



Pre-Arrival Information Guide

University of Tasmania
International Pathway College



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Welcome

Congratulations on your offer to study at the University of Tasmania International Pathway College (UTASIPC)! We are excited to welcome you to Hobart, Tasmania for this upcoming semester.

This booklet has been prepared to help you get ready for your arrival and your studies. It covers everything from what to bring, how much to budget, where to live, and how to access support services. Please read it carefully and reach out to us with any questions.

Before You Begin

Check your email for a letter from the university with your student account details, then log on to the student portal at utas.edu.au/students.

Learning Resources & IT Skills

What to Bring

- A laptop (essential for all your coursework)
- A calculator
- A diary or planner to manage your schedule
- Basic stationery: pens, pencils, and notepads

Any required textbooks will be announced during Week 1 of classes, so there is no need to purchase them before you arrive.

IT Skills

You will need to be comfortable using a computer and common applications. Before orientation, please complete the **Three IT Check Tasks** listed at the end of this guide. These tasks help us understand your current skill level so we can provide the right support. If you get stuck after following the instructions and videos provided, email us and we will help you.

Setting Your Computer to English

English language development is an important part of your pathway studies. We strongly encourage you to change your computer's language settings to English and only use translation tools when truly needed. Over time, you will become less dependent on translation assistance. Students who read class notes and announcements in their own language miss out on valuable practice with academic English.

Tip

Start practising using your computer in English before you arrive! Search online for instructions on how to change the language settings on your Mac or Windows computer.

Cost of Living in Hobart

You should budget approximately **\$500 - \$600 AUD per week** for living expenses. Below is a typical weekly cost breakdown:

Expense	Weekly Cost (AUD)
Accommodation	\$220 – \$280
Bills (water, electricity)	\$30 – \$40
Internet	\$20 – \$30
Phone	\$30 – \$40
Public transport	\$15 – \$20
Groceries	\$120 – \$180
Eating out & entertainment	\$80 – \$120

Important

You must have sufficient funds to cover living expenses and tuition fees for your first year of study. Please do not rely on finding a job to pay for your living costs.

Your Study Week

Your classes run Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Each unit involves around 5 hours of classes per week, and you will be enrolled in four units, totalling 20 hours of scheduled classes per week.

<p>20 hrs</p> <p>Scheduled Classes</p>	<p>8 hrs</p> <p>Supported Learning</p>	<p>12 hrs</p> <p>Self-Study & Assignments</p>
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In total, you should expect to dedicate about **40 hours per week** to your studies — similar to a full-time job. The timetable cannot be adjusted to suit work commitments; study must always come first.

Your personal timetable will be available once you have enrolled during orientation.

Working While Studying

It is fine to get a part-time job while you study, but please keep the following in mind:

- **Attendance is compulsory** — it is a condition of your student visa.
- Attendance below **80%** may lead to cancellation of your enrolment and visa.
- Strong attendance helps you keep up with coursework. Repeating failed units is costly.
- Always prioritise your class schedule over work shifts.

Accommodation

University Accommodation

The University of Tasmania offers both short-term and long-term accommodation across five locations around Hobart. This is a great option for new students who want convenience and a supportive community.

Find more information and current pricing at: utas.edu.au/uni-life/accommodation/hobart

Private Accommodation

If you choose to arrange your own accommodation, here are some tips:

- Book temporary accommodation for **at least two weeks** before semester starts so you have time to inspect places in person.
- A room in a share house typically costs **\$200 - \$250 per week**.
- Check the location carefully and how long it takes to travel to the Sandy Bay Campus.

Plan Early

Accommodation in Hobart can fill up quickly before semester. Start looking as early as possible to secure a suitable place.

Getting Around Hobart

Public Transport

Hobart's public bus network is operated by **Metro Tasmania (metrotas.com.au)**. Buses run frequently between the CBD and the Sandy Bay campus. If you live in the outer suburbs, you may need to transfer buses at the CBD.

UniHopper — Free Bus Service

The UniHopper is a free shuttle bus connecting the Sandy Bay campus to UTAS student accommodation and the Hobart CBD. This is a convenient and cost-free way to get to and from campus.



Weather & What to Pack

Hobart has a temperate maritime climate. Here is what to expect:

- **Night-time temperatures:** 5 - 10°C
- **Daytime temperatures:** 10 - 20°C (occasionally hotter in summer)
- The weather can change throughout the day, so dress in layers.
- Rain often comes as short showers — Hobart does not have monsoon-style rain.

