International Students

Getting Around and Transport

Buses
Buses are the most common form of public transport. Metro is the local bus company, however there are other companies such as Tassielink Transit that service regional areas. Most buses are identified by a route number and a short description of the destination. You can find the timetable for bus routes on the bus company’s website. There are usually more bus services running during the week and less on weekends or public holidays. Tickets can either be bought from the driver or you can use a prepaid Greencard. Full-time University students are eligible for concession rates upon showing their current Student ID card.

If you are buying a ticket from the driver you will need to have the correct change if possible. The drivers are not able to give change for large notes (above $10 notes). You will need to tell the driver where you are going and the cost of your fare will depend on how many zones you travel through. You will be issued a ticket which you must keep with you for the duration of your journey.

Passengers using a Greencard are given a discounted fare. You can purchase a Greencard online or from the shop in the Tasmanian University Union (TUU) Building on campus. Your Greencard will be loaded with the amount you have paid to have credited to your Greencard. When you activate your Greencard you will need to enter your default trip (how many zones you normally travel) so that the correct fare can be charged. When you board the bus you tap your Greencard once on the ticket machine near the driver and the fare for your default trip will be deducted. The machine will also show the balance left on your Greencard after the fare has been deducted. When your credit is getting low you can top up your Greencard on the bus, online or at a Metro shop.

To hail a bus you need to stand at the bus stop (close to the edge but not close enough that you will be hit by the bus) and raise your arm when you see the bus approaching. When you board the bus you must use the front door. As you are approaching your destination you need to press one of the buttons on the bus marked ‘Stop’ so that the driver knows you want to use the next stop. When you leave the bus you can use either the back or front door. Pets and other animals are not permitted on buses unless they are assistance animals.

Taxi
Taxis are very common and you can either call to reserve a taxi or hail a taxi from a taxi rank. If you are reserving a taxi you will need to provide your pick-up address and destination address. If you have more than 4 passengers; lots of luggage; need baby seats; or need wheelchair access, you need to advise the operator when you are reserving the taxi. If you are not near a taxi rank and see a taxi drive past, you can wave at the taxi driver and if the taxi is available for hire they will stop for you.

There is a small initial fee to hire a taxi (this is called the Flagfall) and you are then charged per kilometre travelled. If you call and reserve a taxi you must be ready to get into the taxi when it arrives. If you leave the taxi waiting for you, you will be charged for any waiting time. If you are hailing a taxi from a taxi rank you need to take the taxi at the start of the rank unless it doesn’t suit your needs (for example does not have enough seats, does not have enough room for luggage, does not carry baby seats or is not wheelchair accessible).
Taxis operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; however it may be more difficult to hail a taxi in a taxi rank outside of peak hours. Taxis will accept cash or EFTPOS, however there may be an additional service charge if you are using EFTPOS. While taxis are quite convenient, if you are on a budget you should investigate if there are other travel options available to you that may be cheaper.

**Taxi companies:**
- United Taxis – call 133 222
- Taxi Combined Services – call 13 2227
- Australia Wide Taxi – call 131 008
- Yellow Cab Company – call 13 1924

**Bikes**
Many Tasmanians ride their bike to work and the number of dedicated cycle lanes is increasing. If there is no bicycle track available you are required to ride on the road. When you are riding on the road, remember you must follow the same road rules as cars and always stick to the left. It is compulsory to wear a helmet when riding a bike and failing to do so may result in a fine.

**Car**
The most common form of transport around Tasmania is by private car. You can find a second hand car at some dealerships or by looking through advertisements in newspapers or online (such as [www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)). Before buying a second hand car you need to check first that it is roadworthy. Most mechanics will be able to do a roadworthy check for a fee and can provide you with a report outlining anything that needs to be fixed on the vehicle. Remember to consider the annual cost of registering and maintaining a car before you decide to buy one.

Parking on the street in suburban areas is generally free; however there may be time limits or meters in suburbs closer to the city. In the city there are undercover carparks offering paid parking or parking meters offering paid parking on the streets. If using an undercover carpark, you will need to collect a ticket from the boomgate upon entering the carpark. You must keep this ticket with you at all times. When you are ready to leave you will need to insert your ticket one of the ticket machines near the carpark to validate your ticket. The cost of your parking will be displayed and you pay for your parking by inserting coins or notes into the machine. After paying for your parking, take your ticket with you and insert it into the machine at the boomgate when leaving the carpark. If using a parking meter on the street you will need to follow the instructions on the parking meter. You will need to pay for your parking by inserting coins or notes into the parking meter upon arrival in your carparking space. If you do not pay for parking when parking in a metered spot or you stay longer than you have paid for, you may be given a fine.

Motorists drive on the left hand side of the road in Australia. As a driver you need to ensure that your car is registered and you should have third party insurance as a bare minimum. Driving an unregistered motor vehicle is an offense and carries penalties. If you are intending to drive in Australia it is your responsibility to ensure you are familiar with the road rules. There are a few basic laws you should be aware of:

- You must carry a valid driver’s licence if you are driving a vehicle
- It is compulsory for all people in a moving vehicle to wear a seat belt
- It is against the law to smoke in a vehicle if any of the passengers are under the age of 16 years
- It is against the law to drive while intoxicated
- Australia is quite strict with its speed laws and you must stick to the speed limit to avoid fines and accruing demerit points.

Further information about obtaining a driver’s licence and driving in Tasmania can be found at the [Service Tasmania](http://www.service.tas.gov.au) website.