



**SAFETY / AWARENESS /
CRIME PREVENTION
CONNECT: A GUIDE
FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS**



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Introduction

**Vice-Chancellor,
University of Wollongong**

I am pleased to see the ongoing joint commitment between Wollongong Police and our University in making this useful resource available to all International Students when they first arrive in Wollongong. The Guide has been recently revised and contains essential information for students that puts their personal safety into perspective whilst living in our Illawarra community.

I encourage all students to make themselves conversant with the Guide's content and its safety tips. Should you ever need assistance don't hesitate to seek help from any Police Officer or from our own UOW Security team. These people will be only too happy to give you advice or point you in the right direction.

I extend to all students a safe and prosperous stay in our City of Wollongong.

Professor Paul Wellings



Wollongong Local Area Commander

I wish to extend my welcome to those that have chosen to study at the University of Wollongong. As a part of our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure city, we have joined with the University to produce this Safety Awareness guide.

This guide provides substantial practical information for everyone in terms of personal safety and importantly how it is that you can prevent yourself from being the victim of crime. This guide will also help you make informed decisions on what to do in the unlikely event that you become the victim of crime.

I am confident that whilst you are studying at the University of Wollongong you will find the Police officers from the Wollongong Local Area Command to be professional and helpful. We are accessible 24 hours of the day, 7 days of the week and will not hesitate to give you assistance.

We have a very strong relationship with the University of Wollongong, which includes maintaining a regular presence within the University Campus. Given this is the case it is likely you will encounter a Police officer during your time at the University. If you do, please do not hesitate to introduce yourself and to talk to the officer about the contents of this guide.

I sincerely trust you find this guide useful and extend best wishes to all in their academic pursuits.

Superintendent Kyle Stewart

NSW Police Force



NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au



Emergencies

UOW Security
4221 4900

General Enquiries/
Safety Escorts
4221 4555

What Is Crime?

Crime is any conduct which is prohibited by law and which may result in punishment. Like any country, Australia has its own rules, regulations and laws that control the way people behave according to what Australian society accepts. It is expected that all people from all backgrounds and countries abide by these laws whilst in the country. For further information on laws and regulations, go to www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au.

It is very important to report crime and get Police or security assistance when you need it.

Dealing with offensive comments

On a public street if someone yells out comments that are offensive such as 'go back to your own country, you're not welcome here' or 'we don't wear those clothes in Australia', it is most likely that Police will not be able to do anything about it. If the comments continue and you know who the person is, or they become abusive and threatening, speak to UOW Security or Police about your concerns. If a person says something to you that may be considered a racist comment, or could be considered as vilification, then you may be able to make a complaint to the Anti-Discrimination Board. If this occurs on campus then you should take this up with the Academic Registrar's Division through Student Central. If you feel threatened by another person's comments or behaviour, immediately make contact with UOW Security. The matter may then be referred to the Employment Equity and Diversity Unit (EED Unit).

What is an assault?

If someone says to you, "I am going to hit you" or they threaten to punch you and you believe that the person has the capacity to carry out that threat, then such an incident could be viewed as an assault and you should talk to the Police about what has happened.



UOW Security



Role of UOW Security

UOW Security is responsible for providing a safe and secure Wollongong Campus. Security Officers take reports from staff and students about incidents and talk to students about any safety concerns they have. Security Officers provide assistance to students in a number of ways including:

- Patrolling campus and carparks on foot and on bikes.
- Monitoring safety on campus and nearby.
- Providing safe escorts after dark.
- Responding to emergencies or incidents.
- Providing victims of crime with support.

Reporting to UOW Security

It is important that students report incidents to UOW Security as well as the Police. If you are uncomfortable reporting matters to the Police, UOW Security along with other University representatives can help you in making a report.

