



# AN EXPAT GUIDE TO LIVING IN BRISBANE AUSTRALIA

# ABSTRACT

Brisbane, Australia's third most populous city and the capital of Queensland, has a sub-tropical climate with pleasant average temperatures all year round. Is Brisbane a good place to live as an expat? Let's discover it in this pdf.

## INTRODUCTION

If you're thinking of moving to Australia and trying to decide where to live, Brisbane is a city well worth considering. To help decide if living in Brisbane could be for you, this pdf will give you an overview of the Brisbane lifestyle and hopefully answer any questions you may have about Australia's river city!

### I. ABOUT BRISBANE

Find an inspiring collection of places to explore in and around Brisbane. From the natural pleasures of parklands to the urban appeal of art galleries - it's right here. Wining and Dining. Urban village hotspots. Nights out on the town. Beds and boutique hotels, shopping and cinemas and everything in between.



#### History

A river curving and curling its way around the landscape makes Brisbane one of the most unique capital cities in Australia. Brisbane came into being long before the state of Queensland was established, when intrepid Surveyor General John Oxley named the river he discovered after the Governor of New South Wales – Thomas Brisbane – in 1823.



## Demographics

Brisbane is one of the fastest-growing capital cities in Australia in terms of population and employment. Our residents are young and skilled, highly educated and culturally diverse.



## Economy

The Australian economy recorded its 22nd consecutive year of growth in 2012-13 and is projected by the IMF to record growth double the OECD average in 2013. Brisbane is recognised as one of the fastest-growing regions in Australia, driving Queensland's economic growth.



## Geography

Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland— Australia’s second largest state by area. In addition to being the third most populous city in Australia, Greater Brisbane is the largest of Australia’s six capital cities by geographic area, occupying 15,842 sq km across South East Queensland.



## Governance

The Commonwealth of Australia is an independent Western democracy with three tiers of government – federal, state and local. In terms of governance, the nation’s institutions and practices reflect British and North American models but remain uniquely Australian.



## Infrastructure

As Australia's new world city, Brisbane is built on a strong foundation of infrastructure. Assets include: a world-class international airport; a busy international port; a comprehensive road and rail network; a fully-integrated public transport and ticketing system; vibrant entertainment and sporting venues; and an exceptional range of accommodation options.



## Weather

Pack a hat and a bottle of sunscreen. With 12 months of sunshine filled days and clear blue skies, Brisbane has a climate that sets the scene for year-round alfresco activities. Even in the midst of a Brisbane winter you'll be yearning to play in the parks and dine outdoors.

## II. 10 AWESOME REASONS TO LIVE IN BRISBANE



Brisbane is the bustling capital of Australia's Sunshine State, Queensland. If you've ever wanted to study in Brisbane as an international student, here are ten reasons to choose 'Brissy'.

### 1. Brisbane is full of life

In Brisbane, every day is like a celebration. The city is packed to the brim with vibrant shopping arcades, bustling bars, beautiful historical landmarks, sun-soaked beaches and thriving music and arts scenes. If that's not enough to get you excited, the weather surely will. In Brissy, the climate is comfortably warm – the city has nearly 300 sunny days per year.

### 2. Brisbane is a warm, welcoming and inclusive city

Brisbane is a warm city in more ways than one. Perhaps thanks to the city's relaxed vibe, locals are generally incredibly friendly, easygoing and open-minded – so you're sure to have many opportunities to make local friends if you study in Brisbane.

In fact, the city of Brisbane hosts the free City Welcome Festival each year, Australia's largest orientation festival for international students. You'll find cultural activities, student exhibitions and support services to assist you with making connections at the festival. You can also check out the Lord Mayor's International Student Friendship Ceremony. It includes a meet, greet, photo with – and signed Welcome Certificate from – Brisbane's Lord Mayor.

### 3. Brisbane is colourful, diverse and multicultural!

As one of the fastest growing cities in Australia, wherever you go in Brisbane, you're sure to be surrounded by strong, colourful and diverse communities. You only need to take a glance at Brisbane's jam-packed calendar to see what we mean.



Big multicultural celebrations include the BrisAsia Festival, the Spanish Film Festival, the Alliance Francaise French Film Festival, Cinco de Mayo, Paniyiri Greek Festival, the India Day Fair, and the Luminous Lantern Festival... and that's not even the half of it! There's also a whole month during the year that celebrates multiculturalism in Brisbane!

