



A Cool Domestic Student Guide



So, you are heading
off to university.

What's next?

It's an exciting step and there is a lot to think about. As an established student accommodation partner, we have lots of experience in this field. We have worked alongside students just like you for many years and have gained a genuine understanding of what works and what doesn't.

To help you navigate your way along this journey, we wanted to share some insights with you that will help you to make informed choices that are right for you.

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to university

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where to live

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settling in

Transitioning to university

Heading off to university feels like such a natural progression from school the assumption is that it will be really easy. The reality is often very different, and this can feel quite confronting.

This transition from dependent living to independence and freedom, from familiar terrain to unfamiliar territory, can understandably lead to some anxiety and stress.

It's important to remember that even if you do have some hiccups along the way, you are absolutely not alone. These adjustment tips are designed to help you manage this next exciting phase with confidence and ease as your academic journey continues.

- **Take control**

Starting university brings exciting freedoms that can also feel overwhelming. Living away from home for the first time adds pressures like budgeting and self-care. If you recognise the need to adjust and embrace these changes, you will be better placed to enjoy the freedom of making your own decisions and the opportunities that come with it.

- **Learning to learn**

University teaching styles often differ from school, emphasising individual initiative and strong organisational skills. Unlike school, where support is readily available, you must now manage your workload independently. You can keep things on track by utilising study aids and calendar apps, being aware of your tasks, and allocating your time effectively.

- **Make connections**

Whether you live nearby or have existing friends at university, it's wise to connect with students in your course. While old friends are comforting, there is much to be gained from expanding your circle. Building relationships with new peers will provide vital support, both personally and academically, throughout your university journey.

- **Feel supported**

If you encounter ongoing or serious transitional issues, seek out available support services. Universities offer trained staff to help with these challenges, and similar resources may be available through your accommodation. Don't hesitate to use these services to ensure a smoother transition and address any concerns you have.

- **Stay cool**

Don't rush yourself. Getting in to the swing of university life is challenging for everybody – even the little things like learning to cook and clean can take some time to get right. Make sure you take time out from studying to socialise and interact. Try to keep yourself fit, eat healthily and stay active. All these little jigsaw pieces will help set you up for success.

- **Love where you live**

Finding the right accommodation to complement the student experience you want to create is key. Decide what is important to you – location, environment, amenities or transport. There are many influencing factors to take in to consideration that can impact your student life, so take the time to get this part just right.

What to look for in accommodation

Is it important to you to be close to university, or are you happy to travel each day? Do you enjoy having a like-minded community close at hand or do you crave solitude? Is it nice to have the odd amenity or are convenience and accessibility simply non-negotiable?

We all have different needs and requirements, and what works well for one may feel inconceivable to another. Here are some key considerations that can help you decide what exactly you are looking for – and what might best fit your needs.

LOCATION

If you know you're the type of student that doesn't necessarily always leave enough time to get to lectures, or simply enjoys the convenience of having essential amenity on your doorstep, location will be a key consideration. Being close to transport means less commuting time and more you time.

COMMUNITY

Feeling part of a community will be one of the most enjoyable aspects of your time at uni. Living and studying with like-minded individuals creates experiences, memories and networking opportunities. The key is achieving a balance between quiet time and time to let off steam.

SAFETY

Feeling feel safe and secure when we are at home is a fundamental need for all of us. If this is at the top of your list when choosing where to live, it's important to look for accommodation options with in-built security measures such as CCTV, 24/7 onsite assistance and secure key entry.

COMPANY

Do you prefer your own space? Will you want to share your living space with friends, or maybe meet some new ones? Decide on your preferences and then work out where you will find what you're looking for. Don't feel pressured to just do what your friends are doing, do what works best for you.

SUPPORT

If you're keen to get stuck in to university life, check out what is on offer to help you settle in and get involved. Are there events or activities that draw the community together? How can you meet fellow students? Also consider what support is available for those times when life gets a little bumpy.

BUDGET

It's goes without saying that a major determining factor in the whole, 'where to live' decision, will be what you can actually afford. Do your research, always read the small print carefully, and check out inclusions such as utilities and wi-fi usage to avoid any unwelcome surprises when the bill arrives.



Types of accommodation

It might seem like there is a minefield of confusing information available, but accommodation options are quite simple once you decide what you want.

When you have identified what will best suit your needs, you can then focus in on that particular sector. Let's break them down.

ON CAMPUS

Many universities have their own accommodation. These are usually on, or very close to campus, and often have university staff members living on site. You can choose from a number of single or share options and even have all your meals catered for. While this option may offer a little less independence, it brings a built-in social scene with students all from the same university. On the flip-side it also means you will spend lots of time on campus, so keep that in mind too.

OFF CAMPUS

If you like the idea of being supported by like-minded individuals but would prefer to get away from campus at the end of each day, check out Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA). Blending independence with a safe and secure environment, PBSAs are perfect for those who enjoy a variety of people alongside a wide choice of amenities and social opportunities. Usually positioned in great locations, PBSAs offer convenience and accessibility across all areas of student life.

