

AUSTRALIA'S *Gold Coast* STUDY GUIDE



EXPERIENCE
GOLDCOAST™

AUSTRALIA'S Gold Coast

IS A STUDY DESTINATION LIKE NO OTHER



Located in Queensland on the east coast of Australia, the Gold Coast is the 6th largest city in Australia and home to over 700,000 people. This welcoming beachside city is blessed with natural beauty, a stunning coastline, sunny climate and an enviable, outdoor lifestyle.

With over 200 training institutions, the Gold Coast offers a huge variety of study options delivering world-class education and training facilities that rank among the world's best. This seaside city showcases the best Australian experience and is perfectly positioned as a destination for study and vocational training, research, careers and employment.

The Gold Coast offers the infrastructure and benefits of a big city with easy access, premium amenities, numerous retail and dining precincts, attractions, major events, a growing economy, and a thriving cultural scene. Metropolitan areas of the city are encompassed by stunning natural surroundings including 57km of pristine coastline and beaches, waterways that wind throughout the region and the mountainous Hinterland of lush rainforest and National Parks.

In terms of lifestyle, the Gold Coast is a destination that delivers diverse experiences. You'll find wide open spaces and wilderness, world-class attractions and breathtaking natural beauty alongside, fine dining, cool culture, sophisticated shopping and fun in every form.

Ride rollercoasters and water slides at the iconic theme parks. Spend the day hiking through National Parks to see waterfalls and wildlife in the Hinterland. There are dedicated cultural spaces with weekly gigs, galleries and good times, or you can check out some incredible Gold Coast events on offer throughout the year.

Whether you love live music, sports, culture or food festivals, you'll find it here.

There are many reasons to choose the Gold Coast as a study destination. It offers a study and work/life balance unachievable in most of the world's major cities. International students who study here enjoy a quality education, visa pathways, post-graduate rights, scholarship opportunities, and a diverse and welcoming community.

ACCOMMODATION

Make yourself at home on the Gold Coast in a range of accommodation options to suit all budgets and styles. When choosing your accommodation, consider factors such as location, proximity to place of study, cost, lifestyle, public transport services, and study commitments.

Homestay gives you the opportunity to live in the home of an Australian family, or you could choose private rental or a residential college, or share a house with other students. Your place of study can provide you with assistance finding suitable housing options.

EMPLOYMENT

With a growing economy, a collaborative innovative ecosystem, strong support networks, and a clear commitment to student success, the Gold Coast offers more than just an outstanding education - it's a place to launch your career, build your network, and shape your future.

The Gold Coast is not only one of Australia's most attractive places to live and study, but also a thriving hub for career development, practical learning, and long-term employability. Students benefit from a wide range of opportunities for casual and part-time work, full-time internships, volunteering, and industry placements.

To support students on their career journey, Experience Gold Coast has a dedicated team delivering a suite of initiatives focused on careers and employability. These programs are designed to enhance job-readiness, provide direct links to local industries, and empower students to enter the workforce with confidence. Initiatives include Careers Alliance for strategic development, Careers Outreach which delivers workshops and resources to education providers, and the Student Jobs platform, which connects students with part-time, casual, and graduate employment across the city.

After studying and completing your qualification, there are many employment prospects on the Gold Coast with an engaged industry committed to offering exceptional graduate outcomes.



OUR EDUCATION & TRAINING providers

The Gold Coast offers the greatest educational choice of any city its size, with students from more than 130 different countries choosing to study here. The city is home to three world-class universities that are leaders in their respective fields, as well as a wide range of technical and training colleges, and some of the best public and independent schools in the country.

With an ambitious vision that encourages innovation and sustainable growth, the Gold Coast is a forward-thinking city that's home to a dynamic combination of startups, research facilities, and leading educational institutions.

Griffith University

griffith.edu.au

Griffith University is ranked among the top 2% of universities worldwide and is recognised as a leader in sustainability and innovation. Griffith University has achieved outstanding results in the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which measure universities' contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Griffith is ranked #1 in Queensland, equal 2nd nationally, and equal 4th globally.

With over 45,000 students across six campuses, 200+ degree programs, and a global alumni network spanning 130 nationalities, Griffith is a hub for quality education, research, and academic excellence. Since 2012, it has received more Australian Awards for University Teaching than any other institution.

Griffith is also a key partner in the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct (GCHKP) — a thriving innovation ecosystem that includes the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Gold Coast Private Hospital, and Lumina, a commercial cluster for health and tech industries.

Southern Cross University

scu.edu.au

Southern Cross University is one of the world's Top 100 Young Universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings) and is gaining recognition for its strong graduate outcomes. Its

campus is located right next to the airport with views of iconic Kirra Beach, offering students a unique learning environment.

Known for its personalized academic approach and unique six-week teaching terms, Southern Cross delivers high-quality and contemporary programs both on campus and online across a diverse academic portfolio. The university fosters strong community engagement, connecting student learning with real-world impact and innovative research.