The University needs to know what issues are affecting students on campus and anything that affects students getting to and from campus in the Illawarra. UOW Security reports anything that seriously impacts on a student whilst they are enrolled at University to the Academic Registrar. The Academic Registrar's Division can assess and provide guidance on different ways in which students can be assisted where they have had a bad experience.

You can report to the Security Office. Or you can call security on telephone **4221 4555**.



Emergencies



UOW Security
4221 4900

General Enquiries / Safety
Escorts **4221 4555**





The University of Wollongong geographically belongs to the Wollongong Local Area Command.

The role of the Police is to protect the public, preserve peace and safety and prevent crime.

Police also respond to a wide range of needs such as: criminal and traffic offences investigation, assisting emergency services, responding to life threatening situations, assisting in mediating family and neighbourhood disputes including those involving domestic violence, co-ordinating the safe and effective flow of traffic, working with the community and other departments to resolve issues of concern by providing advice on policing and crime issues.

Wollongong Police and the University of Wollongong have a strong history of working together to keep students safe on and off the Wollongong campus. The working relationship provides for a variety of programs and initiatives that work towards ongoing communication between the university and local Police.

Local Police aim to ensure the safety of all students and strongly appreciate the diversity that international students bring to our Illawarra community. Police and university staff aim to ensure that cultural barriers do not stand in the way of students being able to access the services of the NSW Police Force.

Most Police officers are recognisable by their uniform, but sometimes they perform their duties in 'plain clothes'. All Police officers carry a Police badge and their identification while on duty. This identification has their photograph and their name on it. If you are unsure about the identity of a person who says they are a Police officer, you can ask to see their Police Force identification.

Police powers

Police generally have the authority to arrest, detain, search, collect information, and charge a person if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a person is committing, has committed or will commit an offence.

Police have a wide range of powers to enter premises and to conduct searches on persons, homes and vehicles. Police have powers to take fingerprints, photographs or DNA samples from persons charged with certain criminal offences.



The use of these powers is controlled by strict rules which Police must obey. If you have any questions about the law and your rights and obligations, you can contact the Law Access online at www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 888 529**. If you need an interpreter you can call the Translating and Interpreter Service (TIS) on **131 450** and ask for an interpreter that speaks your language.

Reporting to the Police

If you become a victim of crime, witness a crime or believe you have information regarding a crime, there are several ways to contact Police and make a report:

1. Call 000

In an emergency situation **call 000**. You will be asked if you want the Police, an Ambulance or the Fire Brigade. If you need an interpreter, ask for the Police and then tell the operator what language you speak and you'll be connected to the telephone interpreter.

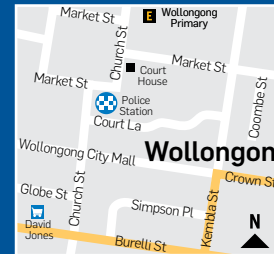
2. Telephone or go to the nearest Police station

If you do not speak English, say "interpreter" and the name of the language you speak and the Police will connect you to the telephone interpreter or arrange for an appointment when an interpreter can be present.

Wollongong Police Station is **open 24 hours a day**.

The Police Station is located at the Corner of Market and Church Streets Wollongong. The telephone number is **4226 7899**.

Note: Refer to the street directory of Wollongong at right to see the location of the Police Station



3. Call Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 131 444 (free of charge, 24 hours)

Contact the PAL only if the situation you wish to report is not an emergency and a crime is no longer in progress, for example a report about a burglary, car theft, lost property, damage to property, minor traffic accidents or stealing. If you do not speak English say 'interpreter' and language you speak so that the operator can connect you to the telephone interpreter.

Any report made will be allocated a Police Event report number. Always ask for this and write the number down so that you can follow up the matter with Police, provide the number to the University should the need arise or for insurance purposes.

4. Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 (free of charge)

You can call Crime Stoppers to provide information on wanted people, unsolved crimes and people you know have committed criminal offences but have not been arrested. If you have information about criminal activity but you are not a victim, you can call Crime Stoppers. People who have information may qualify for a cash reward of up to \$1000 if their information leads to an arrest. Informants who provide information can remain anonymous if they wish.



