



# Gold Coast

## GUIDE





# WEL COME.

**WITH PACIFIC CENTER YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.**

Pacific Centre, in cooperation with Migration Services, provides migration and education placement services to Australia. We are a team of professionals with over 14 years experience in Australian education and migration. We work with all nationalities and types of visas. You can count on us if you wish to migrate to Australia.

# GOLD





**Gold Coast: It is a great place to live!**

Whether you are a new resident, an international student, new migrant or visitor, we hope you'll find all the information you need to make your stay safe, enjoyable and stress-free.

With a population of only 620,518 people, Gold Coast offers a relaxed and diverse lifestyle, located right at the east coast of Australia. It boasts a natural landscape, beautiful beaches and a climate that sets it apart from the rest of Australia and the world.

Whether you are looking to build a business, start your studies, starting or furthering your career, or simply looking to raise your family in a great place full of opportunities, Gold Coast is a great choice for you.

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# LIVING IN GOLD COAST



The Gold Coast has a population of just over half a million people and is an area of Queensland situated on the eastern coast, about one hour's drive south of Brisbane. But unlike Brisbane, this place really is on the beach. And right in the centre of those beautiful beaches is Surfers Paradise, probably the area's main attraction. There are many reasons we could list why it is great to live on the Gold Coast in Australia. One of the favourite things about the Gold Coast is the laid-back vibe. Even though it is not a capital city, the Gold Coast still has the corporate, modern, city feel, but without the crazy, fast paced, hustle and bustle atmosphere of a capital city.

But the Gold Coast is not all about beaches. The area is also enriched by the surrounding hinterlands, mountains and spectacular national parks, all of which are breathtaking. Tambourine Mountain is especially worth a visit. The Gold Coast also boasts over 400 km of canals and is home to a spectacular array of sea life and wildlife.

The Gold Coast also has a cluster of theme parks, it's Australia's theme park capital; with Movie World, Wet 'n' Wild, Sea World, White Water World, Dreamworld as well as the Australian Outback Spectacular and for nature lovers, the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

## WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE?

While the sun might not shine every day of the year on the Gold Coast, it does come pretty close. In fact, the city enjoys around 300 sunny days each year. The winters are milder than in cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, and while Gold Coast summers may get uncomfortably hot and humid, it's the perfect excuse to swim at one of the many magnificent beaches.







## STUDY IN GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast is home to several fantastic educational institutions. Griffith University ranks in the top 2% of universities worldwide, with a five-star rating for educational experience. In the Shanghai Ranking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2018, the University ranked second in the world for hospitality, while its nursing and law subjects ranked in the top 50.

Bond University currently sits in the top 20 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Best Small Universities in the World and has more five-star ratings than any other university in Australia. **It rates highly for educational experience, research and graduate employability.**

Southern Cross University is in the top 150 universities worldwide in the global Times Higher Education Young University Rankings and the QS World Rankings.

The University also sits within the top 4% for social science, education, economics and business in the Times Higher Education subject rankings. Plus, it is considered the best university in Australia for international student support.

**On top of universities, you'll find several colleges and TAFE campuses on the Gold Coast offering courses in all kinds of areas, including cookery, hospitality, design, tourism, IT and more.**







# WHY STUDY ON THE GOLD COAST?

We gathered many reasons why that is the best place for you to base your studies.

**Quality Education:** Building on our strengths in education, the Gold Coast universities – Bond, Griffith and Southern Cross are investing heavily in infrastructure and research, delivering world-class education and training facilities that see them rank among the world's best. TAFE Queensland - awarded the state's best large training provider of vocational education and training for the last 4 years in a row. With over 122,000 students from more than 90 countries in 600+ study areas TAFE Queensland has a proud history of training. The Gold Coast has 5 TAFE campuses.

The Gold Coast has some of the finest schools in Australia, scoring higher than the state and national average on NAPLAN assessments. Many Gold Coast schools also have significant international student programs. Led by industry and responsive to local and international needs, vocational education and training providers on the Gold Coast are focused on delivering competency based training that gives students a competitive edge.

**Employment and career opportunities:** International students who choose to study on the Gold Coast have the option of a three year post study work rights visa. Employability is a key focus for the city as they create better graduate outcomes for students. Study Gold Coast's Talent For Business Growth program is a city wide initiative that develops student engagement opportunities with industry by forging stronger ties between local businesses and the education and training sector.

