Overview

Information for incoming exchange students
Semesters Available: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year
GPA Requirement: 3.0
Language of Instruction: English
Academic Calendar:
Semester 1: mid February – late June
Semester 2: mid July – late November
Other important dates

Through a reciprocal agreement between the University of Melbourne and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University, CALS undergraduate students may apply to enroll directly in any field of study at Melbourne for a semester or a year. Students study alongside Melbourne and international students, and are eligible to participate in the many activities sponsored by Melbourne and its student body.

This exchange program is open to undergraduate CALS students of sophomore or higher standing, and is awarded on first-come, first-serve basis.

- Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria, is Australia's second-largest city. It is vibrant, culturally diverse and characterized by its friendly people and atmosphere.
- The University of Melbourne is five minutes from the centre of Melbourne, a leafy campus with cafés, shops and spectacular architecture. With great public transportation, you'll feel right at home anywhere in the city.
- Second oldest university in Australia with more than 47,000 students
- Melbourne was judged as the most livable city in the world in 2011 by the Economist Intelligence Unit and has been ranked the fourth most student-friendly city in the world in the QS Best Student City Rankings in 2012
- Melbourne is also a great spot from which to see the rest of Australia — you can take a ferry to Tasmania, fly up to the amazing Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, head to gorgeous Sydney to check out the Opera House or take in the stunning Northern Territory, including Uluru and Kakadu National Park.

Areas of Study

For a full list of majors, click here.

Key areas of study relevant to CALS majors:

- Agriculture, animal studies, food science and veterinary science
- Commerce, economics and management
- Education, teaching and training
- Environment and natural resources
- Sciences and mathematics

Student Reports

What do other CALS students have to say about studying at Melbourne? Links to student reports can be found on the main Exchange Partner webpage. Be sure to check them out!

Teaching Methods

The Australian academic system is based upon the UK system. There is a range of teaching methods depending on your discipline of study. You will generally have a combination of lecture and tutorial classes. Lectures can vary in size from 35 to 200 students; tutorial classes are much smaller and allow for open discussion of issues raised in lectures. Depending on
your discipline you may undertake laboratory classes. Fieldwork also forms a large part of some units of study. The formal contact hours vary across units, however great emphasis is places on independent study outside of class contact hours.

Assessments & Grading

The University of Melbourne provides a wide range of academic support during your studies. Generally, expect:

- Less scheduled class time
- The need to be a more self-directed learner
- Less individualized attention from professors/lecturers
- More active discussion in tutorial classes
- An argumentative, not descriptive, style of writing in essays and exams
- Few, but heavily weighted, pieces of assessment late in the semester
- A different approach to grading assignments

The University of Melbourne has its own grading system. CALS students must earn a “P” to receive credit.

Classes

CALS Exchange students are required to take 4 classes while at Melbourne.

Accommodation

Most CALS students live in university housing or Residential Colleges. Generally, housing is more expensive than living in Ithaca.

Working in Australia

During the semester, international students are permitted to work a maximum of 20 hours per week. There is no limit on the number of hours you can work when the university is not in session, provided it does not interfere with your studies. You should be aware that work may not be readily available and should not depend on this form of income for support. If you intend to work, you must apply for a work rights visa after you begin your semester at Melbourne.

As visa regulations are subject to change, we recommend you refer to the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship website for full and up-to-date information.

Health Insurance

The Australian Government requires all international students to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). The health coverage provides medical and hospital care within Australia from the date of your arrival until the end of your studies in Australia. It is your responsibility to ensure your OSHC is valid and kept up-to-date while you hold a student visa. Your Letter of Offer will detail the OSHC fees you are required to pay.

Student Visa

International students studying in Australia are required to have a student visa. Applications are made online once a formal “offer letter” is sent from the host university.

Program Costs

Students are billed their regular CALS tuition, with no added administrative fees. Students purchase plane tickets and pay remaining costs such as housing, meals, student visa application fees, local travel, and personal expenses.

Some partner institutions charge student activity fees and/or health insurance plans which students are also responsible for.

Financial Aid

If you currently receive financial aid your package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your study abroad program. Financial aid for study abroad is needs-based, consistent with university and government policies, and covers all costs related to study abroad (including program tuition, all mandatory program fees, housing, meals, and round-trip airfare).

University grant aid and loan awards may either be increased or decreased to meet study abroad needs. The normal work-study component of aid packages are converted to student loans.

Application Process

Students apply to the exchange after attending CALS Study Abroad 101 and meeting with the CALS Exchange Coordinator to discuss plans. All application materials will be returned to CALS.