



How to survive in the first week

First, try to avoid a long-term room contract because once you settled down, you will find out that there are heaps of cheaper and better accommodation choices out there. Try www.gumtree.com.au and www.aussietips.com, they always offer good deals. Don't agree to sign any contract before you see the actual place. Most of them are shared rooms, 3-6 people. Try to find one with a washing machine and wifi router because it is quite expensive. It was 4\$ for washing and another 4\$ for drying at my place. Location is another important factor to consider. If you live beyond walking distance to your university, you will have to take a tram or train into the city, which costs quite a lot. Another way to find accommodation is on the university board. There will always be someone finding their roommate at a reasonable price rate and it is also your chance to live with non-Thai.

Once you know where you are, try to find Coles or Woolworths near you then you will be surviving for your entire exchange life. Don't bring any Knorr or Ros-Dee or anything because there are lots of Asian groceries and they sell EVERYTHING. If you live at the very center of the city, I specially recommend one at QV, 3rd floor; it is called "Laguna". They have everything you ever wanted.

How to prepare for studying

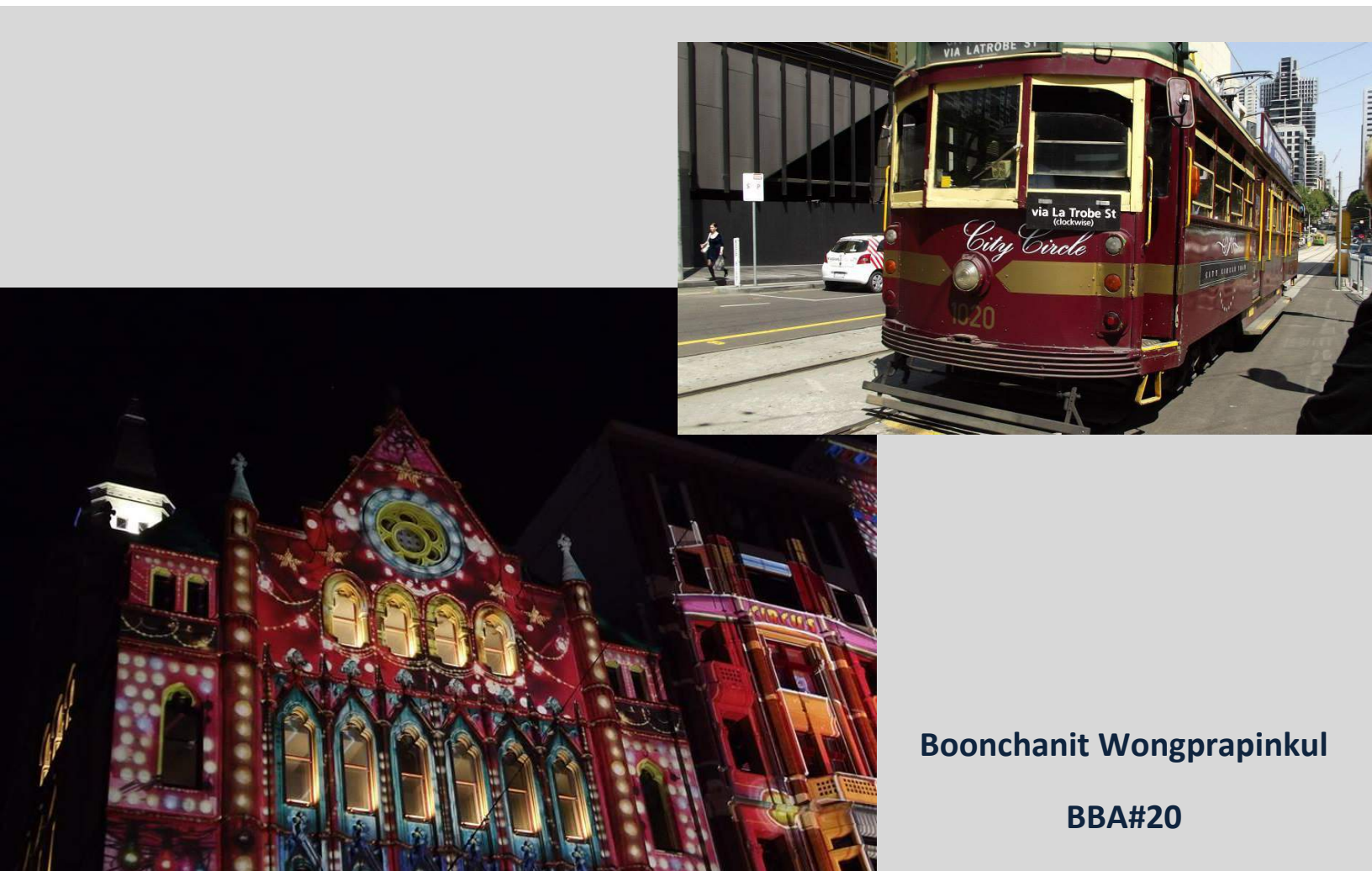
Bring lots of blank A4 sheet and stationery because it costly. Bring large-screen laptop because there will be a lot to read and you will not want to print anything. Fortunately, RMIT has printing quota for each students but it was not enough for me. RMIT Swanston library is my favorite. You can borrow books, carry your own stuff and LIVE there because they offer free wifi. Free wifi covers every RMIT buildings, basically, whole central Melbourne. There is no name-check system; some courses have its lecturing video uploaded in Blackboard system. If so, feel free to skip and have fun. Grading system differ from ours, there is no A,B,C,D. They use HD, DI, CR, PA.

