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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BULLETIN



20 August 2021

News and updates

Melbourne, Australia's Best Student City 2022



Despite the global challenges of COVID-19, Victoria's world-class education institutions have adapted to maintain their compelling offering for international students.

International students who stayed in Victoria were supported by the Victorian Government through the \$45 million [International Student Emergency Relief Fund](#), the \$50 million [Emergency Hardship Support Payment program](#) and a suite of free support programs.

The above, combined with its relative safety, has helped maintain Melbourne's status as [Australia's best student city](#) and one of the best student cities globally.

To safeguard our overseas pipeline, the Victorian Government has committed to initiatives that will stimulate the sector and position Victoria for recovery.

[The International Research Partnerships Program](#) will support major research projects between Victorian public institutions and international industry or institutional partners. It will also support collaboration between Victorian EdTech companies, education providers, researchers, and international organisations.

[The Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program](#) will drive demand overseas by enabling Victorian universities and TAFEs to provide scholarships to students undertaking an English language or foundation course, before transitioning to their principal course.

Our global network of [Study Hubs](#) will provide support to our current international students who are studying online overseas, as well as prospective students. Our first Hub has opened in China, with Vietnam and Malaysia opening soon and India and Latin America operating virtually.

We look forward to welcoming international students back to Melbourne when conditions allow and are confident that our high standard and quality of living, vibrant multicultural society and world-class institutions offer students a globally competitive education experience.

International Student Arrivals

Creating a pathway for our international students to safely return to Victoria as soon as it is safe to do so remains a priority for the Victorian Government.

Victoria's International Student Arrivals Plan will create a safe pathway for limited numbers of international students to return to study in Victoria. The plan is being developed in consultation with the Australian Government.

For more information and updates please check our [student arrivals webpage](#).

The Study Melbourne Research Partnerships



The \$3.6 million [International Research Partnerships Program](#) is an initiative under the International Education Short Term Recovery Plan 2020-21 to support strategic international research partnerships, grow market access and strengthen Victoria's global reputation for education, EdTech and research.

The Program will provide support to the sector through two streams.

Under stream one, **Study Melbourne Research Partnerships**, delivered in partnership with leading research organisation VESKI, \$2.8 million will be provided to support major research projects between Victorian public institutions and international industry or institutional partners.

This will support the sector and drive international research collaboration, build strategic offshore partnerships for Victorian institutions, and strengthen the prestigious global rankings and reputation of Victoria's public universities and TAFEs.

Applications are now open for the first stream of the initiative, the Study Melbourne Research Partnerships Program (SMRP).

To register your intent to apply and to access the funding guide and application information please go to www.veski.org.au/smrp.

Applications close 12 noon on Monday, 23 August 2021.

Please feel free to contact VESKI if you have any questions at veski@veski.org.au.

Under stream two, the **Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance**, delivered in partnership with EduGrowth, \$800,000 will be provided to support efficacy research collaboration between Victorian EdTech companies, education providers, researchers, and international organisations.

This will help EdTech companies and institutions gain market access for EdTech products offshore and position Victoria as Australia's leading provider of education innovation around the

world.

Applications for the second program stream, the Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance, will open in September. We will be in touch again soon with further information on this opportunity.

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To find out more, visit the industry section of the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Pathway to Victoria Scholarship program



[The Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program](#) is a \$7.8m initiative under the Victorian Government's \$33.4 million [International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan](#).

The scholarships will support international students undertaking English language or foundation courses before beginning their principal course in Victoria, providing a pathway for students to enrol with Victorian providers.

This targeted support will help our TAFEs and universities to build a competitive advantage in the global market, rebuild the student pipeline, and protect and grow Victoria's international education sector.

The scholarships will be managed by Victorian universities and TAFEs and offered to selected students as part of the admissions process. All enquiries should be made directly with each institution.

