Congratulations on being selected to participate in the study abroad program in Wollongong, Australia!

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in partnership with the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Throughout the course of your study abroad experience you will be communicating with both IAP and CIEE staff. It is essential that you pay close attention to all information provided to you from both organizations. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from CIEE as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

CIEE handles the program’s day-to-day operations. CIEE will send you an acceptance email which contains information on how to access your My CIEE account on the CIEE website. From your My CIEE account you can access the “Enrollment Download Center” which contains important pre-departure information, required CIEE forms, and CIEE handbooks. It is essential that you download these materials and return all required CIEE forms directly to CIEE by their deadline date. If you have questions regarding any CIEE forms or the visa process, contact your CIEE Enrollment Officer. In addition, refer to your CIEE handbook for detailed information regarding your program and host country. Generally, questions about aspects of your program abroad should be directed to CIEE (e.g., program housing options, program facilities abroad, cultural tours offered as part of the program, etc.) Questions relating to your relationship with UW-Madison or your academics should be addressed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison (e.g., course credits, equivalents, UW Madison registration, etc.)

This program handbook contains the following information:

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Contact Information

CIEE Onsite Contact Information
Dr. Tonia Gray, Resident Director
University of Wollongong
Recreation and Aquatic Center
Building 13
Wollongong, NSW 2522 Australia
Tel: (61) 2-4221-3875
Fax: (61) 2-4221-3892
E-Mail: toniag@uow.edu.au

CIEE Pre-Departure Contact Information:
Kristina Casey, Enrollment Officer
CIEE – Perth Program
300 Fore Street
Portland, ME 04101 USA
Tel: +1.207.553.4102
Fax: +1.207.553.5102
Email: kcasey@ciee.org
**UW-Madison Information**
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
250 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329  Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

**Jessa Boche**
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
Tel: 608-265-8977
E-mail: boche@bascom.wisc.edu

**Emergency Contact Information**
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

In an emergency, you or a family member can call CIEE 24 hours a day at 1-800-40-STUDY (from the US) or 207-553-7600 (US and overseas). This number is monitored 24 hours per day and will put you in touch with CIEE program staff in Maine.

**Embassy Registration**
Program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Consulate General in Sydney
MLC Center, Level 10
19-29 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
TEL: +61-2-9373-9200
After Hour Emergencies Tel: +61-2-4422-2201
Fax: +61-2-9373-9184
http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/sydney

**Program Dates**
Fall 2010: July 16 – November 20, 2010
Spring 2010: July 16 – TBA*

See CIEE’s website for confirmed dates:
http://ciee.org/study/programOverview.aspx?pID=60#5dates

**Preparations Before Leaving**
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages four and five of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook as well as your CIEE handbook for essential information.

**Immigration Documents**
Participants will need to obtain a student visa. CIEE will provide program participants with application instructions as well as necessary documents to apply for the student visa. You will not be able to apply for a visa until you have received your Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE). CIEE
provides detailed information on the visa process on-line, which you should follow closely. Contact CIEE with any specific visa questions.

Travel and Arrival Information
Travel and arrival information will be provided by CIEE.

The Academic Program
General Information
The University of Wollongong website is [http://www.uow.edu.au/](http://www.uow.edu.au/). Subject descriptions are available on the university website at [http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook](http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook). Australian academic year lasts from mid-February through the end of November and is divided into two semesters. **Semester I (S1)** lasts from February through July and corresponds to Spring semester at UW-Madison. **Semester II (S2)** corresponds with Fall semester at UW-Madison and lasts from July through November.

Subjects are taught as a mix of lectures, tutorials or seminars, laboratory work and individual study. When deciding your subjects, you should note that Australian students are required to be self-directed in their study and to submit a considerable amount of written work in assignments and seminar or tutorial papers.

Registration
Registration information will be provided by CIEE. In general, CIEE will communicate with you by email. You will receive detailed information on courses and requirements in your online CIEE acceptance materials. Read all of the CIEE materials carefully and return all CIEE forms directly to CIEE by their deadline date.

