

# Study in Australia

Education Quality • Education Excellence

March 2000

## GST and What It Means: Understanding the New Australian Tax System



Australia will introduce a Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10% on 1 July 2000. As study abroad advisors, what impact will that have upon your students who go to Australia? While some things are not yet clear, this article will try to provide a brief overview of some of the things that will be GST liable and those that will be exempt.

Please be aware that when you or students prepare a budget for studying in Australia it would be inaccurate to assume that everything will be 10% more expensive as of 1 July. At present, there are many wholesale taxes placed on goods in Australia, and the tax rate varies depending upon the good. This means that in some cases, goods are taxed a lot more than 10%. Generally the wholesale tax will disappear when GST is imposed.

The real question however, is what will GST mean for US and Canadian study abroad students in Australia. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has already determined that degree courses at registered institutions will be GST free. Unfortunately, a semester or acad-

emic year abroad falls into a gray area when determining GST liability. Courses taken for pleasure which do not result in a degree being granted are GST liable so using this strict definition study abroad could be liable. However, since study abroad students are working toward a degree at an overseas institution, study abroad should be GST free. The latest information we have is that the Australian Taxation Office has made individual ratings that study abroad will be GST-free, but no final decision has been announced.

Regardless of the decision on tuition, students will be affected in other areas. The most significant will probably be housing which will be GST liable, whether a student is living on-campus, in a home-stay, or has rented a flat. Travel will also be GST liable as tickets, accommodation, and meals in restaurants will all be assessed the 10% GST.

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## Study Abroad Advisors Guide for 2000 On-line

One of the AEO's most popular publications, our Study Abroad Advisor's Guide, has been updated for 2000 and is available to advisors at no charge. The guide includes an overview of the Australian Higher Education System (including the academic calendar), university statistics, university map, a section on the grading system, study loads, course structure and conversion chart to the US system, an introduction and "commonly asked questions" sheets about the student visa process.



The SAAG also contains a 52 page contact details directory of International Office Staff at Australian Universities. This is a key publication for advisors working with, or interested in, the Australian system.

Copies can be requested from:

[carri@austudies.org](mailto:carri@austudies.org)

or

[www.austudies.org/aeo](http://www.austudies.org/aeo)

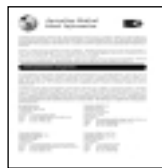
and clicking on "Study Abroad  
Advisor References"

or

clicking on "Study Abroad  
Advisor's Guide" in the Hot Items  
Section

## AEO Gears up for NAFSA

As May approaches the AEO is preparing for NAFSA: Association of International Educator's Annual Conference in San Diego. Along with our booth in the Exhibitor Hall (Booth numbers 1031 and 1130) we are happy to lend our support to NAFSA and host the Wednesday Plenary session where Abraham Lowenthal will be the keynote speaker. Please stop by our booth, visit with various staff members from both the AEO and Australian University International Offices, ask questions or see what new information has been produced since last year.



## Medical School Information On-line

The AEO has listed information on our web site for US students wishing to study medicine overseas. As the medical system in Australia uses both a graduate and undergraduate system this information is vital for students following a medical course of study and wishing to study overseas. This information can be accessed off our home page at:

<http://www.austudies.org/aeo>  
and clicking on the links to  
Informational Pages.

## Calendar of Events on Ausmates Web Site

While Ausmates.org site is a work in progress, most notable changes for the month of March surround the calendar of events.



Information about cultural events around the US and Canada have been placed into a monthly on-line calendar accessible for students, faculty and advisors. If you know of an Australian focused event on your campus or surroundings, be it sporting, cultural, musical, etc., please send correspondence to [carri@austudies.org](mailto:carri@austudies.org) and she will add it to the calendar. We are also looking to start rostering Australian International Office staff members to go on-line in the chat room to answer questions about their university (course selection, housing, tuition, etc) or about Australia in general. Please feel free to refer students to:

<http://www.ausmates.org>  
or contact the AEO for free post-cards to pass out in student kits.



*Come see AEO staff  
as well as  
International Office  
staff from the  
Australian  
Universities*

**Booths 1031 and 1130**

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International web-site: <http://www.international.utas.edu.au>  
Study Abroad web-site: <http://www.study.abroad.utas.edu.au>

## Embassy of Australia Web Site

The Embassy of Australia has done considerable work on their web site and has extensive information for students and advisors on issues from the new GST to travelling exhibits, from diplomacy issues to sporting events. The following is a quick list of some of the web links you may find helpful.

