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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BULLETIN



17 November 2021

News and updates

COVID-19 update: 80 per cent state-wide settings

As of Friday 29 October at 6:00pm, Metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria are subject to the same state-wide settings under Phase C of the [Roadmap: Delivering the National Plan](#).

The new settings include eased density and capacity limits, if workers and customers are fully vaccinated.

If workers and customers are not fully vaccinated with two doses, or venues do not check vaccination status, premises in regional Victoria may be forced to close, or operate with reduced capacity limits.

At 90 per cent, Phase D, on around Wednesday 24 November

- Capacity limits or density quotients will be removed for all settings.
- Masks will only be mandatory indoors in some high-risk settings such as hospitals, aged care, public transport and justice and correctional facilities.

Vaccination protects you, your family and those in the community who are unable to get vaccinated for medical reasons. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Businesses must verify their customers' vaccination status. If the customer has uploaded their COVID-19 Digital Certificate to their Service Victoria app, you will be able to see their vaccination status together with their check-in details.

There are new posters and other resources to help you, including posters for checking digital vaccination certificates.

For more information, visit [Checking customers' vaccination status](#).

For information on Victoria's Roadmap, industry restrictions or to book a vaccination, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

Thank you for helping to keep Victorians safe.

Update about Victoria's International Student Arrivals Plan

International students will start returning to Victoria by the end of 2021 under the Victorian Government's International Student Arrivals Plan, which has been endorsed by the Australian

Government.

The plan was developed in consultation with Victorian universities, and industry peak bodies from across the international education sector, including the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia, the International Higher Education Association, Victorian TAFE Association, Universities Australia, and English Australia and Asia Pacific Student Accommodation.

Under the first stage of the plan, to commence in December 2021, a limited number of places will be available each week for students of Victorian universities who need to urgently return to do practical work, including health and medical and also postgraduate research students.

The second stage of the plan will expand to include more students, including those who are enrolled with other education providers such as TAFEs, English-language colleges, private education providers and secondary schools.

Timing for the second stage is expected to start in early 2022. This and other details, such as how many students can arrive, will depend on Australia's international borders and progress in relation to the [national plan to transition Australia's COVID-19 response](#).

Read more about the [Victorian Governments International Student Arrivals Plan](#) (coronavirus.vic.gov.au/international-student-arrivals-plan).

Study Melbourne Research Partnerships grant recipients announced



Study Melbourne is pleased to announce the following 15 recipients of the [Study Melbourne Research Partnerships](#) (Stream One) supporting ground-breaking research projects between 11 Victorian Universities and TAFEs and international partners from 12 countries.

The 15 projects were selected through a rigorous merit-based process which looked at the quality of the research methodology, lead researcher and partner organisation; alignment with the institution's international research and education strategic objectives; and value for money. Final selection aimed to achieve a diversity of projects across institutions, research field and partner country.

Study Melbourne is supporting these ground-breaking research projects to enhance our connections to leading international institutions and attract global talent to Victoria.

The international education sector and partnerships like these support Victoria's world-class reputation for research excellence and helping our economy compete in a global field that is underpinned by research and innovation.

For more information visit the [Industry section of the Study Melbourne website](#).

Study Melbourne Leadership Labs Vietnam & Malaysia program outcomes

After six weeks of activities, our [Study Melbourne Leadership Labs](#)



Vietnam & Malaysia wrapped up on 19th October.

The program has been well attended, with 429 attendees across our panel events and workshops. We also had 950 interactions between mentors and mentees, including 134 video mentoring sessions.

Study Melbourne Leadership Labs Vietnam & Malaysia participants come from 32 universities, TAFEs and private institutions across Victoria, Vietnam and Malaysia. The program reinforces Study Melbourne's commitment to supporting student leadership, networking and social skills, critical for the future of work.

Study Melbourne Leadership Labs is part of [Study Melbourne Empowered](#), which builds international student capacity through a targeted strengths-based approach in the areas of employability, entrepreneurship, leadership and social capital.

Learn more about the [Leadership Labs program](#).

Study Melbourne Confidence Crew – Industry Award



Study Melbourne is thrilled to have taken out the [International Education Association of Australia \(IEAA\) Innovation award](#) for the nation-leading [Study Melbourne Confidence Crew program](#)!

Study Melbourne Confidence Crew beat out tough competition from across Australia for its role to strengthen social connectedness and student empowerment for Victorian international students.

Designed and delivered in partnership by Study Melbourne and Confidence Hackers under Study Melbourne's Empowered series, the program has gone from strength to strength, recognising the critical importance of connection, co-design and resilience as part of a non-clinical, proactive response to student wellbeing and empowerment.

Since 2020, Study Melbourne Confidence Crew has seen more than 2000 students engaged, including events and workshops co-designed and facilitated by student leaders. Popular events included community volunteering and a pop-up festival.

