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## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INSIDER

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the Study Melbourne International Education Insider.

A very happy new year to everyone and we hope you have come back from your break refreshed and ready for what is shaping up to be another big year in international education. We are also very excited to welcome all our newly commencing or continuing international students back to our vibrant city.

We kicked off this year with a festive Lunar New Year celebration at our [Study Melbourne Hubs](#), where we broke new ground by running our first ever joint celebration to virtually connect students from both cities.

Our second highlight so far has been the Research Partnership Showcase where we hosted stakeholders across education, industry and government to celebrate the Victorian education providers and research partners involved.

Finally, we'd like to recognise the significant contribution of Gonul Serbest who has been appointed as the Commissioner for Victoria to Europe effective 1 February 2023. We extend a warm welcome to [Danni Jarrett as the new CEO of Global Victoria](#), whose portfolio reflects an integrated trade and investment focus with international education at its core.

We look forward to staying connected, in what will be another exciting year for international education.

*Study Melbourne Team*

## NEWS & UPDATES

### Melbourne and Shanghai jointly celebrate Lunar New Year

For Lunar New Year, the Study Melbourne Hubs in Shanghai and Melbourne broke new ground by running their first ever joint celebration to virtually connect students from both cities. There was lantern making, painting and games to cheer on the festivities.



Through their interactions, students in Shanghai had the opportunity to learn more about studying and living in Victoria from their peers in Melbourne.

*"Good to know that there is a Study Melbourne [Hub] in [Victoria]...I really enjoyed the event and would love to join next time when I return to China for summer vacation."* said Dora Huang, a student from the University of Melbourne.

Fiona Letos, Director of Study Melbourne and International Education, and Brett Stevens, Commissioner for Victoria in Greater China joined in the festivities as well.

To discover upcoming events and programs, visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).



## Study Melbourne research partnerships showcase



Study Melbourne, in partnership with Veski, was delighted to celebrate the culmination of the Study Melbourne Research Partnerships, through the program showcase on Wednesday 1 February.

Held at the Investment Centre Victoria, and attended by over 50 stakeholders across education, industry and government, the showcase was a perfect opportunity to commend the Victorian education providers and research partners involved in the program.

The projects were prime examples of how Victoria's research strengths such as renewable energy technology, health, environmental sustainability, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing can be harnessed.

Victoria's Lead Scientist, Dr Amanda Caples delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of international research collaborations in building and maintaining Victoria's global reputation and leadership in research and education excellence.

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

## Australia joins global education treaty; qualifications to be recognised worldwide



Australia has signed the [UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education](#). It is the world's first-ever higher education treaty designed to ensure that qualifications earned in various countries are recognised internationally. This means that students who get their degrees from Australian education providers will be able to have that qualification recognised in other countries.

In a [media release](#) published on 24 January 2023, Australian Education Minister Jason Clare called Australia's participation in the treaty a "significant education milestone."

*"The 1.4 million students who study at our universities each year can now have even greater confidence that their Australian qualification, whether undertaken onshore, offshore or online, will be recognised in other countries, helping them to access higher education abroad, as well as pursue greater employment opportunities." he said.*

## Australia Awards scholarships



Applications for the 2024 Australia Awards scholarships are now open.

Australia Awards are prestigious, transformational scholarships and short courses offered to emerging leaders from developing countries for study, research and professional development in Australia and the region so they can return home and contribute to their nations' development, prosperity and resilience.

Australia Awards Scholarships provide opportunities to citizens of participating countries, for full-time undergraduate or postgraduate study at Australian institutions.

All recipients of Australia Awards become part of the [Australia Global Alumni](#), connecting them to Australia and to each other – building an engaged and influential global network of leaders and advocates, and establishing a network of ambassadors for Australia and its first-class education system.

Applications for the 2024 Australia Awards scholarships will open on **Wednesday 1 February 2023** and close on **Monday 1 May 2023 at 11.59 pm AEST**.

For the full list of scholarships, visit the [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website](#).

## Find out about Study Melbourne's employability programs



Are you interested in helping your students take the next step in their careers and improving their employability?

Join us for afternoon tea and a networking event, as we share how our [Empowered](#) programs can complement and enrich your students' career development through areas of leadership, volunteering, digital skills and innovation, and entrepreneurship, with more details about upcoming events and workshops.

This session is ideal for education providers working in international student support and career and employability programs. International students are also welcome to join the session.

### Event details:

- **Date:** 28 February 2023
- **Time:** 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Location:** Study Melbourne Hub, 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne
- [Book your spot](#)

## Student Experience Network Webinar - New initiatives from Deakin University and La Trobe University funded through the International Education Resilience Fund

Hear about new student experience initiatives from La Trobe University and Deakin University at our Study Melbourne Student Experience Network webinar.



Badraa AL-Darkazly, Manager of International Student Support at La Trobe University, will discuss La Trobe's holistic approach to student support.

Amanda Mayor, from Deakin University's Graduate Research Academy and Professor Jamie Mustard, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Graduate Employment at Deakin, will discuss new programs offering placement initiatives for PhD students and graduates.