With state-of-the-art health and science laboratories, Southern Cross University is committed to producing graduates who are career-ready, world-ready, and digitally literate. SCU rated in the Top 10 Public Universities in Australia for both graduate income and employment in the Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023.

Bond University

bond.edu.au

Founded in 1989, Bond University is Australia's leading independent, not-for-profit university where 100% of tuition fees are reinvested into the student experience. With a strong emphasis on entrepreneurship, leadership, and innovation, these values are embedded into every subject, encouraging students to create real-world impact.

Ambition Loves Company. Bond University creates an environment where ambitious minds can thrive. It produces globally minded, work-ready graduates who excel in their chosen careers and industries.

Bond's sandstone campus is home to state-of-the-art facilities servicing its students across disciplines including law, business, health, and the arts. Bond offers a highly personalized academic experience, boasting Australia's best student-to-teacher ratio (11:1). The University's accelerated trimester calendar allows students to complete degrees faster, enter the workforce sooner, and gain a competitive edge.

Bond ranks #1 nationally for overall educational experience across more undergraduate fields than any other university.

TAFE Queensland Gold Coast

tafeqld.edu.au

TAFE Queensland is the largest provider of vocational education and training on the Gold Coast. TAFE offers nationally recognized qualifications from Certificates and Diplomas through to bachelor's degrees in areas such as business, health, hospitality, engineering, education, IT, and creative industries.

With a robust university pathway system, supported by formal agreements with Gold Coast universities, students can seamlessly transition from vocational qualifications into higher education, opening doors to advanced study.



For international students, TAFE Queensland offers a unique opportunity to combine practical, hands-on experience with academic progression, making it a strategic first step in a long-term education and career journey in Australia. With multiple locations across the Gold Coast, strong industry networks, and a commitment to inclusive, high-quality education, TAFE Queensland remains at the forefront of vocational learning in one of Australia's fastest-growing and most dynamic cities.

Private Vocational Education and Training Providers

Vocational Education and Training (VET) delivers workplace specific, industry relevant skills and knowledge that cover a wide range of careers and industries. The Gold Coast proudly supports numerous reputable private Registered Training Organisations (RTO) offering certificate and diploma qualifications, with many offering pathways from their diploma qualifications to local universities.

English Language Schools

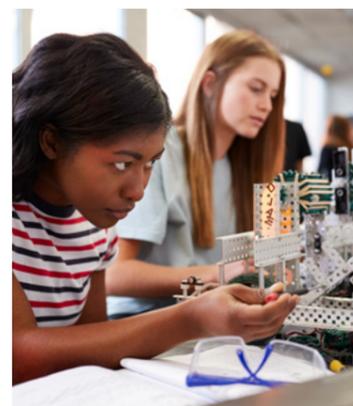
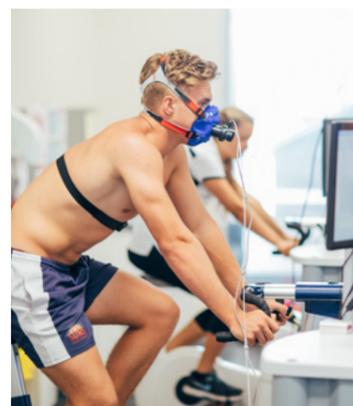
The Gold Coast is home to a range of English language schools offering students a wide variety of modern, high quality ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) institutions. The schools range from university-affiliated English language institutes to private English language schools.

Schools

Some of Australia's finest primary and secondary education facilities are located on the Gold Coast. There are more than 90 state schools, faith-based schools and independent institutions, which offer learning options to take students through every stage of their development.

Online

There are several institutions on the Gold Coast that offer online courses. These courses are for those who work full-time and require flexibility with their learning, or those who simply want total flexibility from their study experience.





10 reasons TO STUDY ON THE GOLD COAST

1 Quality education

There's a huge range of courses and places to study, including three major universities and hundreds of vocational and English language schools.

2 Unbeatable lifestyle

The Gold Coast offers an exceptional study-work-life balance, combining world-class education with an enviable lifestyle. With plenty of sunshine, 57km of beaches, 100,000 hectares of rainforest, and 160+ experiences within a 30-minute radius, students enjoy a naturally active and healthy lifestyle. From surfing and theme parks through to a vibrant arts scene led by HOTA (Home of the Arts), there's always something to explore - making the Gold Coast the ideal place to live, study, and thrive.

3 Work while you study

A student visa allows students to work up to 48 hours per fortnight. Depending on the type of student visa you hold, you may be eligible to work part-time during study periods and full-time during official breaks. Students have access to a wide range of opportunities, including casual, part-time, and full-time jobs, as well as internships and industry placements across growing sectors such as healthcare, education, hospitality, construction, and technology.