5. Multi-cultural Community Liaison Officer

Wollongong Police Station has a Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLLO). They are not sworn Police officers. Liaison Officers can help you in dealing with Police officers, help you understand court proceedings and offer advice about personal safety and assist you in reporting a crime.

REMEMBER: in an emergency you should always call 000 and ask the operator to connect you to the Police.

What happens when crime is reported to the Police?

When a crime is reported to the Police a Police officer will be assigned to be in charge of the investigation. You should be given his or her name and a contact telephone number.

You will need to give Police a clear and detailed statement about what happened and you will need to describe any injuries you have suffered as well as any losses.

If you have been assaulted, Police may ask or take you to see a doctor so that the injuries can be recorded or treated. Police also may take away property that belongs to you for use as evidence in any court proceedings, take photographs or check for fingerprints. They may ask you to leave the area and not to touch or clean it until their procedure is finished.

They may also ask you to attend an identification parade or look at photographs to identify the alleged offender.



More important information shown over the page...

Domestic Violence



The NSW Police Force is committed to the protection of victims of domestic violence and family violence.

Domestic violence offences are committed on persons who are in an intimate relationship, defacto relationship, family relationship, are a carer or person living in the same household. Domestic violence includes any physical and/or sexual assaults, fear and intimidation, emotional or psychological abuse.

NO PERSON HAS THE RIGHT to commit any of these offences, and there is **NO EXCUSE** for domestic violence.

To report domestic violence or speak to someone about your situation please contact either:

Domestic Violence Line - 1800 65 64 63
(interpreters available) 24hours a day 7 days a week

Wollongong Police Stations - 4226 7899

Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service - 1800 805 379

NSW Rape Crisis Centre - 1800 424 017

Visas - Does Reporting An Incident Impact Your Visa?



If you have been the victim of a crime or need help from Police, this has no impact on the status of your student visa.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is not normally notified that a student has reported an incident, and would not normally take any action against the student in such a case.

If you have been the victim of a crime or you need help this has no impact on the status of your student visa, but if the circumstances were to impact your course requirements, you should discuss this with the University straight away to prevent any flow on effect to your visa.

Help is always available through Student Central, the Dean of Students, the DIAC website or by calling **131 881**.

Need Advice?



If you are worrying about something or just need some advice about where to go for help there are a range of people who you can talk to. If they cannot help you they will point you to someone who can.

If you need advice or you are concerned about something please contact one of these people within the University community.

- University Student Support Advisors
- University Counselling
- Student Central
- UOW Security
- Student Associations from your community

UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG



Important Numbers



Off campus

Emergency: POLICE, FIRE BRIGADE, AMBULANCE	000
Wollongong Police	4226 7899
Multicultural Community Liaison Officer	4226 7899
Wollongong Hospital	4222 5000
Wollongong Taxis	4229 9311
Telephone Interpreting Service	131 450
Wollongong Council	4227 7111
Fair Trading	4254 3433
Legal Aid	4228 8299
Illawarra Legal Centre	4276 1939
Law Access	1300 888 529
Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)	131 881

On campus

UOW Security	4221 4555 / 0407 287 750
Campus emergencies/ reporting a crime in progress	4221 4900
Student Services	4221 3445
Student Advisors	4221 3445
http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/index.html	
Student Central	1300 ASK UOW

Other Sources Of Information



- International Students Orientation Handbook
- UOW Security Website
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/>
- NSW Police Force <http://www.Police.nsw.gov.au>

NSW Police Force

Wollongong Local Area Command
Telephone: (02) 4226 7899 (All emergencies call 000)
Web: www.police.nsw.gov.au

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Northfields Avenue Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia
Telephone: (02) 4221 3555
Web: www.uow.edu.au



Safety in public places

For safety when travelling around the Wollongong Central Business District (CBD) students need to get to know where they are going and how to get there. Get a map of the city, and when you know where you are living, work out where you will usually shop and how you will travel to and from Campus and to and from the shops.

