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Welcome to the **September 2023** edition of the Study Melbourne Student Update!

If you are on your mid-semester break, we hope you take a quiet moment to unwind in between catching up with work and other responsibilities.

For travel and entertainment ideas to help you pass the time, check out our [What's On section](#) for travel and entertainment ideas. And if you're eligible, be sure to take advantage of the [International Student Travel Pass](#) and **save 50%** on your public transport fares.

Study Melbourne has an exciting calendar of professional development and networking events coming up, including:

- Future Founders Pitch Competition
- Free resume and interview workshops
- The Amazing Race: Melbourne

If you haven't already, make sure you follow us on socials for all the latest news, events, tips, and advice for living and studying in Victoria. Read on for all the details.

Study Melbourne Team

STUDY MELBOURNE **EVENTS**



UPCOMING EMPOWERED EVENTS

Study Melbourne has many free events and activities running as part of our [Empowered Series](#) ('Empowered') - a suite of professional development and transition programs for international students. Check out what's coming up and register now!

Career Catalyst

- **3 October, 12pm - 1pm:** [Refining your resume and cover letter](#) - Learn how to refine your resume and craft a compelling cover letter that leaves a lasting impression on potential employers.
- **5 October, 5pm - 7pm:** [Unleashing your identity](#) - Join our personal branding experts to unleash your identity, step into your own spotlight, and build your personal brand!

Future Founders

- **2-29 October:** [Future Founders Pitch Competition](#) - Applications for the Study Melbourne Future Founders Pitch Competition run throughout October. Submit your best 3-minute business idea pitch for a chance to win up to \$5,000 AUD.

Leadership Labs

- **Until 19 October:** [CONNECT Series](#) - Build on your leadership mindset and skills and network with your fellow peers and community leaders by attending the Study Melbourne Leadership Labs CONNECT series!

Everyday Heroes

- **4 October, 11am - 1pm:** [The Amazing Race \(Melbourne\)](#) - Get ready for an action-packed activity of solving clues, discovering Melbourne's hotspots and meeting fellow students—your ultimate initiation into Melbourne life!
- **17 October, 5:30pm - 8pm:** [Strike a Balance - Mental Wellness & Social Connection](#) - Learn how to manage your studies, social life and the stress of exams before teaming up for a bowling competition with other international students!



GLOBAL CITIZEN YOUTH LEADERS AWARD - APPS CLOSE SOON!

The Victorian Government, through Study Melbourne, is partnering with Global Citizen to deliver an international youth leadership summit in Melbourne in March 2024. The Youth Leaders Award provides 30 young leaders in the Asia Pacific with the chance to participate in the summit. Apply before Thursday 5 October 2023 on [Global Citizen's website!](#)



LET'S TALK ABOUT: RESPECT, EQUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Study Melbourne is organising a free training session for international students, focused on helping you better understand and respond to intimate partner violence. The session—delivered by FVREE, a leading specialist family violence service—will dive into topics of respect, equality, and relationships.

DATE/TIME: 12 October, 4pm – 5:30pm

LOCATION: Study Melbourne Hub, 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne

[Register now](#) and make a positive impact in your community!



NGV LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

Discover Victoria's vibrant art scene and practise your English skills at the NGV Language Exchange Program! The next session, 'A Focus on Fashion', will run on 13 October, where you'll get the chance to create your own fun fashion accessory with Melbourne artist, and international student alumni, Scotty So. The NGV Language Exchange is supported by Study Melbourne through the [Study Melbourne Inclusion Program](#).

More information about NGV Language Exchange events, including how to register, can be found on the [NGV website](#).

UPDATES



Making connections at the International Student Careers Fair

Over 1,000 students attended our first-ever Study Melbourne International Student Careers Fair, held at the SEEK headquarters!

Over the course of a very busy and energetic day, students engaged with over [30 employers](#) from a range of different industries and picked up important career pathway options, visa information and job search advice from our presenters, including international student alumni, SEEK and the Department of Home Affairs.

Don't worry if you missed out; you can view the presentation slides from information sessions that run throughout the day on [our website!](#)



Fun at the Future Forte Conference

Everyone is still buzzing from the recent Future Forte Conference held on 9 September!

Proudly supported by Study Melbourne, Future Forte saw its biggest attendance to date, with 245 participants from 46 different countries coming together to raise the visibility of women and gender diverse international students through thought provoking, engaging and inspiring panels, presentations and workshops.

You can connect with Future Forte on [LinkedIn](#), where you can discover conference highlights and become a part of this vibrant community!



