Managing expenses is an important task for everyone, especially for international students. I found it hard initially to maintain a balance between my education expenses like books and photo-copying and the daily living expenses of transport, food and entertainment.

I would like to share some of the experience and tips that I found useful in managing my budget.

1. Make the most of libraries rather than purchasing books as they are very expensive. With handy access to university libraries, we can also look for local area libraries that broaden our access to books. So having membership of such libraries is very beneficial.

2. Prepare food at home. A hectic schedule does limit time but cooking at home is not only economical but also healthy.

3. For clothes and other household items, stores like the Salvos and St. Vincent de Paul are budget friendly and also help us become a part of the noble cause.

4. Rather than spending money maintaining a car, go for a pushbike. It is both economical and will help you lose those few extra pounds!

5. Do contact or stay in touch with students of your own community who have already been here for some time. They can help us in finding places where we can get things that might be less expensive. This is how I was able to find Indian shops from where I could get the food that I wished to have at a lower cost.

6. Accommodation expenses are also another botheration for international students. Try to have accommodation that is close to uni as it saves travelling expenses and time. If not, then sharing is the best way cut down the expenditure.

7. Plan weekly or fortnightly visits to malls and supermarkets to know about sales and discount offers.

8. Stay in touch with your classmates as they can help in locating previous students for notes and used books. Even your teachers may be able to guide you in finding the same.

Your initial six months are a bit of a struggle, but patience and hard work never go unnoticed. Stay on track and surely you’ll achieve all you dream of.

Henna Chhabra, International student-India Bachelor of social Work, Canberra
Kunal Mehta  
MBa, Melbourne

In each issue of ISV – The Voice, we try to introduce a cultural aspect of a particular country. It highlights the beautiful cultures that exist in the world. In this edition I would like to point out a few things related to India. I would like to believe that the majority of the people reading this article know that there are innumerable gods and goddesses and hundreds of languages and dialects in this enormously vast and diverse country, however I would like to present a few areas of belief that, regardless of the individual’s caste or religion, these beliefs would be so deeply rooted in their thoughts and eventually shape their way of life.

It is firmly believed in the Indian culture that every creature in this world has a purpose in life. I would like to mention that it is not only humans but also animals as well as trees that have a purpose in this world. If we look closely, we can say that a tree’s purpose is to give oxygen so that all living beings in the world can survive. An animal’s purpose may be to improve nature’s beauty, but it is only mankind who has been given the power to understand and try to find out what the purpose of his/her life in this world is.

Many of you may have been to India for holidays. You might have observed that when a person passes in front of any religious place such as a temple, mosque, church or gurudwara (Temple for the Sikhs), they would just fold their hands or put their hand on their heart and for a split second remember their God. It does not matter to that person if he/she believes in that religion or god, but they will still pay respects to that holy place.

Another belief that is common in India is that god (irrespective of the religion), exists within each and every soul. Thus, to find true happiness and calmness one should look within oneself for answers. Yoga, a traditional form of exercise, is actually a philosophical belief that helps people in understanding the deeper meaning of life and a path to reach your soul. It is believed that it helps in striking a balance between the mind and the body. There are world famous yoga sites all over India that preach and try to lead all the keen followers interested in the various facets of yoga.

There is one belief that is followed in most parts of the world. That belief is to forgive. In India it is said that if you do not forgive then you have resentment in your heart. Thus, you would not be able to have peace of mind. Thus, people should learn to forgive and forget and learn to care about others. There is also a famous saying in India “What did you bring with yourself into this world and what can you take with you.” This is one of the biggest reasons and sources of the meaning of life in Indian context. As such, there is huge emphasis placed on emotions and belongingness with other humans and trying to minimize materialistic urges.

Spirituality and mystical charm have always drawn people from all over the world to India. Due to the fast-paced life in the cities and even in small towns, the quest and urgency for spirituality grows more and more. The traditional Indian way of life has helped in the evolution and growth of Spiritualism. Numerous cultures and religions have thrived and flourished together for ages and resulted into the unique Indian way of life. At different points in the history of our civilization numerous spiritual leaders and saints have delivered the message of peace, brotherhood and coexistence that is so very well rooted in our culture. Arts like Yoga and Ayurveda coupled with religion have played an important role in the evolution and existence of spirituality in India.

