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July 2021

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 if someone cannot earn an income while they self-isolate.

More support for international students in need

The Victorian Government is making sure international students are not left behind, providing a dedicated boost to hardship payments and emergency food relief for our state's most vulnerable.

The Government has announced an additional \$30 million package to ensure this critical support – including food and financial aid – is available to international students impacted by the pandemic.

More support will be delivered to help international students access the food and groceries they need for free with a \$4.5 million boost to expand food relief. With support from Study Melbourne, FoodBank will continue to provide food aid through the [International Student Pop-Up Supermarket](#) and other channels until the end of December 2021.

The Victorian Government has also extended the Red Cross [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#) to the end of October 2021. Students who are experiencing hardship may be eligible for financial assistance through this program, which is available to international students in Victoria, including those who have previously received a payment from the International Student Emergency Relief Fund.

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](#)

Returning international students to Victoria

The Victorian Government is working with education providers and the Australian Government to facilitate the gradual return of international students when conditions allow.

Our priority is to safely, sensibly, and progressively open international arrival opportunities to support the sector. We need to balance the needs of our international education industry with the needs of returning Australians, while keeping Victoria and Australia COVIDSafe.

Timing for the commencement of international student arrivals is to be confirmed, following further consultation with the Australian Government.

Visit www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/arrivals for information for returning students, including travel exemptions, support for offshore students, and frequently asked questions.

Future Founders Program – An entrepreneurship program for international students and budding entrepreneurs



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

In July and August, as part of the program, we are running the [Future Founders Festival](#). The Festival will feature startup founders and industry experts and include a 48-hour Hackathon to introduce students to entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem.

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.

Study Melbourne Global Student Talent Accelerator

(GSTAR) Shanghai

Study Melbourne in partnership with Practera is delighted to announce Global Student Talent Accelerator (GSTAR) Shanghai, a premium four-week work-integrated learning program.

The program will run across July 2021, offering 34 projects for more than 170 international students, both onshore and in Shanghai.

The program was successfully launched by Commissioner for Greater China Brett Stevens and Director, International Education Fiona Letos at a virtual hybrid event through the [Shanghai Study Hub](#) on 29 June 2021.

The innovative pilot includes students from Monash University and University of Melbourne working on transnational research projects from companies such as Australia Asia Technology Incubator, Hybrid Energy Australia, Australia-China Friendship Society, China & Beyond and Krimson Asia.

The program will strengthen 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.

It includes one-on-one mentoring and placements with Victorian businesses, exporters and research partners focusing on industry and research, commercialisation and innovation. Offshore students will be able to utilise the Study Hub in Shanghai for hybrid virtual events, teamwork and end of project presentations.

Study Melbourne Leadership Labs 2021 - 4Impact stream



[Study Melbourne Leadership Labs](#), the Victorian Government's exclusive and free leadership and social entrepreneurship initiative for international students, has over 1200 members and continues to grow.

Students can register for leadership development workshops, access webinars and podcasts from community and industry leadership experts, connect with student community leaders, groups and associations as well as peer leadership support and mentoring.

These weekly events are FREE for students and alumni studying in Melbourne (on-campus or online), helping international students to access networking opportunities and improve their employability skills.

Leadership Labs includes the highly popular Leaderships 4Impact stream, where students form social enterprise project teams with a social impact theme based on the UNESCO sustainable development goals to strengthen their interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

Project teams are coached by industry experts from the social enterprise and not-for-profit sector, culminating in a pitch night with further professional development and networking opportunities on offer.

To find out more about Leadership Labs, visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

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.

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

To find out more about the program, check out the [Career Catalyst website](#).

Study Melbourne Confidence Crew: South Asia



[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 off-shore South Asian international students impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The events are FREE and will cover several topics delivered as wellbeing sessions and workshops.