### 4. Brisbane is awesome, even on a budget

Brisbane is great value for students, as the fourth most affordable city for students in Australia. The median price of rent is the 3rd lowest of Australia's capital cities at \$436 (AUD) per week. What's more, if you study in Brisbane, there are plenty of things to do on the cheap.

Brisbane promises plenty of beaches, lots of live music, and many different cultural attractions, including Queensland's Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA – Australia's largest collection of modern art). Many are completely free to visit, which is perfect on a student budget!

### 5. Brisbane is Australia's most sustainable city

With more than 2,000 green parks and over 2,500 species of plant-life, Brisbane is becoming famous across Australia for its immense biodiversity. It's paradise for anyone wanting to study close to nature.

In particular, the lush City Botanic Gardens right beneath the breathtaking Mt Coot-tha contains rainforest glades, bamboo groves and scenic lily ponds. It's a popular green haven and the perfect place for a picnic or study session.

## 6. The arts and culture scene is exciting, expansive, and pushes boundaries

Don't forget to explore Brisbane's major cultural institutions, including the impressive Gallery of Modern Art, the Queensland Museum and SparkLab, Brisbane Powerhouse, and the Maritime Museum.

The impressive Wheel of Brisbane in South Bank offers 360-degree panoramic views for those brave enough to go to the top! For more underground arts culture, the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts (known as 'The Judy' to locals), is loved for its regular theatre, cabaret and music events.

## 7. It's very close to some major Aussie tourist attractions!

Have you planned your Australian Backpacker Bucketlist yet? If you study in Brisbane, you will have a big advantage when it comes to visiting Australia's major attractions. Brisbane is close to the breathtaking Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Forest, brilliant beaches and famous theme parks.



## 8. Everyone talks about the live music scene

The live music scene in Brisbane is well-known across Australia for supporting musical talent. Fortitude Valley is where you'll find a vast array of exciting underground bars and live music performances, showcasing groundbreaking artists.

Every year, Fortitude Valley also comes alive for the annual BIGSOUND Music Festival and Industry Conference – the largest annual music event of its kind in Australia. It hosts a massive line-up of singers, artists and industry professionals.



New Farm's Brisbane Powerhouse, a former power station turned arts centre, also showcases a wide range of artists, acts and performances.

### 9. Brisbane's beach culture is breathtaking

You can't talk about Brissy without mentioning its beautiful sun-soaked beaches. Bribie Island offers some of Queensland's most gorgeous stretches of sand, and Ocean Beach is a must-visit surf spot. Here, you'll find learn-to-surf classes running most days. Also check out Cylinder Beach, Frenchman's Beach and Main Beach at North Stradbroke Island, each around 40 minutes from Brisbane's CBD. Surfside and Honeymoon Bay at Moreton Island, around 25km off Brisbane's shore, are also worth a visit.

### 10. Brisbane brings opportunity

If you keep a keen eye out, Brisbane offers plenty of scholarships, internships and employment opportunities for international students. Plus, the education is world-class. From the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University, to the many other colleges available, you'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to selecting the right place to study in Brisbane.

Take it from us; when it comes to affordability, great education and fun in the sun, vibrant Brisbane absolutely shines.

## **III. A COMPLETE MOVING GUIDE TO BRISBANE**

Often referred to as the 'Sunshine State' Brisbane is the capital of Queensland and the third-most populated city in Australia. It is an international city with a culturally diverse population consisting of locals and migrants from other states and countries. The city's community is welcoming, warm, and all-encompassing, making it easier for newcomers to settle and be a part of the capital.



In addition, it is modern and developed with excellent opportunities for education, business, and jobs. Hence, considering relocating to the capital city is wise and to assist here is your complete moving guide to Brisbane by expert removalists.

## An Overview

Brisbane is among the oldest cities of Australia with Turrbal and Jagera being its aboriginal people. It is known for the historic European settlement, vibrant art & culture, popular tourist spots, fantastic food, and much more. The city's developed infrastructure, strong education system, and thriving commercial & industrial sectors make it the preferred city to relocate for people across Australia and overseas.

## Population Statistics

At present, the population of Brisbane is 2.4 million (approx) and estimated to reach 2.62 million (approx) by June 2020. The city's population is the third-largest after Sydney and Melbourne contributing to 19% of Australia's overall populace. The inflow of interstate and overseas migrants plays an important role in the growth of the city resident's numbers. What's more, about one-third population is foreign-born because the city is welcoming to people from all over the world.