4 Return on investment

Studying on the Gold Coast offers great value, combining quality education, work experience, and clear visa pathways. Students gain in-demand skills and local experience that support migration opportunities, including employer sponsorship and permanent residency. With strong industry ties and a growing job market, it's a smart choice for long-term success in Australia.

5 Post-Higher Education Work Visa

International students who complete eligible courses on the Gold Coast and meet the required criteria may qualify for a post-study work visa, whether from higher education or vocational education pathways. This allows them to stay and work in Australia for 18 months to 4 years, depending on their level of qualification.

6 Scholarships and student grants

The Gold Coast provides strong support for international students through a variety of scholarships and grants. Local universities, TAFE Queensland, and private institutions regularly offer scholarships based on academic merit, diversity, and multicultural engagement.

7 Emerging health and innovation hub

The Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct (GCHKP) is a cutting-edge innovation hub that brings together Griffith University, the Gold Coast University Hospital, and the Gold Coast Private Hospital in a powerful partnership with the City of Gold Coast and the Queensland Government. GCHKP offers students direct access to practical training, research opportunities, and industry placements within a vibrant, future-focused environment—making the Gold Coast a premier destination for those seeking to build careers in health, science, innovation, and technology.

8 Diverse, safe and welcoming community

The Gold Coast is home to international students from over 130 countries and was rated the Top 10 Most Welcoming Cities (booking.com 2023). The locals are friendly and you'll feel right at home.

9 A city with events all year round

The Gold Coast boasts an exciting line-up of events throughout the year, perfect for students seeking a dynamic lifestyle beyond the classroom. Major highlights include the World Surf League at Snapper Rocks, the Gold Coast Marathon, and the Gold Coast 500 Supercars Championship. Music lovers can enjoy free festivals like Groundwater Country Music Festival, Blues on Broadbeach, and Cooly Rocks On. The city also hosts the thrilling Pacific Airshow, Careers Festival, and vibrant local markets and arts events, making it an exciting place to study, live and celebrate all year round.

10 Gold Coast Student Hub

The Gold Coast Student Hub is a welcoming and inclusive space designed to enhance the international student experience. Located in Southport, it offers free support services, career guidance, well-being advice, networking opportunities, and regular events—all in a friendly, student-focused environment. With free Wi-Fi, snacks, coffee, and study spaces, the Hub is more than just a place to study — it's a community that helps students thrive socially, academically, and professionally while living on the Gold Coast.

Student TRANSPORT

Getting around the Gold Coast as a student is easy thanks to the city's integrated public transport network, which includes buses, trams, and trains that connect major suburbs, campuses, and attractions.

All public transport fares in Queensland cost 50c meaning its a very cheap mode of travel for students.

The G:link light rail (tram) runs from Helensvale to Broadbeach and passes through key locations like Surfers Paradise, offering a reliable way to travel along the coast. Cycling is also popular on the Gold Coast and made easier by the city's flat landscape and great climate.

The Gold Coast is serviced by two major airports.

Brisbane Airport is about an hour's drive north of Surfers Paradise, and the Gold Coast Airport is conveniently located 40 minutes south of Surfers Paradise. Both airports offer domestic and international services.



ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S *sunniest* CITIES



Student EXPERIENCE

Gold Coast Student Hub

The Heart of Student Life on the Coast

The Gold Coast Student Hub is a free, inclusive space designed by students, for students.

Located in **Southport**, the Hub is the central support centre for all Gold Coast students, offering everything from career and accommodation advice to health, wellbeing and legal support.

Whether you're looking to build friendships, get help finding work, or just need a quiet place to study with free Wi-Fi and coffee, the Hub is your one-stop destination. With regular workshops, events, and community activities, it's also a great way to connect and make the most of your time on the Gold Coast.

Check out the event calendar to see what's coming soon.



Gold Coast Careers Festival

Hosted by Experience Gold Coast, is the city's **largest careers expo**, welcoming all Gold Coast students as well as parents, job seekers, and career changers. It provides a unique opportunity to explore study and career pathways in one place, **connecting visitors with leading universities, vocational education providers, employers, and industry experts.** Through interactive exhibits, career advice, workshops, and seminars, the festival helps students make informed decisions about their future education and career opportunities.

Mayor's Student Ambassador Program

This leadership program gives students the **chance to grow professionally and personally while representing the city.** Ambassadors participate in exclusive events, build their network, and help shape the Gold Coast's student experience.

Student Excellence Awards

The **Gold Coast Student Excellence Awards** celebrate outstanding students and their positive contributions to the Gold Coast community. Each year, students are recognised across several categories, including entrepreneurship and innovation, community support, diversity, sports and wellness, creative arts, and environmental leadership. The Gold Coast education community comes together annually for a **Gala Awards Night** to celebrate these achievements and announce the winners in each category.

Connect with us

   @studentexperience.gc @experiencegoldcoast

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