INTRODUCTION

Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong

I am pleased to see the ongoing link between Wollongong Police and our University in raising the level of information and resources available for International Students when they first arrive in Australia. The Guide contains essential information and links that will help international students maintain personal safety while living in our community and when attending campus.

I encourage all students to keep this guide in a safe place so that you can easily find the support and assistance you or your fellow students may require. Students should also be aware that we have a very helpful and committed New South Wales Police Force, whose Officers are always available to support students should you ever find yourself in trouble.

On campus, our UOW Security team can also respond to your needs. Security Officers are responsible for providing a safe and secure campus.

Professor Paul Wellings, OBE
Vice-Chancellor

Wollongong Local Area Commander

I wish to extend my welcome to those that have chosen to study at the University of Wollongong. As part of our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure City, we have joined with the University to launch this Safety Awareness Guide. This guide provides essential information to support you to stay safe at University. We have a very strong relationship with the University of Wollongong, which includes maintaining a rapport within the University Campus. When this is the case it is likely that you will end up offering a police number when calling at the University. If you do not have a local University or police station, introduce yourself and talk to the officer about the contents of this guide.

I sincerely trust you find this guide useful and extend best wishes to all in your academic pursuits.

Superintendent Kyle Stewart
Nsw Police Force

UOW SECURITY

UOW Security Officers support a safe and secure environment on all Campuses, at all accommodation facilities and other university properties located within the City of Wollongong. UOW Security is available on the Wollongong and Innovation Campuses 24 hours every day of the year.

Security Officers provide assistance by:

• taking to staff and students about safety concerns
• recommending and responding to emergencies or incidents
• supporting victims of crime

When you call the Police on triple zero (000) you will be asked to provide them with as many details as possible. This information is essential to help the Police investigate any crime.

Also available to you are our Security Officers who are there to support you when you need help.

• NSW Police
• NSW Ambulance

Don't be shy to ask for help. We are there to support you.

UOW Security

“What is crime?”

Like many other countries, Australia has its own rules, regulations and laws that help to protect people's safety. Law enforcement agencies, including the Australian Police and Wollongong Police, are responsible for maintaining public safety. Some crimes are committed on what Australian society accepts. Crime is any conduct that is proscribed by law. Reporting this information in this pamphlet is to help you identify if a crime has been committed against you and how to get assistance from Police.

What happens when crime is reported to the Police?

When a crime is reported to the Police you will need to give a clear and detailed statement about what happened and you will need to describe:

• any persons involved
• any makes, models and registration plates
• any injuries you have suffered
• any property losses you have experienced.

If you have been assaulted, Police may ask or take you to see a doctor for a medical examination. Your Police officer also may take away property that belongs to you if they use it as evidence in any court proceedings.

They may also ask you to attend an identification parade or look at photographs to identify the alleged offender.

Dealing with offensive comments:

On a public train if someone says something to you that you consider to be offensive, we encourage you to simply walk away and ignore this type of behaviour. Reporting this type of behaviour is difficult as in most cases the person cannot be identified. It is unlikely that Police will be able to take any action. However, if you feel threatened or intimidated by this behaviour and this person will not stop following or approaching you then you should call the Police.

If you are facing something you feel may be considered a racist comment, or could be considered as sulphuric, then you may be able to take a complaint of racial discrimination to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. If this occurs in campus then you should take this up with the Academic Registrar’s Division through Student Central.

“Fire & Rescue NSW”

Call 000 in an emergency

-UOW Bega Campus
-UOW Batemans Bay Campus
-Shoalhaven Campus
-UOW Southern Highlands Campus
-UOW Southern Sydney Campus
-UOW Northern Illawarra Place

Contact Circular Quay Police Station: 134333

Police Officers in this Region can also assist you.

“International Students Guide”

The Rocks Police Station

82206399

EMERGENCIES

Student Support Services 4221 3445

Student Central

1300 ASK UOW

International Student Support

575x687 to 828x806

EMERGENCIES

Student Support Services 4221 3445

Student Central

1300 ASK UOW

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

SYDNEY BUSINESS SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

This Guide is prepared jointly by NSW Police Force, Wollongong Local Area Command and University of Wollongong.

