accommodation option for your first five nights in Melbourne or Canberra while you secure your independent housing. The supplemental fee for this service is $250. At the end of the five-night stay, Arcadia University will have no obligation to provide housing. If, however, you decide to live in Arcadia's program housing, you may request to do so in return for payment of the full semester's housing fee. Arcadia University will provide program housing only if space is available.
Residential Colleges

- Burgmann College: [http://www.burgmann.anu.edu.au](http://www.burgmann.anu.edu.au)
- Bruce Hall: [http://brucehall.anu.edu.au](http://brucehall.anu.edu.au)
- John XXIII College: [http://johnxxiii.anu.edu.au](http://johnxxiii.anu.edu.au)
- Ursula College: [http://ursula.anu.edu.au](http://ursula.anu.edu.au)
Clayton & Caulfield Campuses

The Halls of Residence at Monash University are located on the Clayton campus. Like residential colleges, they encourage an active student community and have special structures in place to support students socially and educationally. Students are able to cook for themselves in student kitchens or purchase food at the joint dining hall. Students studying at the Caulfield campus, roughly five miles away, are housed at the Clayton campus. Many students take courses at both Clayton and Caulfield campuses and travel between them using the free shuttle service provided by university.

Students are placed in various halls to mix and integrate with Australian and other international students living on campus. All of the halls are grouped together in a garden setting, ten minutes walk from academic buildings. While students can indicate the hall in which they would prefer to live, Monash Residential Services cannot guarantee any specific placements.

Gippsland Campus

Students attending the Gippsland campus in rural Victoria will be accommodated in the Student Residences on campus. Most students will live in the West Houses, located adjacent to the campus. The West Houses accommodate up to six students, each in private bedrooms, with shared bathrooms and common areas. Students living in the residences have the option of preparing their own meals in cooking facilities or purchasing individual meals from the campus cafeteria.
University of Melbourne Housing Options

Residential Colleges


- **Medley Hall**: [www.medleyhall.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.medleyhall.unimelb.edu.au) Originally an ornate mansion, it has been converted to a student residence. A ten-minute walk to campus.

- **Newman College**: [www.newman.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.newman.unimelb.edu.au) Located next to university sports complex. Formal dinner held three nights per week. Located in the college crescent.

- **Ormond College**: [www.ormond.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.ormond.unimelb.edu.au) Melbourne’s largest college. Neo-Gothic buildings with extensive gardens. Several formal functions held during the year. In the college crescent.

- **Queen’s College**: [www_queens.unimelb.edu.au](http://www_queens.unimelb.edu.au) Located along the college crescent. Has clubs that organize debates and discussions throughout the semester and produces an annual musical and play.

- **Trinity College**: [www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/res](http://www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/res) Melbourne’s oldest college. Publishes an annual literary publication and holds speaking and writing competitions in addition to music and drama productions. In the college crescent.

- **University College**: [www.unicol.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unicol.unimelb.edu.au) Established as a women’s college, it is now co-educational. Set on five acres of beautiful gardens. Located adjacent to the college crescent.

Student Apartments and Flats

- **College Square Lygon**: [www.collegesquare.ymca.org.au](http://www.collegesquare.ymca.org.au) Self-catered student apartments are available in the College Square Lygon complex. Apartments are twin-share and have a bathroom, living room, kitchen and study area. The complex provides a wide range of recreational facilities for residents in addition to 24 hour reception. Apartments are close to the Lygon Street shopping and entertainment district and a 10 – 15 minute walk to campus.
Residential Colleges

- **Medley Hall**: [www.medleyhall.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.medleyhall.unimelb.edu.au) Located within close proximity to the Melbourne Central Business District, Medley Hall offers residential college-style accommodation to students at the Victorian College of the Arts. Students of the VCA should be prepared to make a short commute to campus and are responsible for any associated costs.

