Congratulations on attaining a place in the MBBS course at the University of Tasmania! Here’s some (unofficial) information on Australia, Tasmania, the University and TUMSS for you to look over before you arrive.

**Airport Reception and Temporary Accommodation**
When you first arrive in Hobart, you will have a number of options to help you get to your accommodation. UTAS offers free airport pickup to all international students upon completion of their application form, which can be found on their website, at [http://www.international.utas.edu.au/student-support/before-you-arrive/transport-from-airport.php](http://www.international.utas.edu.au/student-support/before-you-arrive/transport-from-airport.php)

Students may instead wish to use the Tas Redline Shuttle Buses that are located at the exits of the airport. Shuttle Buses charge $17 per person, and drop you off at specific venues in Hobart (such as backpackers or hotels). This option would be better for students arriving with many family members. You may wish to book the shuttle beforehand at [http://www.tasredline.com.au/index.php/hobart-airport-shuttle](http://www.tasredline.com.au/index.php/hobart-airport-shuttle). Taxis are also easily available at the airport; however they can be very costly.

If you have not already arranged permanent living arrangements for the year, then a Backpackers Hostel will be the most convenient and cost-effective option for the time being. To ease the process, you may want to fill out the Backpacker Booking Form that can be found using the website given above. Please note, both forms should be sent directly to UTAS International Services, not the School of Medicine.

**Booking your Return Plane Tickets**
If you are planning to return to your home country at the end of the school year, there are a few key dates to keep in mind. The last day of exams occurs on November 12\(^{th}\) 2013, but the results are not released until November 29\(^{th}\). At this time, you will find out if you will be required to sit for a supplementary or deferred exam paper, which will take place during the period December 12\(^{th}\) to 19\(^{th}\) 2013. It is best to either plan to return home after the supplementary/deferred exam time, or to book your tickets for November, with insurance, in case you need to extend your stay in Australia.

**School of Medicine Requirements**
Police Check- All students will be required to obtain an Australian National Police Check. Police Checks can be ordered from the Police Station in Hobart, or you may mail in an application from your home country, using the form found at [http://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/police-checks/national-police-checks.aspx#contact](http://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/police-checks/national-police-checks.aspx#contact). If you choose to mail in your application from outside Australia, please ensure you allow enough time for postage to and from Australia.

Vaccinations- All students will be required to show evidence of vaccinations (more information on a separate handout in this package). If you have records of your immunization, bring them along with you. Any additional vaccinations or blood tests can be conducted in Hobart within the first few weeks of school.

Translations- Although many students may have a driving license or vaccination records from their home country, these forms will be rendered useless unless translated into English by a certified authority. Translation services in Australia can be very expensive, so if possible, have all important documents translated before you arrive to Australia.

Power sockets
The sockets in Australia (below left) are different from the ones overseas so you will need to buy an adaptor in order to use your own appliances. You may want to purchase multi-plugs (below right) so that you use multiple appliances in one socket. Australia has a 220-240V system.

Transportation
The Metro bus service services most areas in Hobart. If using this service, it is cost-effective and convenient to purchase a Metro card from the Metro Centre located at the General Post Office near Franklin Square. You can then 'top up' the card with money and simply tap it on the
machine located at the door when you board the bus. Presenting your university student card when buying the card will enable you to enjoy student rates. You may also like to purchase a car but parking can be quite expensive in town (where the Clinical School is located). Petrol costs about AUD$1.50/L. Alternatively you may be happy to just walk. Hobart is quite convenient to walk around but make sure to get a pair of comfortable walking shoes because certain areas can be quite hilly.

**Amenities**
There are cheap gyms at the hospital and Sandy Bay campus for the exercise junkies. There are plenty of other slightly more expensive gyms in the city as well depending on your budget. The largest and most numerous supermarkets are Woolworths and Coles and they can be found at various locations around the city, including on Sandy Bay Road in Sandy Bay and on Campbell Street in the city (just a short walk from the Medical Sciences 1 building). Stationaries such as paper, pens, binders, etc, can also be purchased from these stores, or from Office Works, which is only a few minutes walk from the Medical Sciences 1 building as well. Chickenfeed and The Reject Shop are also good for your daily necessities. These stores offer toiletries etc. at heavily discounted prices. Prepared food can easily be purchased in town and there is a hospital cafeteria on site which serves relatively inexpensive meals. Preparing your own meals at home will definitely be the economic alternative though.

**Location of the clinical school**
Majority of classes will be held in either the Medical Sciences 1 Building, or at the Clinical School building, both of which are located in the city. Medical Sciences 1 is located just across from the Royal Hobart Hospital, at 17 Liverpool Street, Hobart. The Clinical School building is located on 200 Collin Street, Hobart, which is right next door to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

**Healthcare**
International students are not covered for healthcare by Medicare, Australia's public health system. As such, students will need to purchase Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHCh) from Medibank, which has already been included in your fees (if not, please contact myself or the School of Medicine). Once covered, whenever you see a doctor etc, you will have to pay for everything upfront and then retain the receipt in order to claim the money back from either the Medibank office located in town or from their website. More information can be found on the Medibank Website [http://www.medibank.com.au/Client/StaticPages/OSHCHome.aspx](http://www.medibank.com.au/Client/StaticPages/OSHCHome.aspx).
Other organizations that offer health insurance, should you wish to purchase additional cover, include NIB, Australian Unity, and MBF, just to name a few.