Recipe: Khmer Krom Baked Chicken Wings with Spicy Sauce

- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 5 teaspoons oyster sauce
- 1 teaspoon hot chilli sauce
- 10 chicken wings
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 spring onion (minced)
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

In a small bowl, mix brown sugar with honey, oyster sauce, paprika and hot sauce together, set a side. Cut wings at joints. Discard tips and place wings in a baking dish. Pre heat oven at 350. Bake wings without cover for 30 minutes or till golden brown. In a small bowl, mix soy sauce with fish sauce, salt, lemon juice, ginger, garlic, green onion and black pepper together. Pour sauce over chicken wings, mix well, cover baking dish and refrigerate over night or at least 4 hours. Brush prepared honey sauce evenly on cooked wings. Return wings to oven, continue to bake for 5 more minutes before serving. Serve hot or warm.
Violence Against Women: Australia Says No!

Rosemary Williams
Counselling Psychologist
Counselling Service

‘Non-violence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart and it must be an inseparable part of our very being.’ (1921 Mahatma Gandhi speech.)

I grew up in mid-twentieth century Australia in a family marred by unremitting domestic violence. When I was 10, my mother confided in me that she ached to leave, but she had no place to go with 3 small children, (her parents had died), and she had no means to support us, (there was no social security, women’s refuges, or legal avenues then).

So, we all endured the effect on us all was searing. Which is not to say that we were each affected in the same way. In fact, my brothers and I are remarkably dissimilar. Nor does time heal. Time, together with the psychological work required – that’s what heals. I observed, saddened, that my father, the perpetrator, became a diminished man through his violence and never reached the very real potential he possessed. In my last moment with him, standing by his bedside, as he lay dying, I still remained afraid of him. Surely, life should not be anything like this.

Despite the existence in history of compelling pacifists, like Gandhi, the Indian nationalist leader, the World Health Organisation admitted recently that domestic violence is prevalent globally, exacerbated by poverty, war and gender inequality (Krug et al, World report on violence and health, Geneva, WHO, 2002). In the vast majority of cases, victims of domestic violence are women and perpetrators, men (The Law Handbook, Fitzroy Legal Service, 2008, p.238).

Domestic violence is undoubtedly an abuse of power: ‘It is the domination, coercion, intimidation and victimisation of one person by another by physical, sexual or emotional means within intimate relationships (Australian Medical Association, Position paper on domestic violence, 1998).

In Australia now, as Sokha Um pointed out in last month’s edition of ISV-The Voice, perpetrators can be charged and convicted with assault.

Sometimes, when we are in a relationship, we may not be sure what behaviour to expect from a partner and we can be unclear about what constitutes domestic violence. It includes: Physical abuse, causing pain and injury; denial of sleep, warmth or nutrition; denial of needed medical care; sexual assault; violence to property and animals; disablement and murder.

Verbal abuse, in private or in public, designed to humiliate, degrade, demean, intimidate, subjugate, including the threat of physical violence. Economic abuse, including deprivation of basic necessities, seizure of income or assets, unreasonable denial of the means necessary for participation in social life. Social abuse, through isolation, control of all social activity, deprivation of liberty, or the deliberate creation of unreasonable dependence (Australian Public Health Association, Domestic Violence, Canberra, 1990).

There is no excuse for this behaviour and just saying sorry isn’t anywhere near good enough. Perpetrators offer implausible excuses for their violence which should never be accepted. They attribute blame to the victim: ‘She drove me to it’. ‘If she didn’t keep nagging me, none of this would have happened.’ They assert a moral justification: ‘The Bible / Koran / Bhagavadgita / Torah says I am the head of the household and she must submit’. They displace responsibility: ‘I was so drunk / drugged, I didn’t know what I was doing’. Or, finally, they diffuse responsibility: ‘It’s no big deal in my culture’ (See Donald G. Dutton, The Abusive Personality, The Guilford Press, 2007, p.64).

