



A cool guide for
international students



So, you're thinking
about moving to
Australia to study.

It's an exciting step...

There are lots of things to think about. As a respected student accommodation partner, we have a lot of experience in this field and we have gained some great insight from our students over the years.

To help you navigate your way through the journey of moving to Australia to study, we want to share some of these insights.

Deciding
where to live

What to
look for

What Iglu
can offer

Tips for
settling in

On or off campus? That is the question.



Where you choose to live while studying can have a big impact on your overall study abroad experience so make sure you weigh up all of the options before signing on the dotted line.

For many students the biggest decision is whether to live in on-campus or off-campus student accommodation. Both have their benefits. What really counts is the experience you want to create and how you can best do that.

Living on-campus has the advantage of convenience – being close to class means you never have far to go. But given you probably don't spend all day, every day going to classes, what happens when the lights go out on campus? In some cases, your options might be quite limited.

Off-campus living is often the preferred choice as it offers all of the supportive benefits of the on-campus model, along with flexibility, convenience and these unique advantages that are worth considering.

A diverse social network – living with students from other universities and colleges, as well as from different corners of the globe, expands friendships beyond your day-to-day academic and social circles.

A motivating experience – living with like-minded people who are eager to explore their new surrounds, you'll have friends motivating you to get out and experience everything your chosen city has to offer.

A change of scene – leaving campus each day and returning to a world with a fresh perspective, keeps life interesting and you can separate your study and living environments.

There are arguments for both sides of the accommodation coin, so make sure you research each option and consider whether the location and facilities are exactly right for your needs. At Iglu, we are always happy to simply have a chat and answer any questions to help you make the right choice for you.

Remember, you don't just want a place to stay, you want a place to live.

What to look for in accommodation

Is it important to you to be close to campus, or are you happy to travel each day? Do you enjoy having a like-minded community close at hand or do you crave solitude? Is it nice to have the odd amenity or are convenience and accessibility simply non-negotiable?

We all have different needs and requirements, and what works well for one may feel inconceivable to another. Here are some key considerations that can help you decide what exactly you are looking for – and what might best fit your needs.

LOCATION

If you know you're the type of student who doesn't necessarily always leave enough time to get to lectures, or simply enjoys the convenience of having essential amenity on your doorstep, location will be a key consideration. Being close to transport means less commuting time and more you time.

COMMUNITY

Feeling part of a community will be one of the most enjoyable aspects of your time at uni. Living and studying with like-minded individuals creates experiences, memories and networking opportunities. The key is achieving a balance between quiet time and time to let off steam.

SAFETY

A sense of safety and security when we are at home is a fundamental need for all of us. If this is at the top of your list when choosing where to live, it's important to look for accommodation options with in-built security measures such as CCTV, 24/7 onsite assistance and secure key entry.

Iglu Summer Hill, Sydney



COMPANY

Do you prefer your own space? Will you want to share your living space with friends, or maybe meet some new ones? Decide on your preferences and then work out where you will find what you're looking for. Don't feel pressured to just do what your friends are doing, do what works best for you.

SUPPORT

If you're keen to get stuck in to university life, check out what is on offer to help you settle in and get involved. Are there events or activities that draw the community together? How can you meet fellow students? Also consider what support is available for those times when life gets a little bumpy.

BUDGET

It's goes without saying that a major determining factor in the whole, 'where to live' decision, will be what you can actually afford. Do your research, always read the small print carefully, and check out inclusions such as utilities and wi-fi usage to avoid any unwelcome surprises when the bill arrives.

Iglu is built for students

Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) offers a sense of community and belonging as you settle into your new city, making it a popular choice for international students.

As one of Australia's leading student accommodation providers, Iglu is committed to delivering a great living experience through cool design and warm hospitality.

We know that student living is about more than lectures and tutorials, and that education doesn't just happen inside a classroom. We also appreciate that a balanced approach is key to succeeding in all aspects of life, and that learning to achieve that balance can be challenging.

Iglu is all about...



Location

Getting to campus on time, going shopping, catching a movie, meeting friends for coffee, or heading out to explore the city, should all be easy. Our locations facilitate and maximise your student experience and get you right to where you need to be.



Support

We want you to always feel safe and secure. Each Iglu property has CCTV and secure swipe card access to the building, lifts and apartments. Add 24/7 onsite support and you can rest assured that your personal safety is paramount while you live at Iglu.