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF)
Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

Credits
Conversions
IAP has established the following scale for translating credits from the University of Wollongong to UW-Madison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Wollongong</th>
<th>UW-Madison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 points</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Limits and Load
Students are expected to enroll in a full-time academic program. Wollongong subjects are offered on a "credit point" system. The normal full-time academic workload at the University of Wollongong for a semester is 24 points per semester (usually doing 4 subjects with 6 credit points each, or 3 subjects with 8 credit points each), which is equal to the normal academic workload at UW-Madison of 15 credit hours. UW-Madison students participating on this program are required to take three or four subjects each semester. In addition, UW-Madison students must take the minimum credit load required by CIEE.
Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for Academic Policies.

Grades and Grade Conversions
The assessment details for each subject are provided in the University of Wollongong Course Handbook [http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook](http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook) and comprehensive handouts detailing subject requirements and assessment methods are given to students in the first lecture of each subject. Some subjects do not have final examinations. Others have a final examination worth between 20% - 80% of the mark. Essays of 1,500 to 3,000 words, tutorial participation and/or laboratory work usually form part of the assessment.

The university employs the following grading system: High Distinction (HD): 85-100%; Distinction (D): 75-84%; Credit (C): 65-74%; Pass (P): 50-64%; Pass Terminating or Pass Conceded (PT/PC): 45-49%; and Fail (F): 0-44%. Your Australian grades will be converted to an American scale by CIEE. Below you will see how Murdoch & CIEE grades convert to UW grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Wollongong</th>
<th>CIEE Equivalent</th>
<th>UW-Madison Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceded, Conditional, Compensatory Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Living Abroad
Educate yourself about your host country. Read the Preparing to Live in Another Culture section of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook. Consult the following resources as well as travel books and program binders in the Study Abroad Resource Room (250 Bascom Hall). Remember- it won't be possible to prepare yourself completely. There will be situations you will not have anticipated and your flexibility will determine in great part the kind of experience you will have while abroad.

Websites of Interest:
UW-Madison International Academic Programs (IAP) website: http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

University of Wollongong’s website: http://www.uow.edu/au

CIEE website: http://www.ciee.org

U.S. State Department: http://travel.state.gov

Center for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/travel/

Australian Embassy’s website: http://www.austemb.org

Lonely Planet Guidebook:
Useful Travel Books:
Let's Go
The Lonely Planet
Michelin Guides
Rough Guide
A Fair Go for All -- Australian and American Interactions. Renwick et. al.,1991, 96 pp
International Travel Health Guide by Stuart R. Rose, MD.
A Concise History of Australia by Stuart Macintyre
The Australians by Ross Terrill

Communication
When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from www.skype.com and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends’ Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that’s required for calls to another computer.

Refer for your CIEE handbook for detailed information regarding communicating via telephone, email, and mail while in Australia.

Student Testimonials
The testimonials below are from past participants; they reflect various students’ experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

Preparations Before Leaving
I wish that I had brought more pictures of my home and school.

I wish I had not brought so many clothes.

Everything you buy in the US could also be bought in Wollongong. Clothes are generally a lot more expensive in Australia, but are nice gifts for friends and family back home. Be sure to leave space in your suitcase for souvenirs you will want to bring back!

Travel and Arrival Information
I arrived in Australia with $45. It was enough to get me to my program site because my transportation from the airport was pre-paid.

Travel Tips: Use the train as much as you can—it is a great way to get around. Also, look RIGHT before you cross a street!

Australia has some nice cheap alternatives for domestic/NZ flights- try jetstar and virginblue before booking more expensive flights with Qantas.

Must See Places: The Sydney Opera House, of course because it is the icon of Sydney, and Hyde Park in Sydney—it is beautiful at night. Also, go up to areas around Cairns if possible; the Reef and other wildlife are beautiful.

Go to Tasmania! It is so different from mainland Australia and as much as mainlanders might tell you Tassie is ‘backwards’, it is the most beautiful place I went to in Australia and the people are absolutely wonderful.

