

The

# Cheapskate's Guide to UNSW

and Surrounds

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The Arc Student Representative Council acknowledges the traditional custodians and rightful owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nations. We pay our respects to their elders past and present. The SRC supports the ongoing struggle of indigenous people for land rights, self-determination, reconciliation and justice. If you are reading this publication you are standing on Aboriginal land.

### **Thanks:**

Zoe for allowing me to use heaps of material from the MSA Survival Guide, Chris for allowing me to use material from the “Money – Where to Get Some” guide, Petra for allowing me to use material from the UTSSA guide, Phuong and Helena from the Welfare Collective for providing the impetus for this project, COFA Environment Collective for the bike map, Senator Kerry Nettle for her guide to pregnancy counselling services, and all of the wonderful office-bearers in the SRC for providing content and support.

### **No thanks:**

Land-owners, deadlines, aggressive drivers, NSW politics

All political comment is authorised by Andrew Looi (Education Officer) and Matt Ward (Welfare Officer) Arc @ UNSW Ltd, Blockhouse, UNSW 2052.

Disclaimer: The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Arc. The Arc accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions of information contained in this document.

# Intro

by Chris Moore, the  
2008 Education/  
Welfare Officer

Students aren't cheapskates by choice. The "student lifestyle" may have a certain bohemian charm, but the dismal reality is one of poverty, of meals skipped, of textbooks not bought.

Poverty is not an inevitable consequence of university study, but to prevent it requires an overhaul of student income support. Centrelink benefits are woefully inadequate. Youth Allowance payments are below the poverty line, and are tied up in red tape that defines "independence" as earning \$18,800 or turning 25. Rent Assistance payments, which top out at \$104.20 per fortnight, have not kept pace with skyrocketing rents.

Reform requires an acknowledgement by government of the social benefits of equal access to university education. Student income support remains the greatest barrier for students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The plight of students is made more difficult by the unfair working conditions to which they are exposed. It's tough to make time for study and pay the bills when your boss insists that you stay back after the shop is closed to clean up but doesn't pay you for it, or when you're paid less than award wage "off the books" because you're desperate for a job.

There are two things you can do. The first is to become a member of Arc. We are stronger when we act together, and only through supporting student organisations can we maintain student control of student affairs, and a strong student voice.

The second thing you can do is get involved, and change things! Come to meetings of the various departments of the SRC, and find other people who share your passion for changing things.

**Come along, get engaged,  
and get active!**

## **Education Action Group Meetings**

Blockhouse (near roundhouse)

Tues, 4-5pm.

Andrew Looi (Education Officer)

## **Student Welfare Collective**

Blockhouse

Wed, 3-4pm.

Matt Ward (Welfare Officer)

Ask receptionist for specific location  
(9385 7700)

# Your SRC

## Student Rep Council

### President

Charishma Kaliyanda  
[srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Welfare Officer

Matthew Ward  
[welfare@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:welfare@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Education Officer

Andrew Looi  
[education@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:education@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Women's Officers

Jody Earles & Lucy Geddes  
[womens@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:womens@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Environment Officers

Clare Silcock & Alex Surace  
[enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Queer Officers

Victoria Edwards, Jocelyn Liu Rory Thomas  
[queer@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:queer@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### International Students' Officers

Sakshi Sehgal  
[international@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:international@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Ethnic Affairs Officers

Celeste White & Aaron Chan  
[antiracism@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:antiracism@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Indigenous Officer

Warren Roberts  
[indigenous@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:indigenous@arc.unsw.edu.au)

### Students with Disabilities Officer

Marita Morgan  
[disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au)

*What is the Arc Representative Council?*

### **“We’re Students, For Students”**

*The Representative Council is comprised of entirely of students democratically elected each year to represent students to the University, the Government and within the social and political sphere of the wider community.*

*We do our best to create safe and inclusive spaces on campus for all of the many different kinds of students on campus, particularly those that traditionally have been discriminated against or may experience inequalities at uni and in our society.*

*We also help students who want to organise campaigns around issues that are important to students, as well as run our own campaigns to improve education, student welfare, gender equality and women's rights, environmental sustainability, Indigenous rights, multicultural and queer awareness and acceptance and many other important issues.*

# Places to Shop

hot fashion

## Op Shops

### Salvation Army

20 Gardeners Rd, Kingsford  
Tel: (02) 9697 9078

### St Vincent de Paul

785 Anzac Pde, Maroubra  
Tel: (02) 9344 9990

27 Belmore Rd, Randwick

Tel: (02) 9399 8989

### The Bower

142 Addison Rd, Marrickville  
Tel: (02) 9568 6280

### Reverse Garbage

142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

Tel: (02) 9569 3132

[www.reversegarbage.org.au](http://www.reversegarbage.org.au)

This wacky place is a haven for crafty types. There are heaps of industrial discards and cool bits and pieces to make artworks, furniture and props out of.

