Can I work in Australia?

Yes. If you need help to understand what you can or cannot do on your Student Visa, contact your International Student Advisor for more information. Remember, it is your responsibility to understand your visa conditions.

Department of Immigration and Border Protection: Phone 13 18 81 or border.gov.au
and http://www.border.gov.au/Lega/Lega/Form/Immi-FAQs/can-i-work-while-i-am-studying

Visa conditions: If you were granted a Student visa on or after 26 April 2008, you and your dependent family members already have Permission to Work automatically included with your visa. If you were granted your Student visa before 26 April 2008, you will need to apply for ‘Permission to Work’.

Number of hours you can work: Coursework students can work a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight when their course is in session, and unlimited hours during holidays and non-compulsory study sessions (i.e. Session 3 if you have been fully enrolled in Sessions 1 and 2). A fortnight is defined as a 14-day period beginning on Monday and ending on Sunday.

Students studying for a PhD or Masters by research can work unlimited hours throughout the year.

Graduate visas: This visa allows you to stay and look for work in Australia for up to 18 months after graduating. Check your eligibility online: http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/485-always check this site for the latest information.

Do I have to pay tax?

Yes. Australian Tax Office (ATO): Phone 13 28 65 or ato.gov.au

You will need a Tax File Number. Apply for one, for free through the Australian Tax Office. You can claim your tax back at the end of financial year in Australia (30 June). If you leave the country permanently before that date you can claim your tax back early.

What do I need to know about working in Australia?

Talk to your International Student Advisor if you are not sure of your work conditions or go to Fairwork Australia (Phone 131394 or fairwork.gov.au) to find information on your workplace rights and obligations in Australia. You can check you are receiving the right pay with: fairwork.gov.au OR Award Finder – awardfinder.fwo.gov.au


You can check you are receiving the right pay with:


It’s not fair!

If you think you are being unfairly treated please contact your International Student Advisor. They can help you access the Fairwork Ombudsman as it is against the law to treat workers unfairly. For some helpful information you can go to:


Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National): 13 14 50 – open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tell them the language you speak and ask to be put through to the relevant government service.
How do I find work as a student?

Websites, newspapers, networking and volunteering

Register on CareerHub, SCU’s job vacancy site: careerhub.scu.edu.au Some Australian public useful job search websites:

- seek.com.au
- careerrone.com.au
- adzuna.com.au
- jobsearch.gov.au
- http://www.graduateopportunities.com/
- au.jora.com/
- careersonline.com.au
- GradConnection http://au.gradconnection.com/

Networking: A large proportion of the jobs in Australia are not advertised. This means you limit your ability to get a job if you rely solely on looking for advertisements online or in the newspaper. You will need to let the people in your network know about your job search. See our Fact Sheet on Networking to help you with this task.

Applying for a job: If you find a job that suits your skills and knowledge you may need to submit an application (online or post), write a cover letter, create a resume, address selection criteria and attend an interview.

Student placements, work experience, volunteering and unpaid work: For further information see: https://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay/unpaid-work/student-placements

Explore volunteering as a way to help you get experience. Search the web at volunteeringaustralia.org (national), lnci.org.au (Lismore) and volunteeringgc.com.au (Gold Coast).

Job Advice for International Students Checklist

☐ I have worked through the modules under Graduate Careers and Internship Preparation in the SCU Career Development Program.
☐ I am a current student and I have checked my visa status.
☐ I have a Tax File Number. If your boss has not asked for one, you will be illegally employed.
☐ I know the number of hours I am permitted to work.
☐ I know how much I legally should be paid and my workplace rights.
☐ I have conducted searches on the internet or newspapers for paid and volunteer jobs.
☐ I am letting people know that I am looking for a job and asking them if they know of any suitable positions.
☐ I am registered with SCU’s online job vacancy site, CareerHub.
☐ I have considered volunteering to get some local experience and to help me practice my English (if it’s my second language).

Where to find more help

- SCU Career Development Program on MySCU – learn.scu.edu.au
- Visit careerhub.scu.edu.au for job vacancies, events and resources
- Email for a careers consultation: careers@scu.edu.au
- For further resources and fact sheets go to scu.edu.au/careers