More recently, the program has provided practical and emotional support to South Asian students to demonstrate Victoria's solidarity to students impacted by the global pandemic in India and across the region through empowering stories of connection and resilience through 'Quadcasts' and 'Everyday Hero' events.

Study Melbourne has also partnered with Internash to deliver an [Everyday Heroes Latin America program](#) for our Latin American students, with the first event commencing on 28 October 2021.

Congratulations to Chris Lee and Kim Cleary in Study Melbourne, Anita Van Rooyen, Confidence Hackers and all the participating students and student leaders on this world-class program!

Study Melbourne Teacher Training Showcase

Study Melbourne in partnership with FutureLearn, is bringing a [curated selection of 10 online modules](#) to school teachers in Southeast Asia. The project will promote Victoria's strengths in teacher education and as a world class study destination.

Launched on 11 October 2021, courses cover a range of topics such as teaching children with additional needs, using storytelling as a teaching tool, flipped teaching, and communicating in English.

Study Melbourne would like to thank the following institutions which have contributed courses for the showcase: Deakin University, Federation University, Melbourne Polytechnic, Holmesglen TAFE, Australian Catholic University, The Australian Council for Educational Research, Deakin University English Language Institute (DUELI), and the StoryBox Library.

COVID-19 information and support

Victoria's current restriction levels

Victoria has moved to COVIDSafe Settings. For updates on current restrictions, please visit the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

Support for Victorian businesses

[Government assistance](#) is available for Victorian businesses impacted by COVID-19.

COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment

Workers in Victoria who are self-isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result can apply for a [\\$450 COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment](#), which provides financial support to those who cannot earn an income while they self-isolate

Partners in Wellbeing Helpline

[The helpline](#) is a confidential, one-on-one service providing support for small business owners and employees through coaches, financial counsellors and business advisors.

The helpline number is 1300 375 330.

Requirement for overseas and interstate licence holders to convert to a Victorian licence within six months of residing in Victoria

VicRoads has provided important information about Victorian driver licence requirements. Please share with your international students who may be impacted.

In October 2019, a change in the law required all overseas driver licence holders (irrespective of the type of visa held) and interstate licence holders to obtain a Victorian licence within 6 months of residing in Victoria. This requirement, which was suspended due to the impacts of COVID-19, has now recommenced.

Each driver will have unique circumstances and are encouraged to use VicRoads [online tool](#) to calculate the date by which they need to convert to a Victorian licence.

Overseas and interstate licence holders who wish to convert to a Victorian licence are encouraged to act now to ensure they have enough time to make any appointments necessary to complete all requirements before their conversion date.

Until their conversion due date, interstate and overseas drivers can continue to use their interstate or overseas licence to drive in Victoria as long as it is still valid.

For more information about the process of converting to a Victorian driver licence, visit the [VicRoads website](#).

Support for international students in need

Study Melbourne continues to provide help and support through our dedicated COVID-19 support hub. We encourage you to share this resource with your students.

International students in Victoria can access other support, including:

- help to find work through the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)
- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- a dedicated [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support hub](#)
- free [legal advice](#) on accommodation and employment matters
- confidential support and practical help through the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#)
- free, one-to-one support and advice to international students through the [Partners in Wellbeing](#) team
- for information about family violence and statewide support services visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Services Spotlight

Study Melbourne Student Centre



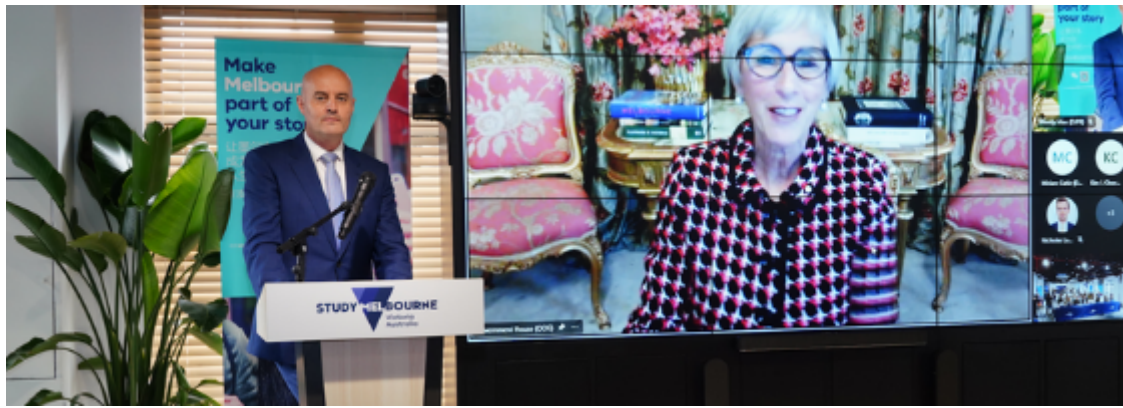
The Study Melbourne Student Centre building is temporarily closed for face-to-face appointments, but staff continue to work online and by phone to provide case management support and referrals for international students. This includes mental health support and free legal advice on employment and accommodation matters.