I do not know whether my father died a peaceful man. How can we judge the demeanour of the dying? St Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Society of Jesus, (the Jesuits), a Catholic religious order for men, advised that when we are faced with choices about our behaviour, we should think about how we will feel about them on our deathbed. This reflection usually leads to both profound and ethical decisions and, later, to a peaceful dying. In addition, men in the 21st century have access to counselling and men’s violence programmes, which are conducted with respect and care.

The telephone number to ring is Mensline Australia: 1300 78 99 78.

A violent relationship may not be violent all the time and, sometimes, therefore, it can be hard for a woman to see what’s really happening. Usually, though, the violence gets worse over time and the relationship becomes more abusive. The confidential 24 hour helpline is 1800 200 526 to talk with experienced counsellors.

You will not have to give your name and you can request a male or female counsellor. At ACU National, the International Student Advisers and counsellors are eager to help and understand you and your circumstances - at your own pace.

I conclude with the words of Martin Luther King Jr, (1929–1968), the US civil rights leader:

“Violence ends by defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.”
On the Other Side of the Coin: Jim-Baa-Yer’s Response.

It is a constant human yearning to want to know where we come from, to whom we belong and to where we eventually return. I like many other Aboriginal people have heard all sorts of stories of how some Western anthropologists believe Aboriginal people migrated from other parts of the world. Some suggest Africa others suggest other places.

Aboriginal people know otherwise. We believe, and our stories, our laws, our spiritualities and our histories tell us otherwise. We come from the land of our Dreaming. One of our Elders here at Jim-baa-yr explains it this way: “Many say we come over the water and stay here. But we say we come from here and go over the water.” Aunty firmly believes, like other Indigenous people, that we come from here.

One thing that I have noticed from our morning teas and from working with International students is that we have many things in common. And like the article above, we have long histories with many other nations. These need to be remembered and explored further.

Indigenous histories and narratives are beginning to take their rightful place amongst Western theories. Stories, histories, and connections need to be made and encouraged.

This is why Jim-baa-yr works with the International office.

Not just because we want to make our Indigenous/First Nation, brothers and sisters welcome but to extend an invitation to all visitors. Communication and enthusiasm are vital for this to occur and we are happy at Jim-baa-yr to say that both are alive and well with our relationship with the International office and students.

Naomi Wolfe
Coordinator
Jim-baa-yr Indigenous Unit. Melbourne
Staying Safe in Australia: Some Important Safety Tips

Vanjitha Chanterakumar
Social Science, Melbourne

Australia is reputed to be one of the safest countries in the world. Melbourne in particular was one of the three capital cities worldwide to be recognized as a ‘Safe Community’ by the World Health Organization in October 2006. One however, should never take this safety for granted. They say you never know when disasters strike and it’s always better to be safe than sorry.

Daniella Taranto a local student suggested that students be careful with their belongings while they’re out and about. While travelling, she suggested that students hold on to their hand bags tightly and close to their bodies to prevent snatch thieves from grabbing them away. She also reckons that students who are new to the country should exercise caution when trying out food from other cultures. “When I went to Korea a few years ago, I excitedly tried out many new food items but fell ill a few days later as my stomach wasn’t used to the new ingredients used in Korean cooking”. Daniella also added that wearing seatbelts and avoiding distractions while driving, like answering mobile phones and listening to loud music could be other ways in which one could stay safe.

Soniya Gurung, a nursing student from Nepal cautioned students to be careful when coming home late at night after partying or after work. “You never know who’s spying on you” she warned. “When you return home alone at night, people may be watching and taking note of the times you come back. Sometimes even your neighbours might not be as nice as you think they are”, she added. When coming home late at night, she suggests that it might be safer to get someone to give you a lift and wait for you to enter your house before driving off. If you choose to get home by taxi, it is a good idea to remember the driver’s identification number that will be displayed on the dashboard. She also suggested avoiding dark places and said that checking out bus times before hand will be safer than waiting for long periods of time alone for the bus to arrive. “Sit near the bus driver or as close as possible to the guard’s compartment if you’re travelling on the bus or train at night, because if you need help, the driver will be able to see you and help you quickly” Soniya said.

