**Location...**

Rockhampton (better known as Rocky by the locals) is in central Queensland, about 350 miles north of the state’s capital Brisbane and is the Beef Capital of Australia. It is located in the Tropics of the Capricorn coast. Rocky experiences over 300 days of sunshine every year with tropical thunderstorms occurring sporadically throughout the summer and fall. The town is split into North and South areas by the Fitzroy River which runs through the city’s center. The population of Rockhampton is approximately 75,000. Just off the coast of Yeppoon, which is the coastal city only 25 miles north east of Rocky, is the northern part of the Great Barrier Reef!!

**Things to do in Rockhampton...**

- **Mt. Archer**: Hike the city’s beautiful mountain to view the breathtaking landscape and the infamous “HELL” sign.

- **Rockhampton Botanical Gardens** boast some of Australia’s most beautiful and unique wildlife.

- **Dreamtime Cultural Center** is the largest aboriginal cultural center in Australia. Learn how to throw a boomerang and play a didgeridoo!

- **Great Keppel Islands** boast some of the most beautiful white sand beaches in Australia. Only a 20 minute boat ride from Yeppoon makes it easy to enjoy the beaches and reefs in the same day.

- **Great Barrier Reef** extends all the way down the Coast of Queensland with some smaller reefs just a few miles away from Rockhampton.

- **Koorana Crocodile Farm** is a fabulous way to encounter some crocs in a safe environment. It operates as a sanctuary and breeding facility for saltwater crocodiles.

Colorful parrots and troops of kangaroos as well as other wildlife hang around the campus all day long as well!!!

**Travel Opportunities...**

Rockhampton does have a domestic airport that offers flights to Brisbane and Sydney (Australia’s only 2 international airports) as well as Melbourne, Mackay, and Cairns. Domestic flights are generally around the same cost as a domestic flight in the U.S.

International flights are a little more expensive as there is only one airline (Qantas) at the moment that provide international flights. Sydney is a must see as is Cairns and Brisbane. The heart of the Great Barrier Reef is located in Cairns as well as the Rainforest. Brisbane boasts Steve Irwin’s “Australia Zoo” as well as the Suncorp Stadium which is host to many professional sporting events and concerts. Sydney is the location of all things Australian. The Sydney Harbor Bridge, Sydney Botanical Gardens, and the Sydney Opera House are just a few of the fabulous sites located in Sydney!!
Before You Go...

After you’ve been accepted by SUU, it is time to get the ball rolling. Make sure all of your classes have been approved and will transfer back. Then apply to CQU. You will then receive a letter of acceptance from CQU and something called a CoE or confirmation of enrollment (you HAVE to have this in order to apply for a visa). Next, getting a visa will be your first priority. Visa applications are available online at:


You can submit this electronically or if you choose you can mail it in. Getting a visa requires that you purchase overseas health insurance. Online visas are electronic means which take less time and linked to your passport number getting a visa has you can get plane tickets. Generally round trip tickets to Australia are expensive, but look around and you may find a good deal! Your flight schedule should look something like this:

• LAX >>> Brisbane International...Rockhampton Airport

OR

• LAX >>> Brisbane International >>> Rockhampton Airport

You can arrange for the school to pick you up upon arrival. Notify them in advance via e-mail. Someone will take you directly to your housing and explain orientation week to you. It is strongly recommended that you arrive one week prior to the Uni orientation in order to attend the college’s orientation. This is a

Applying for Housing...

You can apply for housing as soon as you have been accepted to CQU. All international students are guaranteed accommodation on campus provided that they apply on time. Capricornia College is the on campus accommodation. It is a small community of about 7 houses, protected by campus security. Prices for housing are available at:

http://www.college.cqu.edu.au

Prices include 3 meals per day, access to the computer lab, the gym, and junior/senior commons rooms, Internet and housing keeping are part of the cost as well. College activities are organized throughout the semester and the college provides free transportation to the shopping center 2 times a week. There is a volleyball court and swimming pool available on college as well. Capricornia College is located right on campus (a 5 minute walk).

About the University...

Rockhampton is CQU’s main campus and offers a variety of classes and degrees. “Be what you want to be” is their motto and they stand by it. Spectacular professors and state of the art classrooms provide excellent learning opportunities. The University is made up of mostly “native” students with a small percentage of internationals.

Transportation...

Public transportation is pretty decent throughout Rockhampton and into the Capricorn Coast. Buses run regularly into town and the surrounding areas and are fairly inexpensive. Taxis are also available, but are a little more expensive so are usually only used at nighttime. The city center is a good 6 miles from the college so public transportation is necessary. Students do receive a discount with their student I.D.’s but you can get a student transport card for a small fee which will make most public transport throughout Australia free.

Weather...

Central Queensland is sunny nearly everyday of the year. The average temperature is 90 degrees Fahrenheit with about 80% humidity. Summer months (December-February) are of course quite a bit hotter than in spring/ winter/fall. Cyclone and flood warnings aren’t uncommon and rainfall is fairly common throughout March and April. It would be advisable to bring an umbrella.

Food and Entertainment...

Australians, for the most part, eat almost exactly what American’s do. Rockhampton has a McDonald’s, KFC, Pizza Hut, Sizzlers, and a Burger King to name just a few. Cuisine is very much what you are used to here with only the names of a few things being different. There isn’t much you have to adjust to other than chicken and ketchup flavored chips and of course vegemite! Movie theaters are common in Australia with newly released American shows providing the bulk of the cinematic entertainment. Rugby League and Australian rules football are both very popular especially since Queensland has 3 professional rugby teams in the Townsville Cowboys, Gold Coast Titans, and the Brisbane Broncos. A few night clubs and several pubs in the town center tend to be very popular among the Uni students as are the bowling alleys, shopping centers, and arcades.

Prices in Australia...

Prices of everyday items such as food, clothing, and toiletries are comparable to those in the United States. Electronics are a bit higher in price than you would see here in the U.S., but generally everything is just as affordable as if you were here at home. Make sure to check the exchange rates when planning a budget.