

# The A-Z of International

**Address:** If you're anything like me, you'll pull a blank every time you go to fill out a document or tell someone your address, so here it is- *International House, 5 Rock St, St Lucia, Queensland 4067, Australia*

**Ball:** No, not football- these balls involve dressing up for a night, eating nice food and drinking champagne. Each College here at UQ holds their own ball- ours is in Semester two, and is organised by our Social Convener and the ball committee. Boys wear full suit and tie, and girls typically wear a ball dress, either owned or hired. The night always involves dancing, laughing, and copious amounts of photos, and is always a night to remember. Fear not, however, if you are only here for Semester One- the ICC (*see the ICC entry*) also hold a ball involving every college, which is like the individual college balls, only bigger and even more extravagant.

**Bara Khana:** Formal dinners here at International House! Bara Khana's are held once per month and usually have a theme for which to dress. National Dress is also strongly supported and encouraged. The dress code is formal so it is recommended to crack out some nice 'evening wear'. Look forward to these three course meals whilst at International House (we have one in O-Week).

**Bert Martin:** One of the founders and Rotarians of our fine college, and the man behind the dining hall's namesake.

**Blast hour:** The time of the day where you can truly feel free to express yourself musically, blast hour runs from 5pm-7pm, and is the period where you can make noise beyond the normal levels. Try to still be respectful though!

**Dr Carla Tromans (AKA The Big Boss):** Our director since the distant year of 2003. Carla was born in England, with British and German ancestry, but has lived in Australia from a very early age. Carla has always had a passion for working with young people, having worked as a teacher in both Queensland and then the Northern Territory. Upon her return to Queensland, she completed two Master's degrees, and has since gone on to also complete a Doctorate, earning her the title of Dr Carla Tromans. As director, Carla oversees the entirety of the college, and is always happy to help with anything you may need.

**Colleges:** International House is but one of ten colleges here at UQ. The other colleges include our neighbours Cromwell and Grace College, the single sex colleges Duchesne, Womens, Leo's and King's, and finally our fellow co-ed colleges Union, Emmanuel and St Johns. Each college has its own personality and events, and no doubt you will come to be familiar with these all through your time here.

**Cultural Activities:** We have a myriad of cultural activities throughout the year, all organised by our wonderful cultural convener. The cultural activities for the year include Bandfest, Dancefest, Choralfest, Chess, Debating and Artfest. Each cultural activity also serves as a competition, the points earned from which go towards the Cultural Cup at the end of the year. Like all sports, participation is always encouraged, even if an activity does not seem like your type of event! Here at IH, we also have cross-cultural events, which are organised by our X-C Convenor. These are designed to showcase the various cultures we have here at IH, and usually involve loads of tasty food.



**Deno's:** The holy grail of night-out fast food. Deno's kebabs can be found at the Ville (*see The Ville*), and is open until the early hours of the morning for any of your late night cravings. Mr Deno, the owner, is a revered, almost God-like figure to all college students here at UQ.

**Dining Hall:** Where all meals are eaten. The dining hall is open for three meals a day, and is staffed by the friendly kitchen-staff. No food, cutlery or plates are to be taken out of the hall.

**Exchanges:** The highlight of any socialite's week- each Thursday, the colleges at UQ organise a night out to explore Brisbane's nightlife and make the most of the cheap student drinks offered on a Thursday night. Our Social Convener will communicate details for every week's exchange through Facebook.

**Executive Committee:** The group responsible for organising the events and maintaining the college culture that we enjoy here at International House. See your fresher booklet or the college website for details on each member!

**Facebook Groups:** Here at IH we have a number of different Facebook groups that are used for various purposes. You will find out about these in O-Week-until then, don't worry too much!

**Fire alarms:** These can be set off by a number of things– actual fires, cooking smoke and shower steam, among other things. In the event of a fire alarm, everyone must evacuate (even if it goes off at 3am), so be vigilant around possible sources of smoke/steam and follow the fire panel instructions in the event of an alarm.

**Games room:** Where it all happens! Games room is located at the base of G-Tower, and is home to Shop, pool tables, speakers and a table tennis table. Games room is open to residents 24/7, but after 9pm it is advised for people to keep the noise down out of respect for the residents of G-Tower who live above.

**Go-Card:** An essential to travel using public transport in Brisbane. A go-card essentially replaces the need to purchase a ticket when using Brisbane’s buses, trains or Citycats, as you can top it up with however much money you want and then use it to ‘tap on’ every time you get on any of Brisbane’s public transport, and then ‘tap off’ when you are finished. Go-cards can be bought at any newsagents or corner store– don’t worry too much about buying one before O-Week however, as we will give you a chance to buy one during the week.



