About The Armidale School

The Armidale School (TAS) is an independent, Anglican boarding and day school predominantly for boys, located in Armidale on the New England tablelands of northern New South Wales, Australia. Armidale is approximately half way between Sydney and Brisbane, and two hours inland. Sitting at an altitude of approximately 1000m, Armidale has a population of around 23,000, a university (University of New England) and is know as an education centre for the region.

Founded in 1894 as the New England Proprietary School, TAS has a non-selective enrolment policy and currently caters for approximately 620 students, including 200 boy boarders from Years 6-12.

Focussed individual education has been a key feature and strength of The Armidale School throughout its history. We remain committed to a broad, liberal education that promotes self-esteem and gives students the confidence to tackle new challenges.

Whether it be creative arts, sport, service or adventure activities, traineeships or international exchange, the school to helps find and support each boy’s involvement in worthwhile and personally important endeavours.

The boarding environment reinforces our belief in the importance of the secure family unit by creating a home away from home. TAS continues to regard the boarding experience as an educational and social advantage where students learn independence, responsibility and consideration for others as well as developing a strong spirit.

TAS offers Middle School Boarding (Years 6-8) accommodated in two houses along with three senior boarding houses, Abbott, Tyrrell and Croft (Yrs 9-12). As an exchange student, you will be accommodated in one of the three senior boarding house with the opportunity to take weekend leave on invitation from other students and their families.

Round Square

The Round Square IDEALS are part of the everyday life of a TAS student with a broad outdoor education program including cadets, surf lifesaving, bushfire fighting, responsible environmental stewardship, active exchange and GAP student program along with community service.

You will be expected to participate in our activities program as part of your exchange program and become fully immersed in the classroom and day to day life of the school.
About Armidale

Armidale is a centre of educational excellence and is home to Australia’s oldest regional university, the University of New England. Armidale also has two independent girls’ boarding schools and the New England Institute of TAFE.

The district has a cool temperate climate with four distinct seasons – pleasant warm summers, extended spring and autumn seasons, and cool to cold winters with some frosty nights.

How Do I Get To Armidale

You should arrange to fly into Sydney International Airport and then transfer to a domestic flight to Armidale (Qantaslink). There are currently four flights per day to and from Sydney and you should ensure that the connection avoids an overnight stay in Sydney. The last flight to Armidale daily is 7.00 pm.

Alternatively, you could catch the train from Sydney to Armidale but it is unlikely that your arrival timings will allow you to catch the daily train that leaves at 9.30am each day and arrives in Armidale at 6.20pm.
Do I Need a Visa?
*(Overseas Exchange Students Only)*

You will need to check with the Australian Department of Immigration:  www.immi.gov.au

You will have already received your formal invitation from us and it is important to recognise that this is a 'cultural' exchange and, more often than not, a tourist visa is adequate. The exchange must remain within a 90 day period.

What Uniform Will I Wear?

We like you to wear your own uniform so that our students and staff know that you are a visitor and will look out for you throughout your stay.

In winter, grey pants and white shirts are standard and in the summer khaki shirt and shorts are worn. Our Uniform Shop will loan uniform where necessary and, if returned in the same condition, you will not incur a cost. All clothes should be clearly named (except socks and underwear which may be placed in a separate, named washbag for laundering) so that the school’s laundry can identify your clothes and return them to the correct boarding house.

Bond
*(Applicable to Year 10 Exchanges Only)*

There is a $AUD 700 bond payable to TAS. You may be involved in school trips, private excursions, incur medical costs or purchase items from our school shop. These expenses will be deducted from your bond. The balance will be refunded to you at the conclusion of your exchange when all costs have been accounted for.

The bond is payable to the following account:
The Armidale School
Westpac Banking Corporation
Barney Street,
Armidale NSW 2350
Australia

BSB: 032607
Acc No: 890309
SWIFT Code: WPACAU2

*Please email: accounts@as.edu.au with advice at the time of payment.*

Spending Money

Make sure you have a cash card with international access - you should carry limited cash and withdraw funds as you need them. You may visit the shopping centre two or three times a week after school for personal needs. This is only a four block walk from TAS.

Any excess cash funds should be kept in the safe in the Business Office along with your passport and other valuables. These are accessible by you any day of the working week. It is also a good idea to bring a couple of padlocks for your boarding house cupboard and locker in the main campus (or you may purchase padlocks on arrival).

We will never leave you in a position where you are compromised by a lack of funds at any time. The understanding is that all families entering into the exchange program does so with a commitment to make good any legitimate costs over and above the bond.

Medical Insurance

You must have medical/health insurance prior to arriving at TAS. Usually funds will be used from the bond to pay for unexpected medical charges and receipts provided for claiming the insurance in your home country upon your return. A copy of your medical insurance must be provided before, or upon, arrival.

Computer and Mobile Phone

TAS has a 1:1 laptop program where you will be issued with a laptop computer for the duration of your exchange. There will be a charge applied for this use and will be deducted from your exchange bond at the rate of $16.25 per week.