**Embassy of Australia Home Page**  
[www.austemb.org](http://www.austemb.org)

Miscellanea and Australia Report  
(downloadable issues)  
[www.austemb.org/publications.htm](http://www.austemb.org/publications.htm)

Cultural Affairs Section (great links)  
[www.austemb.org/cultural.htm](http://www.austemb.org/cultural.htm)

Events  
[www.austemb.org/events.htm](http://www.austemb.org/events.htm)



The University of Melbourne, one of Australia's oldest universities, educates the leaders and thinkers of tomorrow.

The University's 11 Faculties offer courses in the sciences and technology, humanities, social sciences, creative arts, business, medicine and health sciences, veterinary science, education, music and music performance. The Australian Centre, an interdisciplinary centre for research and cultural life, is dedicated to issues such as Aboriginal identity in modern Australia.

For More Information contact:  
International Center  
University of Melbourne  
Parkville, VIC 3010  
Fax: 61 3 9344 4224

Email:  
[m.riordan@international.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:m.riordan@international.unimelb.edu.au)  
Web:  
[www.unimelb.edu.au/international/](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/international/)

### Editors' Note

As much has been made of the GST and the effects it will have on International Students, we decided to make it a focus of this edition of the AEO's Newsletter. As it usually happens with print media, by the time it goes to print it becomes out of date. We highly recommend checking web sites both at government tax offices as well as Australian Universities. Please feel free to contact the International Student Advisors for the most up-to-date information about specifics to their individual campuses. We at the AEO will endeavour to have recent information available, but we access the same sources you as advisors have.

Student visas... the ever-present article in the AEO's Newsletter. Luckily we can state that there are no changes from January to this semester. Please contact the AEO via phone or email to request copies of the forms. As always, we do not recommend "stock-piling" as the fees and forms will change as of July 1, 2000. Pre-Departure Books can be ordered and shipped with the visa forms (adding significant amounts of information to any university Pre-Departure Session).

Thanks.  
Carri Kendrick  
John Wells



## Embassy of Australia Welcomes New Ambassador

The new year welcomed a new Australian Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Michael Thawley replaced Mr. Andrew Peacock in Washington, DC. Prior to this Ambassadorial posting, Mr. Thawley served as the Senior Advisor (International) in the Office of the Prime Minister. He has also served in postings in Tokyo, Papua New Guinea, Moscow and Rome. Mr. Thawley is a graduate of Australian National University and has a Graduate Diploma from the University of Surrey in the UK. The AEO welcomes Mr. Thawley, his wife and one of three children to the DC area and looks forward to working with him in the future.

## *miscellanea* Etchings and Drawings to Tour the US

World-renowned printmaker Jorg Schmeisser opens his Washington exhibition featuring etchings and drawings from Australia and Cambodia on April 17th at the Embassy of Australia. The work focuses on travel, the record of man-made places, temples and towns, nature, shells, crustacean, mountains and the coast. He shows the both the amazing growth and awesome destructive power of nature and brings order to the chaos of nature.

Selected works will also be shown:  
May 3 - 27  
Austral Gallery St. Louis  
Email: [australart@aol.com](mailto:australart@aol.com)

April 29 - May 17  
Williams Gallery, Princeton, NJ  
Website: [www.wmgallery.com](http://www.wmgallery.com)

May 2 - 27  
Don Soker Contemporary Art  
Gallery  
San Francisco  
Phone: (415) 291-0966



## New Java

### Tool at Monash Uni

Monash Magazine

Called *BlueJ*, this new Java teaching tool developed by Dr. Michael Koling in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, is attracting attention from over 1400 individuals, 700 universities worldwide and Java creators Sun Microsystems. Java is a web scripting tool widely used for its networking capabilities and cross platform accessibility. *BlueJ* places emphasis on visualisation and interaction techniques to create interactive environments. As Java is used as the introductory language for first year university students in Australia, Dr. Koling saw the need for improved software. The full version of *BlueJ* will be released soon, and will remain free of charge. More information can be accessed from Monash's web site:

[www.ccse.monash.edu.au/bluej](http://www.ccse.monash.edu.au/bluej)

### Monash Update:

Recently the Admissions Team at Monash International has developed an Online Applications Status Lookup facility. Students or their representatives can check the status of their applications on-line.

