

## University of Wollongong: Quick Facts

### **Academics**

- *Admissions Requirements*
  - 3.0 minimum GPA (will consider students slightly under; if significantly lower, must provide two academic letters of reference)
  - Sophomore status +
  - Applications can be submitted electronically –hard copy not required
- *Program Academics*
  - Typical course load = 3-4 classes (24 University of Wollongong “points”)
  - Six “point” courses typically transfer as 4 AC credits
  - Eight “point” courses typically transfer as 5 AC credits
  - Obtain advance approval for five-six subjects to avoid timetabling conflicts
  - Subject timetables are typically updated in late November/early December, but the majority of subjects are offered every year in the same term
  - U of Wollongong’s academic terminology is different:
    - Wollongong “Faculties” = Alma academic departments
    - Wollongong “Courses” = Alma degrees/majors
    - Wollongong “Subjects” = Alma classes
  - Study Abroad students cannot enroll in certain subjects and/or postgraduate courses; check with Wollongong staff regarding these areas
  - Creative Arts courses are restricted to students majoring in subject area at Alma, and most require a portfolio
  - Different teaching style:
    - Typically lecture-based
    - Grade is largely determined by one or two tests
    - Difficult to get an “A” in a subject
  - Alma’s fall term/Wollongong’s Spring Session (II): Students fulfill “S” course requirement
  - Alma’s winter term/Wollongong’s Autumn Session (I): Students fulfill “S” course *spring term* requirement
  - Alma College allows pass/fail for a course provided it meets guidelines published in the Academic Catalog. Refer to the Pass/Fail Option form (provided with Step 4) for complete instructions. Pass/fail must be requested within nine weeks after the class begins.
  - Incomplete grades must be replaced by letter grades within six weeks from being recorded on the Alma transcript, or they convert to “E”. Contact the Registrar for assistance when you have received an Incomplete grade.

### **Housing**

- All fees charged by the university are the student’s responsibility. These include linen purchase fees, laundering fees, bus tickets, meals, fines, etc.
- The two collegiate halls are a 20-minute walk from the main campus.
- Both offer single or double bedroom units, and may or may not include meals.
- One popular housing option among Alma students is Campus East, where students live in single study bedrooms, have shared bathrooms and purchase their own meals.
- Other options include the Kooloobong and Gundi self-catered flats. Four – five students purchase and prepare their own food, sharing the kitchen facilities.
- Accommodations fill up very quickly. Housing applications must be submitted by November 30<sup>th</sup> for the winter term, and May 1<sup>st</sup> for fall term – you do not have to be officially accepted to Wollongong, nor are you required to have a Wollongong Student ID to complete the housing application.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What travel documents do I need to go to Australia?*
  - A passport is required for international travel and must be valid at least 180 days beyond the last date of the program.
  - A student visa is required for entry into Australia. Instructions will be included in the acceptance packet.
- 2. Can I use my cell phone in Australia?*
  - Using a U.S. cell phone abroad to make local and/or international calls can be very costly. Check with your service provider for details.
  - One option is purchasing phone cards once you arrive in Australia. It is not recommended to purchase international calling cards while in the United States because they often will not function once you are abroad.
  - PicCell Wireless and other such companies allow students to rent a phone with a global SIM card and charger appropriate for Australia.
  - The cheapest option is to set up Skype or QQ, a free internet-based calling service. Look online for details.
- 3. When should I arrive to the school?*
  - All university housing contracts begin on the same day; dates are published on the Fees Schedule. Your acceptance letter will provide you with the first day of (mandatory) orientation.
- 4. How far away is Wollongong from larger cities? What are the public transportation options?*
  - Wollongong is just over an hour away from Sydney by car. It costs approximately AUD \$15 for a round-trip train ticket to Sydney.
  - Canberra, the capital of Australia, can be visited in a day trip.
  - Buses run extensively throughout the city and are the most convenient and cost effective method of transportation.
  - Wollongong also has a city rail system offering regular north and southbound services. The Railway Station is a 15-minute walk from campus.
  - Purchasing or renting a bicycle is inexpensive. Helmets are mandatory.
- 5. How will I get to Wollongong?*
  - The University offers a complimentary airport transportation service. Your acceptance letter will explain the specifics and arrival dates.
- 6. Will I have internet access at school? Should I bring my laptop?*
  - There is wireless internet access on the majority of the University's campus.
  - There are eight student computer labs in Building 17.
  - If you are planning to bring your laptop, check the following website to make sure it fits the requirements: <http://www.uow.edu.au/its/wireless/faq/index.html>
- 7. What application and deposit fees am I responsible for?*
  - Students are responsible for all application fees.
  - Refundable housing deposits can be paid by Alma College once you sign a Commitment Form at the ACP office.
- 8. Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process or general questions about the University of Wollongong?*
  - Your first point of contact should be the University's official website ([www.uow.edu.au/future/international](http://www.uow.edu.au/future/international)).
  - If your questions aren't answered by thoroughly checking the website, you can e-mail the staff at [studyabroad@uow.edu](mailto:studyabroad@uow.edu)
  - Off-Campus Studies staff are always here to help answer your questions.