## Weather

As per the Köppen climate classification, Brisbane is a humid subtropical city with an annual mean temperature of 16.6 °C minimum and 26.6 °C maximum. It is the second hottest capital city in Australia, and the weather is usually warm or hot for most of the year.

The 'Sunshine State' observes four seasons:

- Summer: December – February with a temperature range of 21 – 29.8°C.
- Autumn: March – May with a temperature range of 15 – 25°C
- Winter: June – August with a temperature range of 11 – 21°C
- Spring: September – November with a temperature range of 15 – 25°C

For those who are planning to migrate, according to expert removalists in Brisbane, the best time to move is during autumn or spring as the weather is pleasant with less humidity, sunny days, and minimum rainfall.

## What Are The Best Suburbs To Live In Brisbane?



It is essential to know which suburbs are the best to live if you are planning to move here. Some of the most suitable ones for newcomers as per expert removalists in Brisbane are listed as follows:

- Indooroopilly
- Kangaroo Point
- Coorparoo
- South Brisbane
- Paddington
- New Farm
- Fortitude Valley
- Morningside
- St Lucia
- Nundah

All these suburbs are well connected and close to the central business district with welcoming people and communities. They have developed infrastructure, booming shopping precincts, fantastic schools, restaurants, and much more to live a healthy and social life.

## Why Choose Brisbane For Business Or Job Opportunities?

For those interested in moving to Brisbane for job opportunities or business, the decision can be beneficial due to the following factors.



- The city can offer opportunities for individuals in a variety of industries such as trade, commerce, manufacturing, information technology, education, hospitality, health care and many others.
- It is the nearest capital on the eastern seaboard of Australia connecting it to China, Japan, and South Korea – the country’s largest export markets. Hence, making it a commercial hub, the advantage of which can be taken by both business owners and job seekers.
- The job market here is growing at twice the rate of population growth, ensuring there are abundant of job opportunities for newcomers and residents.
- The economic profile is excellent as there are:
  - a. 127,000 registered businesses approximately
  - b. 70% working age population
  - c. 704,000 people strong labour force
  - d. The gross regional product is at \$171 billion (estimated)

Hence, the current time is the best for people wanting to move here for career and economic growth.

## How Is The Traffic And Transport In Brisbane?

Queensland’s capital has one of the most sophisticated transport systems in the country with several travel options. Expert Removalists in Brisbane say public transport is hassle-free with the city offering fleets of buses (the largest in Australia), CityCat/SpeedyCat and ferry services, and Metro Rail. In addition, as part of the city’s councils bid to help the seniors venture out more, there are free travel services for elders during non-peak hours. This arrangement is excellent for new residents with parents or other elders at home.

To travel in separate public transport facilities, one can obtain a GO CARD that is a multi-travel pass. It allows easy transit between ferries, trains, trams, buses on all routes making it better than purchasing a paper ticket each time to travel.

Besides the public transport system, the capital has high functionality tunnels, bridges, roads, bikeways, and pathways for smooth flow of traffic. Travel from one point to another is feasible and comfortable any time.

## What Are Education Opportunities In Brisbane?

Numerous state-run schools in the city's suburbs are great for children of locals and new residents to gain primary and secondary education. If you are moving with a family, one of the best ways to find local schools is to browse through the Queensland Schools Directory.



At present, two sets of courses are followed by schools that are the Australian Curriculum from prep to 10th standard and Queensland Curriculum from the 11-12th standard. Information of both study programs can be found online on official websites. There are private schools in the city as well, and they are among the most affordable in Australia.

Students who pass 12th standard from public or private schools are awarded the Queensland Certificate of Education.

In addition to premium schools, the capital of Queensland is home to three top universities, namely Queensland University of Technology (QUT), University of Queensland (UQ), and Griffith University. The city also has several universities offering higher education in niche fields. To get course options and brochures, visit the websites of the universities or call the student helpline numbers.

## Where To Look For Mates In Brisbane?

The capital has numerous heritage sites, places to eat, tourist destinations, culture & art centres, libraries and much more to engage and bridge the gap between locals, tourist, and new residents. For people planning to move here to those who have

relocated, meeting new people in Brisbane is easy. You can attend community street meets, city festivals, events & activities by local libraries, and much more.

In addition, explore the shopping precincts and restaurants to communicate and learn more about the place. Befriending residents is not difficult because the communities embrace people of all ages, ethnicities, and faiths.

Moving to a new city can be daunting, but it can be less stressful if you do your research properly. Following guides by expert removalists in Brisbane like this one can help you learn about facts, climate, suburbs to live, education/business/job opportunities, transport facilities and much more. Moreover, planning and movement can be made smooth based on the knowledge gained through them.