### Freecycle

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

Newsflash: people give stuff away for free on the internet! This awesome series of mailing lists, means you can find people in your neighbourhood who will give you their furniture, sporting goods, and more.

## Shopping Centres

### Eastgardens

Catch the 391, 392, 400 and 410 buses from eastern side of Anzac Pde.

### Royal Randwick

Catch the 400 and 410 buses from the western side of Anzac Pde, or the northern side of High St at upper campus.

# Entertainment

## Movies

### **Tight-arse Tuesdays**

Most cinemas charge a reduced amount on Tuesdays. At some places tickets are half price. Check cinema websites for details.

### **Ritz Cinema**

*45 St Pauls St, Randwick*  
*www.ritzcinema.com.au*  
*Tel: (02) 9399 5722*

\$9 student tickets, \$7 on Tuesdays.

### **Palace Cinemas**

*www.palacecinemas.com.au*

#### **Academy Twin**

*3a Oxford St, Paddington*  
*Tel: (02) 9361 4453*

#### **Palace Verona**

*17 Oxford St, Paddington*  
*Tel: (02) 9360 6099*

\$12.50 student tickets, \$9 student tickets if you join their club.

## Live Music

There's heaps of free and cheap gigs in Sydney. *The Brag*, *Drum Media* & other street press will provide listings of who's playing when.

### **Hopetoun Hotel**

*416 Bourke St, Surry Hills*  
*www.myspace.com/hopetounhotel*  
*Tel: (02) 93615257*

Live music every night of the week. Tickets are around \$10, and it's generally free on Sunday night.

### **Spectrum**

*Level 2, 34 Oxford St, Darlinghurst*  
*www.pashpresents.com*

Hosts DJs and live music most nights of the week. Tickets around \$10.

## Theatre

### Griffin Theatre Company

*Tel: 1300 306 776*

Every Monday the Griffin has a pay-what-you-can performance from 6.30pm. All tickets unsold at 5.30pm are available for purchase at a reduced rate (min. \$10, max. 2 per person). They only do bookings over the phone.

### Newtown Theatre

*Cnr King & Bray St, Newtown*

*Tel: (02) 95195081*

The Newtown Theatre has pay-what-you-can nights (min. \$10). Call to check what's on and which nights are cheap.

### Wharf2Loud

*Wharf 2, Hickson Rd*

*Tel: (02) 9250 1777*

The Sydney Theatre Company's youth wing, Wharf2Loud stages some fantastic productions. Tickets are \$20/\$23 if you're under 30.

### Belvoir

*25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills*

*Tel: (02) 9699 3444*

Downstairs at Belvoir on a Tuesday (min \$10). Fantastic venue.

## Books

### Randwick Library

*Level 1, Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, Randwick*

*Tel: (02) 9399 6966*

### Bowen Library

*669-673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra*

*Tel: (02) 9314 4888*

### Booked Out

*37 St. Pauls St, The Spot, Randwick*

*Tel: (02) 9314 6592*

### T's Book Shop

*136-138 Avoca St, Randwick*

*Tel: (02) 9399 5642*

## Volunteering

Many events offer free tickets if you volunteer for a few hours work. For example, music festivals such as Meredith, Peats Ridge and Big Day Out scout for volunteers every year. Get in quickly to score the best opportunities.

## Festivals

No matter what time of year, there's nearly always a festival happening somewhere in Sydney. A good place for checking out what's on for free is the entertainment section of the weekend paper, and community papers. The Spectrum section in the Sydney Morning Herald has a fantastic 'whats on package'.

# Food

## Eating

Eating at home is definitely a cheaper option than buying take-away food or eating out. Some tips:

- Avoid buying food at convenience stores. Make the effort to go to a large supermarket.
- Buy in bulk, to save money and packaging.
- Bring your own food to uni and avoid the craziness of the lunchtime queues. Microwaves are available at all the food courts, Arc stores, and in the Blockhouse.