The system is available at:

[www.personal.monash.edu/~monintap/oaas/](http://www.personal.monash.edu/~monintap/oaas/)  
Access requires one of the two combinations:

- 1) applicant's Monash ID number and their date of birth; or
- 2) First name, last name, date of birth and nationality.

Monash has updated their international office web site at:  
<http://www.monash.edu.au/intoff>



### Doctorate of Business Launched

The Graduate, Feb 2000

The International Graduate School of Management has launched a Doctorate of Business Administration degree to complement its post-graduate programs. The DBA is designed to integrate advanced management coursework with broadly based applied research, focusing on the achievement of excellence in professional practice. The program presents significant differences from the traditional higher research degree (PhD) in that it includes distinct research elements in combination with advanced graduate subjects to provide a different pathway for study and research. The degree is directed at MBA graduates and assist grads to develop critical approaches to management issues, and requires them to demonstrate a level of conceptual understanding beyond the MBA.



### Bond University Purchases

#### Campus

Bond Observer No. 16

Bond University has "secured" their independence and private status by purchasing their campus from previous receivership. Vice-Chancellor Ken Moores states "We are at last in a position where we can proceed with our plans for carefully structured growth, both in student numbers and in our education base. The purchase of the campus in our 10th anniversary year becomes a significant birthday gift for all members of the university community."



### Australian Institute of Education Formed

UniView Vol. 19

A joint venture between Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia has formed the Australian Institute of Education. The institute will offer courses ranging from primary teacher preparation to higher education teaching. It will also provide comprehensive teaching and research programs in teacher development, curriculum studies, educational administration and policy studies, information technology and educational theory. The institute is formed by the joining of UWA's Graduate School of Education and Murdoch's School of Education. The institute's shared expertise will generate greater flexibility in teaching, research and administration enabling it to meet the changing needs of the community and the profession.

### JOIN US DOWN UNDER

*Australia Winter Program*

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website: [www.nku.edu/ccsa](http://www.nku.edu/ccsa)

COOPERATIVE CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD

A consortium of American colleges and universities with programs and internships in English-speaking regions






## International Network of Universities Formed

LTU Bulletin

Initiated by La Trobe University and Flinders University, an International Network of Universities (INU) comprised of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Leicester University, Budapest University of Technology, Helsinki University of Technology, Parahyangan Catholic University, Yunnan University and Hiroshima was formed. "It (the INU) will go beyond typical twinning programs by developing global access and mobility to internationalise degree programs by drawing on the academic range of the partners" stated LTU Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Osborne. "Under the agreement they (students) will be able to study at their home university with local staff; at home with staff from the relevant partner university; at home electronically with local back-up and there will be a study abroad arrangement where students will be able to attend one or more of the partner universities" stated Flinders University Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb. Professor Chubb is the inaugural President of the INU and Professor Osborne the Vice-President. The positions are for three years.

Some things about Australia are a little confusing.



Studying there should not be one of them.

Thinking of study abroad "Down Under"? Here's how we can help. We'll simplify the application process, assist you with your visa, help you get enrolled in the right courses at the right university, and ensure you arrive on campus well-orientated, ready to study successfully and to have a good time. We can't explain the existence of a duck-billed, webbed footed mammal that can lay eggs.

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<http://www.beaver.edu/cea/>




## New Masters Of Applied Commerce

Press Release

This new Masters is well suited to recent and professionally inexperienced graduates, be they Australian or international students. The required subjects do not require prior training or preparation, making the program suitable for students holding undergraduate degrees in areas outside of commerce or business. The first intake will be in July 2000.