## **IV. THE COST OF LIVING IN BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA: REAL COSTS TO HELP YOU BUDGET**



Now I can't tell you about the cost of living in Perth, or how much it costs to live in Sydney, but I thought it might be useful for me to write a post that outlines our living costs in Brisbane in full detail. This will give you an idea of the cost of living in Brisbane, Australia for a family of five but I hope it gives you a good starting point to think about what your living costs in Australia might be for your family beyond your moving costs.

### [Living costs Australia: The cost of living in Brisbane, Australia](#)

This post is about MY own living costs in Brisbane and it relates to our lifestyle in Brisbane. Please remember, everybody's spending and lifestyle are totally different. Some families love having a top TV package with all of the movie channels, and others are happy with freeview.

Some people love an expensive mobile phone and others prefer a basic phone on pay as you go. Some love eating out in restaurants, and others always eat at home. Some families like a posh car, others (like mine!) drive beat up old cars!

For this reason, I can't tell you exactly what *your* cost of living in Australia is going to be, but hopefully this post about our monthly outgoings when living in Brisbane will get you thinking about what your living costs in Australia might be.

## Brisbane living cost versus other cities in Australia

When we were planning our move to Brisbane, affordability, weather and lifestyle were all important to us. Other cities such as Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra do come with a higher cost of living. We looked into job opportunities and decided that salaries for Matt's occupation weren't going to be much higher in those cities yet our outgoings for rent/mortgage would be higher.

We chose to move to Brisbane because there were more work opportunities for Matt plus the cost of living was reasonable and it ticked all of our other weather and lifestyle boxes. It turned out to be a great choice for us.

Every occupation is different – some people may need to base themselves in a certain city for their type of work. Do your research. Check out house prices, cost of living and salaries (plus all of the extra things like weather, crime levels, access to beaches/parks/cafes etc – all of the things that matter to you).

Something to remember is that it will always cost more to live closer to the city so bear that in mind as you're online looking at the average cost of rent in Australian cities. Again it all depends on the type of lifestyle you're searching for – city living might be important to you so you might be happy paying more to be close to the CBD.



We live about 45 minutes outside Brisbane in Moreton Bay because that allows us to have a bigger house. If we lived even further out of the city, we could afford a much bigger plot but then you are adding to your daily commute time so it's all a balance.

## Living costs in Brisbane, Australia

So what are the costs of living in Brisbane Australia? Here is a breakdown of our living costs in Brisbane. If you're thinking of moving to Brisbane, please remember – these are **our** living costs. Yours will be different. Everybody lives different lifestyles. I think we are pretty frugal. I have many friends here who spend more than us and many who spend less than us. I think that you tend to end up spending what you have and your lifestyle grows or shrinks to fit your income.

## COST OF LIVING, BRISBANE: HERE IS THE BREAKDOWN OF OUR BILLS

Please note: we bought a house after about seven months in Australia so these costs are based on us being homeowners. We rented initially in Scarborough in Moreton Bay, so where possible I've listed the costs applicable to renting too but those figures are now a few years old.

## COST OF LIVING, BRISBANE



**Water** (including usage for a family of five and standing charges) \$420 – \$520 per qtr. In Queensland, you only pay for water usage when renting so rental water charges will be much lower than this figure – find out more here. For water in other states, Google 'water charges renting' + the state. Our bill fluctuates depending on how much rainwater we have stored for topping up our pool and pond – during dry spells we have to use our hose pipe which increases our water bill.

**Electricity** – \$150 – 450 per qtr \* We have solar panels which massively reduces our electricity bill but it does depend on the time of year. We only have one aircon/heating unit (not ducted). Our bills vary depending on how much we've used the air con or heating, and in winter we produce less energy so our bills increase quite a bit as we're producing less.

**Gas** cylinder hire – \$80 a year plus gas cylinder refills as and when required which is only very occasionally as we only use it for cooking on the hob. It's so rare that I can't even remember the cost but think it's about \$130 per refill. In our rental, gas



heated our hot water system so our usage bills were higher there. In the area we live, mains gas supply isn't common.

**Rates** – \$515 per qtr. In Queensland, you only pay rates as a homeowner – you don't pay rates when renting in Queensland.

**Mobile phones** – we just signed up to a great deal to get cheap phone plans (one from Woolworths and one from Coles) for about \$10 a month paid annually (there's no handset included in this price).