“PERSONAL SAFETY”

Safety in public places

If you walk to and from campus consider the following safety tips:

• Have a plan for going to and from campus.
• Use bus transport where you can, even for short trips.
• Put aside a small amount of money for emergencies or for calling a taxi, if necessary.
• Walk confidently and look around to see what is going on around you.
• Walk with a friend or in a group.
• Don't take shortcuts, follow major pathways along side roads, after dark use well lit areas.
• Avoid isolated areas or pathways where you can’t attract attention.
• If you think you are being followed, change direction and walk in a safe place where Police or security presence can be seen.
• Carry a mobile telephone if you are following the Police or in trouble. Keep the line open until you get assistance or your way to a safe place.

“Visas - Does Reporting an Incident Impact your Visa?”

Department of Immigration and Border Protection is not normally notified that a student has reported an incident, and would not normally take any action against the student in such a case.

If you are the victim of a crime or you need help this has no impact on the status of your student visa, but if the circumstances were to impact your course requirements, you should discuss this with the University’s International Office.

Help is always available through Student Central, the Dean of Students, the DIAC website or by calling 131 881.

In an emergency you should always call triple zero and ask the operator to connect you to the police.

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SAFETY ON WOLLONGONG & IC CAMPUS

UOW Security Officers patrol Wollongong and Innovation Campuses 24 hours every day.

If you need help, you can use any Security phone to get help or have the phone numbers programmed into your mobile phone to enable easy access.

After dark safety escorts are available by contacting Security, ask that you provide at least 10-15 minutes notice. After dark Security Officers provide safety escorts from your building to your car or the bus stop.

Wollongong Campus: If your car is parked off campus, security officers will assist you as far as Ulladulla Road, near the Botanic Garden. Students who park at the North Gong of Gwynneville/Kererue Shuttles, after these services have stopped, Security Officers can help as far as North Wollongong Railway Station or Roads End.

Wollongong Campus - Security telephones provide access to:
• UOW Security
• Triple zero “000” for Police, Fire & Rescue and Ambulance
• Wollongong Taxis
• NRMA Road Service
• Police Assistance Line 131 444.

To find out more about UOW Security go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/index.html.

PROTECTING PROPERTY

Be Aware
Keep your belongings close to you everywhere, all the time. Thieves look for opportunities. Whether on campus or off campus you need to protect your property.

Property like wallets, purses, phones, iPads, cameras, etc should be within your control at all times.

SCAMS & FRAUD

Police advise be aware of scams. In the past some students have experienced scams related to real estate properties, money transfers, prizes, phone scams, scams that lead you to believe you’re getting a good deal and promises of great returns for very little money.

There are a number of ways students can protect themselves from these scams. Some include:
• NEVER give your PIN number or password to anyone and check your account balance regularly.
• Do not send money to someone you don’t know or trust.
• Do business with companies you know and trust.
• Read everything you might sign or agree to carefully.
• If you are contacted and advised that you have won prize money and you need to send money to cover legal costs, DON’T THIS is most likely a scam.
• If a deal sounds too good to be true, it is probably so.

Beware of online purchasing. Follow the rules set by websites such as Ebay.

If you find any advertisements that you like, avoid paying for it online until you have attended the location and confirmed that it actually exists and is available. A common scam is to continue potential customers to pay a deposit on a property before visiting it only to find that it doesn’t actually exist and their money is not refundable or traceable.

For tips and references on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam visit SCAMWATCH online: www.scamwatch.gov.au

SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

SYDNEY CBD

The Free Sydney CBD Shuttle runs every 10 minutes. The service operates in both directions on a loop from Central Station to Circular Quay via Elizabeth and George Streets.

The route number for the Sydney CBD Shuttle is 555. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday 6.30am to 8.30pm, Saturday 9.30am to 3.30pm, with a late finish of 9pm on Thursday evenings.

Weekends: 9.30am to 6.00pm.
If you can, avoid walking long distances alone after dark. For more information go to: http://www.131500.com.au/plan-your-trip/cbd-shuttle

Buses & Trains Safety Tips
• Sit close to the bus driver.
• On a train sit in the carriage near the guards compartment - marked with blue light.
• Wait in well lit stops or open areas of railway platform or platform sides.
• If you experience a problem - alert the bus driver or alert the train guard.

Wollongong: Wollongong has many public transport options which you should consider when travelling to and from UOW and around the CBD. For more information go to: http://www.131500.com.au/plan-your-trip/cbd-shuttle

SURF SAFETY

Australia’s beaches are magic, but they can also be very dangerous. Here are some basic precautions to help you enjoy your day at the beach.

1. Always swim between the red and yellow flags - these indicate a patrolled swimming area.

NO FLOSS NO SWIM!

