International Students

Cost of Living

How much does it cost to live in Tasmania?

The cost of living depends on your lifestyle choices, but the Australian government expects students to budget over $20,000 per year for living expenses (not including tuition fees and textbooks). You may find that even a simple lifestyle costs more than in your home country. It is important to be prepared for this, and to remember that you will have higher expenses when you first arrive and are settling in.

Based on the experience of recent students, you can expect the following expenses:

- Accommodation: $150 - $250 per week
- Electricity/Gas: $30 - $60 per week (higher in Winter)
- Food and groceries: $50 - $100 per week
- Phone: $30 - $100 per month
- Internet: $30 - $150 per month
- Textbooks and study supplies - $200 - $300 per year
- Other costs (such as transport, household items, hairdressing, clothing, entertainment, health care) vary significantly

You can get an idea of how your lifestyle affects your cost of living using the Insider Guides Calculator (although it does not currently include specific details for Tasmania).

It’s also important to make sure you keep some money available for emergencies or unexpected expenses.

Students with families

If your family will be living with you in Australia, most of these costs will be higher, and there may be other expenses such as childcare or school. With a family, it’s especially important to be prepared for health care expenses.

Working in Tasmania

Student visas allow students to work for income to supplement their living expenses, and there are strict limits on how much you can work. It is not possible to earn enough from part-time work to cover the living expenses listed above. See the Working in Tasmania fact sheet for more information.

utas.edu.au/students
Concessions and student discounts
As a full-time university student, you can receive a discount on various goods and services by showing your Student ID card. There are discounts on public transport, cinemas and other attractions, software and technology – and a number of local businesses will provide a discount to students if asked.

Other ways to save money
There are many things that can cause stress in student life, so it’s important to try and avoid financial worries. If this is the first time you have lived away from home, it can be challenging to learn how to manage all your spending. Making a budget and sticking to it is a good way to start doing this. The Australian government provides an online budget tool which many people find useful.

There are also many simple ideas that you can apply in your daily life to reduce your expenses:
- Switch off appliances and lights when you’re not using them
- Turn heaters off before you go to bed and use blankets to keep you warm
- Only use the washing machine or dishwasher when you have a full load
- Hang your clothes on the line to dry rather than use a dryer
- Prepare your meals at home instead of buying take-away
- Buy generic branded products and avoid brands with fancy packaging
- Check the weekly brochures delivered to your letterbox or online for specials at the supermarket
- Buy non-perishable food in bulk. If there is too much for one person share the cost with friends.
- Find a phone or internet plan that offers the best value for how you will use it
- Make use of free wi-fi where possible, rather than using your phone data allowance
- Walk to university or work rather than drive or catch a bus

Financial advice
Do you need help learning how to manage your money? You can talk to an International Student Adviser about this. Once you have started your course, you can also use the Tasmanian University Union (TUU) financial counselling service. This will help you learn skills to manage your money well, which are important both for your time as a student and for your life after university. This service is offered during the University semesters. For more information, see the TUU website.