I used credit cards mostly because you get the best exchange rate. I also used my ATM card to get cash. I didn’t think it was worth the hassle to open an Australian bank account.

While it’s really fun to go to places like Cairns, Melbourne, and Perth- don’t forget about places closer to Wollongong- the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple, the Blue Mountains, Royal National Park, and don’t forget to hike Mount Keira!

I opened an account at the National Australian Bank and it was a good idea. The best way to start off is the have the money wired! Having an Australian ATM card is great because there are no fees and you can pay for everything with it…you can even swipe it at McDonald’s.

Academic Program
Don’t slack off too much….while you are there for more than just education purposes, you have to remember that you are still attending school. However, don’t let school get in the way of experiencing Australia for all it has to offer.

I studied less than at Madison; probably about 4-5 hours per week. But they focus more on papers, and have fewer exams, but each assignment is worth more.

Courses required much more independent work and making this adjustment was challenging.

The Australian grading system is very different. If you are very concerned with doing well; you have to learn to say “no” and how to force yourself to work.

It was strange to only have papers to write and not having exams every 2 weeks.

The grading was harder, but the courses expected more independent learning and less reliance on the professor. Overall, I didn’t find the lectures always effective.

Take at least one class on Aboriginal or general Australian issues- its important to understand the history behind the nation and this will give you insights into the differences (and similarities) between America and Australia.

I took some of the easiest college classes I have ever taken while in Wollongong, but I also took the hardest class I’ve ever had- there are a mix of classes, don’t expect it will all be easy, especially if you want to get really good grades.
Make sure to go to all the events CIEE sets up. They're part of the program cost, so you might as well go. Plus, it gives you another chance to see everyone in the group.

Living Abroad
Realize that culture shock will not set in until all the ‘newness’ has worn off. For me it was around 2 months. Also, do not expect to have Internet access for at least a week or so.

No matter what you do people will probably be able to tell just by looking at you that you are American. The university-sweatshirt-with-baggy-sweatpants look isn’t what Australians generally wear. On the whole, they dress-up more than Americans to go to class, so this is an important step to take if you want to try to ‘blend in’.

Living in Weerona, one of the college dorms, was the way in which I met the most Australians. The dorm environment was an excellent way to meet people, especially through the different activities that the dorm sponsored.

I lived at Campus East. I recommend it to other students on the basis that they want to live in a dorm situation near the beach. However, location is not ideal as it is far from University campus as well as city centre.

I enjoyed Weerona, it provided me the easy opportunity to meet a lot of people, especially Australians. The dorm style living got a little old but otherwise it was great.

Eventually the dorm-life may seem a little cult-ish, it’s fun and kind of like a giant family, but everyone knows everything about everyone.

International House apartments were my first choice and I would recommend it to others.

The best way for me to meet Australians was to hang out at the beach, shop in town, and going to local pubs…because Wollongong is a beautiful place with lots of things to explore.

Do not just hang out with other Americans; it’s easy to do but not nearly as fun. Take the time to speak to people whose accents may at first be difficult to understand. They will be grateful and you will soon be able to understand them easily.

Wollongong is very different than Madison- for most people the dorm you live in will determine who you hang out with- there just isn’t as much going on at the campus, politically or socially, as there is here- but there is WAY more fun organized activity with the dorms than typical of Madison.

Make sure that you hang out with people from Australia. It will be easier to understand their culture if you hear their explanations and opinions on different topics.

The best way to meet the Australian students is to go to the organized activities. This forces you to work and talk to the native students and not just other Americans.

Being politically correct is not a norm in Australia like it is here in the States. A lot of what Australians say about racial minorities could easily be construed as racist, especially about Aboriginal people and Asians. Get to know people and the issues that lead to this racism and then pick your battles- some of the most interesting conversations I had in Australia were addressing issues of racism.

I found that I felt about as safe in Wollongong as I do in Madison. The same safety rules apply there- don’t walk alone at night, get to know a place before wandering aimlessly, walk in groups, don’t walk in dark places, be alert, etc.- and are applicable to both males and females.