Students also have the benefit of a range of support and professional development experiences through the Gold Coast Student Hub, including free employment and career advice. Further, the Gold Coast Careers Explorer is a dynamic and interactive digital tool which allows you to explore the study pathways to your chosen career. We invite you to also meet one of our Migration Agents to create a specific study pathway for you.

**Diverse Student Community:** There are 32,000 international students from over 130 countries studying on the Gold Coast. Our student community is as diverse as the reasons why they've chosen to study here and many have extraordinary stories to tell. We invite you to become part of our student community and make the Gold Coast part of your life journey.



# TRANSPORT

The Gold Coast has a fantastic public transport system that makes getting around the city very easy. There's no shortage of buses, trains, and trams to get you where you need to go, and the network usually runs on time. Plus, the public transport network can take you to several day-trip and overnight destinations outside the Gold Coast, including Brisbane. **As a student, you may qualify for a concession rate on your GO card, meaning you can save up to 50% off on your rides.**

## ABOUT THE GO CARD

A go card allows you to travel on all TransLink bus, train, ferry and tram services across greater Brisbane, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast regions. Before you start using your go card, you will need to add value to your card and pay a refundable deposit. This deposit is like a safety net which allows you to finish your journey even if you have insufficient funds on the card (as long as your balance is positive at the start of your journey).

## PAYING YOUR GO CARD



**Fare machines:** Top up at fare machines with cash or debit card by selecting 'add value' from the go card menu and follow the instructions. The maximum you can top up is \$200.

**Go card locations:** Top up at selected retailers, any 7-Eleven and NightOwl stores plus attended train stations where you see the 'top up' sign. Search online for your closest location at [translink.com.au/gocardretailers](https://translink.com.au/gocardretailers). Simply present your go card along with your payment.

**Onboard:** Top up onboard buses (except Brisbane Transport services) and CityCats (cash only). The maximum top up amount onboard is \$50. During peak times, some TransLink bus services are pre-paid. So you must have a valid go card or paper ticket before boarding the bus. Look for a "P" in front of the route number on the front of the bus.

**Phone:** Call 13 12 30 to top up your go card balance. You will need your 16 digit go card number and a valid credit or debit card.

**Online:** visit [translink.com.au](https://translink.com.au). Once your go card is registered, log into your secure account and top up. The maximum top up amount is \$200 for phone or online. In most instances, the money will be available on your go card within an hour. It won't appear on your travel balance until you touch on at a card reader. If you top up by phone or online and do not use your go card within 60 days your transaction will be reversed and the money will be returned to your credit or debit card.



## LIVING COSTS

Provided below is an approximate price guide for typical daily items. This is only a guide so priced may vary depending on the brand, type of store and its location. The list below outlines some of the costs you will incur when living in Australia (all the prices are indicative and should ONLY be used as a guide):

 <b>SHARE ACCOMMODATION</b>	1 person in 1 room	\$170 - \$350 per week
	2 people in 1 room	\$150 - \$250 per week
 <b>FOOD AND BEVERAGES</b>  <b>SUPERMARKET</b>	Bread	\$2.50 - \$4.50
	Milk	\$2.00 - \$4.50
	Sugar	\$2.50
	Butter	\$2.00 - \$4.00
	Chicken Breast	from \$10.00 per kg
 <b>FOOD AND BEVERAGES</b>  <b>EATING OUT</b>	Cup of Coffee	from \$3.50
	Fast Food	from \$10.00 per single meal
	Take Away (Chinese, Thai)	from \$10.00 per single meal
	Coffee Shop	from \$12.00 per meal
	Restaurant	from \$20.00 per meal
<b>OTHER</b>	Movies	from \$15.00 - \$30.00
	Haircut men	from \$15.00
	Haircut ladies	from \$20.00
	Petrol	from \$1.20 per litre
	Taxi (Airport to Sydney City)	from \$35.00
	Bus (Airport to Sydney City)	from \$12.00
	Train (Airport to Sydney City)	from \$10.40

\*Approximate cost are valid at the date of printing, but may be subject to change.