### Thoughtful Foods (UNSW Food Co-op)

[www.thoughtfulfoods.org.au](http://www.thoughtfulfoods.org.au)

The Food Co-op, located at the back of the Roundhouse, is a fantastic place to get ingredients and snacks. They do super-cheap organic fruit and vegie boxes every week.

### Free Breakfast Club

Every week, the Welfare Department runs a free breakfast club in front of the Library. Check *Blitz* for details.

## Markets

Buying fresh produce at the markets is not only much cheaper than what you would find at the supermarket, but you are likely to get better quality.

### Kingsford Rotary Markets

*Cnr Anzac Pde and Rainbow St, Kingsford*  
Every Sunday 9.00am-3.00pm

### Marrickville Markets

*Addison Road Community Centre*  
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville  
Every Sunday 9.00am-2.00pm

### Glebe Markets

*Glebe Public School, Glebe Point Rd*  
Every Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm

### Paddy's Markets

*Cnr Hay & Thomas Sts, Haymarket*  
Every Thursday to Sunday 9.00am-5.00pm

### Surry Hills Markets

*Shannon Reserve, Corner of Crown and Little Collins St*  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month, 7.00am-4.00pm

## Meals under \$10

(other than the student staple of -  
2 Minute Noodles/Mi Goreng)

### Soba Noodle Soup

#### Ingredients

200g soba noodles  
2 tbsp seaweed flakes  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
200g silken tofu, cut into 2cm cubes  
2 tbsp miso paste  
1 knob ginger, grated  
2 tbsp soy sauce

#### Method

Bring a saucepan of water to the boil. Add the soba noodles and cook for 1-2 minutes until they're no longer crunchy, and then drain and briefly rinse under cold water. On low heat, combine 1 litre of water with the seaweed, ginger and tofu. Heat for 3 minutes, until hot but not boiling. Add the miso paste and dissolve. Add noodles, lemon juice and soy sauce.

### Roast Vegies

#### Ingredients

Any vegies you like: sweet potato, mushrooms, leeks, onions, carrots, beetroots, garlic etc.  
Olive oil

#### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Roughly cut your veggies into quarters and put on a baking tray. Coat them in oil and bake until cooked (around 20-30 minutes). Remove from oven and enjoy!

### Tomato, Bean and Basil Salad

#### Ingredients

½ cup of fresh basil  
1 punnet of cherry tomatoes  
400g can of mixed beans  
3 tbsp olive oil

#### Method

Pour the olive oil into a small pan. Add the basil and heat for 1 minute, until it sizzles and begins to colour. Take off the heat and add the halved cherry tomatoes and beans, cover and let it marinate for 30 minutes. Ta-da! An awesome salad.

# Studying

## Textbooks

So, it's the start of semester and you're confronted with a book list detailing \$600 worth of textbooks you must buy.

- Buying textbooks second-hand saves a lot of money, particularly if you're only planning on using a textbook for one semester.
- Wait until the second week of uni before buying any books. Sometimes a listed textbook may not be essential, or may not be needed right at the start of semester.

### UNSW Library

*info.library.unsw.edu.au*

Do you really need to own that textbook? As long as you attend the lectures and tutorials, it may be enough to visit the library every couple of weeks and photocopy the important sections. You'll save a heap of money.

hint: study

### UNSW Second-Hand Bookshop

*Ground floor, Blockhouse*

*www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/secondhand.html*

*Tel: (02) 9385 6111*

*Open 10am-3pm Monday to Friday during semester*

You can both buy and sell textbooks through the Second-Hand Bookshop. They will buy your current texts at 35% of the recommended retail price, and sell you textbooks with at least a 30% discount on the RRP. If you want to sell your book directly to other students, you can advertise on the official noticeboards on the Basser Steps and outside the Second-Hand Bookshop – drop into the bookshop and fill in a notice.

### Textbook Exchange

*www.textbookexchange.com.au*

You have to register, but the deals on here are excellent. You can search by campus, and then arrange to meet the seller. You can often get books at less than half price, and it's easy to search the listings. Highly recommended.

**UNSW Bookshop**

Lower section of the Quadrangle building  
[www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au](http://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au)

Tel: (02) 9385 6622

Open 9am-6pm Monday to Friday and  
 10am-2pm Saturdays

Don't buy new textbooks. Seriously. But if you do, buy them here. You're guaranteed at least 10% off the RRP.

