

STUDY ABROAD – TOP UP DEGREE AT USC

CRICOS Provider Number: 01595D

University of the Sunshine Coast offers a range of services to make applying and studying at our university easy for German students and partner institutions. We are experienced and efficient in processing applications and answering enquires, and provide personal attention to both students and our colleagues in German institutions. Please find below some of the points we think are important to know about USC services.

Applying for Admission

To become a student at USC you need to meet our academic and English language requirements as follows:

Academic Entry requirements

Applicants undertaking a Diploma/Bachelors degree in Germany may be considered for admission as a Study Abroad, subject to:

- approval being obtained from the home institution (where students are seeking credit from the home institution);
- applicants satisfying the minimum entry requirements (e.g. passing grade point average);
- applicants satisfying any prerequisites for the specified courses;
- applicants enrolling on a full time basis; and
- applicants whose first language is other than English satisfying USC's English proficiency requirements to undertake the program.

English Language Entry Requirements

USC's English Language Requirements for admission in our academic programs are published on the following website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/study/apply-and-enrol/english-language-requirements/english-language-requirements.htm>

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst – DAAD

USC accepts the DAAD test as evidence of English proficiency. If you provide a recent DAAD test (taken in the last 12 months) with a score of 'a' or 'b' in each category (Listening/understanding, Speaking, Writing and Reading) then you meet USC English Language entry requirements.

DAAD offers stipends for German students studying overseas. For more information on **Financial Assistance** available for international students please visit the website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/Students/International/Steps/Scholarships/German.htm>

Application Deadlines

There are no application deadlines for international students at the USC. However, USC recommends submitting the application by November/December for Semester 1 (Feb-June) or May/June for Semester 2 (July-Nov) to allow adequate planning and preparation time for e.g. visa and airline ticket acquisition etc.

USC will consider and accept late applications if enough time remains for the applicant to arrange the appropriate visa and flights, ensuring they will reach USC in time for Orientation.

Students are asked to return the completed application form with a certified copy of their academic record of all tertiary level studies completed; a certified translation of any papers that are not in English and evidence of English proficiency if English is not the first language.

BAföG Candidates

USC is experienced with BAföG and we complete and return BAföG forms quickly. We are also experienced with managing follow-up forms that sometimes come from Studentenwerk Marburg.

The Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz (BAFOEG) offers stipends for German students studying overseas. For more information please visit the following website: <http://www.auslandsbafoeg.de>

Credit Transfer

A standard full-time workload at USC is four courses per semester, although you can enrol in a minimum of three courses per semester. Four courses are generally considered the equivalent of 30 ECTS. You should consult your home institution to confirm how much credit they will transfer. Please note that all our undergraduate courses are valued with 12 units, which are equivalent to 7.5 ECTS each.

TOP UP DEGREE – USC Bachelor degree or Master

If you have studied in a German tertiary education institution for two years or more, you may also qualify for a USC Bachelor degree (top up degree) on completion of two fulltime Semesters at USC.

USC will be happy to evaluate your completed tertiary studies for credit transfer and develop a Study Plan for you that will allow you to possibly complete a USC Bachelor or Master degree in a shorter period of time.

USC has also a number of double degree articulation agreements with German partner universities, which stipulate credit transfer for specific Bachelor programs. Please contact the International Office at your home university or USC International for further information on any established credit transfer agreements.

Study Abroad students should contact USC International to make a separate application for a Bachelor degree program.

Reporting of Grades

USC reports official grades as letter grades and also includes percentage results on the official academic transcript which eases the credit transfer process at your home institution.

Course Selection

You can select your courses and pre-register before you arrive in Australia so you have the opportunity to establish credit transfer with your home institution in advance of commencing your studies at USC if you want to.

This is a very important service as some universities require you to wait until you arrive in Australia to register for courses and in those cases there is no guarantee that you will be able to enrol in the courses you need.