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[www.canberra.edu.au](http://www.canberra.edu.au)

## Hails, Farewells and Moves



### Hails



Kathryn Wilson  
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### Farewell



Roselynn Lang  
Murdoch University



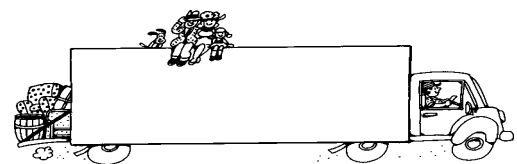
Alexia Bannikoff  
University of Sydney



Louise Goold  
Flinders University of South Australia



Nick Hanson  
University of New England



### Moves



Eric Meadows  
From: University of Wollongong  
To: University of Melbourne

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[www.ciee.org/study](http://www.ciee.org/study), [studyinfo@ciee.org](mailto:studyinfo@ciee.org), or 1-800-40-STUDY

**Council** *International Study Programs*

**CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange**  
205 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017-5706

## **GST and What It Means**

*(continued from page 1)*

Even if a lease is signed or tickets are purchased before 1 July, GST will be assessed for any of the goods or services purchased which will be delivered after 1 July. So for example, a lease signed from 1 June until 31 December would include 1 month with no GST and six months with a GST assessment.

Books, university union fees, and other expenses which students generally incur will usually be GST liable. Any lab fee or payment a student may have to make for a course for the use of equipment which the student will not keep should not be GST liable. Unprepared food will be GST free in most cases. The rules and regulations on food which will be GST liable and that which will be GST free are quite complicated. For example, bread will be GST free unless it has icing on it in which case it is GST liable. For those with a sweet tooth candy ice cream and soft drinks will all be GST liable.

It would be hopeless to try to list GST free and liable goods in this brief article. Fortunately, there are many excellent web sites with background information and downloadable pamphlets on the new system. In order to provide a resource to study abroad advisor and students, the AEO will create a GST web site on its home page at: <http://www.austudies.org/aeo>.

## **Social Work exchange**

Buffalo State College (also known as the State University of New York College at Buffalo) and the University of South Australia have undertaken an exchange of social work students for their final field placement semester. Thus far, four South Australian students have come to Buffalo and three Buffalo State students are currently in Adelaide.

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In order to make this effort viable, Buffalo State has created a Web-based version on its Interventive Methods III course, so that Buffalo State students can do this subject externally in Semester I, when an equivalent is not offered by the Australian partner institution.

This new venture enables students in a discipline traditionally under-represented in study abroad to have an overseas experience and to gain valuable perspectives on different ways of approaching client issues in their field.



## New Student Teaching Programs

AustraLearn: North American Center for Australian Universities is now offering Teacher Training Practicum programs (Student Teaching) at 3 major sites in Australia and New Zealand. Students can undertake 8 or 10 week sessions at the University of

Newcastle (New South Wales), Queensland University of Technology- QUT (Brisbane) or University of Waikato (Hamilton New Zealand). Programs consist of pure student teaching assignments for U.S. students and all will provide a remarkable experience with the Australian/New Zealand education systems. Program costs are extremely reasonable (\$1200 - \$2390) per session including placement costs, student supervision, airport reception, orientation and final evaluation. Spaces are limited so students are encouraged to apply early.

Contact AustraLearn at  
1-800-980-0033  
or by email at  
studyabroad@australearn.org  
for a brochure and application.

## Council

CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange

This past winter for the first time, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) sponsored The Aussie Road Show with

the Australian Tourist Commission. The show-which included slide presentations and discussions of various study, work and travel opportunities in Australia -was a great success. After stops at college campuses in California, Colorado, Kansas and Michigan the show moved to the East Coast and drew excellent student turnouts in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Students reacted enthusiastically to the sights and sounds of Australia, and many were excited to learn about how Council could help them get there in the near future. Representatives from Council's Study and Work Abroad and Council Travel Agents divisions fielded questions on the many opportunities and travel information for students and graduates alike. Council has plans to coordinate the show again next year. To get involved in the Aussie Road Show, contact

Julie Panda at  
(305) 779-0239  
or by email at  
Jpanda@counciltravel.com.

AustraLearn Ad

The Australian Education Office (AEO) was established in 1992 as an initiative of the American-Australian Studies Foundation (AASF) in the United States, and the International Development Program of the Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP) in Australia.

Our mission is to develop and enhance bilateral relations between Australian and the United States and Canada by creating and fostering all forms of educational links.

The AEO is an American non-profit company representing the interests of and funded solely by Australian member universities and several North American Affiliates.



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Edith Cowan University,  
Flinders University of South Australia,  
Griffith University,  
James Cook University,  
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