Life style

I encourage you to live in the center of the city because it is walking distance to everywhere and there is free City Circle tram runs in loop every 12 minutes. Next to RMIT, there is Melbourne Central, Coles, Woolworths, QV, states library and China town. You can also take free tram to Fitzroy and Carlton garden as well. At the middle of Town Hall, there is Half-tix office located. They offer half-price day tour ticket to almost tourist destination. Plus, RMIT will offer a concession card for you to purchase special price in many museum, garden, and also Myki card.

Activities, etc

RMIT offers lots of trip for student at very special price or even free. I joined free chocolate tour and some others. Keep checking RMIT website. Also, City's activities are held often. There are White Night, Moomba festival and Night market in Feb, book festival and also Thai festival.



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Finding a place to stay

Apartments and dorms are pretty expensive in Melbourne, especially right in the CBD, which is closer to RMIT city campus. I stayed in a shared room at Unilodge on Swanston Street (Melbourne CBD's main street with the most tram lines operating). With less than 5 minutes walk to RMIT and couple steps away from other places such as shopping malls, HOYTS cinema, supermarkets, train station, and State Library. There are several other apartments to consider too. Living in your own one-bedroom room is, more or less, \$400 per week, so I suggest getting a shared room isn't a bad idea.



Unilodge, the white building, is right next to Melbourne Central (Shopping complex and other entertainments)

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It's pretty easy to get around the city. You only need one thing, the MyKi card. However, there are benefits being an exchange student. You will get a student MyKi card that allows you to travel with 50% discount. Couple pieces of paper work from the university are required though. MyKi card works with most public transports in Melbourne, such as trams, trains, and buses. Melbourne tramway is a major form of public transport.

Most apartments have kitchen utensils available, so it's a good option to cook in order to save money as eating out, a proper meal, will cost you about \$15 or more. The best places to do grocery shopping are Woolworths and Coles. And hardware can be found at BigW.

There are about four main mobile phone service providers. Everyone offers almost the same plan, \$30 for 28 days with approximately 200 minutes credits for international calls. This is a really good option to keep in touch with your family back home apart from those applications that require data.

RMIT offers Mentor program. It's basically a Buddy system like we have at BBA Thammasat, the only difference is you do have to apply for it. They are really helpful though. Couple events and parties are arranged through out the semester, which is a good way to get to know new people.

How to prepare for you studies

When enrolling for any courses, you're required to select the time, in case there are more than one to choose from, for both Lecture and Tutor. Lecture is when a professor comes and teaches you. Tutor is usually a smaller class where students are closer to whomever responsible for tutoring and that is easier for students to ask. My recommendation is try to go for any courses that fall on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday so that you have 4 days in a roll including weekends to travel.



RMIT has, if I'm not mistaken, more than 100 buildings in the City campus. The one for business courses is Building 80. It's a really new one with a lot of things to support our studies. Bloomberg simulation program is also available here. RMIT is one of the two universities in Australia that offers it in most Finance courses. I really enjoyed my Finance course here.