**Buildings and contents insurance** – \$100pm (again this will vary a lot depending on your rebuild costs, excess and inclusions).

**Mortgage or rent** – Everyone's mortgage payment will be different depending on the size of your deposit and what rate you are able to secure (if you're thinking about buying a house in Australia, check out this post to learn about the mortgage broker I partner with who has lots of experience helping expats get a mortgage and he'll be able to give you an idea of your mortgage repayment costs). Brisbane house prices are going a bit crazy at the moment and I know in our area rentals are quite competitive right now.

Our rental when we first arrived (in 2014) was a 4-bedroom, modern property and it cost \$440 a week in Scarborough, Qld. It was an amazing deal and most similar houses I see in the area now seem to cost more than this (more like \$500 – 700 pw). This is in my local area of Moreton Bay – closer to the city, costs are higher. When it comes to buying a property, in Moreton Bay where I live a family home is likely to be about \$500k – 800k as a very rough guide.

## BRISBANE COST OF LIVING: LIFESTYLE EXPENSES TO BUDGET FOR

**School** – if you're on a temporary visa in some states you will need to budget for school fees (read this schools post for more info). If you're on a PR visa or are moving to a state that doesn't charge temporary visa holders for schooling, you will still need to budget for the voluntary contribution fee even if your children go to a state school. This fee will vary between schools. You'll also need to budget for books, stationery, school trips/camps and uniforms.

If your kids go to a private school, you can usually set up a payment plan to suit you (fortnightly, monthly or termly). Sometimes private school fees can include books/stationery/ipads/camps/excursions/swimming lessons etc. – it all depends on the school. Private school prices can begin from around \$2/3k per child per year in primary (for some church-subsidised schools) with prices going up from there. You can usually get sibling discounts if multiple kids go to the school.

**Days out** – we find days out here much cheaper. Annual passes are more affordable at attractions so you can buy them once and then enjoy a year of visits – and the passes usually bring extra perks like discounts on food and drink and in the shop so they have usually paid for themselves by the second visit. As a guide, Australia Zoo costs \$139 for an adult annual pass and \$99 for a child. At Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, a family pass (2 adults and 3 kids) is \$148 which is an absolute bargain!

**Sports and activities** – if your kids take swimming lessons, tennis lessons, scouts etc. you will need to budget for this. Classes are usually \$17 – \$25 per session per child. Some involve uniforms (like the surf club Nippers where a vest was \$20 and cap \$20 each). Sometimes these can be paid weekly, sometimes monthly and other times termly depending on the activity.

**Holidays** – if you want to save for an annual big holiday, budget for short breaks or want to save for a visit back to your home country, you will need to allow some savings towards your holiday budget. For holiday inspiration in Australia, check out my Discover Australia section.

**Hairdressers** – I LOVE my hairdressers – Beautiful You in north Brisbane (if you ever go, tell them I sent you!) Follow the link and check out their price list to give you an idea of pricing. I pay about \$180 for a cut and colour. My husband pays about \$30 for his haircuts and generally gets a beer with his. The kids' hair cuts are about \$10 – 15 depending on where we take them.

**Clothes** – Kmart, Target and Cotton On Kids are my main go-to stores for the kids for clothes. I personally think kids' clothes are good value here but I know other people who feel Tesco and the supermarket options were cheaper in the UK. I love Myer for their dresses and I tend to stock up when they have a sale on. We aren't big spenders on clothes so I don't really allow a monthly budget for it. Through summer my kids mostly just live in swimwear anyway. They rarely wear socks and my boys hardly ever wear t-shirts in the house, let alone jumpers or jeans!

## Food prices in Australia



A while ago I published the post below on Instagram and got a huge reaction to it from people who were astounded at how little I spend on food shopping. I feel we eat really well and I definitely buy plenty of luxuries but I think I keep our cost down by shopping fortnightly.

We have a big fridge freezer here so I can buy lots of bread and the dates on things are usually good enough to last between shops. I pop back to the shops for bits when I need to, but the bulk of our food is bought in those two big shops a month.

The trolley above was worth about \$300. I've upped my spending since then as I now have three kids at school who all need a fruit break snack, morning tea and lunch (plus as my boys are getting older they are eating more!) so now I probably spend about \$400 per fortnight. I've run out of time for shopping at Aldi which is definitely much cheaper, so now I order online via Coles or Woolworths which is another reason I'm spending a bit more.

I have friends who easily spend \$1200 a month on food though, so I don't think we do too badly!

