

GATEWAY EDUCONNECT

Australia Study Budget 2026

A student and parent guide to the real cost of studying in Australia, the new visa charge, financial capacity and budget planning.

AUD 2,500 visa charge	AUD 29,710 financial proof	OSHC is mandatory
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Tuition is only one part of the Australia budget. A responsible plan must include visa, health cover, accommodation, travel, course materials, living expenses and emergency funds.

Use this guide to: understand the latest rule, identify the checks you must complete, discuss the budget with your family, and prepare better questions before paying any fee.

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1. The important 2026 cost update

Student visa charge

From 1 July 2026, the main Student Visa Application Charge increased from AUD 2,000 to AUD 2,500. Some limited concessions may apply to specified passport holders.

Financial capacity

Student visa applicants must generally provide evidence of at least AUD 29,710 for living costs, in addition to relevant course fees and travel. Actual living costs may be higher.

Do not treat the visa minimum as your full budget

The financial-capacity amount is a visa requirement, not a promise that it will cover your personal lifestyle, city, accommodation or complete study period.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is required for the duration of the stay. If proof of required health cover is not provided, the visa application can be refused.

2. Build the complete budget

Budget item	What to include	Parent check
Tuition	Full programme fee, deposit, annual increase, compulsory charges	Confirm the university invoice and refund policy
Visa	Current visa application charge and any service costs	Use the official application portal
OSHC	Health cover for the required duration	Check policy dates and inclusions
Accommodation	Bond/deposit, advance rent, utilities and setup	Start early and verify the provider
Living expenses	Food, transport, phone, personal and study costs	Use the official Cost of Living Calculator
Travel	Flights, local arrival transport and baggage	Budget for seasonal price changes
Course extras	Books, equipment, software, uniforms or laboratory items	Ask the provider for compulsory costs
Emergency fund	Unexpected health, housing or travel expense	Keep a separate reserve

City choice matters

Accommodation and daily costs vary by city and lifestyle. A smaller city may be less expensive in some categories, but students must also consider course quality, transport, employment access and support services.

3. Parent budget worksheet

Item	Amount in AUD	Confirmed source / note
Tuition after scholarship	_____	University offer/invoice
Visa charge	2,500	Official visa fee, subject to applicant category
OSHC	_____	Insurance quote
Accommodation deposit	_____	Verified housing option
12-month living estimate	_____	Cost of Living Calculator and city research
Flights and arrival	_____	Current travel estimate
Course materials	_____	Programme information
Emergency reserve	_____	Family decision
Total first-year budget	_____	Sum of all confirmed items

Funding structure

Funding source	Planned amount	Evidence available?
Family contribution	_____	Yes / No
Approved education loan	_____	Yes / No
Scholarship	_____	Confirmed / Applied / Not available
Other verified source	_____	Yes / No
Funding gap	_____	Must be resolved before payment

4. Questions parents should ask

- What is the complete course cost, not only the first deposit?
- Can the family manage the plan without depending fully on student work?
- What are the accommodation options, bond requirements and cancellation terms?
- How much could the education-loan repayment be after graduation?
- Does the course support realistic career goals and relevant job opportunities?
- What is the backup plan for delays, course changes or higher living expenses?
- Are all payments being made only through verified university, government or approved service channels?

Seven actions before paying a deposit

- Confirm the institution, course, duration and official fee schedule.
- Use the official Australian Cost of Living Calculator for the chosen city.
- Obtain an OSHC quote for the required duration.
- Prepare visa financial-capacity evidence and source-of-funds documents.
- Compare accommodation options and start early.
- Discuss loan repayment and emergency funds with the family.
- Complete a profile and budget review before finalising the course.

5. Final Australia budget checklist

Before you pay an application fee or make a final country decision, complete these checks:

- The full first-year and full-programme costs have been calculated.
- The AUD 2,500 visa charge is included where applicable.
- OSHC and accommodation costs are included.
- The budget uses realistic city expenses, not only the visa minimum.
- The family has a confirmed funding plan and emergency reserve.
- The course has been checked for academic fit and career value.

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Important

This guide is for general education planning. It is not a visa decision, legal advice, financial advice, admission guarantee, scholarship guarantee or job guarantee. Rules, fees and eligibility can change. Always verify the official page and the university page before submitting or paying.

Official sources used

Student visa charge increase: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/tools-and-resources/news/student-visa-application-charge-increase>

Visa application process and financial capacity: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-move/visa-application-process.html>

Living and education costs: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/life-in-australia/living-and-education-costs>

Official cost of living calculator: <https://costofliving.studyaustralia.gov.au/>