Other safety tips to remember would be to not remove the batteries from fire alarms. Many of us are not used to having fire alarms in our homes, but here in Australia, having a working fire alarm in your home is a necessity by law. Fire alarms are there for your safety. If you need to smoke go outside, or open the windows and smoke with your head poking out (although this could look very unglamorous). Fire alarms have saved the lives of many people in Australia as it alerts people when smoke is detected in the area. Therefore replacing your fire alarm batteries frequently will be a good way to keep yourself safe. Finally, dialing 000 from anywhere in Australia will connect you to the emergency line that will allow you to call for police, fire or ambulance assistance. Emergency assistance can also be requested by dialing 112 from a locked mobile phone.

‘Prevention is better than cure’ they say. Although one can never truly be 100% safe, it is always best to be aware of our surroundings and adhere to all safety rules so as to get the most of our time studying here in Australia.
Students Give Money Saving Tips

Firstly, I think the topic 'how to save money for students' will be very useful. I spent too much money on shopping and now I have trouble: my room is full of clothes, books, pictures, and many other small things. Now I have to rent a small room in a bungalow to put everything in. Now I have enough clothes to wear for the next 3 years but no money in the bank account! I've learnt an expensive lesson about using money which is 'just buy what we really need, don't buy anything just because we think it is cheap or beautiful'.

An Hoang, Melbourne

Students doing part time work, especially those who start the morning shift from 7am, can get an "early bird" ticket that is free as long as you arrive at your destination before 7:00 am. The you just buy a 2 hour ticket to go home.

Buy some things from the Salvos store (second hand things in good condition). Buy clothes or personal items off season. Learn to cook food by reading some recipe books and avoid buying food outside. Cook extra at home and use left over food for another meal. Try to buy vegies in the evening time as many shops try to get rid of excess cheaply. Avoid going to the casino.

Avoid going to cinemas. You can watch movies at home on your computer. You can buy cheap DVDs at supermarkets. Try to avoid buying expensive books. Use library books as much as you can. Try to leave bad habits like smoking or drinking. Don’t care about what society or your peer group will think.

Gurprit Kaur, Melbourne

Turn the hot water off after you shower. Make a list of what you need to buy (food) so you don’t end up buying more than you should. Live in a place with other people to keep rent low. Bring lunch from home instead of buying. Only buy clothes when you feel you really need to. Get a part time job to help you with your finances.

Watanaphon Benhamud Mackillop

I am an international student and I can suggest to all other fellow international students “how to save money” Do Not Eat Out as far as possible - cook your own meal at home and carry your lunch to school. ALDI is the cheapest, grocery store in Australia as far as I can tell. Buy your essentials there if possible. Make a Budget on Spending every month and Do Not by any means for any reason exceed the budget. The Salvation Army offer many household things like beds, tables, and even TVs for a cheap price. Sharing a place to live rather than renting on your own will save a lot. These are some of the things I do to save money, and this has helped me a lot.

Shreejana Niraula, Sydney

Don't go food shopping when you are hungry. You will always buy much more than you need! Buy in bulk. It is much cheaper.

Don't shop at 24 hour convenience stores unless in emergency. These are often twice the price! Buy "no name" brands instead of branded items.

Maria Valastro, International Student Adviser Brisbane

Op. shops are a fantastic opportunity to buy good clothes cheaply. They also have kitchen utensils, books, and even furniture. Compare shops though as prices vary. At the markets (Queen Victoria Market, South Melbourne Market) there are always food stalls which sell ripe fruit and vegies really cheaply. You can get incredible things very cheaply (like a bag of carrots for a dollar or passion fruit for $2.00) When posting letters home, it pays to keep it flat. The postage rate often goes up when the envelope is bulky.