Study the public transport timetables so that you can use these, especially at night. Get to know the areas that you and other students feel comfortable moving around. (Visit the University transport website and look at timetable for buses and trains <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/transport/>.)

When you go out, think about where you are going, who you are going with and what you take out with you.

If you don't have a bank account, you should open one as soon as possible so that you can avoid carrying large sums of cash. Use a card to make electronic (Eftpos) transactions to buy things so that you only need to carry small sums of cash \$20 - \$50 at a time for small inexpensive purchases. Don't keep your Personal Identification Number (PIN) with your card. Memorise it.

If you lose your card ring your bank straight away and have them cancel the card and order a replacement.

How to avoid being a victim of crime

Check out the University Security's website and go to the .pdf at: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/personalsafety/index.html>



What To Do If You Become A Victim of Crime



- Call your local Police station or the Police Assistance Line.
- On campus get help from UOW Security.
- Avoid touching property to ensure forensic evidence is not disturbed.
- Ask for estimated time of arrival of Police.
- If you have any questions ask Police attending.
- If you need help don't be afraid to ask for help.

If you do walk then consider the following:

Be street wise:

- **Have a plan for going to and from campus.**
- **Use bus transport where you can, even for short trips.**
- **Put aside a small amount of money for emergencies separate from your wallet.**
- **Walk confidently and look around to see what is going on around you.**
- **Walk with a friend or in a group of two or more people.**
- **Don't take short cuts; follow major pathways along side roads, after dark use well lit areas.**
- **Avoid isolated areas or pathways where you can't get assistance.**
- **If you think you are being followed, change direction and walk to a safe place where you can seek assistance.**
- **Carry a mobile telephone. If you are being followed call the Police on 000. Keep the line open until you get assistance or you get to a safe place.**

If you are victim of a robbery:

- **Do not place yourself or others in danger.**
- **If you are not able to get away, you should avoid serious injury by handing over what is requested of you.**
- **As soon as the offender leaves get help and report what has happened to Security and/or the NSW Police.**
- **Where practical note a description and the direction the offender flees.**

Safety on Campus

On the Wollongong Campus the University has its own team of Security Officers – UOW Security. The Security Officers are available on campus 24 hours a day for every day of the year. UOW Security Officers wear a distinctive uniform and are licensed through the New South Wales Security Industry Registry supervised by the Commissioner of NSW Police Force. Security Officers wear a NSW photographic security licence and a University Authorised Person photographic identification card.

Security Officers regularly patrol the campus on foot, in patrol cars and on bicycles. These Officers are always available to provide advice and to provide assistance when you are on campus.

After dark, Security Officers provide Safety escorts on campus and in the vicinity of the campus as far as North Wollongong Railway Station when the Uni Shuttle is not running and as far as Gipps Road, Gwynneville.

On campus Security Telephones are strategically located across campus. These telephones provide access to Security Officers for safe escorts or for assistance in emergencies, access to the Emergency Services through **000** including the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance, access to Wollongong Taxis, the NRMA Road Service and the Police Assistance Line **131 444**.

To find more information about UOW Security go to: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/>

Safety on public transport

You can get to the Wollongong Campus by catching a train, bus, taxi, or riding a bicycle and walking. Students should check out the bus and train timetables and plan their day around these services. Timetables for trains and buses can be found at: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/transport/>.

Even if you can walk to campus, for your safety you should check out the bus routes and the times to see if you can catch a bus close to where you are living, especially if you can avoid walking long distances alone after dark.

If travelling on trains at night try not to travel alone, stand in well lit areas of the railway station platform and on the train sit near the Guard's compartment, which is marked with a "blue light".