Packing Tip

Bring warm layers, a waterproof jacket, and comfortable walking shoes. You can buy additional clothing once you arrive.

Health & Medical

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

When you arrive in Australia, **activate your OSHC account straight away** — you can usually do this via the provider's website or app.

During Business Hours

- Find a local GP (doctor) who is accepting new patients.
- Keep approximately **\$200 AUD** in your account to cover the upfront fee for GP appointments. You can claim this back from your OSHC afterwards.

After Hours

- Call your OSHC telehealth service for medical advice over the phone.
- Call an after-hours doctor service.
- Visit a Medicare Urgent Care clinic (for urgent situations only).

Settling In & Support Services

It is completely normal to feel a bit homesick when you first arrive. Here are some of the ways you can connect and get support:

- **Attend orientation** — meet your classmates and teachers from day one.
- **Talk to our staff** — we are here to help with anything you need.
- **International Student Advisers** — experts on all things relating to international students.
- **International Peer Leaders** — experienced international students at UTAS who can share advice.
- **Student clubs and societies** — a great way to find people with common interests.
- **UTAS Student Counselling** — a free and confidential service available to all students.

Reach Out Early

Please reach out for help **before** it affects your attendance or wellbeing. Our team is always happy to support you.

Orientation

Orientation takes place over **two days**, and attendance is compulsory on both days. Sessions start at **10:00 am** each day. Check your email for registration details.

What happens at Orientation?

- Meet your teachers and fellow students
- Discuss your study plan
- Enrol in your units
- Access your timetable
- Take a guided tour of the campus
- Learn how to access your units in MyLO (the online learning platform)

Key Dates & Timeline

Make sure you arrive in Tasmania **before** Orientation. Late arrival requires advance approval via email to u.connect@utas.edu.au.

What	When
Apply for visa	At least 2 months before classes start
Arrive in Hobart	At least 2 days before orientation
Attend Orientation	One week before classes start (check your CoE)
First day of classes	Start of academic period (check your CoE)



Travel Tips

- **Bring your UTAS Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)** documents with you when you travel.
- **Dress in layers** — the weather may be quite different at each destination along the way.
- You will most likely land in **Sydney, Brisbane, or Melbourne**. Make sure you know how to find your connecting flight to Tasmania (Hobart Airport).

Contact Information

If you have any questions before you arrive, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

Channel	Details
Email	international.pathway@utas.edu.au
Student Portal	utas.edu.au/students
Late Arrival Enquiries	u.connect@utas.edu.au

Pre-Arrival Checklist

Please make sure you have completed the following before arrival:

A. Learning Resources

- I have a laptop which I am bringing with me OR I will purchase a laptop before orientation.
- I may need to buy notepads and basic stationery including a calculator.
- I have followed the instructions for IT Skills Check Tasks 1, 2 and 3.
- I have set the language for my laptop to English and the time zone to Australia Eastern.

B. Living in Hobart

- I understand that the cost of living in Hobart can be between \$450–\$650 per week.
- I have financial support to pay for my living costs for the first year of study.
- I understand that I cannot rely on getting a job to support myself during my studies.
- I will activate my Overseas Health Cover on the day that I land in Australia.

C. Managing My Studies

- There are 20 hours of classes plus 8 hours of independent learning activities per week in my course.
- Class attendance is a visa requirement and is compulsory.
- If my attendance is too low, my enrolment may be cancelled, and this would affect my student visa.
- I realise that my studies must always come first, even if I have a part-time job.

D. Arriving on Time

- I will arrive at Orientation and attend all sessions on both days, starting at 10 am, OR
- I will get approval for late arrival from the university: u.connect@utas.edu.au
- I can find the Centenary Building, Sandy Bay campus on a [map](#).

Your Details

My student ID: _____

My student email address: _____

Email of the College: _____

Useful Links

- **UTAS Accommodation:** utas.edu.au/uni-life/accommodation/hobart
- **Getting Around:** utas.edu.au/campus-services/getting-aroundtransport
- **Preparing to Travel:** studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-move/preparing-to-travel
- **Medical Services in Tasmania:** health.tas.gov.au/patients/know-your-treatment-options-right-care-right-place

IT Skills Check Tasks

Complete these before Orientation

You will need to use your laptop and an internet connection for the tasks (not a mobile phone). When you have completed the tasks, or have done all you can, save the files on your laptop and bring your laptop to orientation. We will show you how to submit your work during orientation.