This shopping doesn't include alcohol as you can't buy that from the supermarket here. We don't get through lots of booze at home now though anyway since we cut back on drinking a while ago.

### Living in Brisbane: Can you afford it?

I hope that walk through our bills and our cost of living in Brisbane helps you to feel more in control of your move and gives you an idea of the average cost of living in Brisbane. Remember your living costs in Brisbane will be different from mine – it all depends on where you live, how far you commute, how many cars you run and what your lifestyle is like.

When you get here and get a job, you'll know what your budget is going to be and you'll create a lifestyle that fits that budget. Don't let the living cost in Brisbane put you off – stop thinking of the Brisbane living costs in pounds or your local currency and just get out here so you can live in Australian dollars!

## **V. HOW TO LIVE YOUR BEST STUDENT LIFE IN BRISBANE – ON A BUDGET**

Student life in Brisbane has a lot to offer international guests, and even a modest budget can get you far here.

We know studying as an international student can be a big investment. To help you make the most of your time in Queensland, we've put together these tips for living big on a budget. Here are a few key areas where you can save money while studying at The University of Queensland.

## Student fees

The University of Queensland belongs to the prestigious Group of Eight (Go8) universities, which is Australia's version of the Ivy League. This establishes UQ as one of the country's leading research-intensive universities.

However, UQ is also one of the most affordable universities in the Go8, with students reporting lower fees than universities in Sydney and Melbourne. This means you can graduate from a highly respected uni with an outstanding student life experience while saving money on tuition fees.



## Accommodation

Brisbane is the third-largest city in Australia. It's a thriving place that blends global sophistication with a laidback and friendly atmosphere, so you can enjoy a mix of fun and relaxation during your student life in Brisbane.

Despite its size, Brisbane is one of the cheapest major Australian cities to live in, with much lower accommodation costs than Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

Living on campus at UQ also means you'll have heaps of opportunities to make friends and meet new people. There are social outings, movies nights and plenty of spaces to relax and study. Plus, you'll save on transport costs since you can walk right to class each day and easily get involved in student life activities on campus.

Off-campus living costs can vary widely depending on your suburb and housing, with rent typically landing anywhere between \$480 and \$1760 per month. To keep this lower, consider sharing a house with other students – a great way to cut costs while also making new friends in Brisbane.



## Food and groceries

With a little bit of organisation and thinking ahead, you may be surprised just how much difference coupons and loyalty programs can make.

“You might think it’s ridiculous, but during my free time, I’ve found myself reading catalogues, looking at what I can get for cheaper. Here, you get information on what will be on discount, so be sure to look through them to spot anything you might need and purchase it then.”

Other things you can do when budgeting for your student life in Brisbane include:

- keeping a reusable water bottle with you
- buying in bulk
- getting coffee membership cards
- planning your meals ahead
- buying fresh fruit and vegetables from a farmers’ market on the weekends.

## Public transport

Brisbane offers public transport concession to all students in a full-time program. This entitles you to 50 per cent off the normal adult fare, which can really add up over a semester (not to mention your entire degree). You can purchase a *go card* from a supermarket, convenience store or newsagency – just make sure to take your student ID so you get the right type of card.

You can also save money by walking or cycling when possible. Brisbane is very walkable and rideable, with many safe and scenic dedicated off-road paths.



## Student discounts and free events

Student life in Brisbane comes with a variety of student discounts across a range of stores and venues. With your student ID, you can get discounts on products and services such as:

- software
- movie tickets
- museums
- theatres
- some food and drink venues
- hairdressers
- plenty more.

And it's not just discounts. Brisbane also hosts several free events and entertainment options throughout the year. The Brisbane Powerhouse, for example, holds free monthly live comedy and music events.

Meanwhile, South Bank is home to the Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art and State Library of Queensland – all of which have free exhibitions. You'll also hear free live music most weekend afternoons in South Bank.



## Health and wellness

Don't drop your gym habits while studying abroad. As a student, you can get 30 per cent off your UQ Sport gym membership, so staying active can easily be part of your student life experience. Join the Yoga and Meditation Club to enjoy unlimited yoga all semester for just \$5. Or head to the South Bank Parklands or Queens Gardens for free fitness programs provided by Brisbane City Council.



We hope these tips will help you live your best student life in Brisbane while you're studying at UQ. With these ideas, you can keep up a social and active lifestyle – even with a student budget.

## CONCLUSION

I hope this overview on living in Brisbane has helped with your big decision! I think the Brisbane lifestyle is pretty great, and would suit both young professionals and families alike.

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