

## FAQ for Visa to Australia

### 1. What kind of visa do I need for Australia?

Students who travel on a U.S. passport (with at least six months' validity) need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) which they can do online at <https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETA/etas.jsp>. Students who are NOT travelling on a U.S. passport need to check the Australian Immigration Department's website for their visa options: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Pages/Welcome.aspx>. DO NOT apply for a student visa as these are for foreign students studying at Australian universities. The process of applying for an ETA online is really easy and straightforward, costs AUD\$20 and the ETA is usually granted within a couple of days (to be safe, apply for it at least two weeks before your departure).

### 2. What does an ETA allow me to do?

An ETA is valid for 12 months from the date it is granted and allows multiple re-entries for a maximum of 90 days at a time for the purposes of travel, volunteering, visits and short-term study. This means that, since the Australia Program includes a mid-semester stay in Bali, Indonesia, students can travel around Australia prior to or after the end of the semester, if they so wish. Students are not allowed to engage in paid work with an ETA.

### 3. What kind of visa do I need for Bali, Indonesia?

The Australia Program includes a 2-week stay in Bali, Indonesia. Students who travel on a U.S. passport have to pay US\$25 when arriving at the airport in Denpasar, Bali, for an on-the-spot tourist Visa-on-Arrival which is valid for 30 days. Students who are not travelling on a U.S. passport need to check online or with their nearest Indonesian consulate whether their country also falls under Indonesia's Visa-on-Arrival program.

### 4. Where should I book my flights to?

Students are responsible for organizing their own flights to and from Australia. The Australia Program is based in Byron Bay in northern NSW, with the nearest airports found at **Ballina/Byron** (small domestic airport; 0.5 hour to the south), **Gold Coast** (medium-sized airport with domestic and some international connections; 1 hour to the north) and **Brisbane** (large international airport; 2.5 hours to the north). In previous semesters, some students have found cheap deals by breaking their journey into two legs with a short stopover in Hawai'i and booking a separate flight from Honolulu to the Gold Coast with one of the cheap Australian carriers like Jetstar. As always, it pays to look around for a good deal.

### 5. What dates should I book my flights for?

Students are expected to arrive in Byron Bay on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, (most flights arriving that day leave the U.S. mainland on January 22<sup>nd</sup>) for the start of the program; hostel accommodation has been organized for that night, prior to orientation starting the next day. Students are of course welcome to arrive earlier (to travel, visit friends etc.), but will need to make sure they are in Byron Bay by January 24<sup>th</sup>; they will also have to organize and pay for their own accommodation, food and transport prior to the start of the program. The program ends in Ballina (0.5 hour south of Byron) on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and students can leave anytime on or after this day.

### 6. How do I get from the airport to Byron Bay?

Students have to organize their own transport to their hostel accommodation in Byron Bay. There are a number of private shuttle bus operators taking students from Ballina, the Gold Coast or Brisbane airports to their accommodation in Byron Bay, like the *Byron Easy Bus* (<http://www.byronbayshuttle.com.au/>); prices range from \$20 (Ballina airport) to \$64 (Brisbane

airport). Please note that the last shuttle for Byron leaves Brisbane airport at around 7pm, so make sure your flight arrives well before then.

**7. Do I also need to book the flights to/from Bali?**

The tentative dates for the Bali component of the program are April 9<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and flights will be organized as a group booking through our program.

**8. Is there a good time for family or friends to visit?**

The program includes a one-week Spring Break from March 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>; family and friends are welcome to visit during that time or after the program ends on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please note that any visitors will have to organize and pay for their own accommodation, and students need to make sure that the dates of any visits do not interfere with program activities and assignments.

**9. What is going to be my address in Australia? Can I have mail sent to me prior to the start of semester?**

After two nights at a hostel for orientation, students will move into their semester houses. Because these are rented based on student numbers and local availability, we do not know in advance which houses (and addresses) we are going to get. Once students have moved into the houses, mail can be sent to their addresses. Prior to semester, mail can be sent to the program director's address but please make sure to send an email notice in advance ([soenke.biermann@liu.edu](mailto:soenke.biermann@liu.edu)). The address is:

Student's name  
C/o Soenke Biermann  
Director, LIU Global Australia Program  
45 Clarrie Hall Dam Rd  
Uki NSW 2484  
AUSTRALIA

**10. How much money will I need for the semester?**

Students will receive a food allowance every two weeks from which they will be able to buy their own food and cook their own meals; all houses have fully equipped kitchens. Internet access and local bicycle hire costs are also met by the program, as are any transport costs associated with field trips. Students will need to bring their own money for their own entertainment, nightlife, concerts, clothing and gifts/souvenirs. As interest in all of these varies substantially between students, it is hard to give a general figure, although most students seem to spend between US\$500-1,000 during the course of the semester. Please note that costs for entertainment, food and alcohol are generally higher in Australia than in the US.

**11. What's the local currency?**

Australia has its own currency, the Australian Dollar (AUD), which usually sits at or just below parity with the U.S. Dollar. Please check exchange rates closer to your travel dates.

**12. Any further questions?**

Please contact the Australia Program director, Mr Soenke Biermann, via email: [soenke.biermann@liu.edu](mailto:soenke.biermann@liu.edu).