

GREENHEART TRAVEL High School Abroad

Australia

Curriculum Guidelines





OVERVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Since Australia is situated in the Southern Hemisphere, the academic year coincides with the calendar year: it starts in the end of January and finishes in December. High Schools in Australia are generally open from Monday to Friday. School hours vary slightly across Australia but are generally from 9am to 3:30 pm each school day.

There are 2 semesters per school year, each divided in 2 terms. Usually there is a vacation break of about 10-14 days between each term. The summer vacations are the biggest school holidays (period of 6/7 weeks). The timetable for school vacations is in general in April, July, and September.

Subjects basically operate on a semester basis, but in some grade levels and for some subjects, the subject has to be taken in both semester 1 and 2 (eg, English in year 10 is a one year subject; a student can't take it for 1 semester only).

In grades 8 - 10, schools offer subjects in all curriculum areas, but in grades 11 and 12, the student has more flexibility according to their interests, although in year 11 there are a couple of mandatory subjects for all students (eg, English for the year, Math for at least a semester).

Subjects in Australia

Individual schools offer a broad range of core and specialized subjects within these learning areas. Many schools offer Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects as an integral part of the curriculum.

A variety of subjects are available for selection by the student, pending space availability at the school. At the end of the program, a student will receive an official report card and/or transcript, as it is not possible to receive a diploma from an Australian high school.

The curriculum is organized into eight essential learning areas:

English	Mathematics	Science	Arts
Design and Technology	Health and Physical Education	Languages	Society and Environment

Schedule

Schools divide their day and week into the number of periods that they wish.

In some schools, this will be 7-8 periods per day, but in others, it may be only 5 (with each period being longer, of course). This means that a student may not have each subject every day of the week, but in the week, each subject will have the same time allocation.

The time allocation will vary depending on the grade level, with 12th grade students, having to take only 5 subjects, having more time per subject than 11th grade students, who have to do 6 subjects in the week.

8th – 10th grade students have more subjects to cover in their curriculum, so – of course – in the younger grade levels, this equates to less time per subject in the week.

School Lunches

Host families are expected to provide students with lunch. Students need to negotiate with their host family regarding their individual needs. If a student chooses to buy lunch he/she would expect to pay \$5.00-6.00. Most schools have a cafeteria or a shop nearby; however, host families are not expected to provide money for bought meals unless negotiated.

School Uniform

School uniform is compulsory in all Australian schools. You will need to buy one on arrival. The cost of the uniform does vary from school to school, depending mostly on the uniform requirements at the school. Average expenses are around \$300. The student doesn't have to buy everything of course; it depends on the season when they come.

Students do not have to purchase their textbooks in Australia. The school will lend the books to them. Students also receive a basic stationery pack (pens, notebooks, etc.) on arrival, and then have to purchase further ones when required, but these are minimal extra costs.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Every school offers an extensive co-curricular program providing students with the opportunity to participate individually or as a team member in many school based activities. These include: music bands, drama productions, and sports and adventure activities. All students are encouraged to participate. A variety of state, national and international competitions provide a further challenge to test the abilities, skills, and knowledge of students in areas including academic excellence, sports, enterprise and leadership.


Exams and Results

The student will receive written reports at the end of each term. Remember, it is not possible for an exchange student to receive a diploma from an Australian high school. It is the student's responsibility to bring all of their paperwork and transcripts home with them prior to leaving Australia.

A: 85% and over	B: 70 to 84%	C: 55 to 69%	D: 40 to 54%	E: 0 to 39%
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What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.



You should bring this document with you to the meeting so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward, and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.