Transport

Free Wollongong CBD Shuttle the "Gong Shuttle" Routes 55a and 55c is an important Service that connects the Wollongong Campus and the Innovation Campus (iC) to the Wollongong Central Business District (CBD).

The Gong Shuttle runs every 10 minutes in both directions (during peak periods) around a Wollongong City loop. For the Route Map go to <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/transport/>

The Gong Shuttles leave the University every 5 minutes. They alternate between clockwise (Route 55c) and anticlockwise (Route 55a) loops of the route, e.g. the bus number indicates the direction the bus will take. 55c will travel more directly to the Innovation Campus whilst 55a will travel more directly to the TAFE, Weerona, Wollongong Hospital and CBD.

North Wollongong Station to Wollongong Campus

The UOW shuttle bus (Route 9) continues to service the University ring road and North Wollongong Station/International House on weekdays. The Gong shuttle extends its service to North Wollongong Station during the weekend and other times when the UOW shuttle is not operating.

It is important to note that these services are free.

Taxis

Taxis are usually a more expensive form of transport. Taxis are available from the taxi stand in Northfields Avenue east of the Bus Bay. You can also use any Security telephone to call the Wollongong Taxi Service and book a taxi to collect you from campus. If you need to call a taxi when not on campus call **131 008**. The operator can connect you to the local taxi company for the area you are in.

Scams & Fraud



Wollongong Police advise students to be aware of scams. In the past some students have experienced scams related to rental properties, money transfers, prizes, phone scams, scams that lead you to believe that you are getting a good deal, promises of great returns for very little money or promotion of an item which does not actually exist.

There are a number of ways students can protect themselves from these scams. Some include:

- Keep your software protection up to date.
- NEVER give your PIN number or password to anyone and check your account balance regularly.
- Do not send money to someone you don't know or trust.
- Follow the rules set by ebay.
- Do business with companies you know and trust.
- Don't be forced into signing anything.
- Read everything you might sign or agree to carefully.
- If you are contacted and advised that you have won prize money and you need to send money to cover legal costs, DON'T. This is most likely a scam.
- If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

For tips and references on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam visit SCAMWATCH online: www.scamwatch.gov.au

If students need advice on scams they can contact the Department of Fair Trading www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au, 13 32 20, Wollongong Office 4254 3433. If they believe they have been a victim they need to report it immediately to Police.



Emergencies



UOW Security
4221 4900

General Enquiries / Safety
Escorts 4221 4555



Surf Safety



Stay Safe

Wollongong's beaches are magic... but they can also be very dangerous. Here's some basic precautions to help you enjoy your day at the beach:



1. Always swim between the red and yellow flags (the flags indicate a designated swimming area – **NO FLAGS NO SWIM!**).
2. Swim only at beaches patrolled by lifeguards and lifesavers.
3. Look for and read the water advisory signs and obey lifeguard or lifesaver instructions.
4. Always supervise your child in or around any body of water.
5. Always check the water depth before entering (conditions change so don't dive into unknown waters).
6. Always swim with someone (never swim alone).
7. If unsure of water conditions ask advice from the lifeguard or lifesaver.
8. If ever in need of assistance, stay clam, float, conserve your energy, raise your arm and signal for help.
9. Never swim following consumption of alcohol or other drugs.
10. Use 30+ sunscreen and wear a shirt, hat and sunglasses.

No flags = no swim

Always swim between the **RED** and **YELLOW** flags.

Alcohol and Swimming

Just like alcohol and driving, alcohol and swimming are a dangerous combination. Your judgement is impaired, you tire easily, you take more risks and your body temperature can drop more rapidly. If a person affected by alcohol gets into difficulties they can vomit and choke. It's not worth the risk, don't mix alcohol with swimming.



Lifeguards patrol Monday to Saturday inclusive and Surf Lifesavers patrol Sunday and Public Holidays.

