







students with disability services and disabled-specific facilities at similar levels to U.S. institutions. However, the degree to which this is the case will vary by the study abroad program and host institution the student chooses.

#### NOTES:

- Specific accommodations should be discussed in detail with program providers prior to choosing a program.
- Outside of Australia's cities, the level of accommodations available to the disabled are greatly diminished.
- Australia does not quarantine cats and dogs that meet the certain requirements from approved countries ([Pet Travel](#)). All requirements also apply to service and emotional support animals. There will be 10 days of quarantine imposed on your pet when entering Australia.
- Excellent medical care is available in Australia. However, regulations regarding medications are different than those in the United States and thus it is recommended by the [U.S. Dept. of State Bureau of Consular Affairs](#) that travelers carry prescription medication in original packaging, along with a doctor's prescription.

#### ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [Mobility International USA](#), Resources for Americans Traveling Abroad with Disabilities
- [Information for Students with Disabilities Traveling Abroad](#), U.S. Department of State (see section under Local Laws & Special Circumstances)
- [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016](#), (see Persons with Disabilities).
- [Into Unknown Territory](#), A student's experience in Australia with a visual impairment

## RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA

#### POTENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDENTS:

Although there is no official religion, Australia is generally described as a Christian country. Australia is a mostly Protestant country, with religious observance declining at similar rates to other advanced industrialized countries. The constitution bars the federal government from making any law that imposes a state religion or religious observance, prohibits the free exercise of religion, or establishes a religious test for a federal public office. Extensive immigration has made Australia one of the most religiously diverse societies in the world. Almost all faiths are represented, with significant numbers of Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, and Hindus.

#### NOTES:

- Discrimination based on religion is rare; freedom and tolerance of various religions is widely accepted and practiced.
- Non-Christian U.S. students are likely to find a lack of congregations outside Australia's major cities. However, Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth do have Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim communities, where students will find attendant houses of worship.
- Both verbal and physical abuse has been reported among Muslims and Jews.

#### ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [Countries and Their Cultures: Australia](#) (see section on Religion and Expressive Culture), Every Culture
- [Faith-Based Travel Information](#), U.S. Passports & International Travel
- [Christianity Today Australia](#)
- [Australia Buddhist Directory](#)
- [The Australian Jewish News](#)
- [United Muslims of Australia](#)

## WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA

#### POTENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FEMALE STUDENTS:

Australia was one of the first countries to grant women suffrage, doing so in 1895. Although the battle against sexist male chauvinism had to be fought there as elsewhere, women in Australia today enjoy the same legal status and rights as men.

Additionally, many women are prevalent in varying levels of government, commerce, and academia. Nevertheless, according to the government, approximately one in three women experienced physical violence, and nearly one in five experienced sexual violence since the age of 15 years.

#### NOTES:

- Australia ranked number 44th (out of 153 countries) in the [2020 Global Gender Gap Index: Australia](#) conducted by the World Economic Forum.
- Since women travelers have been more likely to be targets of high-risk crimes, it is recommended that travelers are vigilant of their surroundings and make a conscious effort to travel in groups as often as possible.
- The law criminalizes rape, including spousal rape, and prohibits sexual harassment and provides civil penalties.
- Female students who travel to Australia can expect a level of protection and respect equivalent to the U.S.
- In addition to its natural beauty, Australia is generally [a safe and women-friendly country](#). [One Solo Traveler](#) to Australia thinks it's so safe that she claims it's her go to destination when traveling alone.

#### ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016](#), (see Section 6 subheading for Women) U.S. Department of State.
- [Sexual Harassment and Prevention In College Students Studying Abroad](#)

#### REFERENCES

Maps, flag, and country facts are from the [CIA World Factbook](#). Accessed online in July 2020  
[IIE Open Doors Report](#) | [Lonely Planet Australia](#)

**Please note: The content within the resources provided were last reviewed in July 2020 and as such could have changed. Views expressed in links provided or in sub-links within the document do not necessarily reflect the views of the Purchase Office of International Programs and Services.**