Dagmar Schade, Melbourne

Keep taking budget notes to know how much money to spend. Avoid going out for meals and drinking too much. Cook every meal yourself as much as possible. Avoid buying take away food or drink. Every week, check the supermarket advertisements to know the cheapest prices and buy from there wherever possible. Decide on the amount of money to spend each week and try to spend within the budget. Before shopping, write down the things you need to buy and try not to buy any other things.

Chisako Morii, Melbourne

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Chisako Morii, Melbourne
More Money Saving Tips

I buy used textbooks online. They are usually WAY cheaper than new textbooks. I also buy winter clothes in summer and summer clothes in winter because of clearance sales. The website for books is www.amazon.com. You type in the title of the book you want and they’ll show you a range of books in the same title and you can pick which condition you want to buy the book in. They range from cheap, tatty, dog eared ones that are usually much cheaper, to textbooks that are slightly more expensive and in better condition. Generally, the better the condition, the more expensive the book. I hope this helps.

Vanjitha Chantherakumar
Melbourne

I live near to your campus. That saves you transport costs significantly and saves time also. At first you may find that rent is higher near the campus, but soon you will notice that there are a lot of other benefits to living close to campus also. These are often non financial, but save you a lot of time and convenience in the long run. Another one is if you are planning to work for about 20 hours a week, choose a workplace that is near to your place that may both help you to transport money and mental pressure as the employer wants you there on time. Don’t overdo your working hours. Not only is this illegal, but it also adds to your stress and can result in a higher risk of failing exams. Buy food from Coles, Woolworths, Aldi or IGA where food costs less than any other grocery shops. If you really need to buy clothes (T-shirts, Shorts, Scandals) and need it cheap you can go to LOWES. They sell competitively cheap.

Mahmud Shuvo
North Sydney

One thing I have found is that when you shop at Safe-way or Coles, buy the in-house or “no name” brands or the cheaper foods. Aldi is another store that has bargain price food and other items but you have to bring your own bags. Shopping at op shops or second hand places is another way to find clothes at a good and affordable price.

There are websites that list fun things you can do that are either free or inexpensive in your state. For Melbourne, try these: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/bluelist/index.cfm?fa=main.viewList&list_id=1867

I hope that helps other international students.

Erin C. Stockwell
Melbourne

I think eggs in ALDI are cheaper, but they don’t have bags so you should bring them yourself. If you want to buy some Chinese vegetables, BaiLingdun in China Town is a good place. DFO (Direct Factory Outlet) is a good place for shopping and it easy to get there. I hope this information is useful.

Yao Xiao
Brisbane Campus

Julia Zhang
Brisbane

Travel: Bring your student card all the time. Full time students can have concession tickets in Brisbane, which is half the adult price. If you travel between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm and all day on weekends, ask the driver for the OFF-PEAK ticket. They won’t give it to you unless you ask for it. The public transport it is quite cheap in Brisbane to be honest.

Food: The best way to save money on food is to cook yourself. I didn’t know how to cook, but after a while my cooking is getting much better. The cheapest places to buy are ALDI, Coles, Woolworths and BILO. These have specials all the time but I, think that ALDI always has the cheapest food, and the quality is quite good as well. They don’t supply bags, which is a bit annoying. If you don’t have time to cook, you can buy, but it’s quite expensive, around $7-$10 normally. Fast food is cheaper, but it’s bad for your health. I don’t usually have it, maybe once a month.

Clothes: Valley girl and TEMIT always have special clothes. DFO, my favourite clothes place, is very cheap, has good brands, and good quality.
A Local Student’s Perceptions of International Students

Sharmalie Wijesinghe
Nursing, Melbourne

It is my pleasure to introduce Nikki, a local student who is in her 3rd year of the Bachelor of Nursing degree at Australian Catholic University, St Patrick’s campus, Melbourne. I first met Nikki in early 2006 as we both embarked upon our nursing studies. Despite our different lifestyles and cultural backgrounds, we have developed a close friendship. Nikki encourages me, praises me for my achievements, and all the time makes me feel that I am very much a part of the local society. I thought it would be nice to explore her perceptions of international students studying at ACU. This is what Nikki told me.....

