

International Student Pre-Departure Webinar



Castle Hill, Townsville



CRICOS Provider Code 00117J



Acknowledgement of Country

At James Cook University, we acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our campuses and study centres are located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and future.

JCU is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to JCU and society.

'Coming together and respecting difference'
by Kassandra Savage
Language group: Waanyi and Walangama clan,
part of the Gkuthaarn/Kukatj nations

Webinar Topics

- Pre-Departure checklist.
- Accommodation information.
- Finances and cost of living.
- Airport pickups, packing and travel tips.
- What to do when you arrive.
- Getting help at the Student Centre.
- Getting ready for Uni.
- Understanding important dates and enrolment terms.
- Cultural adaptation and wellbeing.
- North Queensland.
- Key contacts.
- Tips from other new students.



Look for the blue boxes with links to useful resources throughout the presentation

Pre-Departure Checklist

- Read the Pre-departure Guide on our Prepare to Arrive website.
- Accept your offer (contact [International Admissions](#) with any questions about your offer).
- Arrange your Overseas Health Cover (if not organised by JCU).
- Apply for your student visa.
- Arrange your accommodation early.
- Plan your finances and open an Australian bank account.
- Plan what to pack.
- Book your airport pick up.
- Activate your JCU account and create password.
- Enrol in subjects and register for classes.
- Download the Sonder app.
- Connect on social media and start building networks before you arrive.

[Prepare to Arrive](#)



[Student Visa Information](#)



[Accept and Enrol](#)



[Townsville JCU Internationals](#)
[Cairns JCU Internationals](#)
[JCU Current Students](#)



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[JCU: James Cook University,](#)
[Australia](#)





[JCU Accommodation](#)



[Off-Campus options](#)



[Study Australia –
Accommodation](#)



[Tenants QLD](#)

Accommodation

Accommodation in Townsville and Cairns is in high demand.

You **must** organise your accommodation early to ensure you don't miss out.

On-campus accommodation is available on the Bebegu Yumba (Townsville) and Nguma-bada (Cairns) campuses.

Arrive early to view and apply for accommodation if you wish to live off-campus.

You will need to book short term accommodation while you look for other options.

Don't pay any money or sign a lease without inspecting the property.

Finances and Cost of Living

Some banks will allow you to open an account before you arrive. Search 'International Student Banking'.

Look for an account with no, or low fees for students. [Westpac Bank](#) is a good choice for international students.

You will need to visit the branch once you arrive to verify your identity. Check with your bank what documentation they need.

Cost of living will vary depending on your lifestyle and type of accommodation.

Upfront costs may include temporary accommodation; bond (four weeks rent); utility connection fees; and furniture.

Ongoing costs will include rent; groceries; utilities; phone/internet; transport; university fees; and recreation.

Some of your subjects may include compulsory field trip costs. Check your Subject Outline for details when you enrol.



[Coming to Australia](#) – Budgeting
for your life in Australia



[Study Australia](#)– Living and
Education Costs



Book your travel and arrange airport pickup

Ensure you arrive in Townsville or Cairns in time for the compulsory International Student Orientation.

Book your airport pickup online at least three business days prior to your arrival.

Don't want airport pickup? Other transport options include:

Cairns: Shuttle Services (Exemplar; Airport Connections)

Cairns Taxi's

Rideshare (e.g. Uber)

Townsville: Airport Shuttle

Taxi Services (Black and White Cabs; 13Cabs)

Rideshare (e.g. Uber)





Packing and what to bring

Know your baggage limits. These can be different for domestic and international flights.

Additional costs apply for excess baggage!

Australia has strict biosecurity and border security laws. Know what you can and can't bring with you.

Packing checklist:

- Documents (health, education, other important papers). Bring digital and physical copies and have English translations.
- Clothes (for summer conditions; formal/traditional clothes).
- Electronics and adaptors (e.g. power converters).
- Medication (three month supply only; medicine can only be for yourself). Bring your prescription/s or letter from your doctor.



[Packing guide](#)

[Can you bring it in?](#)



[Studying in Australia Biosecurity Guide](#)



Travel Tips

- ✓ Try to arrive in Australia early enough to beat the jet lag before Orientation Week commences!
- ✓ Leave a photocopy of your passport at home with your family – just in case.
- ✓ Sometimes luggage can go missing so pack your most important items in your carry-on baggage.
- ✓ Label your bag with your name and phone number or have an air tag.
- ✓ Research your destination and know your travel times. Direct flights to Townsville or Cairns may not be available from your location.
- ✓ Bring some Australian dollars with you when you travel. Currency exchange may not be available at airports.