2. Swim only if patrolled by lifeguards and lifelavers. You can check if your local beach is patrolled by calling the phone number below or visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/ or phone number 1300 212 21

3. Look for and read the water advisory signs and obey lifeguards or lifesavers.

NO FLAGS NO SWIM!

4. Always supervise your child or around any body of water.

5. Always check the water depth before entering the water.


7. If unsure of water conditions ask advice from the lifeguard or lifesaver.

8. If it ever in need of assistance, stay calm, float, conserve your energy, raise your arm and signal for help.

9. Never swim consuming food or alcohol or other drugs.

10. Do not swim in the dark, after nightfall, before daylight or from dusk to dawn.

11. Do not swim at night, beaches are not patrolled and the risk of a shark attack increases.

12. If you tire easily, take more risks and your body control your actions or remain conscious of what is happening around you.

It’s not worth the risk, don’t mix alcohol with swimming.

Alcohol and Swimming

1. Alcohol and swimming are a dangerous combination. Your judgement is impaired, you become tired, you lose muscle strength, your body temperature can drop more rapidly. It’s not worth the risk.

2. The best advice is to check out UOW’s logo and visit: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

3. Don’t swim after dark!

4. No flag no swim

Informal and Images used with Wollongong City Council Legislative Service

SAFETY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

If you wish to drive a car during your stay, it is strongly recommended that you read the information on road safety and driving licences in NSW which can be found on Roads and Maritime Services website and look for bike safety.


RIDING BICYCLES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

You need to wear a helmet at all times, one that is approved by the Department of Transport and main roads. You need to have a white headlight and rear red flashing or steady light so that other road users can see you.

If you don’t have the right safety gear, the Police can stop you and issue a fine.

For more information about how to ride safe and to ensure that your bike is road worthy go to the Roads and Maritime Services website and look for bike safety.


SCIENCE GROUNDS SUPERVISORS

International students are reminded that in Australia there are other authorised persons who can direct traffic and stop cars aside from Police Officers. School crossings are an example of this where the Roads and Maritime Services employs Crossing Supervisor to stop cars at a School Crossing where there are no traffic control lights. The Supervisor steps into the crossing with a special flag to stop traffic in both directions and then allow School children and parents to cross the road safely.

There are various offences for which a penalty notice may be issued at a School Crossing. More serious than that a child could be struck by a moving vehicle causing serious injury or even death. In these circumstances a fine could be charged with various serious traffic offences to appear in Court.

You must obey the instructions of a School Crossing Supervisor.

NEED ADVICE?

If you are worried about something or just need some advice go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/personalsafety/index.html

• Call your local Police station or the Police Assistance Line 131 444.
• On campus get help from UOW Security.
• Avoid touching property to ensure forensic evidence is not compromised.
• Ask for an estimated time of arrival of Police.
• If you have any questions ask Police attending.
• If you need help don’t be afraid to ask for help.

ALCOHOL AND BEHAVIOUR

Take the Hunt Don’t Kill. If you are asked to leave a licensed premises due to your behaviour, you must leave. If you refuse you can be fined.

• If you are asked to leave or you are refused entry; you must leave and move more than 50 metres from the licensed premises.
• You must be 18 years and over to enter a licensed premises. You must show identification to enter or else you may not be allowed to enter.

In NSW it is illegal to supply alcohol to someone you don’t know.

You can only buy alcohol for yourself.

Don’t leave your drink unattended.

Keep your Drink Safe

To avoid drink spiking, take responsibility and keep your drink safe. You can make a difference.

• Leave your drink unattended.

• Mark your drinks.

• Keep your drinks in your sight.

Drink responsibly

• Have fun but keep safe.

• Avoid drinking and getting drunk to a point of total inebriation where you are unable to control your actions or know what is happening around you.

• Look after yourself and your friends.

• If someone collapses and you become unconscious immediately call for an Ambulance on Triple Zero 000.

Drugs

As a general rule, it is illegal to use any drugs.

• That cannot be purchased or bought from a shop or chemist.

• Not prescribed for you by a doctor.

In NSW it is a crime to use or have certain drugs in any circumstances. The most common legislated narcotics are cannabis (marijunal, heroin, amphetamines (speed, LSD), cocaine (including crack) and designer drugs (ex, ecstasy).

HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF CRIME

Check out the University Security’s website and go to the pdf at: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/security/personalsafety/index.html

If something happens to you

• Call your local Police station or the Police Assistance Line 131 444.

• On campus get help from UOW Security.

• Avoid touching property to ensure forensic evidence is not compromised.

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