# GOLD COAST CULTURE

Thanks to the sunny weather, palm trees, and never-ending beaches, the Gold Coast is overflowing with holiday vibes. You'll find that the pace is slower on the Gold Coast than in other major cities, and the friendly locals love to have a chat. Gold Coasters have perfected a laidback beach culture that balances hard work with plenty of sunshine and good times. You may be studying a lot, but living on the Gold Coast will make it feel like an endless vacation.

## **There's always something happening on the Gold Coast.**

The city offers the biggest collection of theme parks in the Southern Hemisphere including Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World, Dreamworld, Wet'n'Wild, and more.

The Gold Coast is renowned for its beautiful, sandy beaches. Where there are beaches, you will most definitely find massive water bodies, such as seas and oceans. Australia has these in plenty. These are just some of the reasons that have made Australia a premier surfing destination. It attracts professional and amateur surfers from all over the world. As a culture, surfing hit Australia like a ton of bricks in the 1960s, and never lost its initial allure.

Today, few things compete with the contribution that surfing makes to the economy and lifestyle of the Gold Coast. The city's surf breaks are famous around the world, thus attracting international surfers and visitors. The Gold Coast has produced some celebrated surfing champions over the years. The heavyweights of the industry have made the Gold Coast their home. National and international surfing events take place here too.

## **Whatever you're into, you'll never get bored on the Gold Coast.**







## WORKING IN GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast Australia has a diverse amount of industries for skilled employment. With our beautiful sunshine and weather, tourism is a large part of the economy. We have technology hubs suited to the ICT environment with companies basing operations on the Gold Coast. Less than an hours drive from Brisbane, many people reside on the Gold Coast and drive to Brisbane for work.

While the Gold Coast is smaller than big capital cities like Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, there are plenty of opportunities to secure work and build a career. The health and medical industry is undergoing major employment growth and is currently the leading sector for the most available jobs. Other areas with high employment opportunities include ICT, tourism, education, and hospitality.

A good place to start searching for work is to explore the career services on education campuses before going online. You can search the "Careers" section of a company's website for a position, where you may be able to apply online. LinkedIn is very strong in Australia, and creating a profile can help you to create a network with people in similar positions to yours, and is the most used tool for job position publication.

There are great apps to help you to find jobs in all the possible fields in Australia, such as:

**Seek:** [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)

**Indeed:** [www.indeed.com.au](http://www.indeed.com.au)

**Jobseek:** [www.jobseeker.org.au](http://www.jobseeker.org.au)

**Jora:** [www.joralocal.com.au](http://www.joralocal.com.au)





## GOLD COAST WISH YOU HERE

### What is a state nomination?

State Migration Plans were introduced to allow individual states and territories to sponsor general skilled migration applicants under a broad range of occupations to fill skilled shortages within their local labour markets. The State Migration Plans specify which occupations state and territory governments can nominate applications under and specify the number of visas that will be granted as part of this program.

## BENEFITS OF SEEKING STATE NOMINATION

### Nomination by the State of Queensland will provide:

- priority processing of your visa with the Department of Home Affairs
- an additional 5 points for a Skilled Nominated (Permanent) visa (subclass 190) towards the Department of Home Affairs points test
- an additional 15 points for a Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) towards the Department of Home Affairs points test
- the same work rights as an Australian citizen. You'll be an independent migrant not tied to a single employer.

### Queensland offers a high standard of living and good working conditions including:

- safe working conditions
- high minimum wages
- entitlements including public holidays and leave.

For tips and recent updates on applying for a skilled state nomination, please see one of our migration agents.







## FINDING SKILLED WORKERS CURRENTLY IN AUSTRALIA

The Queensland Government has recognised the employability of temporary, provisional or permanent visa holders. Non-government organisations and the private sector are also encouraged to understand visa work rights.

### SKILLED NOMINATED VISA (SUBCLASS 190) / SKILLED INDEPENDENT VISA (SUBCLASS 189)

Migrants on these visas are permanent residents with full work rights (even if not yet a citizen). The 189 visa is a skilled independent visa, whilst the 190 visa is for skilled workers who are nominated by a state or territory government agency. The visa holder must remain in the state or territory which nominates them for the first two years.

### SKILLED REGIONAL (PROVISIONAL) VISA (SUBCLASS 489)

The 489 visa is for skilled workers who are nominated by a state or territory government agency or by an eligible relative living in a designated area. This visa allows skilled workers to live and work (with full work rights) in specified regional areas in Australia for up to four years. Permanent residency is available in as little as two years if work and residency requirements set by the Department of Home Affairs are met. The whole of Gold Coast qualifies as regional.