**Stationery****UNSW Stationery Re-Use Centre**

Quad 1001a, Level 1, East Wing,  
 Quadrangle Building

This place is superb. All kinds of stationery gets donated, from in-trays to cassette tapes. Often its new! The Re-Use Centre is full of folders (2-, 3- and 4-ring).

**Arc Stores**

Blockhouse, CLB and Mathews Arcade

Similar to a convenience store. If you're an Arc member then you'll have a couple of vouchers for these stores.

**Enviro Lecture Pads**

Activist Space, Level 1, Blockhouse

For a gold-coin donation, you can get an A4 booklet of paper that's been used on one side, and then put together for you to reuse! This is an initiative run by the Environment Collective.

**Computers****Computer Re-Use Scheme**

[www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au](http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au)

If you're a UNSW student who does not own a computer, is enrolled in a Bachelors degree and is receiving a Centrelink payment, you're in luck! You can apply to the UNSW Equity and Diversity unit to get a free computer.

**Uniwide**

[www.uniwide.unsw.edu.au](http://www.uniwide.unsw.edu.au)

The University has recently made wireless internet access free. This means you can browse UNSW and non-UNSW sites from your laptop at uni. You don't even need to fill out a form anymore - visit their website for a guide.

**Rectangles**

[cgi.cse.unsw.edu.au/~nyou885/rectangles/](http://cgi.cse.unsw.edu.au/~nyou885/rectangles/)

This awesome auto-timetabler helps you arrange your classes to suit your part-time work commitments (or just sleep in every day).

**Free Study Resources****UNSW Independent Learning Centre**

Hut G23 (Between the Mathews Building and the Upper Campus Parking Station).

Tel: (02) 9385 2060

[www.lc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

If you want to improve your English skills, this is a great place to start. The programs run by the Learning Centre are free!

**Nura Gili Student Centre**

[www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au](http://www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au)

47 Botany Street, Randwick

For Indigenous students, the Nura Gili Student Centre provides computing and printing facilities, and assistance on issues including student administration, academic support, housing and accommodation assistance, and scholarship and cadetship assistance.

# Money

## Getting money on campus

### UNSW Interest-Free Student Loans

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/StudentCentralKensington.html>

Tel: (02) 9385 3065

Loans are for up to \$1500, but in some circumstances loans of \$4000 may be available. Loans of up to \$300 must be repaid within 2 months, up to \$500 repaid within 6 months, and up to \$1500 repaid within 12 months. Available to domestic UNSW students who have completed one semester, are in good academic standing and don't have any current debt to UNSW. You may have to supply a guarantor (someone who will pay back your loan if you can't). For loans of over \$200 you will have to supply documentation, including bank statements and pay slips.

If you fail to make repayments, the University will terminate the loan and initiate legal proceedings. Make sure you negotiate a realistic repayment schedule!

## Getting money from the Government

Centrelink is a vital resource for students. Unfortunately all of its payments are wrapped up in enormous amounts of red tape; pay-slips and birth certificates are often necessary. It can be difficult and painful to get (and keep) Centrelink payments. Here are some tips to help you through the system. If it's all just too confusing, make an appointment to see someone at Centrelink. Take every form and document you've ever received, and your questions, and let them sort it out.

### Payments

*N.B. Masters and Doctoral students are not eligible for Centrelink payments.*

You can get Youth Allowance if you:

- meet residence requirements, and
- are 16-24 and a full-time student, or undertaking at least 75% of the full-time load (18 Units of Credit), or
- are 25 or over and studying at least 75% of the full-time load, if you were getting Youth Allowance immediately

before you turned 25 and are still doing the same course.

Youth Allowance is a government scheme that provides financial support to 'young' people who are studying. Unless you meet special independence criteria, your eligibility for Youth Allowance is based on your parents' income, which may reduce your payments or disqualify you completely from government support. The idea behind Youth Allowance is that you are still dependent on your parents, and that they will support you. The government considers you independent as a student at 25.

You can get Austudy if you:

- meet residence requirements, and
- are 25 or over and studying at least 75% of the full-time load, and
- pass a personal and partner income and assets test.

You can get Abstudy if you:

- are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student.