Visit the Student Centre for

- Student ID cards
- Help enrolling in subjects and arranging your timetable.
- Course and subject information.
- Advice about important dates and subject results.
- Information about fees and payment due dates.
- Advice about applying for credit or RPL (recognition of prior learning).
- Directions, or any other questions you have (and you aren't sure where to go).



[Support Services](#)



[Get Ready Modules](#)



[About OWeek](#)



[Student Help Videos](#)



[Tips for Starting Uni](#)



Get ready for Uni

JCU has a range of resources and services to help you succeed – including academic and personal support services.

Take the time to work through the Get Ready for Uni modules and review the great resources on the Learning Centre website.

Watch the Student Help videos for more information about enrolling, fees and support services.

Attend as many events and sessions as possible in Orientation Week (OWeek) to build social connections and help you prepare for your studies.

International Student Orientation is compulsory – so don't miss it!

Important Dates and Enrolment Terminology

It can be hard adjusting to a new university system. It might be very different to how you were used to studying at home.

JCU offers courses and subjects across Trimesters and Study Periods. You may study some of your subjects in both these models.

It's important you know the key dates of each Trimester/Study Period and what these mean. Important dates to keep in mind are:

- Self-enrolment dates (the last date you can enrol in subjects on eStudent).
- Class registration close dates (the last date you can register for classes on eStudent).
- Payment due dates (the day that subject fees are due).
- Census dates (the last day you can withdraw from subjects without incurring a financial penalty i.e. having to pay subject fees).
- Last date to withdraw without academic penalty (the last day you can withdraw from subjects without incurring an academic penalty i.e. fail grade).



[Academic Calendars](#)



[Enrolment Terms](#)



Cultural Adaptation and Wellbeing

Moving to another country can result in mixed emotions. It is normal to feel homesick and to miss your family and friends back home.

It is important that you start to build social networks in Australia and develop new friendships. Many other international students understand what you are going through and can help you as you adjust.

Check the JCU Events page to see what is happening on campus and get involved.

International students have 24/7 access to Sonder – a personal wellbeing and safety app. Download it and see what it has to offer.

JCU's Academic Administration and Enrolment Team (or Enrolment Team for short) provides support to International students who are studying at JCU. We look forward to meeting you at the International Student Orientation.

Watch this great video about
[Cultural Adaptation](#)



[Download Sonder](#)



[Enrolment Team Contact](#)





[About Townsville](#)



Learn more about North QLD

Take the time to learn about our great regions before you arrive.

There are many things to do, including:

- Spending time at the Strand (TSV) or Esplanade (CNS).
- Walking Castle Hill (TSV) or Earl Hill (CNS).
- Visiting Magnetic Island (TSV) or Fitzroy Island (CNS).
- Visiting Crystal Creek (TSV) or the Atherton Tablelands (CNS).
- Spending time at the night markets (TSV and CNS).



[About Cairns](#)



Questions and Key Contacts

Have questions? Find answers 24/7 on AskUs.

The Student Centre – your number one point of contact for any questions you might have. If they don't know the answer, they will point you in the right direction.

Contact via phone, email or Live Chat. Or book a call back.

We can help with questions about the enrolment requirements for your Student Visa but cannot provide any other visa advice. Contact the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) or check VEVO for your visa conditions if you already have one.



1800 246 446



enquiries@jcu.edu.au



8am – 5pm
Monday – Friday



[DHA](#)



[VEVO](#)



[Book a Call](#)



[AskUs](#)



Tips from other new students

- Do your own research before you arrive, about Australia, JCU and your course.
- Research the cost of living and plan your budget in advance.
- Get your accommodation sorted before arriving.
- Always pack extra clothes in your hand luggage and have your devices charged and available when travelling.
- Arrive in Australia early to settle in. Set up your bank account and phone, relax and explore a little.
- Go to Orientation and put yourself out there! Making friends is a great Uni experience.
- Plan your timetable, get organised and check out where your classes are beforehand.
- Ask EVERY question you can think of - staff at JCU are there to help.
- Counselling Services are free and available, don't be afraid or embarrassed to use them.
- Be very careful of the birds (referring to Magpies). Spiders and snakes are fine!



We look forward to meeting you when you arrive



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