### TEMPORARY GRADUATE VISA (SUBCLASS 485)

The 489 visa is for skilled workers who are nominated by a state or territory government agency or by an eligible relative living in a designated area. This visa allows skilled workers to live and work (with full work rights) in specified regional areas in Australia for up to four years. Permanent residency is available in as little as two years if work and residency requirements set by the Department of Home Affairs are met. The whole of Gold Coast qualifies as regional.

### WORKING HOLIDAY VISA (SUBCLASS 417) / WORK AND HOLIDAY VISA (SUBCLASS 462)

Under Australia's Working Holiday visa program (subclasses 417 and 462), people aged between 18 and 30 are able to apply for a one year visa. This visa enables them to supplement their travel funds through temporary employment. Opportunities for a one year extension may also exist and visa holders are allowed to work with an employer for up to six months.

Read detailed information about this visa on the Department of Home Affairs website. Enquiries regarding these visas subclasses should be directed to the Department of Home Affairs.



# AUSTRALIA POINTS TABLE



AGE



- 18-24 : 25 Points
- 25-32 : 30 Points
- 33-39 : 25 Points
- 40-44 : 15 Points



ENGLISH



- Competent: 0 Points
- Proficient: 10 Points
- Superior: 20 Points



**SKILLED EMPLOYMENT**  
Last 10 years Outside Australia



- 0-3 years: 0 Points
- 3-4 years: 5 Points
- 5-7 years: 10 Points
- 8-10 years: 15 Points



QUALIFICATIONS



- Doctorate: 20 Points
- Bachelor/Masters: 15 Points
- Diploma: 10 Points
- Recognised Universities: 10 Points



AUSTRALIAN STUDY REQUIREMENT



- 92 weeks course: 5 Points



**SPECIALIST EDUCATION  
QUALIFICATION IN AUSTRALIA**



- Doctorate or Master Degree by research in stem or ICT: 5 Points



**SKILLED EMPLOYMENT**  
Last 10 years in Australia



- 0-1 year: 0 Points
- 1-3 years: 5 Points
- 3-5 years: 10 Points
- 5-8 years: 15 Points
- 8-10 years: 20 Points



STUDY IN REGIONAL AREA



- Australian study requirement in designated regional area: 5 Points



PROFESSIONAL YEAR



- IT/ Accounting / Engineering: 5 Points



DESIGNATED LANGUAGE



- NAATI Translator or Interpreter paraprofessional : 5 Points



PARTNER STATUS



- No partner: 10 Points
- Australian Citizen Partner: 10 Points
- Partner with positive skills assessment and competent English: 10 Points
- Partner with Competent English: 5 Points



STATE



- 190 Sub Class: 5 Points
- 491 Sub Class: 15 Points

**MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED FOR A  
PERMANENT VISA APPLICATION: 65**





## PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

- **Torrens University** - <http://www.torrens.edu.au>
- **Kaplan Business College** - <https://www.kbs.edu.au>
- **Kaplan International English** - [kaplaninternational.com](http://kaplaninternational.com)
- **Federation University / IIBIT** - <https://www.iibit.edu.au/>
- **ICHM** - <https://www.ichm.edu.au/>
- **ETEA** - <http://www.etea.edu.au>
- **Australian Ideal College** - <https://www.idealcollege.com.au>
- **AAIC** - <http://aaic.edu.au>
- **Southern Cross Educational Institute** - <http://www.scei.edu.au/>
- **Queensford** - <https://queensford.edu.au/>
- **Quality Training & Hospitality College** - <http://qthc.edu.au>



# PLAN YOUR STAY IN AUSTRALIA

Our Migration Agents  
can create a tailored  
study pathway to get  
the best outcomes.

**[WWW.MIGRATION-SERVICES.COM.AU](http://WWW.MIGRATION-SERVICES.COM.AU)**



**MIGRATION  
SERVICES**

**MIGRATION SERVICES  
ABN 84 610 447 786**

📍 Shop 2/2 Pittwater Road, Manly NSW 2095

📍 Shop 2/12 Elkhorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise QLD 4217