To find out more, visit the industry section of the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Melbourne Writers Festival 2021 – Entries now open for international student storytelling competition



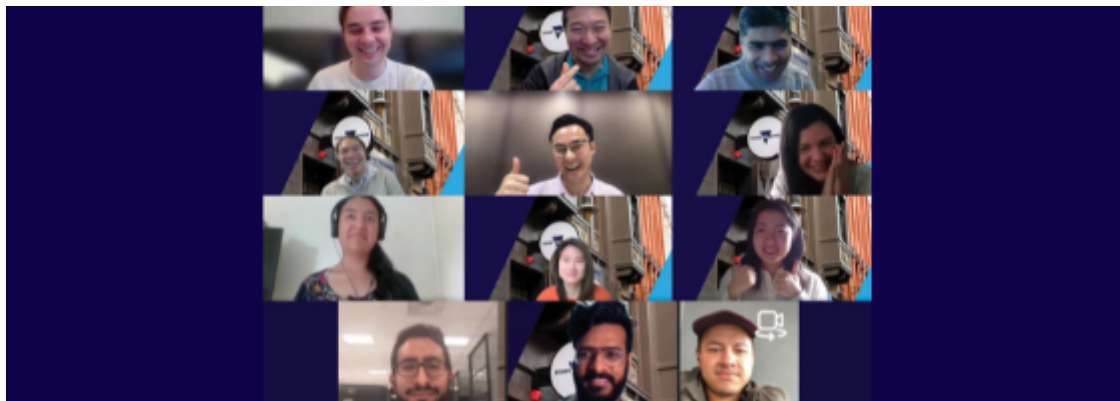
Study Melbourne has partnered with [Melbourne Writers Festival](#) to bring your stories to life in this year's storytelling competition: [Melbourne Beginnings](#).

Students can share a story that features real or fictional details of life in Melbourne.

There are amazing prizes on offer for the best storytellers across six categories. All genres, moods and styles are welcome.

Please share the [Melbourne Writers Festival webpage](#) with your international student networks.

Study Melbourne is excited to announce our Ambassadors for 2021



Study Melbourne is excited to announce the [Ambassadors for 2021](#).

Our Ambassadors will help create a rich and supportive community for current and prospective international students in Victoria.

Study Melbourne Ambassadors help to organise student events, programs and initiatives. They also contribute to our social channels, represent Study Melbourne at official functions, and share their experience, knowledge and insights with the international student community.

Study Melbourne Inclusion Program – Announcement



The [Study Melbourne Inclusion Program](#) is a Victorian Government Initiative funding 17 new projects worth \$625,000 to help Victorian International Students.

Since 2014, over 130 amazing projects have been funded.

The projects for 2021 will commence in August and include activities such as wellbeing through art, support on sexual and mental health, and employability and network building.

These events are designed to address and improve an international student's wellbeing, mental health and community cohesion.

For more information about the projects, visit the industry section of the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Study Melbourne Leadership Labs 2021 - 4Impact and Connect streams



[Study Melbourne Leadership Labs](#) is the Victorian Government's exclusive and free leadership and social entrepreneurship initiative for international students.

Leadership Labs 4Impact stream launched on **6 August 2021** and will see students form social impact teams based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Students will have a chance to pitch their social enterprises to win \$10,000 in scholarships from The Hacker Exchange.

Study Melbourne is also delighted to announce three social enterprise business leaders will mentor project teams focusing on climate action, quality education and reducing hunger over the 12-week program.

The mentors include [Bernado Tobias](#), OzHarvest; [Scott Douglas](#), Green Lab Futures, [Ruwangi Fernando](#), STEM Sisters and [Coby Liew](#), Registered Psychotherapist and Counsellor, Safe Place Therapy.

In 2021, a new stream, Leadership Labs Connect, will be supporting emerging and community leaders.

It will be establishing a state-wide student leadership and innovation network to strengthen the student voice through co-design and civic leadership and participation.

For more information about the program, visit the Leadership Labs website or email Program Lead - Empowered Chris Lee at chris.lee@global.vic.gov.au.

Students can [register here](#) for the 2021 program or learn about the [program's outcomes in 2020](#), including student testimonials and podcasts on the series.

Career Catalyst – An employability and career development hub for international students



[Study Melbourne Career Catalyst](#) is an employability hub that connects international students with industry and employers.

As the first international student career accelerator of its kind in Australia, Study Melbourne Career Catalyst offers an exclusive suite of free services, events, and initiatives designed to help students develop their professional skills, build industry connections, and launch their careers.

Attracting and retaining good employees is critical to addressing skills shortages and driving innovation – this initiative connects Victorian industries with the untapped potential of the local international student community.



