Did you know, the University of Tasmania has a work-ready program specifically designed for international students? In I-PREP, you can participate to learn more about the Australian workplace culture and the job requirements for both part-time work whilst studying and preparing for your career after graduation.

All international students are eligible and the program runs a number of times per year. Limited industry experiences and internships are available through this program.

Working while studying

Some students like to get a part-time or casual job to gain some work experience and earn a little bit of extra money. If you plan to get a part-time or casual job, you need to ensure that it does not interfere with your studies.

We do not recommend that students rely on getting a part-time or casual job to fund their studies and living costs as sometimes it can be difficult to find employment and you are not likely to be able to fund yourself with a part-time job. Most students find work either in restaurants or in supermarkets. The average wage for a job like this is between A$20 and A$25 per hour.

Your student visa permits you to work, however you are not permitted to start work until you have started your course of study.

Coursework students can work a maximum of 40 hours in any consecutive two-week period when their course is in session.

For example:

- Week 1 15 hours
- Week 2 25 hours
- Week 3 18 hours
- Week 4 22 hours

✓ Week 1 + 2 = 40 hours
OK
✓ Week 2 + 3 = 43 hours
Breaches visa condition
✓ Week 3 + 4 = 40 hours
OK

The Department of Home Affairs considers your course to be in session:

- For the duration of the advertised semesters (including periods when exams are being held)
- If you have completed your studies and your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) is still in effect
- If you are undertaking another course during a break from your main course and the points will be credited to your main course.

You are permitted to work unlimited hours when you are on a semester or study period break.

> utas.edu.au/students
Working in Tasmania

Finding a job

The best place to start looking for a job is on our Careers website. CareerHub lists part-time, casual and graduate positions that are currently available. You can find information about CareerHub on the Careers website. You might also like to talk to other students as they may know of some jobs that are available.

Local jobs are generally advertised in Saturday’s newspaper. Some jobs are advertised on the Gumtree website or you can visit the website of a larger company to see if they are hiring at the time. There are also several job-seeking websites that may be useful such as seek.com.au or careerone.com.au

Fruit picking, seasonal, and harvest jobs in Tasmania

Tasmania has a relatively short fruit picking season, generally from December to May, but there are jobs available all around Tasmania.

While there is no fruit picking work located directly within the major cities, there are some orchards and farms close enough to commute daily from Hobart or Launceston.

Fruit picking is a good option to earn some money during the recognised vacation period of December to February, make some new friends and enjoy the outdoors.

Searching online is often a good way to find what you are looking for – for example, searching for “fruit picking jobs Tasmania” will bring up a range of possibilities.

Workplace entitlements

All workers in Australia have the same basic rights, regardless of citizenship status. Some of the more common work rights you need to be aware of are:

- Your employer must pay you at least the minimum rate of pay in your award
- You should be paid for all hours you work
- You should be paid at least once a month and receive a pay slip within one working day of being paid
- Your employers cannot take money out of your pay for any loss or accidental damage caused
- Your employer cannot give you goods or services instead of pay
- Your employer is required to take tax out of your pay
- You should get a 30-minute meal break after five hours of work
- If you wish to resign from your job, you need to give your employer advance notice or they may be able to keep some of your pay.

Information courtesy of fairwork.gov.au

What can I do if I’m not being treated fairly at work?

You are always welcome to talk an International Student Adviser about your circumstances. If you feel you are not being treated fairly at work you need to speak to your employer about your concerns. If, after you have spoken to them, you feel your employer is still treating you unfairly you can contact the Fair Work Ombudsman for assistance. You cannot lose your job nor can you have your visa cancelled for contacting The Fair Work Ombudsman. Visit The Fair Work Ombudsman website for contact details and other helpful resources.

Volunteering

Volunteering is unpaid work you do, usually for a not-for-profit company or group such as Conservation Australia and the Red Cross. Volunteering is a good way to gain some work experience skills to help you in the workforce once you graduate. Volunteering helps you to improve your communication skills, meet new people, and develop networks in the community. Employers look favourably on people who have volunteered because it shows that they have gained some experience, contributed to the community, and donated their time willingly.

Volunteering Tasmania can give you further information about volunteering and the opportunities available. Unpaid voluntary work is not included in the limit of 40 hours in any given two week period provided that it is of benefit to the community, is for a not-for-profit organisation, and is a genuine voluntary position (that is, the work could not have been undertaken by an Australian resident for a wage).