**Graham:** Graham is our operations manager, and oversees all of our facilities and grounds here at IH.

**(UQ) Health Centre:** The UQ Health Service is located on the other side of campus near the gym, and is home to a multitude of nurses, doctors and specialists such as psychologists and psychiatrists. They offer bulk billing and competitive prices– see them for any health needs, including prescriptions, check-ups or vaccinations.

**Housie:** A term of endearment used to describe each and every resident of IH, both past and present. The term was coined by our current director Carla Tromans, and is frequently used as a chant at sporting events. Other colleges bear similar nicknames for their residents– for example, residents of Women’s college are known as Wozzas, and members of Duchesne are known as Duch girls (pronounced Doo-sh).



**Ibis (bin chicken):** Opinions are divided regarding these large, almost reptilian-like birds



that stalk UQ and most of Brisbane. Some think of them as nothing more than ugly pests, while others consider them the rightful rulers of UQ. There has even been whispers that the Brisbane council is actually run by a tyrannical group of these dirty, bin-favouring birds, although these rumours are un-substantiated. What we do know, however, is that they should not be fed food scraps under any conditions, and that they should not be allowed near any bin, lest your bin juice be eaten.

**ICC:** The Inter College Council (or ICC) is a committee that plans and orchestrates all sporting, cultural and social activities between the colleges here at UQ. Each college has an ICC representative on the ICC committee, which is much like our own executive committee in its members and structure. Our ICC Rep this year is responsible for all inter-college cultural events.

**International House Student Club Inc.:** Each and every one of you becomes a member of the student club (optional for self-catered J and K Towers) once you attend IH and pay your fees, and thus the student club is comprised of the entire student body here at IH. The student club is governed by the executive committee (*see above*), but also contains a general committee, which has even more roles associated with everyday life here at IH.

**Internet Access:** Each UQ student studying at IH receives 50GB of data per month to be used. Wifi is provided throughout the towers, and each resident is also provided with an Ethernet cable in their room for faster, superior wired connections. Students studying at QUT or Griffith have different usage parameters- see the office for details on this.



**Ivor Cribb:** The first Warden of IH (the role we now call Director). The Ivor Cribb that most residents of IH know now however is the room that bears his name beneath the dining hall- Ivor contains a projector for watching movies, couches, air-conditioning, tutorial and study spaces with furniture, and the entry way to the computer labs and music room.

**Jill:** Jill is the accountant in the office, and is responsible for all of the colleges financing. Jill sits at the back of the office, and is always happy to help should you need it!

**Kim:** Yet another friendly face in the office, Kim sits behind the front desk and is your smiling first point of contact should you have any issues the office can fix.

**Libraries:** UQ contains multiple libraries, each containing textbooks and novels from all the different faculties. You can borrow textbooks whenever you need, but remember to return them. Some of UQ's libraries are even open 24/7.

**Mandy:** Mandy is our head chef in the kitchen, who I'm sure has plenty of great meal ideas planned for this year!

**NAAUC:** Stands for the National Association of Australian University Colleges. NAAUC hold a conference in a different part of Australia each year, which members of every college in Australia attend. Great professional development for aspiring leaders.

**O-Week:** The best week of the year. Seriously! What more do we need to say?

**Pieter:** Pieter is our groundsman and resident handyman. Pieter is always on hand to keep the gardens tidy and keep our facilities in tip top shape!

**Possums:** These furry friends are also residents of our grounds here at IH. Though they may look cute, possums are still wild animals, and will quite happily devour your two-minute noodles and urinate on your floor. And for any American residents, do not fear- the Australian possum is far removed from the more feral Opossums that inhabit the Americas.



**Queensland University of Technology:** Another esteemed university in Brisbane, which some of our residents attend. Though we poke fun at them, QUT is another great University with two campuses, one in Kelvin Grove and one at Gardens Point. For tips on getting to and from uni for QUT students, see our existing QUT students.

**Renovations:** Over the last few years, much of IH has been renovated and refurbished with a new coat of paint, new furniture, new windows, doors and more. If your room looks more or less new, that's probably because it is.

**Rotary Club:** The Rotary Club and IH have a long history, with the Club having donated much over our time as a college.



ROYAL EXCHANGE HOTEL

**Royal Exchange Hotel:** A staple of the Brisbane University student's nightlife diet. The Royal Exchange Hotel (or RE, for short), is our closest and favourite bar (bar the Red Room on campus), and pilgrimages are made to it every Sunday night during the semester. The RE is also one of the oldest bars in Brisbane, with some even whispering that our very own Director Carla used to frequent it in her own university days.

**Symantha:** Sam is our Advancement Director, and sits in the back of the office. She is responsible for much of our social media presence here at IH, and if you're lucky, she may even ask you for an interview or photo while you are here.