Study Melbourne is also delighted to announce two [Career Catalyst scholarship winners](#) who will receive \$2,000 each to undertake Outcome. life's Work Readiness Program.

The winners were selected based on their participation and impressive skills development across Career Catalyst's interview online course, LinkedIn coaching and employability webinars. Congratulations to Shuo Wang and Harshili Shah – both studying IT at Monash University.

Watch their story videos on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

The integrated, strengths-based employability program is delivered through a partnership with [Outcome.Life](#).

Study Melbourne Confidence Crew: South Asia - Everyday Heroes



The [Study Melbourne Confidence Crew Program 2021](#) is a tailored 16-week virtual program that will help international students build their social connections and emotional resilience.

This Victorian Government initiative promotes solidarity to our on- and offshore South Asian international students impacted by COVID-19.

In the month of August and September the program will be running a 5-part series called [Everyday Heroes](#). The series will explore real everyday heroes in the form of current and former international students about what they are doing to make positive change in the world we live in.



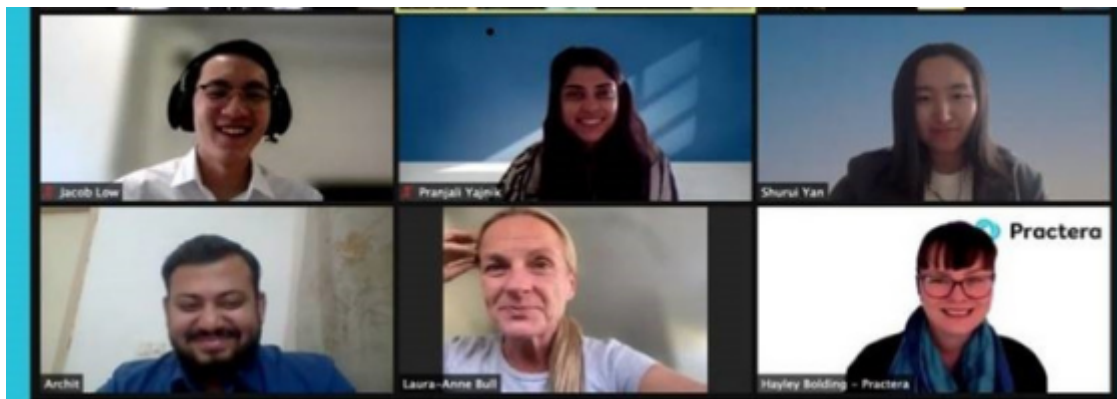
Study Melbourne is also excited to announce the winners from the [Confidence Crew Quadcasting program](#).

Victorian international students Maurice Amee (off-shore in China), Vrinda Singh (off-shore in India) and Ashvini Tamgadage (on-shore) created their [Quadcast #Relatable](#) about the struggles they faced with COVID-19.

Listen to all the podcasts on [Spotify](#) or <https://anchor.fm/confidence-hackers>.

We'd love your support to promote and share the [events](#) with your international student networks.

Global Student Talent Accelerator (GSTAR) Shanghai



In partnership with Practera, Study Melbourne recently delivered the [Global Student Talent Accelerator \(GSTAR\) Shanghai](#), a premium four-week work-integrated learning (WIL) program with over July 2021 across 34 projects with more than 170 international students, both onshore and in Shanghai.

In celebration of the program, Commissioner for Greater China Brett Stevens held a virtual celebration through the [Shanghai Hub](#) on 11 August 2021.

The program strengthened employability, collaboration and teamwork skills for students through the Shanghai Study Hub, fostering intercultural understanding and exchange between students, industry and education providers onshore and offshore.

Watch our work-integrated learning video on the [Study Melbourne website](#) to find out more.

Future Founders Program - HACKATHON



[The Future Founders Program](#) is a free year-long entrepreneurship program presented by Study Melbourne and StartSpace, with funding support from the Victorian Government.

As part of the program, we are running the Future Founders [48-hour Hackathon](#) (28-29 August online) to introduce students to entrepreneurship.

In September 2021, the [Future Founders Bootcamps](#) will allow international students to develop a business idea at a rapid pace.

The investment in the program is part of the Victorian Government's \$33.4 million [International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan](#) announced in the Victorian Budget 2020-21, which includes initiatives to reset and stimulate the sector and position Victoria for a strong recovery.

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.

