LIVING IN MELBOURNE

SCEI-HE Melbourne campus is located in the City of Melbourne, capital of the state of Victoria.

The city itself is located amidst parklands along the banks of the Yarra River, just a few kilometres from Port Phillip Bay. With the sea to the south and mountains to the north, the city offers something for everyone.

With a vibrant multicultural population of over 3 million, it’s the second-largest city in Australia and is a busy financial and business centre. It also has the highest number of educational institutions and is rightly referred to as Australia’s education capital.

## Arts and Culture

Melbourne hosts a number of international cultural events and festivals each year. The Melbourne International Arts Festival and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival are favourites. Federation Square, in the heart of Melbourne, often holds free special events that celebrate the multicultural  nature of the city.

## Cafes and restaurants

Melbourne is famous for its coffee, thanks in large part to the influx of southern European migrants that came here in the 1950s. We also love food, enjoy a variety of ethnic cuisines, and celebrate a food and wine festival each March. The city has a lively and unique laneway culture with many restaurants  tucked away.

## Shopping

As a bustling capital Melbourne features large department stores, international designer shops and fashion outlets. Our thriving laneway culture has helped foster a unique community of boutique designers and local artists. Surrounded on all sides by farmland and the coast, Melbourne also hosts a large number of outdoor markets, offering fresh food to shoppers daily. The Queen Victoria market, a local landmark, is the largest open-air market in the Southern Hemisphere.

## Nightlife

## At night, the streets and laneways light up with a variety of theatres, bars, nightclubs, night markets, restaurants and concerts.

## Sport

## Melbourne is home to major sporting events, including the Australian Open (tennis), the Boxing Day Test (cricket) and the Spring Racing Carnival (horse racing). In winter, Melburnians flock to the Australian Football League (the AFL, or just 'the footy') – pick a team and join in.

## Outside Melbourne

In addition to international sporting events and venues, Victoria is also well known for its beautiful snowfields which are excellent for those interested in skiing during the winter season. There are many attractions outside the city, such as the Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary, Phillip Island with its world-famous penguins, the Goldfields and the Great Ocean Road. If tastes are a bit more adventurous, there is rock climbing and bushwalking in the stunning Grampians National Park, or surfing along Victoria’s extensive coastline.

## Transport

Melbourne has an extensive public transport system of buses, trains and trams, all of which are within easy access of SCEI-HE and which makes it easy to travel around. Download the PVT App on your phone and plan your trip to campus. <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/>

## Climate

Melbourne has four distinct seasons; however, it is well known for its unpredictable weather throughout the year. Summer is dry, with warm to hot daytime temperatures, but rarely humid; but winter can be cold with higher rainfall, so owning a thick, warm overcoat is a good idea.

Check out the daily weather using the Bureau of Meteorology <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/melbourne.shtml> or download the App

## Money and Living costs

You need to budget approximately A$2,300–$5,000 for the initial costs of establishing yourself in Melbourne, excluding airfares. We also recommended you allow A$1,000–$2,000 to buy a computer if you aren't bringing one with you.

Generally, if you choose accommodation close to the city centre it will be more expensive, but you will have lower transport costs; if you live further away, accommodation is more affordable, but transport costs more.

Ongoing living expenses

Besides the costs of establishing yourself, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) suggests student visa holders budget at least $21,041 for each year of study to cover living expenses.

We recommend that your budget is a minimum of A$25,000 – and more realistically, around A$32,000 per year – depending on your living arrangements and lifestyle choices. These costs do not include  [course fees](https://scei-he.edu.au/fees/)

If you are bringing your family, you will also need a minimum of A$7,362 per year for your spouse and A$3,152 per year for each child (not including school fees and uniforms). More information can be found at the [Study in Australia website](https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs).

Accommodation

Hostels and guesthouses $100 to $160 per week

Shared Rentals $85 to $250 per week

Homestay $400 per week

Rental $180 - $500 per week

Other living expenses

Groceries and eating out $80-$300 per week

Gas and electricity $35 -to $150 per week

Phone and Internet $20 to $60 per week

Public transport $15 to $60 per week

Car (after purchase) $150 to $280 per week

Entertainment $80-$200 per week

Find out more about Melbourne:

* [Study Melbourne](http://www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/)
* [Visit Melbourne](http://www.visitmelbourne.com/)
* [Public transport in Melbourne](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/).