You can get Newstart if you:

- are aged 21 or over and under Age Pension age, and
- are not in full time study, and
- are not in full time employment, and
- are prepared to enter into a Activity Agreement, and
- are an Australian resident, in Australia and not subject to the two year newly arrived residents waiting period, and
- are not involved in industrial action(s), and
- satisfy the income and assets test, and
- continually satisfy the Activity Test (a quota of jobs applied for each fortnight).

#### **Advance Payment**

If you have been receiving a benefit for 3 months or longer, you can request a lump sum payment of \$250-500. This will be deducted from your future benefits. You can only access an advance once every 12 months.

#### **Health Care Cards**

If you have a low income while you are studying you might be eligible for a Health Care Card. This allows for health and basic living cost concessions such as discounts on some medicines (those listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme), medicine safety net, and discounts on bills.

You must be an Australian Citizen and pass various income tests to receive any of these benefits. Check with Centrelink for details on these.

#### **Getting your Centrelink cut off**

Having your benefits cut off can be a traumatic experience. Centrelink is not known for caring that your rent is due in two days. They're also known for incorrectly cutting off the benefits of people who are still entitled to them. If you think this has happened to you, the first thing to do is call Centrelink. If you don't kick up a fuss, payments will never be reinstated! When you do call, make sure you understand the eligibility requirements of all your benefits. Finally, if you're about to end up on the street, consider a student loan to tide you over.

## Getting independent for Youth Allowance

You can vote, drink, drive and smoke but when it comes to Centrelink you're not independent until 25. However, if your parents' income would otherwise disqualify you for Youth Allowance (even if they're not giving you a cent), there are options.

You might need to defer or take a period of intermission to work for a year to earn the \$18,800 over 18 months that is required to be considered independent. This is tricky and full of ridiculous bureaucracy, and if you're a couple of dollars under they'll screw you over, so be sure to speak to Arc Student Support to get advice.

You may also be able to receive independent status if you're above school leaving age, and:

- You're a refugee, or
- You're an orphan, or
- It's unreasonable for you to live at home, or
- You're in state care, or
- You have or have had a dependent child, or
- You have been married or been in a

de-facto relationship, or

- You have parents who can't exercise their responsibilities.

## Tax

You will need to lodge a tax return by October 31st every year if:

- You earned over \$6000 in the last financial year (July to June).
- You paid as-you-go tax while you were earning, but earned under \$6000, in which case you'll get it all refunded.
- You earned less than \$6000 but you are a non-resident. All international students must lodge a tax return if they earn money in Australia, but if you're studying a course for longer than six months you're considered a resident for tax purposes.

## Getting a Tax File Number (TFN)

You need a TFN, or else you'll be taxed at the maximum threshold which is 45 cents in every dollar. Apply at ATO officer

## TaxHelp

[www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content](http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content).

[asp?doc=/content/9172.htm](http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content/9172.htm)

TaxHelp is a program run by the Australian Taxation Office that provides assistance to people who earn less than \$35,000, as long as they meet some criteria (like not having sold shares, or owned a rental property). Check the website for the full criteria. It runs between July and October, so call the ATO as soon as you get the paperwork from your employer.

## Contact

### Centrelink

[www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

Reporting Income, Tel: 13 32 76

Youth and Student Services, Tel: 13 24 90

Abstudy, Tel: 13 23 17

Centrelink Multilingual, Tel: 12 12 02

Customer Relations, Tel: 1800 050 004

Family Assistance, Tel: 13 61 50

Self Service, Tel: 13 62 40

TTY Abstudy, Tel: 1800 639 109

TTY, Tel: 1800 810 586

### Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

[www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

Tel: 13 28 61

# Legal Advice and Advocacy

Whether it's trouble with the uni or trouble with the law, there are several organisations which can help you.

## **Kingsford Legal Centre**

*Ground Floor, Law Building  
legal@unsw.edu.au  
Tel: (02) 9385 9566*

The Centre is a community legal centre which provides free advice and referral and ongoing assistance to the residents of the local area or are a student at UNSW in relation to legal problems. The Centre takes on cases where there is no other source of assistance or where acting for the client will benefit the community by achieving change in the law or government policy. However they are unable to assist with issues concerning the University.

## **Arc Student Support**

*advice@arc.unsw.edu.au  
Tel: (02) 9385 7700*

Arc provides student members with advocacy and legal advice through full time student support officers and a solicitor. These staff members ensure students are properly represented and are aware of their rights and responsibilities both on and off campus.