It is important that you understand that if the computer is damaged in any way, you will be liable to pay the excess insurance fee of $250.00. A “Laptop Insurance” document will need to be signed by your parents and returned.

NB: It is not an option for you to bring your own laptop as we are unable to give you access to the school network.

If you bring your mobile phone, ensure that you have looked into the costs of global roaming OR that you purchase a sim card on arrival to minimise phone costs. Remember to bring an appropriate adaptor to charge your phone.

It is important to consider the impact of too much contact with home. A large part of the experience of going on exchange is to test your resilience and your ability to manage a new and sometimes foreign environment. We recommend weekly contact as being reasonable and expect you to approach your Housemaster or Round Square Representative to solve any issues you may face.
Co-Curricular Activities

At TAS, education is seen as more than just academic excellence. It is about the training and skill development needed for life. Our co-curricular program is designed to engage, challenge and broaden the experience of all students.

Sport

TAS offers a broad range of sports that will vary between seasons. More detail about these can be found on the website: http://teams.as.edu.au/groups/sport

You should bring your own running shoes, navy shorts if you have them and some training gear.

Team uniforms will be provided on a ‘loan’ basis.
- Summer Sport - Terms 4 and 1
- Winter Sport - Terms 2 and 3

Should you play a sport that requires protective equipment, you might consider bringing along the smaller items, ie. shin pads for soccer, mouthguard etc.

Medical Centre & Pastoral Care

A well appointed Medical Centre offers care and comfort to students seven days a week. A fully qualified nursing Sister is on duty day and night and the School doctor visits regularly. External medical and dental appointments can be arranged where necessary. Charges will be deducted from your bond.

Every student is assigned to an Advisor. This person is a member of staff and is responsible for overseeing your academic and pastoral needs and dealing with day to day issues. The pastoral care network is coordinated by the Director of Pastoral Care, Chaplain and School Counsellor, all of whom are available to all students at most times.

Cultural

Music, visual arts and drama play an important role in the life of TAS students. Students are able to join a range of music ensembles including bands, jazz, guitar, brass ensembles, the TAS Singers and Chapel Choir.

A 240 seat performing arts theatre, specialised art rooms (including a potter’s kiln) and music centre with recording studio enrich our offering to students.
**Daily Routine**

7.15–8.00am  
Boarders’ breakfast, Inspection and Roll  
Call is by internal arrangement by Houses.  
All boys must attend.
8.30am  
Staff briefing in Common Room
8.45am  
Period 1
9.30am  
Period 2
10.15am  
Recess
10.35am  
Period 3
11.20am  
House Assembly, Advisor Group,  
Prefect Assembly (see notes)
11.40am  
Period 4
12.25pm  
Period 5
1.10pm  
Lunch
2.00pm  
Period 6
2.45pm  
Period 7
3.30pm  
Classes conclude
3.45pm  
Sports practices/Detentions
6.00pm  
Boarders’ Dinner
6.55pm  
Roll Calls (in Houses)
7.00pm  
Prep

**Notes**
- Advisor Groups will take place from 11.20 - 11.40 am  
each day, Monday - Thursday.
- Housemasters will call House Assemblies when  
required during these times.
- Senior & Middle School Assembly/Activities Briefings  
will be held on Tuesdays Period 3
- Chapel Wednesdays at 6.30 pm in Chapel
- Prefects Assembly - Fridays at 11.20 am

**Academic Timetable**

On arrival you will meet your ‘buddy’ in the boarding house,  
who will help you settle in and find your way around.

One of the first interviews you will have is with the Director  
of Studies to negotiate your timetable. There may be some  
small time allocation for some of your own studies but,  
generally, you are expected to be fully involved in day to  
day classroom learning and activities.

You will also meet with the Director of Pastoral Care to  
establish your Advisor Group, Activities program and then  
on to the Director of Co-Curricular to select your sport  
and any other interests you may have (ie. music, arts etc).

Outside of the school routine, you will be able to visit  
town at least a couple of times per week. It is only a short  
walk and boys take ‘town leave’ from the boarding house,  
returning by 5.00pm.

**Meals**

Meals are taken in the Dining Room with supper  
provided in the boarding houses following prep. You  
must advise of any special dietary requirements.

**School Rules and Regulations**

All exchange students are expected to abide by the School  
Rules.

House rules will be explained to you and your ‘buddy’ will  
assist you with all the settling in processes.

**Housemaster**

Your Housemaster is your guardian throughout your stay at  
TAS and, along with the Round Square Representative, will be  
your first point of contact for day to day queries or concerns.

We aim to make your exchange as positive and enjoyable  
as possible which will necessarily involve a similar effort by  
you to immerse yourself in the school, make new friends and  
engage in as many new activities as you can.
The Armidale School
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Postal address: Locked Bag 3003, Armidale NSW 2350 Australia

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