Each presentation will include successes and challenges, key learnings and takeaways, and plans for the future.

This series is designed to support the international education sector to deliver continuously improved international student support and services.

#### Event details:

- **Date:** 8 March 2023
- **Time:** 10 am – 11 am
- **Location:** Virtual
- [Book your spot](#)

## MARKET ENGAGEMENT

### Study Melbourne monthly sector briefing



Study Melbourne is pleased to announce the third round of international education sector briefings, which focus on a different market and/or region each session.

Delivered by our in-market Commissioners and Education Services Managers, these briefings provide on the ground market intelligence and updates regarding new opportunities, student/agent feedback, competitor activities, changes to education policies and various Victorian Government business development activities in market.

Upcoming market briefings:

- Southeast Asia, **9 March 2023:** 2 pm - 3 pm AEST
- Middle East and Africa, **6 April 2023:** 2 pm - 3 pm AEST
- Latin America, **4 May 2023:** 9 pm - 10 pm AEST
- South Asia, **1 June 2023:** 2 pm - 3 pm AEST
- North Asia, **6 July 2023:** 2 pm - 3 pm AEST

Register your attendance on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

We would appreciate your assistance in sharing these events with colleagues within your institution who work as regional specialists, or who might be interested in attending these sessions.

Contact Atal Samad at [atal.samad@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:atal.samad@global.vic.gov.au) for further enquiries.

### Study Melbourne Open Day in collaboration with Shanghai Singapore International School

On 14 January, the Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai hosted 50 parents from the Shanghai Singapore International School (SSIS) for a Study Melbourne-themed brunch. This event helped the school learn about Victoria's university pathways and diverse educational opportunities.





*"What a wonderful experience to attend the brunch event hosted by Study Melbourne and SSIS!" said Susan, a parent of a Year 10 student. "We are considering sending our son to Melbourne for university study, and this event is quite on time!"*

The Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai will continue to host activities to promote Study Melbourne and provide on-the-ground support to Victorian education providers to attract more students to Victoria.

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

## Colfuturo Roadshow



Natalia Piedrahita, the Victoria Government educational consultant in Colombia, was pleased to be a part of the Colfuturo Roadshow which visited six Colombian cities to meet with high potential students and promote Victoria's world-class educational institutions and research capabilities.

Colfuturo is Colombia's premier scholarship program, offering financial aid to Colombian students pursuing postgraduate and doctoral studies abroad.

Four Victorian universities have signed agreements with Colfuturo that include tuition fee reductions, scholarships, and increased funding for English language courses. According to Colfuturo, 438 Colombian students have been selected to attend Victorian universities since the program's inception in 1992.

Through the roadshow, Natalia engaged with candidates and highlighted the quality of Victoria's education institutions as well as its reputation for research excellence.

For more information, please visit the [Colfuturo website](#) or email [natalia.piedrahita.consultant@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:natalia.piedrahita.consultant@global.vic.gov.au)

## Study Melbourne pre-departure session



On 3 February 2023, the "Pre-Departure Briefing 2023: Melbourne VR Station" was successfully held by [Study Melbourne Hub HCMC](#), in collaboration with Melbourne Overseas Vietnamese Student Association (MOVSA).

The event offered students coming to Victoria opportunities to explore study abroad experiences from guest speakers from Study Melbourne and other overseas students in Victoria.

We would like to express our appreciation to representatives in Vietnam of La Trobe University, Deakin University, RMIT University, Victoria University and Swinburne University for joining and answering student concerns regarding the arrival process and institutional support.

We look forward to welcoming these brilliant students to Victoria soon!

## Study Melbourne agent roundtable and networking event



On 12 January 2023, Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai hosted an agent roundtable with Deakin, Latrobe, Monash, and RMIT university representatives.

Our education team in China updated 30 recruitment agents on Victoria's recently released [International Education Recovery Plan 2025](#).

The four universities informed them about Victoria's world-class education, research capacities, and enrolment options. In addition, agents and speakers had a lively and informative discussion about regional mobility trends and recruitment strategies.

During the networking section, all participants visited [Vic House](#), a facility established by the Victorian Government, and participated in the Lunar New Year flower decoration to celebrate the upcoming festival.

For more information on how the Study Melbourne Hubs could support your agent engagement and recruitment activities, [visit our website](#).

## SERVICES & SUPPORT

### Study Melbourne Hub



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.

Students can connect with services, activities and opportunities to help them thrive while living and studying in Melbourne.

Free and confidential student support services  
Free events and programs

- Student workspaces
- Free coffee and wifi

**Address:** 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne.

**Opening hours:** 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

**Email:** [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au)

**24/7 phone line:**

o **Local call:** 1800 056 449 (free from landline phones)

o **Overseas call:** +61 3 9623 1512

### Additional support for international students

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

- Legal support through the free [International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service](#)
- Help to find part-time work through the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)
- [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](#).

We encourage you to share these resources with your students.



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