The staff can help students with academic issues such as appealing a grade, requesting special consideration, grievances or dealing with charges of academic misconduct. They also provide support and advice on matters external to the university such as tenancy issues, traffic infringements or Centrelink issues. For problems with the University this service is free to all students, for outside issues it is free to Arc members.

## **Equity And Disabilities Unit**

*Ground Floor, Goodsell Building  
Tel: (02) 9385 4734*

The Equity and Diversity Unit provides services for students and staff including: advice and information on anti-discrimination legislation, policies and practice; assistance with grievance handling under UNSW's discrimination and harassment grievance procedures; disability services for staff and students; support to ACCESS students; assistance to Faculties on integrating equity into mainstream work and educational practices; presentations to staff and students, and more.

# Employment

Finding a good job & knowing your rights can mean more money, more time for your social life, & a better time while you're at uni.

It sucks that students have to work and study concurrently. 70% of full-time students are employed during the academic year. Of those students, 40% said that their part time job adversely affected their studies (AVCC Report, 2007).

Keep in mind that UNSW does not consider work commitments to be grounds for special consideration or non-attendance (unless in exceptional circumstances).

You need to make sure that your work commitments don't clash with your classes, and that they allow you the time to study for your subjects and complete your assignments.

## UNSW Careers and Employment

[www.careers.unsw.edu.au](http://www.careers.unsw.edu.au)

Tel: (02) 9385 5429

The UNSW Careers and Employment Service will provide you with free help to look for work.

## Your rights at work

Part-time or casual work is an unfortunate reality for many students. Unscrupulous employers often exploit your lack of experience in the workplace and your limited knowledge of your rights at work. It's vital that you know your rights at work, and what to do if your rights aren't upheld.

You have the right to be:

- Paid fairly and regularly for the work that you have done;
- Treated fairly and with respect in your place of work; and
- Be safe from health hazards at work.
- Right to join a Union.

The situation isn't made any easier by Australia's complex workplace laws. If you try to navigate the industrial relations system yourself, you're likely to miss something. You're much safer joining a union, which exists to provide information and assistance to its members.

## Unpaid Trial Work

Unpaid trial work is what happens when

you apply for your job and the employer asks you to do a couple of shifts for free, to ‘check if you’re right for the position’. It’s common practice in hospitality and retail. Unpaid trial work is illegal. You have a legal right to be paid for the work you do.

### Unpaid Out-Of-Shop Hours

Some employers, particularly in retail, will only pay workers for the hours that the shop is open for business. This can mean up to an hour a day spent opening and closing the shop (cleaning etc.) that you’re not being paid for. This is illegal – you have a legal right to be paid for every hour you work.

## Unions

Unions are there to protect and advance your rights at work. There are unions for most sectors of the workforce, and you have the legal right to join a union. Joining a union is an investment in your pay and conditions – employees are in a stronger bargaining position when they work together. A union will generally take a small membership fee, but you can claim

it as a tax deduction. Contact the ACTU Hotline (see below) for more info.

### Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs)

The Industrial Relations changes introduced by the Howard government made it much easier for employers to put their employees on AWAs. AWAs are individual contracts between employers and employees. As a result of “WorkChoices”, AWAs need only contain five minimum conditions: minimum wage, annual leave, sick leave, unpaid parental leave and maximum weekly work hours. These come under the Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard. AWAs can exclude penalty rates (for weekends and public holidays), overtime, breaks, redundancy pay and allowances. Don’t sign any contract without talking to your union. Changes to the Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard are coming in July 2009 for more information see the Welfare Officer in Blockhouse.

## Work and Centrelink

If you are receiving Youth Allowance/ Austudy/Abstudy, you can earn up to \$236 per fortnight before your Centrelink payments start decreasing. If you earn less than \$236 some fortnights, your ‘income bank’ grows, allowing you to earn more than \$236 in other fortnights without your payments being reduced.

## Contact

### Kingsford Legal Centre

*www.law.unsw.edu.au/centres/klc*  
Tel: (02) 9398 6366

This is a centre providing legal advice, including on employment.

### Arc Student Support (Legal Advice and Advocacy)

*advice@arc.unsw.edu.au*  
Tel: (02) 9385 7700

### Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

*www.actu.asn.au*  
Tel: 1300 4 UNION (86466)

The ACTU will put you in touch with the appropriate union for your area of employment, or simply give you advice.

