

GSA Resource

Resources for student parents and expectant parents

If you become pregnant while studying...

- Speak with your department to begin the process of establishing when you can take a leave of absence. If your course has very stringent subject requirements and if subjects are only taught in specific semesters, you may have limited flexibility to take leave.
- Consult the University's information on taking a leave of absence and begin initiating the process: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/wx4a>.
- If you are a research student, find out about your parental leave entitlements: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/jst6>.
- If you are an international student, you will have additional considerations, including your baby's immigration status (<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/4xo6>), what a leave of absence can mean for your own visa (<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/ykm6>), and the costs associated with childbirth. If you are using the University's recommended OSCH cover, you can find information at <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/x6o6>, but regardless of your provider you should make sure to speak to your insurer as soon as possible.
- Familiarise yourself with your childcare options and make sure to begin investigating your chosen provider's wait times as soon as you can. This sheet has more information overleaf.
- Find out whether you are eligible for paid parental leave: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/jro6>.

If you are an international student...

- Read the University's advice on bringing your family to Australia with you: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/amu6>.
- Familiarise yourself with the Victorian law preventing children who have not been immunised from enrolling in childcare or kindergarten: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/vxo6>.
- Consider looking into Australia's national immunisation schedule for children: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/5xo6>.
- All children aged between six and 17 are legally required to be educated, either in a registered school or through home-schooling that meets legal requirements.
 - Familiarise yourself with the law at <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/bxo6> and learn about the costs associated with enrolling your child in a Victorian public school: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/wxo6>.
 - Note that public schools are not your only option in fulfilling your legal requirements, but they are the most common option.
- When reading the information on childcare for children below school age on the next page of this sheet, bear in mind that you may not be eligible for the Australian Government's childcare subsidy. Check your eligibility here: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/9xo6>.

If you are looking into childcare options...

- Find out about the University's childcare options for student parents: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/pvu6>.
- If you decide to apply for a space in the University's childcare facilities, find out more about the fees at <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/kxo6> and joining the waiting list at <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/3xo6>.
- Read the University's information on support with the costs of childcare regardless of your chosen provider: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/gxo6>. (Note that the Australian Government Childcare Subsidy was replaced by the Australian Government Childcare Rebate on 1 July 2018 and the University's website may not reflect this change.)
- Understand the Australian Government Childcare Rebate and find out whether you are eligible: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/xro6>.
- Consider other childcare options in the area, including the Melbourne University Family Club (<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/q3ja>) and the University Early Learning Centre (<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/zxo6>).
- If you are looking in to other childcare options outside of the University community, consider using this checklist to assist you in your search: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/nro6>. Here is some information about other childcare providers in the City of Melbourne: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/6ro6>.

If you bring your children to campus...

- GSA has a dedicated study space for student parents, available from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday in the 1888 Building. The space includes desks and computers for you to study, and a play corner for your child. You must supervise your child while using the space. Contact gsa@gsa.unimelb.edu.au for more information.
- Find out more about parents' rooms on campus, including breastfeeding rooms and other spaces available to student parents and their children: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/ero6>.
- Understand the University's policy regarding children on campus, including situations when you can bring your child to class with you: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/sro6>.

If you need a supportive community...

- GSA holds Family Fun Days at the beginning of each semester. These provide an opportunity for student parents to meet and network while their children enjoy a range of activities. Check the GSA website and social media for updates, or email events@gsa.unimelb.edu.au for information about the next event.
- GSA's Families Officer is beginning the process of establishing a Families Grad Group. Reach out for more information and support: familyofficer@gsa.unimelb.edu.au.