**Senior Residents:** These guys are a separate entity to the executive committee, and are there to ensure the wellbeing of each and every resident here at IH. Each SR is in charge of a tower – except G-Tower, which has two SR's because it has twice the residents. Within your tower, your SR is there to help you should you have any queries, questions or worries, or if you just need a chat. If at all during the semester you are feeling stuck at uni, or a bit home sick, or stressed about something, your SR is where we recommend to go first. Each SR has received a variety of special training, but if they can't help you with a certain issue, they will know who can. And remember, you aren't restricted to your SR– if you'd feel more comfortable talking to a different SR, then you can always do that too!

**Shop:** Purveyor of late night snacks, from biscuits to ice creams to sausage rolls. Shop is located down in Games Room also, and is being run this year by our very own Shop Convenor. You'll come to recognise the late night call that signals shop is open soon enough!

**Social Activities:** For the extroverts or those that prefer to frequent Brisbane's nightlife, IH's social activities are for you. Primarily organised by our Social Convenor, we have a wide variety of social activities planned throughout the year, from the weekly exchanged and RE nights mentioned previously, to balls and college parties. Even if drinking isn't your thing, you're still encouraged to join in any social events throughout the year. Alternate events are also often organised throughout the year!

**Sports:** There are a myriad of different sporting activities throughout the year, and while IH is certainly not known as a prodigious sporting college, we still join in and have fun. From touch rugby, to table tennis, to cricket, to swimming, there'll

definitely be a sport from everyone to enjoy throughout the year. The sports also serve as a competition between the 10 UQ colleges, encouraging a bit of friendly rivalry and camaraderie. Our male and female sports conveners organise our teams and make sure we have enough players for each sport.

**Student Support Services:** Student Support Services is located on the other side of the University, near the refectory, and as the name suggests, is there to provide any needed support throughout your studies here at UQ. The number for student services is +61 (7) 3365 1704.

**SWOTVAC:** SWOTVAC is the acronym for the period before exams here at university in Brisbane. It's a time period marked for most by endless coffee, mass cramming, and sleepless nights. Plan your time accordingly however, and SWOTVAC becomes a breeze. Also bonus points if you work out what SWOTVAC actually stands for!

**Toast:** Something you'll either come to love or hate, depending on how often you consume it during your time here. Toast is the most popular snack offered in our 24/7 side kitchen, and many a late night conversation following a night out has been had over a few slices of crunchy, peanut butter-lathered slices of toast. Have it with butter, have it with jam- but everyone should try it with vegemite, an Australian classic, at least once while you're here.



**Transport:** As touched on in the *Go Card* entry, there are a number of different ways to get around in Brisbane. Taxis and Ubers are available but expensive, so public transport is your best option. A Go-Card or money for a ticket is all that's needed to use Brisbane's popular buses, trains and Citycats. Visit <https://translink.com.au/> for more information!

**Turkey, Brush :** A distant cousin of the infamous and aforementioned Ibis, the lowly Brush Turkey has long been at war with the Ibis for dominance of UQ. Brush Turkeys love to make metre-high nests on the pathway from IH to UQ- disturb them at your own peril.

**Über:** The preferred means of transportation when public transport is not an option, Ubers are generally cheaper than a taxi and readily available. They are accessed through the Über app for your phone, which I highly recommended you download. Übers are



also easy enough to split between multiple people, and informal arrangements are also often used to split costs between groups of people. A word of caution however– it is not the Housie way to leave a friend to go home in an Über alone, and we strongly recommend you never put an intoxicated friend in an Über alone, purely in the interest of safety.

**Valley, The:** The home of much of Brisbane’s nightlife. Fortitude Valley is a frequented location on a Thursday night exchange.

**Vending Machines:** The sworn enemy of shop (*see Shop*). These imposing metallic intruders popped up and have been hell-bent on driving Shop out of business.

**(The) Ville AKA Hawken Village:** The Ville is our nearest small shopping complex, and contains a load of great fast food restaurants, a supermarket, liquor stores and more.

**(E)Xams:** An unfortunate necessity of studying at university, exam season is held at the end of every semester.

**Yohan Nair:** Yohan is our Deputy Director, and has been since 2011. He is here to provide pastoral care to all residents alongside the Senior Resident team. If you have any issues with study, or require a tutor, Yohan is the man to see! He is always happy to help and sits in the first office on the right within the Office. You’ll often also spot his two young children, Eli and Noah, who are often seen running around the grounds.

**Yuki:** Likely the person you have been emailing from IH while arranging your stay here! Yuki sits in the office and is always happy to help.

**Zombie:** The state most students exist in during SWOTVAC.