How Do I Get Microsoft Office?

Use Office 365 (the online version) at www.office.com, or find and install the Office app on your computer (the local version works even without internet).

Just use any free or trial version you can get. Do not pay for a subscription — you will have full access when you activate your UTAS student account.

Check Task 1: Create a Microsoft Word Document

For this task, you will write a short personal introduction in a Word document by following the instructions.

Step	Instructions
1	Title: Full Name [UTAS student ID]. Example: John Smith [123456]
2	Centre the title on the first line.
3	Insert a photo of yourself under the title.
4	Write 3–4 sentences about yourself.
5	Font: Times New Roman or Arial, size 12, black.
6	Line spacing: double-spaced.
7	Margins: 2 cm for all margins.
8	Save the file. File name format: Full Name_student ID_introduction



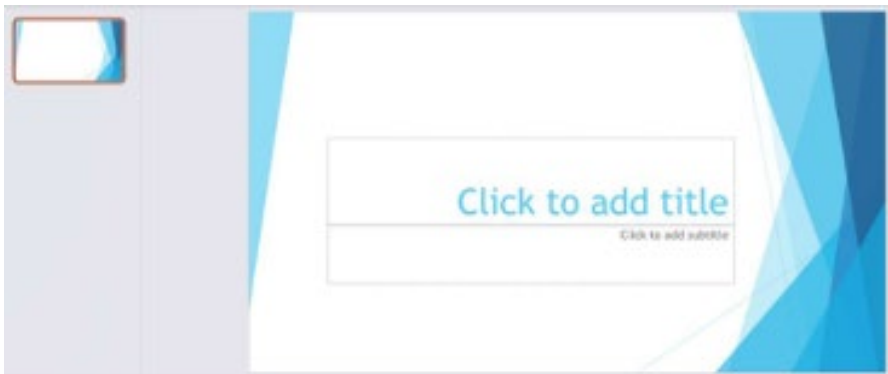
Having trouble completing Check Task 1?

Please watch the following YouTube video and then try again:

[Microsoft Word for Beginners Video](#)

Check Task 2: Create a Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation

For this task, you will make a PowerPoint presentation about your academic background and study plan. Please follow the instructions.



Step	Instructions
1	Choose a design template for your presentation.
2	Title slide: your full name and UTAS student ID in the title; email in the subtitle.
3	Insert 3 slides using the “two content” layout (room for text and a picture).
4	Slide 1: Your academic background so far.
5	Slide 2: Your future study plans.
6	Slide 3: What you hope to achieve in your pathway programme.
7	Add proper titles, text, and pictures on each slide to make them clear and attractive.
8	Save the file. File name format: Full Name_student ID_presentation



Having trouble completing Check Task 2?

Please watch the following YouTube video and then try again:

[Microsoft PowerPoint for Beginners Video](#)

Check Task 3: Create a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet

For this task, you will edit an Excel document with weather forecast data. Please follow the formatting requirements below.

Step	Instructions
1	Access the Excel file by clicking on the link provided: file name: Task 3 original file.xlsx
2	Download the file to your computer
3	Read and edit the example worksheet named "Hobart, TAS, Australia"
4	Delete the row for "Thursday, 15 September 2022"
5	Add a row between "7-day Highest" and "7-day Average", and input "7day Lowest" in the first cell for this row.
6	Use a function to pick out and show the 7-day lowest value for each category in this added row.
7	Format the cells for 7-day Highest, Lowest and Average "Probability of Precipitation" as a percentage instead of the decimal number (e.g., 0.79 → 79%). Use the "format cells" function. Do not type in by yourself.
8	Delete the second worksheet named "Sheet2"
9	Add a new worksheet and name it as your own "City, State/Province, Country" like the example worksheet ("Hobart, TAS, Australia")
10	Use the internet to find the 7-day weather forecast for your own city. You can find it out in any way you are familiar with.
11	Make the same table as shown in the example to show your weather forecast.
12	Insert a line graph to show the temperature trend as the example did.
13	Formatting should be the same as shown in the example.
14	Dates (the next 7 days from the day you do this task) should be different from the example.
15	Reorder the worksheets: move your added worksheet to be the first one (before the example).
16	Save the file with another file name (choose an appropriate location and remember where you saved it)
17	File name format: Full Name_student ID_7-day weather Example: John Smith_123456_7-day weather



Having trouble completing Check Task 3?

Please watch the following YouTube video and then try again:

[Microsoft Excel for Beginners Video](#)