Some on-campus and PBSA options have house rules so be sure to check these out too.

INDEPENDENT RENTAL

If you prefer to be fully independent of home and university, there is the traditional option of renting a house alone, or with friends. This would involve taking responsibility for the rental lease (usually for a minimum of a year), furnishing it, as well as signing up for utility providers such as telephone, internet, electricity and gas.

SHARE HOUSE

If you prefer a smaller pool of company, renting a room in an established share house is also an option. It's a good way to meet new people and allows full independence without taking on the responsibility of the lease. In some cases your room might be furnished. Remember, you still have shared bills and cleaning to manage.

Iglu is built for students

Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) has become increasingly more popular in Australia as an accommodation choice.

Today's students are sophisticated consumers with high expectations around the quality and availability of student accommodation: namely, that it should match the delivery of tertiary education in both proximity and quality. PBSAs provide off campus accommodation for students with all the benefits of on-campus living.

As one of Australia's leading student accommodation providers, Iglu is committed to delivering a great living experience through cool design and warm hospitality.

Iglu is all about...



Location

Getting to campus on time, going shopping, catching a movie, meeting friends for coffee, or heading out to explore the city, should all be easy. Our locations facilitate and maximise your student experience and get you right to where you need to be.



Support

We want you to always feel safe and secure. Each Iglu property has CCTV and secure swipe card access to the building, lifts and apartments. Add 24/7 onsite support and you can rest assured that your personal safety is paramount while you live at Iglu.



Community

You have a built-in community right outside your door. When it's time to close the books, our events are a chance to come together and meet your neighbours. There's always something to do and always someone to hang out with.



Flexibility

Take advantage of generous social and study spaces. Choose a private bedroom in a share apartment or your own studio or one-bedroom apartment. Use the cool amenities to cook with friends, or head out for a bite. The choice is yours.



**We are always
here for you**

At Iglu, we support our residents and help them develop and grow as individuals while living in a positive and welcoming environment.

We know that student living is about more than lectures and tutorials, and that education doesn't just happen inside a classroom. We also appreciate that a balanced approach is key to succeeding in all aspects of life, and that learning to achieve that balance can be challenging.

That's why these things are at the core of everything we do.

A supportive environment

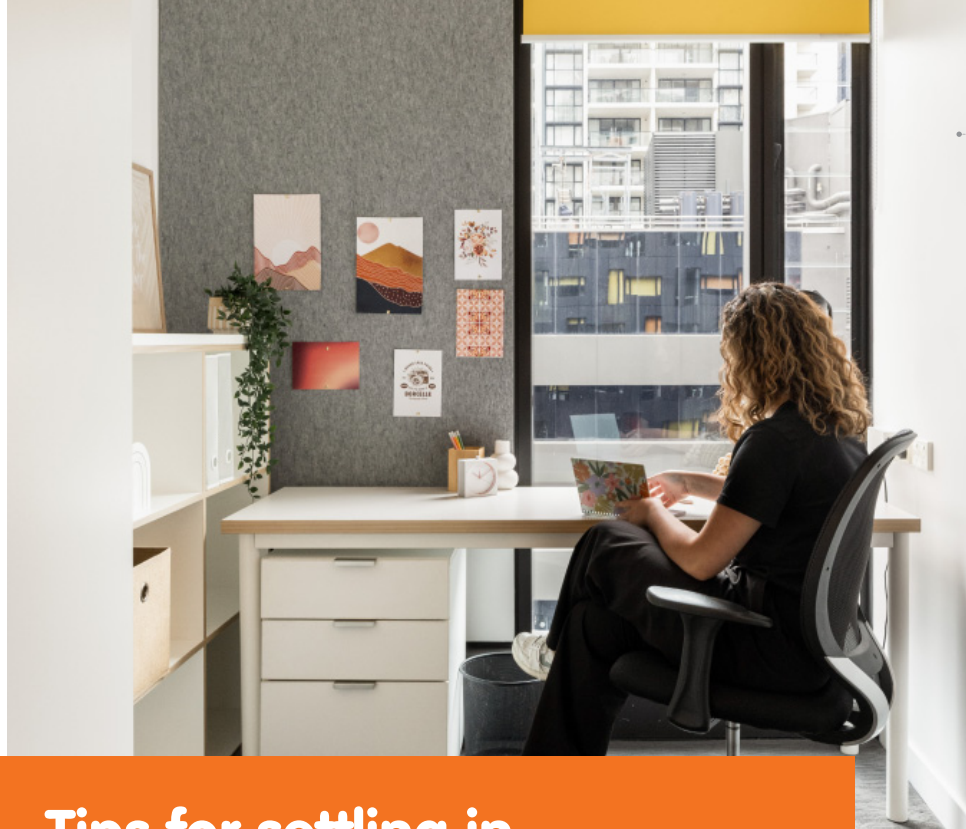
It really doesn't take long to make good friends at Iglu and feel like you're part of the Iglu family. We have a team of Resident Leaders (RLs) living onsite who are available to talk to you about any personal stresses and strains you may be experiencing. RLs are students, just like you, and understand what you are going through. They are trained in senior first aid and emergency management.