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au www.illawarrasurf.com

Information and images courtesy of Wollongong City Council Lifeguard Service



Alcohol and behaviour



TAKE THE HINT don't FAIL TO QUIT

If you are asked to leave a licensed premises by staff, security or Police for intoxication, violent or quarrelsome behaviour, you must leave. If you refuse you can be fined \$550. If you are asked to leave or you are refused entry, you must leave and move more than 50 metres from the licensed premises for a 6 hour period and you must not return to the licensed premises for 24 hours.

Don't risk it, call it a night without a fight.

You need to have suitable identification to prove your age such as driver's licence or passport or else you may be refused entry. You must be 18 years and over to enter a licensed premises.

Secondary Supply of Alcohol to Minors (under 18)

In NSW it is an offence to supply alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years of age. Don't take the risk, it is a \$550 on the spot fine.

Keeping Your Drink Safe

To avoid drink spiking, take responsibility and keep your drink/s safe. You can do this by:

- Never leave your drink unattended.
- Never accept a drink from someone you don't know.
- If someone offers to get you a drink, open it yourself or go with them when they get it.
- If unsure about your drink, leave it.

Drinking Responsibly

Excessive consumption of alcohol can put you in a situation where you are unable to look after yourself. Your normal capacity to make sensible decisions about your own welfare is diminished and your ability to conduct yourself within the normal acceptable standards of the community can be affected.

Have fun but keep safe. Avoid binge drinking and getting to a point of total intoxication that renders you unable to control your actions or remain conscious of what is happening around you.

It is your responsibility to monitor how much you drink and how it affects you.

If someone collapses and loses consciousness – immediately call for an Ambulance on 000.



Drugs



As a general rule, it is illegal to use any drug:

- That cannot be purchased or bought from a shop or chemist.
- Not prescribed for you by a doctor.

Some drugs can only be used legally when they have been prescribed by a doctor for that person. These drugs can only be supplied by chemists (pharmacists). It is illegal to be in possession of some of these restricted drugs if they have not been prescribed for you by a doctor.

In NSW it is a crime to use or have certain drugs in any circumstances. The most common illegal drugs include: cannabis (marijuana), heroin, amphetamines (speed, LSD), cocaine (including crack) and 'designer drugs' (ice, ecstasy).

The possession, use, sale, distribution, importation, manufacturing or trafficking of a wide range of drugs is illegal.

Protecting Property



You should keep an inventory or information about your property. This would help to identify what you own in the event that you suffer a loss or theft. This would be very important if you had an insurance policy and you wished to make a claim or you needed to report your property loss or theft.

Records

You should record the Brand name, the model and model number and the serial number of the product. Also record the date of purchase, and from where or whom. Keep any receipts and/or documents that state the value of the product when you purchased it.

Marking and Engraving

You should mark your property or engrave it to make your property less desirable to thieves. If your property is taken, this will also help Police to return your stolen property if it is recovered.

You should mark property with a personal code containing your initials, drivers licence number or a DOB (date of birth) and the state you are living in. For example John Smith with a driver's licence would be **JS 2914AZ NSW**

Or John Smith with a DOB 25/03/81 living in NSW with no driver's licence would be **JS 250381 NSW**

You should write down your personal code with your inventory and provide this to the Police should the need ever arise to report a loss.

Renting Accommodation



The University Accommodation Services Division has a range of accommodation options for students to consider. For students coming to the area who want to live independently and away from University facilities there are a number of options available: the private rental market through real estate agents and private property owners; or sharing a house with another student or a property owner.

Students seeking private accommodation through property owners or shared accommodation should be cautious, make enquiries and obtain adequate references before agreeing to move into a property with persons they don't know.

The University strongly recommends that students should rent through a licensed real estate agent. The Department of Fair Trading provides information covering the rental of property which can be accessed at:

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Tenants_and_home_owners.html

Additional information about renting properties can be found on the Accommodation Services website:

http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/listing/tenancy_info/index.html

Regardless of the type of living arrangement you adopt, and whether or not you have a written tenancy agreement, tenants in private rental accommodation are all covered by the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 in New South Wales.