Selecting Courses

The 2013 course offerings appear on the USC web and are divided into two sections, the first section lists "Courses pre approved by USC for Study Abroad". The second section lists "Courses requiring approval by USC for Study Abroad", which refers to courses that have prerequisites and your eligibility must be assessed before you can be approved for enrolment in these courses.

You will find the courses offered in semester 1 and 2 at the following link

<http://www.usc.edu.au/study/courses-and-programs/courses/study-abroad-courses>

The course list is a useful resource for discovering the types and range of courses available at USC within our two faculties of Arts and Business and Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering.

The standard full-time workload (and the maximum number of courses a student may undertake in a semester at USC) is four courses. However, we recommend that you have more than four courses approved to give you some flexibility with your course options. On rare occasions there are course cancellations, or there may be an unresolvable timetable clash, or other unforeseen circumstances that might prevent you from doing an approved course. Course offerings can change from time to time in the lead up to the semester, thus courses may be added or removed from this listing.

USC also offers Study Abroad on the Postgraduate level. Please contact USC International for the current course list.

Academic Calendar

The academic year in Australia is different to Germany. At USC the semester 1 is held from mid of February until end of June and Semester 2 is held from mid July until late November. For the semester dates please visit the following website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/study/calendars-and-timetables/academic-calendars/academic-calendar-2013-semester.htm>

Student Visa

Germany is an 'Assessment Level One' country as determined by the Australian Government. This means that German citizens can apply for their **Student Visa** using the On-Line or E-Visa service. When you use this service your visa will normally be granted within three working days of application. Paper applications can take 4-6 weeks to be processed.

Another visa option is the **Working Holiday Visa** which enables you to work and travel in Australia for up to 12 months whereof you can study for up to 4 months (equivalent to 1 semester). Please refer to www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/ to find more information about this visa option.

Please note that there are different assessment levels according to nationality and application requirements and processing times may differ.

Please refer to the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship website at www.immi.gov.au for further information. If you have specific questions regarding the Student Visa please contact us on international@usc.edu.au.

On a Student Visa you can work up to 20 hours per week while your course is in session and unlimited hours during scheduled course breaks.

Visa application process

When you formally accept USC's offer we will provide you with a document called "Confirmation of Enrolment" that you use to apply for your Student Visa. Further information about the student visa application process is provided in our offer letter and Start at USC Guide.

Please note that if you have a German nationality that you can apply for a Working Holiday Visa, which gives you the opportunity to study for one semester and stay in Australia for up to 12 months. For further information please visit the Department of Immigration website: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday>

Accommodation

Most Study Abroad students live in Student accommodation at either UniCentral or Varsity Apartments. Both are just a few minutes walk from campus and have great recreational facilities including swimming pools, games rooms and barbeques. This accommodation comprises your own room with private bathroom in a unit with three other students, sharing a common lounge and kitchen. More information can be obtained from the web address <http://www.unicentralaccommodation.com.au/> for UniCentral and for Varsity Apartments <http://www.varsityapartments.com.au/>. Please contact the accommodation providers directly for bookings.

USC would recommend living near campus for your time of studying. It is the easiest way to meet other students and to attend university. The USC campus is located about 10km from Mooloolaba the closest coastal centre, which can be reached in 10 minutes by bus. Buses run regularly from our campus to most of the coastal towns.

Some of our international students choose to live near the beach and rent a holiday apartment or house. For information on accommodation on the Sunshine Coast please refer to the following website: http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/sunshine-coast/accommodation/accommodation_home.cfm

Students who seek private accommodation near the beach may want to consider arriving earlier and spend some days in a hostel directly in Mooloolaba. For more information about hostels please visit the following website <http://www.yhabackpackers.com/lang/en>. Or visit the link <http://www.share-accommodation.net/> or <http://au.easyroommate.com/> where you can look for a house share, a flatmate or a flat share, housemates or roommates for your time at the Sunshine Coast. As Suburbs please select Mooloolaba, Alexandra Headland, Maroochydore or Kawana if you prefer living closer to the beach and within easy reach via public bus service from the USC campus. Buderim is a suburb 5 km from campus and the Sippy Downs suburb is located right next to the campus.