**Housing**

Housing in Hobart is relatively cheaper than most other cities and states in Australia. Many students prefer to live in one of the three colleges associated with UTAS, they are; John Fisher College, Christ College, and Jan Franklin Hall. John Fisher and Christ College both have professional cleaners and there is a cafeteria within close vicinity that provides food available for purchase. Rent is approximately AUD$206 per week (excluding meals) for a single room. Jane Franklin Hall, however, has all meals provided in their services, and costs AUD$350 per week for a single room. Students may also choose to live within the University Apartments. The apartments are shared flats located within the vicinity of the colleges. Although fully furnished, students will be expected to clean and prepare meals for themselves, with rent running for AUD$213 a week. More information on University Accommodation can be found at [http://www.accommodation.utas.edu.au/about](http://www.accommodation.utas.edu.au/about).

Another popular option is to live a shared house with other students, owned by the Tasmanian University Union (TUU). Rent can range from AUD$110-185 a week, and tenants will be expected to clean and cook for themselves. Houses are located throughout Hobart, and preference for rooms and location can given to the TUU office. The TUU office (Hobart) can be reached at +61 3 6226 2495. Students can also opt to find private housing through a real estate agent. A useful website for private housing is [http://www.realestate.com.au/rent](http://www.realestate.com.au/rent).

**Banking**

It’s a good idea to sign up for online savings and withdrawal accounts with an Australian bank. The four main banks in Australia are the Commonwealth Bank, NAB, Westpac and ANZ. All four major banks offer free (and often unlimited services) to students. Each bank also offers international students the option to apply for a bank account prior to arriving in Australia, via their websites.

Westpac ATM’s adds the extra convenience that it accepts cards from banks such as Scotiabank, Bank of America, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, and Barclays Woolwich branches with no surcharge or international access fees.

**Phone**

Most people find it easiest to get prepaid mobile sim cards from an Australian telephone company. Optus, Vodafone and Virgin tend to be cheaper than Australia’s largest telco, Telstra,
but reception isn't as widespread. Pricing options and other benefits from the various companies can be found at their respective websites. Optus tends to be popular amongst international students for its competitive pricing and attractive benefits, such as free calls to a specified number of friends with Optus lines.

**Internet access**

Unlimited wireless internet access is available free at the Sandy Bay university campus, Medical Sciences 1, and the Clinical School buildings. Computers are also available to access the internet for free at these sites. If you’re living off-campus, you may want to consider the mobile USB modem internet services offered by various companies.

**Printing and photocopying**

Printing/photocopying at university sites costs about AUD$0.12 per page. As such, printing the entire years’ worth of lecture notes can be quite expensive. For this reason, many people find it cost effective and convenient to purchase a printer. Black/white toner printers are sufficient for most people, unless you really want to see the histology/pathology powerpoint slides in colour. Printers can be purchased from a number of electrical stores around the city, including Officeworks, Dick Smith and Harvey Norman.

**Things to bring**

For dissection, bring a long-sleeved lab coat and safety glasses (the dissection lab does provide these but in limited supplies). A lab coat from your previous high school will be more than adequate for this. A dissection kit will also be useful. The most important instruments for this will be blunt-ended curved dissection scissors, a scalpel and tweezers. Several stores around Hobart sell these items, but a popular and very cheap store exists very close to the Hospital, known as SurgiMed. SurgiMed sells dissection kits for $25 and safety glasses for $ 5.95. Lab coats can be found at stores on the Sandy Bay campus for $20. Many of these items may also be for sale by senior students.

**Weather**

The Tasmanian weather can be rather unpredictable, with the climate varying from cold to hot, calm to windy, dry to wet, and often all within one day. As such, you should bring clothes for all conditions. Winter season (starting around middle of the year) can bring weather close to zero degrees Celsius, whereas summer time can reach close to 40 degrees on the hottest days.

**Learning about Tasmania**
Tasmania has much to offer, in terms of food, attractions, and events. Fortunately, the Discover Tasmania website (http://www.discovertasmania.com/au) keeps you up to date so you don’t miss a thing! The website also provides maps, Tasmanian statistics, and travel information, so be sure to bookmark this page.

**The Tasmanian University Medical Students' Society (TUMSS)**

TUMSS is the student run organisation that represents all medical students at the University of Tasmania, serving a number of roles, both academic and social.

TUMSS operates in conjunction with the Australian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA). We also have strong links with the Australian Medical Association (AMA), other medical bodies, and our valued sponsors.

The aims of TUMSS are to:

- Represent medical students on UTAS committees, providing a student voice on issues of current relevance, therefore allowing students direct input into their medical school and curriculum.
- Liaise with relevant student and professional bodies, including the Tasmanian School of Medicine (TSoM), the Australian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA).
- Encourage members to consider their well-being, both physical and mental, and the well-being of their colleagues.
- Provide members with access to support services, including student mentors.
- Organise social and sporting events for members.
- Provide career information to members on the various medical specialties and vocational training opportunities.
- Promote interaction between medical students in different year groups, on different campuses and from different backgrounds.
- Advocate for students on issues of relevance.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Abby, your International Student Officer from TUMSS, at huilingt@utas.edu.au or at +61 4 0284 9202.

Hope to see you soon! Cheers!

Abby Tan Huiling (Med III)
TUMSS – Tasmanian University Medical Students’ Society

Orientation Information for International Students

Incoming International Officer 2013
Tasmanian University Medical Students' Society