Exciting engagements at Study Melbourne Hubs around the world

Throughout August and September, our global network of Study Melbourne Hubs ran exciting events to engage with students around the world, including:

- **Study Melbourne Hub Kuala Lumpur** launched [Career Ignite](#), a program for aspiring graduates to be mentored by experienced professionals on a transformative journey towards professional development and growth. Sixty mentees and 30 mentors gathered for a panel discussion about 'Future Careers', where mentees gained valuable insights from the panelists on the importance of having skills such as developing a meaningful network and overcoming challenges as they embark on their career journeys.
- **Study Melbourne Hub Ho Chi Minh City** held a Back to School Gathering, which welcomed a group of 18 participants, who had the opportunity to hear from a Melbourne alumnus about life as an international student in Victoria, and to participate in fun activities such as learning new Aussie slang and morse decoding.
- **Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai** hosted a Yoga Night event, where 20 prospective students and alumni gathered to partake in a memorable experience that combined yoga exercise, mindfulness and the promotion of healthy living.

To learn more about our different overseas Study Melbourne Hubs, visit [our website!](#)

SERVICES & SUPPORT

Beware of scams targeting Chinese international students

Recently, there has been a rise in scams targeting the Mandarin-speaking community, particularly Chinese students. These typically involve the scammer (speaking in Mandarin) pretending to be a Chinese authority figure and threatening to extradite students to China unless money is paid. Sometimes, the scams also involve victims staging their own kidnapping at the demand of the scammer to extort money from the victim's family.



Keep yourself safe by learning more about these scams on [our website](#) and on the [Victoria Police website](#). There are guides written in Mandarin and English.

We Speak All Languages

The Study Melbourne Hub is dedicated to ensuring you can communicate effectively in your preferred language. If you require assistance, interpreters are available to translate messages, information and ideas across languages, including sign language. For convenient interpreter access, dial the Study Melbourne Hub at 1800 056 449 and we'll arrange interpreter assistance on your behalf.



For more resources and further information, head to [our website](#).

Gig Workers' Hub

Gig workers now have a place in the heart of Melbourne where you can take a break and access essential amenities.

[The Gig Workers' Hub](#) is a warm comfortable place where you can charge your phone, use the kitchenette and bathroom, and get free snacks and bike lights. The Hub also provides information about gig work to support your safety and wellbeing.



The Gig Workers' Hub is an initiative of the City of Melbourne Micro-Labs. It's open Thursdays and Sundays, 2 pm to 5 pm at Micro-Labs, 227-229 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

The International Student Lounge Geelong

Supported by Study Melbourne, the International Student Lounge Geelong

—located on **237 Malop Street, Geelong**—provides a dedicated and inclusive space for post-secondary international students living and studying in Geelong, where they can learn about their new environment and culture.

The Lounge Drop-in Centre is open on Monday and Thursday from 5pm- 8pm, and includes a free, healthy hot meal.



The Lounge also features an engaging program of fun activities and information sessions covering issues relevant to international students, to support their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

Study Melbourne Hub, Victoria



The [Study Melbourne Hub](#) (formerly called the Study Melbourne Student Centre) is a dedicated space for all international students in Victoria. We provide support, events, connections, and opportunities.

All international students are encouraged to visit the Hub to learn about the space and the services we offer. You can also contact us to make an appointment via email or our phone line.

At the Hub, you can:

- Access student workspaces
- Get tips on everything about living and studying in Victoria
- Enjoy free coffee, lollies and biscuits

Address: 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne.

Opening hours: 9 am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

Phone line:

- **Local call:** 1800 056 449
- **Overseas call:** +61 3 9623 1512

Email: info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au

Legal help at Study Melbourne Hub



The **International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service (ISEALS)** provides free and confidential legal advice to international students located anywhere in Victoria about their employment and accommodation rights. The service is available online or in-person at the Study Melbourne Hub, Victoria. We assist students with issues like:

- Underpayment
- Bullying and discrimination
- Injury at work
- Sexual harassment
- Unfairly being fired, or forced to quit your job
- Being engaged as an independent contractor
- Rental properties that fall below standard
- Issues with bond and rent
- Changes to renting arrangements

Students can contact the [Study Melbourne Hub](#) to make an appointment, and [visit the ISEALS webpage](#) for more information and short videos about the service.

Additional support for international students

Study Melbourne continues to provide help and support for international students including:

- [Utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- Free, one-to-one support and advice through [Partners in Wellbeing](#)
- Information about [family violence and state-wide support services](#)

USEFUL LINKS

Health and wellbeing

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Victoria updates](#)

[Study Melbourne Hub](#)



Work

[Working in Victoria](#)

[Your rights at work](#)

Transport

[International Student Travel Pass](#)

[Metro Trains](#)

Safety

[Student safety](#)

[Victoria Police](#)

Others

[Legal advice](#)

[Events](#)



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