Don't be pressured into signing any agreements until you have had time to read them carefully and consider the costs involved. Avoid signing long term leases and be cautious about properties with an extremely low rent as this could be a sign of an unscrupulous landlord.

Students should be careful about visiting shared housing opportunities or private rental properties by themselves. You should take a friend, who can offer another opinion about the arrangements and the premises you visit. Ask for time to think about your decision, and discuss the advantages and disadvantages with a friend.

Accommodation providers may also advertise as being 'student friendly'. Carefully check this claim out first as it could be misleading. Remember that you will not just need to live in the house but also study there as well.

Ask yourself whether the place is going to be easy to travel to and from, is it safe, will my valuables be secure, will I be able to study without interruptions, are there adequate services like telephone or broadband internet, etc.

Safety and privacy tips

- In shared accommodation do not leave valuable items unsecured or unsupervised
- Ensure the landlord provides your room with a lock
- Consider contents insurance to protect your valuable personal belongings

USBs



Protect your USBs from loss. Engrave or mark your student number onto the USB or attach a name tag. Students often lose USBs then find it difficult to find them with crucial assignment work lost. If you lose your USB on campus please contact UOW Security.

Riding Bicycles In New South Wales



If you are riding a bicycle to and from the Wollongong Campus you need to make sure that you have the right safety gear.

You need to wear a helmet at all times, one that is approved by Standards Australia. You can purchase a bike helmet that meets these standards from any Bike Shop or some of the major retail chains, like K-Mart, Big W, etc. If you are riding at night you need to have a white headlight and a rear red flashing/or steady light so that other road users can see you. This will help them to avoid a collision with you.

If you don't have the right safety gear and you ride unsafe, the Police can stop you and issue a penalty notice for offences under the NSW Road Rules. A fine greater than \$60 applies to anyone breaking the laws of safety for bicycle riders.

For more information about how to ride safe and to ensure that your bike is road worthy, go to the Roads and Traffic Authority website and look for bike safety. Go to:

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/bicycles/>



Driving In New South Wales



If you wish to drive a car during your stay, it is **strongly** recommended that you read the information on driving and driving licences in NSW which can be found on Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) website www.rta.nsw.gov.au or on telephone number **132 213**. You can also go into a local RTA office to speak to staff about any questions you may have.

Everyone who does not have a permanent resident visa under the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958 is considered to be a 'visiting driver'. If you hold a current overseas driving licence, you are in a category of visiting driver and you are not required to get a NSW driving licence. If your licence is not written in English, an International Driving Permit or an English translation must be carried with the licence from your home country. This should also specify the class of your original licence.

If you need to translate your driving licence into English, you can do this through the Community Relations Commission – **1300 651 500**. You also need to make sure that your licence is current and has not expired.

While driving in NSW you need to comply with the road rules and regulations. Importantly you should adhere to these points:

- **Don't drink and drive.**
- **Always remember the 'keep to the left' rule for cars.**
- **If a Police, ambulance or a fire emergency vehicle are driving behind you with their flashing blue and red lights and sirens turned on, you must pull over to the left side of the road out of the way, in a safe manner until the emergency vehicle passes.**
- **If a Police vehicle behind your car has flashing blue and red lights and siren turned on, you must pull over to the left side of the road and stop your car. Wait for the Police officer to approach you.**
- **Always carry a copy of your driver's licence translated into English. You may also need to show your STUDENT card.**
- **Be aware of speed limits. They can change regularly and you MUST NOT drive faster than the posted speed limit!**
- **Police can and will pull you over if you do not abide by the road rules. You can be issued with a fine or lose the right to have a driver's licence.**

Police strongly advise and recommend that you read all the necessary information that is provided by the RTA before starting to drive on New South Wales roads.