COVID-19 information and support

Victoria's current restriction levels

Victoria has moved to COVIDSafe Settings.

A stay-at-home curfew is now in place. Between 9:00pm and 5:00am, you cannot leave your home (or the home of your intimate partner or bubble buddy) other than for limited reasons, including:

- authorised work
- health and medical purposes
- care and support of a child or someone with special needs
- in an emergency or to escape harm

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

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:

- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- help to find work through the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)
- a directory of [community support and food relief](#)
- access to [free legal advice](#) on accommodation and employment matters
- confidential support and practical help through the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#)

Study Melbourne Hubs



The Victorian Government is establishing a global network of [Study Melbourne Hubs](#) in key high-growth international education markets to support international students currently studying online with Victorian education institutions.

The Hubs will sit alongside the Government's network of 23 international Trade and Investment offices, offering students a shared physical space to connect and engage with one another and their institutions

The Study Melbourne Hubs are also available for Victorian education sector stakeholders (including education providers, educators, EdTech companies and agents) to hold activities and events to support student and industry engagement.

For more information about partnering with a Study Hub in your market, please visit the Industry section of the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Shanghai — Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai Highlights (June 2021)



Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai event

On 28 June, more than 60 students from the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Deakin University came together at the Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai for an End-of-Exam Celebration.

Brett Stevens, Victoria's Commissioner to Greater China and Fiona Letos, Director of International Education, congratulated the students on their hard work and accomplishments through remote learning.

Victoria providers and their in-country representatives also attended the celebration to share this special moment with their fellow students.

Please share the [Study Melbourne Hubs page](#) with your student networks for information about the latest events and support services.

Industry News

Vietnam — Meet our Education Services Director in Vietnam



Chau Ngo is Global Victoria's newly appointed Education Services Director in Vietnam. Chau has a background supporting Australian education and training projects, with a strategic communication and marketing focus, including a position in the education office at the Australian Embassy in Vietnam from 2017 to 2019.

Before joining Global Victoria, Chau coordinated the Tourism and Hospitality Industry Skills Board project, a DFAT-funded aid program aimed at addressing labour skills gaps in Vietnam. Representing SkillsIQ, Chau worked closely with the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET) and the DFAT Vietnam Aus4Skills program to better engage industry with Vietnam's vocational system.

Chau holds a Bachelor Degree in International Communication from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. She has a sound understanding of Vietnam's education market and a strong and diverse network across the country. Chau looks forward to working with both Victorian and Vietnamese education stakeholders to further promote Victorian education, training and research in Vietnam.

China — Victoria International Education Seminar held in Chongqing



India — Study Australia Virtual Education Showcase in South Asia (4-6 August 2021)

On 9 July 2021, the Victorian Government [Trade and Investment Office](#) hosted a dedicated Victoria International Education Seminar in the city of Chongqing in partnership with the

Chongqing Education Association for International Exchanges.

More than 50 participants from local universities and vocational colleges attended this seminar.

The purpose of this seminar was to profile Victoria's capacities in higher education and vocational education.

Representatives from the Swinburne University of Technology, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Polytechnic, Gordon Institute of TAFE and VETASSESS presented their collaboration programs to Chinese counterparts.

In his opening remarks, Victoria's Deputy Commissioner to China, Nick Henderson, highlighted Victoria's global reputation for high-quality and innovative international education services.

He also noted the number of new initiatives being implemented under the Victorian Government's [International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan](#), including the [Study Melbourne Hub in Shanghai](#).



[The Study Australia Virtual Education Showcase](#) in South Asia was a three-day virtual event held from **4-6 August 2021**, showcasing online educational and EdTech products from leading Australian institutions and EdTech companies from Australia.

This event is part of the [Australia India Business Exchange \(AIBX\)](#), the Australian Government's flagship program to advance trade and investment links with India.

This year's program offered a blend of virtual events, in-market activities, and digital resources to support Australian exporters seeking to enter the Indian market.

The showcase provided students, schools, institutions, EdTech companies and entrepreneurs a platform to discuss, deliberate and explore best practices and solutions for digital education.

Several Australian Exhibitors participated in this event, including four Victorian universities: Deakin University, Monash University, RMIT University and The University of Melbourne.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission organised this virtual event in South Asia with Study Melbourne as the content partner.

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