Callaghan & Ourimbah, Australia

University of Newcastle

USC’s exchange program in Australia is designed to help American students gain first hand knowledge of Australian culture. The program is located on Australia’s east coast in the state of New South Wales. Students will attend the University of Newcastle. The University has two major campuses. The larger campus (student pop. 16,000) in Callaghan is situated approximately 7.5 miles west of the city of Newcastle on a natural bushland site. Students can take advantage of the campuses’ great sports facilities and the many recreational and social activities provided by the university. The campus is also connected to the city by both bus and rail, providing easy access to Newcastle’s beaches and nightlife. The city has a working harbor, splendid architecture dating back to the 1800’s, beaches, art galleries, and theaters. The other campus is in Ourimbah (student pop. 1,800) on the central coast, mid-way between Newcastle and Sydney. Only USC undergraduate students are eligible to participate in this program.

The program at the University of Newcastle offers a full curriculum. Students take classes with Australian and other international students. Classes are taught in English.

As a prerequisite, students must have attained at least sophomore standing prior to attending the University of Newcastle. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.

Courses and Credits
Students must enroll for a minimum of 40 units (12 U.S. credits) per semester. Most courses are worth 10 or 20 units. Listed below are a few examples of the subjects offered.

Sample Subject Offerings

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<th>Aboriginal Studies</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>Business</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
<td>Recreation and Tourism</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
<td>Marine Biology</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
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Living Arrangements
Students can choose to live in an on-campus residential college*, share a house or flat with other students, or live with an Australian family. Students pay in-state tuition and fees to USC and housing costs abroad. Housing costs and payment options vary based on the type of accommodation chosen. More information on student housing can be found at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/accommodation/index.html.

*On-campus housing is very limited and may not be available for all students

Budgeting
Students who plan on securing off-campus accommodations should expect to pay AUD$300-400 a week for a one bedroom apartment and AUD$200-300 a week for a 2-3 bedroom apartment (per bedroom). As a general guide, students should have a minimum of AUD$7,000 available for living expenses per semester. All costs are estimates and may fluctuate based on the exchange rate. For more information on finances, visit http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/international/student-support/finances/.

Master Calendar
The Australian academic calendar begins in February, with the first semester running from mid-February to early-June. The second semester commences in late-July and runs through the end of November. USC students can attend the University of Newcastle during the fall semester, spring semester or academic year. A detailed schedule can be found at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/dates/index.html.

Insurance
All students must purchase the Overseas Student Health Cover through University of Newcastle. The cost of this insurance is approximately AUD$195 per semester.

Orientation
Orientation is a requirement for all students studying at Newcastle. At orientation, students will receive more information about life at the University of Newcastle and Australia as well as enroll in their pre-approved courses. More information about orientation can be found at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/international/student-support/arrival/orientation.html.

Excursions
The program does not offer organized excursions. Students do have the opportunity for individual travel.

Extra-Curricular Activities
The Newcastle University Student Association (NUSA) hosts many events and activities throughout the school year for students. For more information, visit http://www.nusa.org.au/. Newcastle also offers a wide array of sporting options for students ranging from scuba diving to cricket. A full list of club sports can be found at http://www.theforum.org.au/templates/forum_content_1col.aspx?edit=false&pageID=1907.

Entry Visa
All students studying in Australia are required to have a valid “Non-Award” Australian Student Visa. The current cost of this visa is approximately $540. Students are automatically granted permission to work up to 20-hours a week in Australia with this visa. For more information on the Australian Student Visa, visit http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/chooser/575.htm.

Footnotes
Visit the University of Newcastle’s website at http://www.newcastle.edu.au. For specific information for the exchange program, please see http://www.international.newcastle.edu.au. For more information on Australia, please visit the Tourism Australia web site at http://www.australia.com.

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