We have also enhanced the centre's resources to meet increased student demand, including case management and emergency assistance.

Visit the [Study Melbourne website](#) to find out how we can help.

Study Melbourne Hubs

Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai — The Power of Role Models



[Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai](#) was thrilled to invite Her Excellency Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, to address the Study Melbourne Hub Alumni Event: *The Power of Role Models* on October 18.

The event gathered over 50 students, alumni and university representatives at the Hub to learn about studying and living in Victoria.

Brett Stevens, Victoria's Commissioner to Greater China, hosted the event and highlighted Study Melbourne's support for international students through various initiatives.

Four fantastic Victorian alumni Jill Tang, Lin Zhang, Evan Zhang and Shujuan Wang shared their inspiring experiences in Victoria with the audience.

Study Melbourne Hubs in Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chi Minh City opening soon

With COVID-19 restrictions lifting in Malaysia and Vietnam, new Study Melbourne Hubs in KL and [HCMC](#) will officially open in the coming weeks. [The KL Hub](#) is currently able to host small numbers of students for study within the public health restriction caps, and Study Melbourne will advise providers when KL and HCMC are fully open to welcome students.

The Study Melbourne Hubs provide a location for offshore students to come together, access support and information on studying in Victoria, and participate in programs and events.

For further information and discuss how your institution can utilise the Study Hubs in KL, HCMC, Shanghai and India (virtual hub), please contact the relevant Study Melbourne Hub.

Industry News

Vietnam — Expression of Interest – Establishment of a centre for Teacher Education and School Leadership



Vinschool, a Vietnamese leading bilingual school system, is looking to establish a centre for Teacher Education and School Leadership in Hanoi. Vinschool is seeking consultation and content development services from Victorian providers to set up the foundation of the centre and deliver high-quality training to upskill Vietnamese teachers and school leaders. This is an excellent opportunity to provide services for a large Vietnamese private school group.

Vinschool education system consists of

- 13 primary schools

- 10 secondary schools
- 25 kindergartens.

The centre aims to train teachers in the Vinschool system and the broader Vietnamese teacher and school leader network. The centre will be based in Hanoi but will also offer online courses and act as an R&D hub that supports high-quality teaching and school improvement underpinned by evidence-based education. Vinschool requires two service types:

- Consultation services for system-level education design, including a high-quality teaching and learning framework and resources necessary for setting up the centre for Teacher Education and School Leadership
- Content for professional learning and development (PLD) for local teachers and school leaders.

Please contact Chau Ngo – Education Services Director, Vietnam at chau.ngo@global.vic.gov.au for further details and the EOI template.

Go to <https://vinschool.edu.vn/en/home-page/> for more details of Vinschool education system.

India — Study Melbourne Hub manager appointed



We are pleased to announce Abirami (Abi) Vilvanathan to the role of Manager, [Study Melbourne Hub India](#).

Based in the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office in Bangalore, Abi leads the operations of the India Study Hub, which is currently operating as a virtual hub.

Abi gained her master's degree in Australia and has over ten years of experience in corporate banking and education in Australia and India.

South Asia — IC3 Virtual Festival on 2 & 3 December 2021

[The Victorian Government Trade and Investment \(VGTI\) South Asia Office](#) invites Victorian universities and TAFEs to participate in the IC3 Festival (Thursday 2 & Friday 3 December 2021) organized by IC3.

[The IC3 Festival](#) celebrates career and college counselling through a series of virtual events offering learning, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities for counsellors, representatives, and leadership from high schools, universities, and industry.

The Festival provides opportunities for Victorian education providers to build global connections with the school sector in India. For more information, please contact Ms. Anita Kumari, Education Services Trade Manager – SA at anita.kumari@global.vic.gov.au.

South Asia — School counsellors' professional development virtual workshop series 2021-2022

The Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) South Asia Office invites Victorian education and training institutions and Victorian EdTech companies to participate in the School counsellors' professional development virtual workshop series 2021-2022.

VGTI-South Asia will deliver a series of professional development workshops for school academic guidance counsellors from November 2021 to May 2022.

One workshop will be held face to face and the remaining will be held virtually for school counsellors and teachers from across India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

The workshops are designed to provide a platform for counsellors to engage with experts from Victorian education and training institutions and Victorian EdTech companies to enhance their counselling and career advisory activities skills.

For more information, please contact Ms. Anita Kumari, Education Services Trade Manager – SA at anita.kumari@global.vic.gov.au.

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