# Transport

## Public Transport

UNSW is serviced by an extensive network of buses. The bus link to Central Station makes even long distance public transporting a possibility.

### City to/from Kensington

The 891 express bus takes you straight from Eddy Ave at Central Station to High St at UNSW, and the 895 express takes you from Anzac Pde back to Eddy Ave. 393 and 395 services run along Cleveland St, and will take you to Railway Square at Central. 392, 394, 396, 397 and 399 go along Anzac Pde and Oxford St to Circular Quay; get off at Hyde Park to walk to Town Hall. Railway Square services to UNSW stop running at about 11pm, but Circular Quay services run all night.

### City to/from COFA

The 311 and 378 buses will bring you to COFA from Eddy Ave at Central. COFA is in walking distance of Town Hall station, but if you're in a rush you can catch a 392, 394, 396, 397, 399 or 380 bus from Elizabeth St up Oxford St.

### Metro Bus

Prepaid bus that goes along Parramatta Rd + Anzac Parade between UNSW, UTS, USYD. Every 10mins during peak hour, 15mins offpeak. The bus is coloured red.

### Kensington to/from Airport and Bondi Junction

The 400 and 410 buses from Anzac Pde will take you to Bondi Junction. In the other direction, they'll take you to the airport (but only the ones going to Rockdale).

### COFA shuttle

This bus, operated by UNSW, runs regularly during session. It runs between the Morvern Brown carpark at upper campus, and the Block F carpark at COFA.

### Traveltens and Travelpasses

Traveltens will save you 25% on the price of single bus tickets. Travelpasses allow unlimited travel within a certain geographical area. See the Transport Infoline website for more information.

## Public Transport Concessions

Most students qualify for public transport concessions, available to full-time domestic undergraduate students. However, the following categories of students are not eligible:

- International students (unless you have refugee status or are part of an approved Overseas Exchange Programme), and
- Part-time students, and
- Students enrolled in a Masters or Doctorate program, and
- Students travelling interstate.

If you think this is unfair, please write to:

### David Campbell MP

NSW Minister for Transport  
GPO Box 5341,  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
david@campbell.minister.nsw.gov.au

## Cycling

It makes sense to cycle to uni. It's good for your health, good for the environment, and saves you money.

## To Kensington

There is a good bike path that runs most of the way from Central to Kensington. From the Chalmers St exit, ride all the way up Devonshire St. Turn right at Bourke St, and then left at Cleveland St. Cross over to the right hand side of the road, and then cross South Dowling St. The bike path starts there, and runs along Cleveland St and then Anzac Parade and Alison Rd. If you're going to lower campus, get off the bike path just before the Racecourse and follow Doncaster Rd onto Anzac Pde. If you're going to upper campus, follow the bike path as it crosses Alison Rd, and then skirts the Racecourse up Wansey Rd to Gate 9.

## To COFA

The COFA Environment collective have produced a cycle map to help you travel to and from COFA. The map covers travel in, and around the centre of Sydney, as well as the East and Inner West. You can download it from: [arc.unsw.edu.au/docs/cofa/cycle\\_map.pdf](http://arc.unsw.edu.au/docs/cofa/cycle_map.pdf)

## UNSW Bike Club

[unsubikeclub.wordpress.com](http://unsubikeclub.wordpress.com)

The UNSW Bike Club runs weekly repair workshops. If you've got a problem with your bike they can teach you how to fix it. You can also fix up one of their donated bikes for yourself. Ask them for information about riding to and from uni. Check their website for details.

## Carpooling

[unsw.mycarpools.com](http://unsw.mycarpools.com)

Do you drive to uni with empty seats in your car? UNSW has a carpooling service! You can find other people to drive with, who either have a car or are looking for a lift. It's a whiz-bang system - check it out.

## Contact

### Transport Infoline

[www.131500.info](http://www.131500.info)  
Tel: 131 500

### UNSW Transport

[www.transport.unsw.edu.au](http://www.transport.unsw.edu.au)

# Housing

Pretty much the cheapest option for accommodation is living in a share house, but there are a few things to remember when renting with “friends”.

Here are some tips and advice, because it’s a bewildering process, and though relations with friends and landlords might be fine now, things can sour quickly.