Community

You have a built-in community right outside your door. When it's time to close the books, our events are a chance to come together and meet your neighbours. There's always something to do and always someone to hang out with.



Flexibility

Take advantage of generous social and study spaces. Choose a private bedroom in a share apartment or your own studio or one-bedroom apartment. Use the cool amenities to cook with friends, or head out for a bite. The choice is yours.



A man with a backpack is standing in a modern building hallway, looking towards a reception desk. The hallway has a polished floor and a concrete wall. In the background, there is a staircase and a large window. The reception desk has a white counter and a computer monitor. Two people are working behind the counter.

We are here for you.
Always.

At Iglu, we support our residents and help them develop and grow as individuals while living in a positive and welcoming environment.

We know that student living is about more than lectures and tutorials, and that education doesn't just happen inside a classroom. We also appreciate that a balanced approach is key to succeeding in all aspects of life, and that learning to achieve that balance can be challenging.

That's why these things are at the core of everything we do.

A supportive environment

It really doesn't take long to make good friends at Iglu and feel like you're part of the Iglu family. We have a team of Resident Leaders (RLs) living onsite who are available to talk to you about any personal stresses and strains you may be experiencing. RLs are students, just like you, and understand what you are going through. They are trained in senior first aid and emergency management.

Life at Iglu

Research shows that students involved in a range of high quality extra-curricular activities have a significantly higher level of satisfaction with their university experience. We support this through our facilities and our regular program of resident community events and activities focusing on:

- » Academic Achievement (e.g. designated study space, wi-fi for all residents)
- » Health and Wellbeing (e.g. weekday breakfast, free fruit, onsite gym where possible, a supportive team)
- » Social Engagement (e.g. table tennis and pool tables, celebrating different cultural events and festivals)
- » Meaning and Purpose (e.g. fundraising to help others)

Providing environments and resources to support and enrich the journey of residents through their tertiary education is not just our job, it is why we exist.



Tips for settling in

Studying overseas can be one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of your life. It is a unique opportunity to appreciate a different culture and way of life right from the inside out.

But it's sometimes easy to get lost in all the excitement and forget about any wider challenges that may lie ahead – until they meet you face on. To avoid any dramas it is definitely worthwhile having a think in advance about the inevitable ripple effects that may impact your student experience, so that you are best equipped to deal with everything before it happens.

Whether it's making friends, finding your way around or dealing with a new language, nothing is insurmountable – and in Australia you are perfectly placed to have all the help and support you need right at hand.

• Connect

When moving to a new country, it's tempting to stay within familiar circles, but try to avoid isolating yourself. The best way to adjust and make friends is by getting involved in the local community. Australians are known for being friendly, so engaging with them will help you connect and enjoy your surroundings. Stay busy by trying new activities, embracing customs, and learning local slang. Keep an open mind and be part of the community.

• Adjust

Australia may seem far from what you're used to, and adjusting can feel daunting. Don't worry – settling in takes time, and that's perfectly normal. After the initial excitement fades, expect a period of adjustment before feeling at home. To ease the transition, live like a local – shop locally, use public transport, and save extra money to embrace new experiences. Every little bit will help you adapt to your new environment.

• Share

Feeling homesick is a normal part of living somewhere new but the wonders of wi-fi make it easy to stay in touch with family and friends. It can be reassuring to set up a regular touch-point, especially in the early days. Sharing your new experiences with family and friends reinforces the awesome opportunity you have created in moving to Australia to study. Be sure to also have things around you that make you feel at home.

• Enjoy

Studying abroad isn't just about academic success; it's a chance to create lasting memories. Embrace your new home by exploring its culture, landscapes, and history. Try new foods, travel widely, and truly absorb your surroundings. If possible, avoid working during the first few months to fully immerse yourself in the experience. Take this opportunity to broaden your horizons and make the most of your exciting journey.

• Balance

Living overseas can be costly, so it's important to manage your finances wisely. However, balance is key in more than just spending. Make sure your studies don't overshadow your health – maintain a schedule that includes academic, social, and physical activities. Eating a healthy diet will boost your energy and academic performance. A balanced lifestyle ensures both your body and mind stay in good shape.

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Iglu Mascot, Sydney



You can head to our dedicated international student hub to learn more about living at Iglu.

www.iglu.com.au | [#livecoolatiglu](https://www.instagram.com/livecoolatiglu)