All mentioned suburbs are connected with the USC e.g. from Mooloolaba, via the local bus service (Route 615). For the bus time table please visit the following website: http://www.sunbus.com.au/sit_sunshine_coast.htm Discounted bus fares are available for students.

USC International can provide information to help you arrange your airport transfers from Brisbane or Maroochy airports to the accommodation on the Sunshine Coast. For further information please refer to our 'Start at USC' Guide, which can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/Students/International/Steps/Arrive.htm>

USC International on Facebook

Become a Fan of USC International by liking us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/USCinternational>. The Page is updated every day about events and activities held on campus, on the Sunshine Coast and Australia. If you have enquiries for USC international, you can post on the wall. To follow the Page, click "Like". You can also find a tab for the USC International Student Blog where international students write about their Australia experiences. Direct link to the Blog: <http://uscinternational.wordpress.com/>.

Sunshine Coast

University of the Sunshine Coast is located in Sippy Downs, 10 minutes drive by public bus to Mooloolaba beach. The campus is on the edge of the Mooloolah River National Park and is home to kangaroos and a variety of other distinctive Australian flora and fauna. Shops, banks, cafés and student accommodation are within easy walking distance of the campus.

Sunshine Coast is 90 kilometres north of Queensland capital city, Brisbane. Sunshine Coast has an own national airport making it easy fly to Sydney and Melbourne. The region is now home to around 350,000 people and as the population base expands, business and employment opportunities follow.

Sunshine Coast has mild climate all year round, relaxed lifestyle and natural beauty. There are a variety of attractions on the Sunshine Coast, including surfing beaches, national parks, sporting facilities, restaurants, nightclubs, art galleries and, World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, UnderWater World and Australia Zoo.

For more information please visit the Sunshine Coast tourism page, click <http://www.visitsunshinecoast.com.au/>.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

OSHC is compulsory for all students who study in Australia on a Student Visa. All students on student visas will have valid OSHC provided by USC. The single OSHC policy is valid from your date of arrival in Australia and once you are matriculated at USC. For further information on the cover provided please visit the OSHC website www.oshcallianzassistance.com.au

Program Fees for 2013*

| | |
|---|---|
| Semester Study Abroad (Undergraduate) program fee | AUD\$8600 |
| Semester – Study Abroad (postgraduate) | AUD\$10500 |
| Compulsory Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) | free of charge for Student Visa holders |
| Educover for Working Holiday Visa students | free of charge for WHV holders |
| Student Services and Amenities fee | free of charge for international students |
| *Please note fees are subject to change | |

Financial Assistance for German Students

German students who wish to study at the University of the Sunshine Coast may be eligible to apply for various grants and scholarships.

| | |
|---|--|
| The Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz (BAFOEG) offers stipends for German students studying overseas. | For more information please visit the Auslandsbafoeg website http://www.auslandsbafoeg.de |
| The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) funds the further academic development of outstanding German students, interns, student trainees, postgraduates, young academics and researchers. The DAAD offers grants and scholarships for German students that study as part of Study Abroad, undergraduate or postgraduate programs in Australia.. | For more information please visit the DAAD website http://www.daad.de/ausland/foerderungsmoeglichkeiten/stipendiendatenbank/00658.de.html |
| The Australian Government offers International Postgraduate Research Scholarships for international higher degree by research students | Please email researchtraining@usc.edu.au for more information. |

For further information, please contact:

University of the Sunshine Coast
USC International
Maroochydore, DC, Qld, 4558
Australia

Tel: + 61 7 5430 2843
Fax: + 61 7 5430 2836
E-mail: international@usc.edu.au

Facebook - Twitter:
www.facebook.com/USCinternational
www.twitter.com/USC_Int
www.usc.edu.au
USC CRICOS Provider Number 01595D