Student Apartments and Flats

- **College Square**: [www.collegesquare.ymca.org.au](http://www.collegesquare.ymca.org.au) Self-catered student apartments are available in the College Square Lygon complex near the University of Melbourne campus. Apartments are twin share and have a bathroom, living room, kitchen and study area. The complex provides a wide range of recreational facilities for residents in addition to 24 hour reception. Apartments are close to the Lygon Street shopping and entertainment district. Students should be prepared for a commute to the VCA campus and will be responsible for any associated costs.
About Canberra

Canberra, located in the Australian Capital Territory, is perhaps Australia’s best kept secret. In addition to the prominence of government buildings that one may expect to see in any national capital, the city and its surrounding suburbs are home to countless museums, galleries, international restaurants and local wineries. Because of the large number of university students in Canberra, a vibrant nightlife scene has developed. Additionally, as a planned city, Canberra is easily navigable and offers ample parklands and recreational space.

About Melbourne

Melbourne is commonly recognized as the cultural capital of Australia, boasting a huge assortment of museums, galleries, theaters, gardens, restaurants and shops. Many visitors to the city enjoy the café culture that is a distinct characteristic of Melburnian life. In addition, Melbourne is only a short distance from the Grampian Mountains to the north, the picturesque Great Ocean Road to the west and the vineyards along the Mornington Peninsula to the south.
**Other Important Notes:**

- Arcadia University selects our student residences on the basis of security cost, livability, and convenience. As housing varies from year to year, do not base your preferences or expectations on reports from former students. Facilities will vary from house to house, but each property must meet our basic standards.

- Please remember that beyond meeting general standards; there is no way to guarantee uniformity of apartment and room sizes, distance from your university, furnishings or extra facilities.

- In a typical Australian residence, air-conditioning and central heating are not standard features. The average temperature through the year does not warrant central heating or air-conditioning. You should not expect central heating or air conditioning in your residence. Electric blankets, room/window fans and space heaters are the preferred methods of temperature control in residences. Keep in mind that you will need some time to acclimate to the dramatic change in season that you will encounter when traveling to Australia.

- The various accommodation venues used by Arcadia University at Australian Universities have differing policies regarding costs associated with the establishment of local phone accounts, internet accounts and other supplementary services. Some venues provide these services, while others do not. You should be aware that around $100 US may be needed to cover these establishment costs.

- Your housing will remain available to you during your mid-semester break. However, housing cannot be guaranteed once the semester has ended. If you intend to stay in Australia after your program is completed, or between semesters, you must notify Arcadia University in Melbourne of your intentions. We will attempt to assist your request, but you may encounter additional costs as well as a need to change rooms. Please speak to the Arcadia University Australian staff as soon as you become aware of your needs.

- Please review the Arcadia University Housing Policy at www.arcadia.edu/cea/forms.

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**Keep in Mind………**

During your semester you will encounter differences between American culture and Australian culture. Remember that studying and living abroad can be quite rewarding and frustrating at the same time. Presumably, encountering these differences is why you are seeking to study abroad. So, be flexible, try to understand why such differences exist and immerse yourself in the culture! Your openness and appreciation of a different culture will allow you to grow and mature as an individual. As you will often hear, "No worries, mate!"
Housing Policy

Your decision to reside in Arcadia University-arranged housing, whether it is a residential or a family-stay situation, is an important one. Because we must make student housing arrangements long in advance of the start of each program, we treat your choice of accommodation as a serious commitment. Unless you tell us otherwise, we assume that you wish to live for the duration of your overseas program in the housing that you ask us to arrange for you before your program begins.

To assist those students who know from the beginning that they wish to live independently, and to be clear about the options available to any students who change their minds about their housing decision during the first days of their program, Arcadia University makes the following choices available:

1. Students who have - or who are confident they will be able to secure - independent housing throughout their program may:
   
   A. Decline program-arranged accommodation except for orientation (and homestay). Arcadia University will waive the housing portion of the Arcadia program fee and will have no obligation to provide housing for these students.  
   