Printing costs six times more than what computer rooms on the 4th floor at TBS building do. I most of the time used my computer to study and wrote things that needed to be noted down instead.



Activities

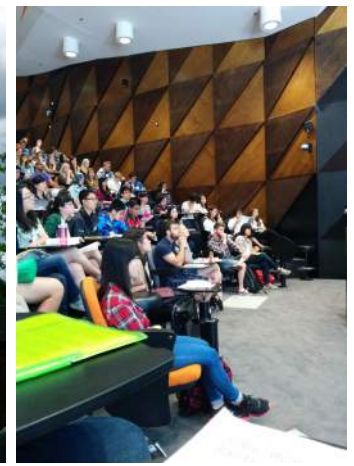
There will be a lot of booths open-up from different clubs in the first week of school for students to sign up if they wish. For those who would like to get fit during their exchange, RMIT also has fitness center available for less than \$50 a month.



RMIT Trip and Tour offers you a trip both to interesting places in Victoria and to other places in interstates. Most of 1-day trips are \$30. It's really a good deal since the price would go up to \$100 or even more if with other tour guides.

Footy or Australian Football is a must on the list. Melbourne Cricket Ground and Etihad stadium are two places in Melbourne for this famous sport. As exchange students, there will always be free tickets. You just need to keep your eyes and ears wild open and look for it.





Exchange at RMIT University Melbourne, Australia

One semester here is such a priceless experience which you cannot find from anywhere else...

Melbourne recently was announced to be one of the top ten most livable in the world. I can guarantee from this fact that it is a truth. And also, one of the cities with the most expensive living cost in the world xP.

How to survive in the first week?

You don't have to worry about

anything because the campus for business student is city campus where situated in CBD. You can find everything you want from here. Additionally, RMIT did provide a program for a new comer called mentoring program. This program is very effective, your mentor will try to contact you at least before the semester starts. You may meet your mentor earlier

just to tell them you landed in Melbourne already. After that they will manage the time to meet you. My mentor introduced me everything about Melbourne, she cared everything how did I live, where do I live, or even how's your study.

As you know, there's many Asians people here. So you have no need





To worry about the food. There's many Asian grocery shop here and restaurants as well in case you don't want to cook yourself but the price is tremendously high too. This city is just a perfect combination of the west and the east.

How to prepare for studying

This university will mainly inform the news through email. Everything will come through this channel, so I recommend you to regularly check your email. If there's any subjects required a textbook, you don't need to rush buying it. Come to check at the library first, then decide. Preparing for the exam, if you really want someone to tutor you. You can go to slam. It's kind of the tutoring

among students. The student who had ever taken that course will come to guide you how to prepare for the exam.

Lifestyle

Life in Melbourne is really fabulous, I can call that it's such a time that I can balance very well. The fact is that most malls in Melbourne, they will close quite early comparing to Thailand which is 5 pm. At first, I really don't know what to do after that time, but its kind of you will have more time to do other things instead of strolling around in the shopping mall.

Transportation in Melbourne is really effective. People here mostly use tram to commute. Other choice is train and bus which are

covered all area around Melbourne and nearby town. It's really convenience because the system here is very punctual. You can plan your trip by using the public transport of victoria website and it will state stat this bus will come at this time. It really comes at that stated time.

Aussie people, they are really kind. You don't really have to ask for help, they are somehow willing to help you.





Activities

There are countless activities at RMIT, some are free, some come with a small amount of charge. For the free activities, you must sign up your name as fast as possible. Free stuffs are the target of everyone. And it's really worth even if it is free. To check out the available activities for each week, you should go to the RMIT trip and tour website. Sometimes they hold the trip going outside Melbourne, and it's really cheap compared to the tour agency. Of course, it's really worth your money. I highly recommend.

Furthermore, after the semester starts about 1-2 weeks. There will be a club day, this day every club will manage a booth and try to persuade you to join their clubs. You can take their brochures for consideration. No need to rush.

Each club there will be a meeting at least once a week, you will meet new people here. I recommend you to join the clubs because you have plenty of time. It would be pitiful if you don't use this chance to meet new friends.

If you are addicted to exercise, there's a fitness gym as well. It is situated in the city with a small amount of charge. This way you will get a healthy body and less time commuting too.