Life at Iglu

Research shows that students involved in a range of high quality extra-curricular activities have a significantly higher level of satisfaction with their university experience. We support this through our facilities and our regular program of resident community events and activities focusing on:

- » Academic Achievement (e.g. designated study space, wi-fi for all residents)
- » Health and Wellbeing (e.g. weekday breakfast, free fruit, onsite gym where possible, a supportive team)
- » Social Engagement (e.g. table tennis and pool tables, celebrating different cultural events and festivals)
- » Meaning and Purpose (e.g. fundraising to help others)

Providing environments and resources to support and enrich the journey of residents through their tertiary education is not just our job, it is why we exist.



Tips for settling in

University can be one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of your life, but it's sometimes easy to get lost in all the excitement and forget about any wider challenges that may lie ahead – until they meet you face on.

To help manage this it is definitely worthwhile having a think in advance about the inevitable ripple effects that may impact your student experience, so that you are best equipped to deal with everything before it happens. Whether it's making friends, finding your way around or dealing with change, nothing is insurmountable.

Feeling supported is crucial. Be sure to utilise all the resources that are available to you from all avenues – academically or beyond.

• Share Apartment Bedroom, Iglu Brisbane City, Brisbane

- **Connect**

Starting uni, it's tempting to stick with familiar friends instead of seeking new connections. However, reaching out socially or through study is key to making new friends. O-Week is a great opportunity to get to know your campus, tutors, and fellow students. Explore tours, find the library and canteen, and locate lecture halls to avoid last-minute stress. Joining clubs and groups early on can make it easier to integrate into university life.

- **Adjust**

Without anyone telling you what to do, when to eat, or when to study, you must take on new responsibilities. You might also be learning to navigate a new city and care for yourself. Don't panic, adapting takes time and is normal. Once the initial excitement fades, expect a period of acclimatisation before feeling at home. Embrace the experiences university offers to help you settle into your new environment.

- **Share**

Feeling homesick is a normal part of living somewhere new but the wonders of wi-fi make it easy to stay in touch with family and friends. It can be reassuring to set up a regular touch-point, especially in the early days. Sharing your new experiences with family and friends reinforces the awesome opportunity you have created in going to university. Be sure to also have things around you that make you feel at home.

- **Enjoy**

University is not just about achieving the best academic results, it is also the chance to create some forever memories. Learn and experience new cultures and landscapes through travel and exploration, try new foods, venture out into the vastness, open your mind to the history and really absorb your new environment. If possible, try not to work for the first few months so you can fully immerse yourself in the experience.

- **Balance**

Independent living can be expensive and budgeting for this can be stressful. Whilst it is important not to overspend it is not only the finances that have to balance out. Ensure that your studies don't take priority over your health and that your schedule is an even balance of academic, social and physical activities. Maintain a healthy diet and in turn this will impact your energies and academic output – happy body, happy mind.

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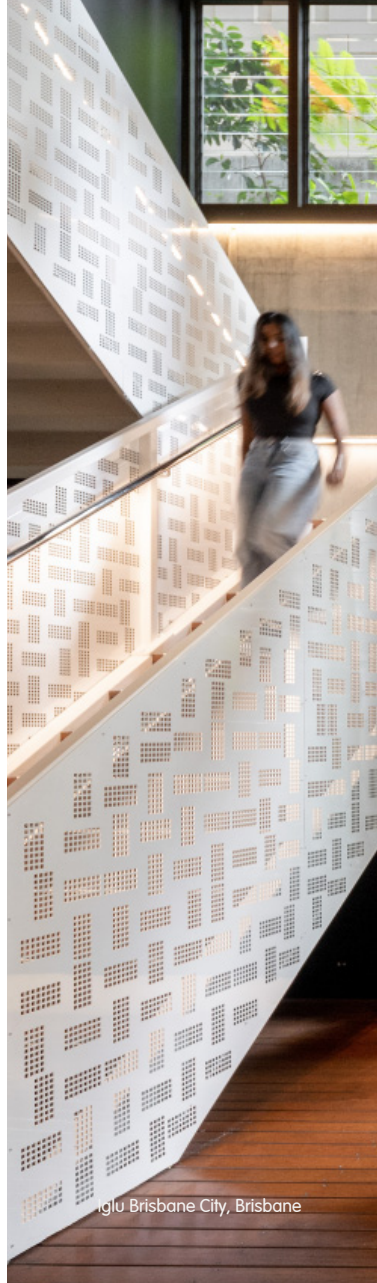
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