Since embarking upon my Bachelor of Nursing degree at the beginning of 2006, I have had ample opportunity to engage with a host of international students. Apart from admiring the courage it must take to move abroad, often leaving behind family, friends and familiar surroundings, I have great respect and admiration for students who undertake studies in an environment – not to mention a language! - foreign to their own. Having reached the third and final year of my nursing studies, I have found the pace and content of this degree quite challenging – and I am a local! I cannot begin to imagine the likely difficulties encountered by students for whom English is a second language.

I consider it a true privilege to have been able to engage with students from cultures often vastly different to my own. I have had the opportunity to interact with students from various Asian backgrounds, as well as Cambodian, Sri Lankan, Kenyan and Irish students, to name a select few. I feel that such interactions have served to enrich my learning experience these past 3 years, as well as open my eyes to a world beyond my own immediate focus. Indeed, classroom discussions exploring the types of health facilities and services available in other countries has nurtured a deeper appreciation for the level of healthcare provided here in Australia, as well as the myriad opportunities available to members of the Australian healthcare profession.

I am not especially familiar with the types of support available to international students beyond an appointed International Student Advisor, however, as a local, I feel it remains incumbent upon the local student body to extend a friendly hand in all matters, whether it be to clarify directions for navigating about town, or for study-related matters.

After all, ultimately we are all one people, regardless of race, creed, colour and/or background. Let us embrace our diversity and appreciate the opportunity it offers to expand our minds beyond our own immediate environment, and above all, to treat our fellows as we ourselves wish to be treated.
Featured Student: Kunal Mehta, India.

Mary Hemant
Education, Melbourne

At the last meeting of ISV, we realized that we had not found anyone to be featured as our special student of the month. We sat pondering over a possibility, when we suddenly turned and found him seated right next to us. Yes, there he was, that boy-next-door look in his eyes, yet full of promise with some of his forthright views, as you will see in his articles and positive outlook on life in a foreign land. Meet Kunal Mehta from Mumbai, the ‘commercial capital’ of India.

ISV: Kunal, what brings you to this beautiful country and why did you choose ACU over other UNIs?
Kunal: As a kid, I had always been fascinated by Australia mostly because of its unique geographical location as well as its diverse natural environment. I was also curious to know more about its highly rich sports culture. With regard to my study here, I have always wanted to do an MBA for as long as I can remember. ACU offered me a degree which also allowed me to specialize in the field of Accounting. So you can say it’s like getting two birds with the same arrow.

ISV: Did you ever have a problem with coping – to the new culture, food, weather, your studies, anything at all? Is it very different from what you were used to? What advice would you give other International students regarding the problem of adapting?
Kunal: I know this may sound very untrue, but I have never had any problems coping with the culture here. Coming from Mumbai, the most cosmopolitan city of India, I found several similarities between Melbourne and my hometown, such as the city being the centre of all activities with the residential suburbs surrounding it and away from the hub of the commercial centre. In fact, it is actually very similar to Mumbai in terms of public transport and traveling. A piece of advice I would give new international students is to be open about accepting other people’s nature and culture rather than always comparing them with your own. And also, not to be afraid to change your thinking to accept something you believe is true.

ISV: Tell me, Kunal, have you developed a system or a structured plan for organizing your studies/library research/leisure time/work schedule? How do you manage everything on a daily basis?
Kunal: Well, I am the kind of person who likes to finish his assignments at the last hour. But I do start planning them and completing my research several days before the due date. This works for me while it may not for everyone else who may feel overwhelmed by the pressure of finishing things at the last moment. In terms of my planning, I do keep a diary of events and every night I roughly plan my activities for the next day. I don’t adhere to any strict time management schedule.

ISV: What interests do you have outside your life at the Uni?
Kunal: I am like a small kid, always curious to know about new things all the time. I also like to keep on challenging my own thinking. As I had written in the June edition, I had recently gone sky-diving. Someday soon I would like to go Bungee-jumping, paragliding, scuba-diving and hopefully, even take a ride inside a hot-air balloon. However, I also like to stay home and watch a lot of movies. It doesn’t matter whether it’s a Hollywood or a Bollywood movie. I also like to surf the Internet to expand my knowledge.

