

Choosing the Right Subjects

Course Selection Details:

Search by Keyword or follow the steps below:

1. Under **Search for Courses, Subjects or Specializations** select 'subjects' and type in a keyword to search for classes. You can also select 'go' under this section and it will allow you to narrow down options by selecting undergraduate, semester, and faculty. If you wish to search by **study area** please go under **Browse for Courses, Subjects or Specializations** and select the study area you are interested in and scroll down to where you see Undergraduate Subjects to view the list. Please note that a subject is a class/course and when they state course it means the degrees offered at the University of Melbourne. Scroll down through the subjects.
2. Click on the class code (316-101) for the class description.
3. The description will tell you the level of the course which you will only be allowed to take levels 1,2, and 3.
4. DO NOT select Forth Year Honors classes as these are not open to Study Abroad students.
5. Choose all First Semester subjects if you are studying during the February term.
6. Choose all Second semester subjects if you are studying during the July term.
7. If you are interested in taking courses through the **Victorian College of the Arts (VCA)** please note they have **earlier deadlines and require portfolios and auditions**. Therefore, please check with your coordinator to determine if the deadline has passed. Typically the deadlines are late October for February start and end of March for a July start. Please also note that study abroad students can only take courses in art, dance, music and production. Students aren't allowed to take film and television studies.

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Make sure you select the correct semester: **Semester 1 refers to the February semester; Semester 2 refers to the July semester.**

Generally speaking, students will take four courses while studying abroad. The minimum requirement for your student visa is three courses. Students are responsible for knowing the home university academic or financial aid requirements as they apply to study abroad course enrollment.

Prerequisites and Course Approval

Some subjects may indicate prerequisites; The University of Melbourne will review your transcripts to ensure that you have met these prerequisites with equivalent classes. They will not, in most cases, require that you have taken their exact class. For example, if the prerequisite is History 101 - Australian History, you will need to have taken an introductory history class, not necessarily about Australia. Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to AustralLearn so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated.

Based on availability and prerequisites, The University of Melbourne will either approve or not approve each subject for you to take. If a subject is not approved based on prerequisites, you can approach the professor/division head once you arrive and attempt to obtain approval in person.

Course Scheduling and Enrollment

Timetables at most universities are not published until just before the semester begins. Therefore, you will not actually enroll in your subjects until after you arrive on campus. The majority of classes do not have quotas, so you shouldn't have to worry about space filling up. You will choose your classes from your list of subjects approved by both The University of Melbourne and your U.S. University, according to how they fit into your schedule. If you choose to enroll in any subjects that were not pre-approved by your U.S. University, you should contact your university from Australia in order to obtain the necessary approval. Be sure to bring your advisor's email address and/or fax number with you. We will be sending you more information about approvals once we receive your subject choices.

Academic Differences between Australia and the U.S./Canada

In general, Australians complete their Bachelor's degrees in 3 years. They do not have to fulfill core requirements in a variety of disciplines, so they start taking classes towards their major during their first semester. Therefore, 1st year classes in Australia are generally equivalent to 2nd year classes in the US; 2nd year Australian classes are equivalent to 3rd year US classes; and 3rd year Australian classes are equivalent to 4th year US classes. There are always exceptions to this, however, and it is up to your university to decide the credit and level they will award.

Often times it is expected that students spend a lot of time outside of the classroom doing their own research/study/reading. Every university varies somewhat, but in general, you should be prepared for some differences between the overseas and the U.S./Canadian academic systems and be aware that you may experience a period of adjustment.

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Grading Conversion Guide: University of Melbourne

The following information is provided from *Australia: Education and Training – An Update of the 1990 World Education Series Volume* (2004) by Edward Devlin. This is a special report that describes new certification and grading practices at the post-secondary level in each state or territory. The report is published by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

Australian Grade	Australian Qualification	U.S. Grade
H1 (80-100)	First Class Honours	A
H2A (75-79)	2 nd Class Honours Division A	A -
H2B (70-74)	2 nd Class Honours Division B	B +
H3 (65-69)	Third Class Honours	B
P (60-64)	Pass	B -
P (50-59)	Pass	C
NCP	Conceded Pass	D
N+	Fail (failure to meet hurdle requirement)	F
N (0-49)	Fail	F

Recommended credit

12.5 credits = 3 - 4 semester credits

Average semester credit point load at the University of Melbourne = 50 credits

Total credit point load to earn a degree at the University of Melbourne = 300 credits

GlobaLinks Learning Abroad

12050 N. Pecos Street, Suite 320 • Westminster, CO 80234 | tel: +1.303.446.2214 • 1.800.980.0033 • fax: +1.303.446.5955
studyabroad@globalinksabroad.org | www.globalinksabroad.org