- Usually you will need to pay one month’s rent in advance, plus a bond that you will get back when you move out.
- Get all housemates to put their names on the lease, then everyone is culpable for damage, and you won’t be responsible (at least legally) for the bill.
- You don’t necessarily end your tenancy when the lease ends. If you have a written agreement be sure to check the number of days notice you have to give your landlord or you could risk losing bond money if you leave too early. Make sure you seek advice before you end your lease. For more information contact the Welfare Officer or Arc Student support.

## Rentstart

People with less than \$1000 in savings may be eligible for Rentstart Standard, which will give you an interest-free loan for 75% of your bond. If you don’t receive the bond

back from the landlord due to damage, etc, you still have to pay the money back. There are more payments available if you’re in more dire circumstances. Contact the NSW Department of Housing.

## Utilities

### Bills

You should choose to pay your bills monthly. It makes it much easier to keep track of how much you’re spending.

For telephone bills, it’s possible to have separate accounts for each person in the house, or to have the bill itemised. You should also consider having mobiles and premium numbers blocked, so that only local calls can be made from the phone.

### Energy and Water Efficiency

Make sure you’ve installed energy-efficient light-globes, shower-heads and tap flow-limiters. Many companies will install them for free. They’ll save the environment as well as saving you money.

## Contact

### **UNSW Accommodation**

*Ground Floor, Basser College*  
*[www.housing.unsw.edu.au](http://www.housing.unsw.edu.au)*  
*Tel: (02) 9385 4985*

### **Tenants' Union of NSW**

*[www.tenants.org.au/advice](http://www.tenants.org.au/advice)*

### **NSW Department of Housing**

*Level 7, 832 Anzac Parade, Maroubra*  
*Tel: 1800 629 212*

### **Arc Student Support**

#### **(Legal Advice and Advocacy)**

*[advice@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:advice@arc.unsw.edu.au)*  
*Tel: (02) 9385 7700*

# Health

## Medicare Card

With one of these, you can see a doctor without having to pay (if the doctor bulk bills). To get one, go to your local Medicare office. The Uni health service bulk bills. Even if the local doctor doesn't, the government subsidises some of the cost.

## UNSW Health Service

*Ground Floor, East Wing, Quadrangle Building*

*Tel: (02) 9385 5425*

*Open 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 5.00pm Friday during session, and 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday during vacations.*

This is a general practice, with male and female doctors, part-time psychiatrists and orthopaedic surgeons. They bulk-bill, meaning you don't have to pay.

## UNSW Counselling Service

*Level 2 East Wing Quadrangle Building*

*[www.counselling.unsw.edu.au](http://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au)*

*[counselling@unsw.edu.au](mailto:counselling@unsw.edu.au)*

*Tel: (02) 9385 5418*

The Counselling Service offers free

counselling to all UNSW students and staff.

## Overseas Student Health Cover

For international students it is a visa requirement to maintain health cover while in Australia. It might be useful for students to do research before signing a health cover deal. There are four main companies that provide health cover for international students: BUPA, Medibank, OSHC Health cover (Worldcare), and AMP.

## Sexual Health

### STI Check-Ups

Regular STI testing, especially when you change partners, is a very good idea. Medicare will provide for free STI testing (except for AIDS) and the Health Service bulk bills, so you've got no excuse.

### Pap Smears

This is yet another service covered by Medicare - it's free! If you're female, it's recommended that you get a pap smear test within six months of becoming

sexually active, or once you turn eighteen, and every two years after that. Pap smears are very quick and easy procedures, and are only slightly uncomfortable. The test will detect any cervical cancer before it develops.

### **Free Condoms and Dental Dams**

These are available from Contact, as well as from the Women's Room (if you're a woman), and the Queer Space.

### **Cervical Cancer Vaccine**

It's free for women under 27, it's easy, it stops you from getting cancer. Visit your local GP to get this vaccine, which protects you against one of the most common cancers in females.

## **Pregnancy Counselling**

The following pregnancy counselling services for women in NSW will provide free information on all three possible options that follow an unplanned pregnancy - abortion, adoption or having a child. They will then work with the woman's own values to drive her own decision.

### **The Bessie Smyth Foundation**

*Tel: (02) 9649 9744*

### **Family Planning Australia**

*Tel: 1300 658 886*

### **Women's Officers**

*Lucy Geddes Tel: 0448 679 207*

*Jody Stith Earles Tel: 0435 140 220*

*If you have any issues in these or other areas feel free to contact the Welfare Officer Matt Ward on 0410 307 640 or visit him personally on Level 1 of the Blockhouse*