ISV: Have you ever received an honour for an achievement or anything that you feel especially proud of?
Kunal: To tell you the truth, I have never received an award or medal as such, since I have never taken part in any competition worth mentioning. However, I feel proud of whatever I have achieved in life until now. Although I haven’t amassed a lot of wealth or made any marvellous inventions, I have realized my dream of going overseas, living with people from another culture altogether and having some really cherished memories. I also feel proud that I live with local Australian students rather than restricting myself by living with people from my own country, even though I am so far away from my parents and friends. I really feel excited to learn about their way of living. Let me add that they have been more than happy to learn from me how Indians live.

ISV: What qualities would you attribute to an ideal international student in a setting away from their own culture?
Kunal: I would really like to see international students get away from the tag of international students as soon as they can. I have observed that international students always remain with people from their own community and thus have so many prejudices and wrong information about most of the things. They should not fear to get themselves acquainted with local Australian culture, habits, manners and traditions. Who would be able to describe your culture better; you or a person who has come from outside and stayed there for sometime. The same applies over here as well. Do not be afraid to make friends with Australian students or even other international students.

ISV: Please tell us in a few words, your view of life in general and your goals for the future, in particular. How has ACU helped you to achieve this end?
Kunal: I really don’t want to sound too serious or philosophical. But I would like to see myself grow more as a person for as long as I can in the distant future. To this end, I would like to know as many people in the world as I possibly can and especially learn about the vast history of all the religions in the world. Professionally, I see myself working in a firm related to stock markets. Well, studying in ACU has helped me understand more about the field I want to specialize in. And working with the team of THE VOICE has helped me to know the professional culture of Australia, if not to a very large extent, but in a nutshell. Cheerio!
New International Student Adviser for Brisbane

The International office at the Brisbane Campus has a new International Student Adviser.

Maria Valastro started work in the office two weeks ago and is settling into her new role well. Maria has written the following about herself for your information.

I’d like to introduce myself as the new International Student Adviser at the Brisbane Campus.

I have been working with international students at QUT International College for the past few years and really understand what it is like for students studying in Brisbane.

I have studied history and archeology and have been lucky to have travelled throughout much of the Middle East, Europe and parts of Asia.

My background is Italian and I also speak Italian fluently.

I am really looking forward to working with the international students at Brisbane Campus. Please feel free to pop into the International Education Office at any time to see me. If there is nothing you need, just come to say hello and introduce yourself to me.

I am here to help with anything I can during your study at ACU National and really look forward to meeting as many of you as possible soon.

The International Education Office staff wish to extend a very warm welcome to Maria. She is a valuable new team member and will be an invaluable asset to Brisbane students.

Careers: Opportunities in Accounting

Accounting graduates, have broader choices and specific paths to follow with their careers. Accounting requires a lot of skills when it comes to business and that is why every company has an employee that is an accounting graduate. If you are an accounting graduate, you can apply in any kind of firm. Areas may include tax, audit, financial analysis and management accounting.

It is best that you apply for a job that matches your interests and expertise. There are careers that have been proven by most accounting graduates to bring them to the top of the success ladder and you may want to consider entering these fields.

Having an edge with corporate accounting, one to three years of experience will qualify you to become a staff member in Internal Audit, Tax Accounting, Management, and Financial Accounting. Moving up the higher lever after three to six years, you will be eligible for the Senior Level for Internal Audit, Tax Accounting and Management Accounting.

Six years thereafter, you may want to consider aiming for the positions like the Tax Manager, Internal Audit Manager and Financial Accounting Manager. Expertise in Financial Management, Staff for Financial Planning, Cash Management, and Credit Analysis are options for entry-level positions. Once you have gained the enough experience, you may aim for the Treasury Operations, Credit Analysis and Senior Financial Planning. Higher positions will include Treasurer, Manager for Credit Analysis and Financial Planning.

