

FREE RESOURCE

The Australia Move Checklist

20 things worth sorting before you land, the ones people usually find out the expensive or stressful way, from someone who found most of them out that way too.

Priyanka Saluja
priyankasaluja.com

Before you apply

- ☐ **01 Check your course is aligned with a skill-shortage occupation**
Courses in healthcare, IT, data, engineering, education, and trades tend to perform better for both jobs and PR. Confirm this before you're locked into an offer.
 - ☐ **02 Weigh regional vs. metro on more than just PR points**
Regional cities often mean lower rent and less competition for part-time work, plus extra PR points, but compare that against job availability in your actual field.
 - ☐ **03 Understand what GTE requirements mean for your visa**
The "genuine temporary entrant" criteria shape how you should frame your application. Know what's being assessed before you write your statement of purpose.
 - ☐ **04 Decide: DIY your visa, or use a migration agent?**
Straightforward cases are very doable yourself. A good agent earns their fee on complex situations, refusals, unusual work history, tight timelines. Know which one you are.
 - ☐ **05 Sort OSHC for your entire visa duration**
Overseas Student Health Cover is a condition of your visa, not optional, and it needs to cover the whole duration, not just your first semester.
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Money and paperwork

- ☐ **06 Budget for 4 to 6 weeks of rent and bond upfront**
Not just the first week. Most share-houses and agencies expect bond plus rent in advance before you get keys.
 - ☐ **07 Budget realistically for your city**
Sydney and Melbourne rent will shock you if you're comparing to your home country. Regional cities are meaningfully cheaper, factor that into where you choose to live.
 - ☐ **08 Set up an Australian bank account as early as possible**
Some banks let you open an account before you land. Do this so you're not stuck cash-only in your first week.
 - ☐ **09 Register for a Tax File Number the moment you land**
Don't wait until your first paycheck. Without a TFN you'll be taxed at the highest rate until you provide one.
 - ☐ **10 Save digital and physical copies of every document**
Visa grant, CoE, financial statements, insurance. Keep copies in at least two places, a folder that's saved you more than once.
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Your first weeks

- ☐ **11 Get a local SIM within 48 hours of landing**
Don't rely on roaming. You'll need a local number for banking, housing applications, and enrolment almost immediately.

- ☐ **12 Research the suburb before you sign a lease, not after**
Check safety, commute time to your campus, and proximity to part-time work, in person or through someone you trust, not just photos.

- ☐ **13 Don't sign a 12-month lease sight unseen**
Short-term or share-house first, longer lease once you actually know the area. Cheap flexibility beats being stuck somewhere wrong for a year.

- ☐ **14 Know your work rights cold**
Up to 48 hours per fortnight during study periods, unlimited during scheduled breaks. Breaking this risks your visa, not just a warning.

- ☐ **15 If you're bringing a partner or kids, check the extra requirements early**
You'll need to show financial support and meet additional conditions. Budget and plan for this before you plan flights, not after.

Setting up for the long game

- ☐ **16 Build an Australian-format resume before you start applying**
Local recruiters expect a specific structure. Fix this before your first application, not after twenty silent rejections.

- ☐ **17 Learn which roles actually sponsor before you apply**
Don't spend hours tailoring applications to roles that were never going to sponsor a visa. Filter first.

- ☐ **18 Understand how your GPA does (and doesn't) matter for PR**
It's mostly irrelevant to PR directly, but a low GPA can cost you internships, references, and confidence. Aim for solid and employable, not perfect and burnt out.

- ☐ **19 Start thinking about your PR pathway from semester one**
Occupation, experience, English, points, state demand, and timing all compound. The earlier you understand the pathway, the fewer expensive pivots you'll need later.

- ☐ **20 Remember: studying is an entry point, not a guarantee**
PR depends on more than a degree. Come in with a plan and realistic expectations, and adjust it as you go, that's the whole game.
