

Be Aware - Take Care



How to Stay Safe



**A Guide to Security and Personal Safety for
International Students**

Security	6226 7600	Hobart
	6324 3336	Launceston and Burnie
Police	000	Emergency
	131 444	Non-Urgent

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet has been written to provide International Students with safety tips and advice which can help you to stay safe and also to let you know what UTAS Security can offer you.

Tasmania is a generally safe and peaceful place to live, study and enjoy University life. It has the lowest overall crime rate in Australia, which is itself considered a very safe country by global standards.

However nowhere is completely crime free, and learning how to stay safe is an important skill that will be useful for the rest of your life, wherever you happen to live.

Please read and follow the safety tips in this booklet, tell your friends, and always report any suspicious behaviour, abuse or crime.

Important! Before the end of your first day, please put the following numbers into your phone, or write them down to carry in your wallet or purse:

Security

Hobart 6226 7600

Launceston 6324 3336

and Burnie

Police

Emergency only 000

Non emergency 131 444

(Call this number when you want Police to attend, but the situation is not dangerous or a life-threatening emergency)

REPORTING INCIDENTS

What sort of things you should report

- Any abuse or harassment about your race, gender, religion or any other reason
- Suspicious people hanging around the university
- Any suspicious behaviour, no matter how minor it seems
- Any act of violence either to yourself or someone you know
- Any thefts
- Any lost keys or access cards. Someone could be committing crimes in your name

If you are unsure or need help or advice about safety, please call Security

Who should you report incidents to

It is important that you report any incident to UTAS Security if you are on – campus, or Tasmania Police if you are anywhere else. If you prefer, you can discuss what has happened with International Services staff who can help make a report for you.

Why you should report

When you make a report, it helps Police or Security to catch offenders before they can do it again.

Both UTAS Security and Tasmania Police rely on witness and victim reporting to know where and when problems are happening so that they can take action to prevent incidents from happening again.

When an incident has been reported it is investigated and then logged in an incident report. This is used to decide where extra security measures like security patrols, cameras and lights etc should be used.

This makes the community safer for everyone.

Important! Reporting a crime does not mean you have to go through with a court case, police will only take action if you want them to.

STAYING SAFE ON-CAMPUS

UTAS Security will respond immediately to any on-campus emergency call

Security Escorts

- If you feel frightened or in cases of concern, Security Officers are available to escort students and staff between buildings, campus car parks, and local public transport points on campus. Please call Security to arrange this service

Important! Security Officers are only allowed to operate on University property. They are not allowed to provide escort to homes or anywhere off-campus.

Help Points

- Know where the Help Phones are on campus. A map is available at www.utas.edu.au/campus/campus_maps.html You will need to click on the Functions Map for your campus
- Press the button to call Security direct

Your Personal Safety

- Don't ignore your intuition. Your 'sixth sense' could save you from danger
- Recognise potentially dangerous situations before they develop
- If you think there may be danger, make a safety plan. Think about what you would do if you felt threatened
- Keep your purse or wallet secure, and always hold bags and briefcases close to your body
- Never leave your keys, purse, wallet or bag or other items of property unsecured or unattended

Out Walking

- Walk confidently. Confidence deters attackers
- Always walk with a friend or in a group, especially at night. NEVER walk or leave a building alone at night
- Keep to well-lit populated areas with lots of activity. Don't take short cuts, especially at night
- NEVER accept lifts, especially from people you don't know
- Avoid making conversations with strangers in cars or on foot, when out walking- it is better to seem rude than to be in danger
- Be aware of your surroundings. Wearing headphones or talking/texting on your mobile will make you less alert to what is happening around you
- If someone follows you, change direction and go to where there are other people
- Be prepared to scream and shout as loudly as you can if you are attacked
- Ignore verbal harassment. Do not respond as it could make the situation worse. Ignore it and move to somewhere safe. Always report incidents to Security

STAYING SAFE WHEN SOCIALISING

All the safety tips from the previous section, especially about walking at night, also apply to when you are out socialising in your free time. There are also many safety tips that are just about how to have a safe social life, so you can have fun without bad things happening.

Important! If you experience problems while you are out in the community, you must call Police for assistance as UTAS Security are not allowed to operate outside University property.

Before you go out

Always tell a trustworthy person

- Where you are going
- Who you are going to be with
- What time you expect to be home
- If you change your plans later, call or text the person to let them know

Safe Socialising

- NEVER drink and drive – always have a sober person with you who can drive, or catch a taxi
- Don't drink too much while out socialising, keeping a clear head makes it easier to make wise decisions about personal safety
- If a friend goes missing while you are out, make sure you look for them
- Always report suspicious behaviour
- Always keep enough money with you to get home safely
- Always take your mobile or a phone card with you
- Always call a taxi to your venue when leaving. Do not go walking the streets to try and find one

Drink Spiking

‘Drink Spiking’ is a serious offence which occurs when drugs or alcohol are added to someone’s drink without their knowledge or approval. Any drink can be spiked, including soft drinks, juice, water or alcohol.

Drink spiking can happen to men or women. A victim of drink spiking may be vulnerable to sexual assault, robbery and other harmful actions. There are a range of things you can do while out that can help to keep you and your friends safe from drink spiking.

- NEVER leave drinks unattended and avoid sharing drinks.
- Don’t accept drinks from strangers
- Refuse drinks that look, smell or taste strange, particularly strong tasting drinks.
- Ensure that you see your drinks being poured or opened
- Leave the venue with people you trust, and go to a place of safety if you feel
 - o Strange
 - o More tired or drunk than you should be
 - o Very confused
 - o Sick
 - o Faint or light headed
 - o Dizzy or disoriented
- If a friend complains of feeling like this or behaves out of character, get them to a place of safety or seek medical assistance if necessary

SECURITY

HELP POINTS



- **Press the Button to Call Security Direct**
- **Know Where Help Phones are On-campus**