

PERSONAL SAFETY

Safety on and off campus

Australia is generally a very safe place to live and study. The 2017 [OECD Better Life Index](#) rated Australia 7.2 out of 10 for safety. However, it is still important to be aware of your own safety and take precautions to keep safe.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

On campus

- Don't leave your belongings unattended
- Keep the number for campus Security in your phone
- When studying late, walk with friends or call a Security Escort
- If you need assistance on campus call Security
- Park in the university car park

Using transport

- In a car, wear a seatbelt
- Check public transport timetables in advance
- At night sit nearest to the driver
- Be aware of emergency assistance buttons
- If you feel uncomfortable get up and move away
- Avoid isolated stops
- If travelling alone, let someone know your travel schedule
- Keep your belongings close to you

In public

- Keep your belongings out of sight, e.g. don't have your phone visible in your back pocket or leave your bag unzipped
- Be aware of the people around you
- Leave valuables at home, e.g. your passport
- Don't engage with strangers
- Don't give out personal information
- Be alert and aware, e.g. look where you walk, not at your phone
- Keep your phone with you, or have money or a phone card
- Notice safety features, CCTV cameras and police or security staff
- Pay attention, if you have headphones in keep the volume low

Going out at night

- Plan your trip there and home, e.g. book a taxi or uber in advance, or look up the public transport timetable
- Never hitch hike or take a ride from a stranger
- Have safety precautions ready to use, such as a whistle and light with you, or in an app
- Travel in a group if you can
- Use footpaths, crossings, and stick to well-lit areas
- If you feel threatened by someone, tell them to stop loudly or ask someone else for assistance

At home

- Keep windows and doors locked, especially at night
- Don't open the door for strangers
- Leave a light on when out at night, in particular a sensor light
- Be fire safe, install smoke detectors and develop a fire escape plan
- Keep your garage door closed and locked
- Have a neighbour check your mail if you're away
- Don't hide a key outside the house
- Keep valuables out of view from outside your home, including packaging from expensive items in rubbish bins
- Install an alarm or get a dog to deter intruders

HELPING OTHERS

How to be a Supportive Bystander

If you see someone who looks like they are being harassed, bullied or harmed you should take action to be a supportive bystander, if you feel safe to do so. Taking action can be as simple as asking if they are ok or calling for help.

If you see someone who looks like they are in trouble you should:

- Ask the person who is being harassed, bullied or harmed if they are okay or if they need help
- Draw attention to the situation, for example tell the threatening person to stop, or bring their behaviour to other people's attention
- Seek assistance from others, especially someone in authority, Security officers or Police
- Call for help, Emergency Services (000) or Security on campus (9919 6666)
- Report the incident to someone in authority
- Do not engage in violence
- Listen and support the person who is being harassed, bullied or harmed
- Empower the person to seek help from support services

SAFETY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Get help on campus

VUSafe (App)

All your safety and support services at VU in one app! Features: a silent alarm to Campus Security for immediate assistance, safety notifications, request first aid or a security escort, track the VU shuttle bus, start a virtual safe walk with a friend, report a tip to campus security, campus maps, emergency plans, as well as support services on and off campus. Download free for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

www.vu.edu.au/safety-app

Security Services

Request a security escort, report a concern or incident, or seek emergency assistance on campus.

www.vu.edu.au/security

P: 9919 6666 (Emergency) or 9919 4999 (Enquiry)

Safer Community

Advice, assistance and referrals for students who experience or witness concerning behaviours on or off campus, including bullying, stalking, harassment, family violence, and sexual assault. Read our online resources, and report something concerning by phone, email or online.

www.vu.edu.au/safer-community

P: 9919 5707 E: Safer.Community@vu.edu.au

Student Advocacy

Confidential advice, support and representation to help you progress successfully during your course, for example discuss your progress, prepare for show cause hearings, attend misconduct hearings and advice on special consideration.

www.vu.edu.au/student-advocacy

P: 9919 5400 E: advocacy@vu.edu.au

Student Counselling

A free and confidential support service. You can speak to a counsellor about any concerns affecting your experience at VU or attend workshops to enhance study and personal skills, including time-management, and emotional intelligence.

www.vu.edu.au/counselling

P: 9919 5400

Student Matters

Manage the University complaint resolution process. Students can lodge a complaint in relation to the provision of University services or functions, behaviour of another student, or allegations of discrimination, harassment and bullying.

www.vu.edu.au/complaint-resolution

P: 9919 5007 E: Student.Matters@vu.edu.au

Welfare Services

Senior advisers provide free and confidential support and assistance to help you with a range of issues, including welfare, finance, and housing support. Our international student advisors are available to provide specialist advice for international students.

www.vu.edu.au/welfare

P: 9919 6100

Discrimination, Harassment & Bullying Contact Officers

Provide confidential support and impartial information, including options to manage and solve issues, for students who believe they have been subject to discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, vilification and/or bullying.

https://askvu.vu.edu.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2767

Get help off campus

bSafe (App)

A personal safety app designed to keep you and your friends safer 24/7. It is packed with features for both everyday safety and real emergencies, including a personal safety network, virtual friend walk, fake call and emergency alert with GPS, video and siren (optional).

Download free for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

Emergency Call Service – Triple Zero

National emergency call service for Police, Fire and Ambulance.

www.triplezero.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx

P: 000

Crime Stoppers

National crime reporting organisation. Confidentially report information to help solve crime.

www.crimestoppers.com.au

P: 1800 333 000

Magistrates Court

Information about applying for a personal safety intervention order.

www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au

References

www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/global/live-in-australia/health-and-safety/personal

www.knowrisk.com.au/tips/travelling-safe-on-public-transport

www.allianz.com.au/home-insurance/news/tips-to-secure-home