   OR
   
   B. Request that Arcadia arrange for five nights of accommodation following orientation (and homestay) in the city in which the program is located. The supplemental fee for this service is $250. At the end of the five-night stay, Arcadia University will have no obligation to provide housing for the student. If, however, the student then decides to live in Arcadia’s program housing, s/he may request to do so in return for payment of the full semester’s housing fee. Arcadia University will provide program housing for these students only if space is available.

   NOTE: Students who intend to exercise either of the above options must inform their Arcadia program coordinator of this decision by the following deadlines to avoid the imposition of a supplemental $500 administrative charge (as stipulated in 2-A, below):

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Southern Hemisphere Programs</th>
<th>Northern Hemisphere Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Academic Year and Fall</td>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>30 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring or Southern Hemisphere</td>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>20 November</td>
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<td>Academic Year</td>
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<td>U.S. Summer</td>
<td>31 March</td>
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2. Students who live in housing provided or arranged by Arcadia University:

   A. May decide to live independently after the deadline stated above but before taking up residence abroad. For these students, Arcadia will waive the housing portion of the program fee minus a $500 administrative charge.

   OR

   B. May decide to leave Arcadia-arranged accommodation (to live independently) during the first five days of its availability. For these students, Arcadia will waive the housing portion of the program fee except for a $1,000 administrative charge.

   OR

   C. May decide to live independently after having had access to program housing for more than five days. For these students, there will be no housing refund from Arcadia University.
Monash University
Housing Preference Form

This form must be returned to Arcadia University before the housing deadline in order to consider your preference. While we will make every effort to accommodate your preferences, they cannot be guaranteed.

Name: ___________________________________  Sex: __________  Date of Birth: ______________________

Home College/University: _______________________________  Major: ______________________________

Clayton Campus & Caulfield Campus: Caulfield Campus does not provide on-campus housing. All students studying at Caulfield Campus will be housed at Clayton Campus, about 9 km away. Public transportation does run between the two campuses.

_____ Halls of Residence
   If you have a residence hall preference, please indicate_____________________________________

_____ Independent Living (You are responsible for finding and paying for your own accommodation).
   Please check here if you wish to utilize the temporary five-night accommodation option, in
   Melbourne for an additional $250?

Gippsland Campus:

_____ Student Residences
   If you have a residence preference, please indicate: _________________________________________

_____ Independent Living (You are responsible for finding and paying for your own accommodation).
   Please check here if you wish to utilize the temporary five-night accommodation option, in
   Gippsland for an additional $250?

Do you smoke:  Yes/No
Would you live with a smoker:  Yes/No
Are you a vegetarian/vegan:  Yes/No
Do you have any dietary concerns:  Yes/No
If Yes, please explain: ___________________________________________________________________

Do you drink alcohol:  Yes/No
Would you live with people who drink alcohol:  Yes/No
Would you consider a co-ed floor/flat:  Yes/No
Are you strictly religious:  Yes/No
If Yes, please explain: ___________________________________________________________________

Please list your academic interests:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any sport interests, activities or other hobbies which you enjoy:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please list your musical interests, either by genre or artist:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any physical, health or medical conditions that might affect your housing placement:

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Campus accommodation can fulfill different needs for different individuals. Some view their living space as simply a place to sleep and throw their clothes, as they experience the outside world. To others, accommodation can be viewed as their sanctuary—a place to collect themselves in an often challenging and stressful environment. Still others view accommodation not by the physical space, but by the people they share it with. How do you view the role your accommodation will play in your experience abroad? What needs should it fulfill for you?

How would you describe yourself to a potential roommate? Specifically, what personal characteristics or traits of yours might a potential roommate find difficult?

Please list your interests, hobbies, or anything else about yourself that might aid us in issuing your housing assignment:

I have read, understand and accept the Arcadia University housing policy:

Signature:_________________________________________________ Date:___________________

Please return this form to:
Arcadia University
Center for Education Abroad
450 South Easton Road
Glenside, PA 19038
Fax: 215.572.2174
richards@arcadia.edu