These career options are traditional paths that were found to fit best for accounting graduates. However, it does not mean that they are the only way to climb up the success ladder. You should go beyond; not just limit your skills to accounting. Accounting does not restrict itself to one particular field. For example if you are interested in computers then getting an accounting job in a IT related company may fulfill your desire to do something in computers as well as be in financial aspect of the firm. The options are vast, you just need to be able to analyse them and make a really good career for yourself. To get more information about the various opportunities the sites: www.mycareer.com.au, www.seek.com.au & www.accountingjobs.com.au would be helpful.
The 10 Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work - you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.
5. Honour your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's house or your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Our Own Florence Nightingale

I would never consider myself a Nightingale. But I have always tried my best to be one, especially to the least of my brethren in society.

Of course, I did succeed in being a good surgical Intensive Care nurse. But when I look back at my experiences, I have realised that the path was pretty tough with twists and bumps all the way.

I have always known that being a good human being is about showcasing humanness in my actions and attitude to others. Initially, I must admit that it was pretty hard for me to change my personality after becoming a nurse.

I had always liked myself as being cool in any challenging situation. The more I learnt about trans-culture and decision-making in my course, I began to reflect my learning onto my personality and it was interesting to see how I had already developed certain traits which can make me a better nurse.

Earlier, I used to be non-communicative and an introvert, a loner in short. And now I find that my nature is in total contrast to my former self. What could have brought about that change?! I have come to realise that a lot of it has to do with my professional education both in my home country and now, here in Australia. I also understand that the best gift I can ever give somebody is to spare my time to listen to them.

Today, I can pat myself on the back for the right choice I took at the right time in choosing my career. Nursing has become a part of my life and it has made me a better person ultimately. I sincerely hope and pray that someday I will follow the example of selfless service practiced by Florence Nightingale herself, who has made me proud of being a nurse.

Jayageetha Nagarajan
Nursing
Brisbane
People often get a fine when they break the law. They may get the fine for driving and parking offences, littering or for fare evasion on public transport. You may be given an on the spot fine when you travel without a valid ticket on the train or tram.

Most fines are handled by the Penalty Enforcement by Registration of Infringement Notice (PERIN) system.

If you break the law, you will get an infringement notice. This sets out what law you have broken, and how much you have been fined. You can get this notice in many ways. It may be given to you personally, stuck on your car windscreen or mailed to your home address.

You usually have 28 days to pay such a fine or to dispute it. For some fines, like speeding or drink driving, your drivers licence may be suspended or cancelled for a period of time. Certain drink-driving offences also attract demerit points.

If you think you should not have been fined, it is important that you seek assistance immediately. The longer you wait, the fewer options you may have, and the more fine you will end up paying. For example, if you forget to pay the fine, you will get a letter in the mail reminding you and this reminder notice gives you another 28 days to pay. However, the cost of the fine may be higher because of the cost of sending you this reminder notice. Further, if you still do not pay, your case will go to the PERIN Court, which is part of the Magistrate’s Court. The Court will make an enforcement order and you will have 28 days to pay the new amount and this new amount is usually higher because of additional costs.

If the 28 days run out and you still do nothing, the sheriff will give you a seven day notice. However, if the seven days run out and you still do nothing, the sheriff can take your goods and sell them to cover the fine. If you do not have things that can be sold to cover the fine, the sheriff can arrest you and you can be jailed.

If you have been fined and feel that you should not have been, you should seek legal assistance immediately. It is essential to remember that if your case is to be heard in court, you should turn up at court. If you do not attend the court, the magistrate can hear your case and may issue the enforcement order in your absence.

As previously advised in ISV - The Voice June edition, your International Student Advisor, in particular, may assist you in seeking legal advice from a private lawyer or the Legal Aid or a Community Legal Centre. As a last option, you can see a duty lawyer at Court on the day.

But don’t wait until the last minute! Of course this information is not a substitute for proper legal advice, which can be obtained from a lawyer, Community Legal Centres and Legal Aid.