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

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



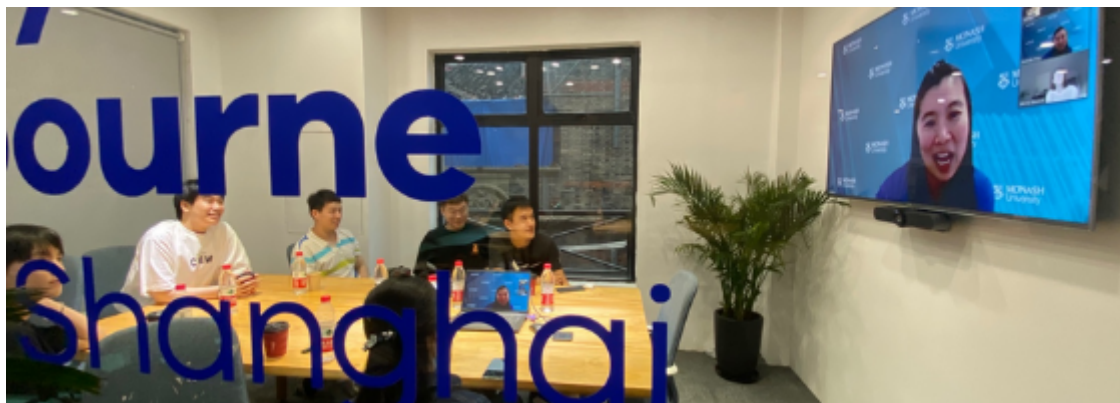
The Victorian Government is establishing a global network of [Study Melbourne Hubs](#) in key high-growth international education markets to support international students currently studying online with Victorian education institutions.

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 connecting 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)



As we entered the end of the semester in June, many students used the Hub to prepare for their exams, with some even electing to use the Hub to take their exams online.

We started to see more parents coming to the [Shanghai Hub](#) with students to explore the facility together. Most of these visitors are travelling from other cities and want to make study plans at the Hub for next semester.

We are continuing to build more programs for our students to experience via the Hub.

On 3 June Monash University hosted an online session on study groups and mindfulness for its students at the Hub. Through the Hub's video conference, students had an interactive session with professors in Melbourne and gained valuable knowledge and skills to improve their academic performance.

On 19 June the University of Melbourne hosted pre-commencement training for their new students at the Hub. The training provided excellent resources and support for the students, with current students also sharing their unique experiences of using the Hub. It's our great pleasure to support all of these students in their learning journey at the Hub and beyond.

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

Get involved!

Southeast Asia — Online Teacher Training Program

The Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office Southeast Asia with Global Victoria's international education team is partnering with FutureLearn to develop and deliver a pilot Online Teacher Training Taster Program.

It will target four key markets in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. The program will offer 12 modules or topics to be delivered over six weeks.

This pilot will engage teacher training experts from Victorian education providers to contribute content for the program, showcasing Victoria's capability in teacher education and providing

profiling opportunities for each institution. The program aims to facilitate market access and influence the decisions of prospective students, including teachers, in schools across Southeast Asia.

If you are interested in participating in the SEA Online Teacher Training pilot please contact Joanne Hashim, Education Services Regional Director, SEA at joanne.hashim@global.vic.gov.au.

Industry News

Kenya — International Education Service Provider



We are pleased to welcome Mr Mahul Shah, a lead consultant for Redhill Education, as our new education service provider in Kenya. This initiative is part of the Victorian Government's [International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan 2020-21](#), which expands Victoria's Global Education Network into emerging high-growth markets, including Vietnam, Brazil and Kenya.

Mr Shah has 24 years' education market development experience in Kenya with in-depth knowledge and networks for student recruitment, promoting Australian education and facilitating transnational education partnerships.

Before he relocates to Kenya, Mr Shah will be working closely with the Study Melbourne team and reaching out to Victorian education providers to better understand your interests and how he can assist you to strengthen education engagement in Kenya and the African region.

China — Qualification reference services

[VETASSESS](#) Qualification Referencing Service is a valuable tool in understanding how Chinese qualification is benchmarked in an international arena.

VETASSESS can support Chinese Institutions in reviewing and benchmarking their existing qualifications and courses to Australian standards, correlating to the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Some Chinese Institutions are trying to internationalise their curriculum to meet growing demand for the going-global strategy, which has provided great opportunities for course mapping and qualification referencing services.

VETASSESS China Representatives will visit Chengdu in early July, supported and facilitated by the [VGTI Chengdu office](#), to meet with Chengdu Polytechnic, Sichuan Architecture Colleges and Cogdel Education Group to promote their qualification reference services.

India — Call for proposal Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) (Round 14)

The [Australia-India Strategic Research Fund](#) (AISRF) provides grants for collaborative research projects with Indian partners.

Applications for Round 14 opened on **1 July** and close on **30 August 2021**.

Your project must be in a priority area for Round 14 of AISRF, such as the Indo-Australian Science & Technology Fund (administered by DST in India):

- Quantum technologies

- Earth observation remote sensing
- Groundwater resources management
- Downstream processing, recycling and tailings reclamation of critical minerals.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:

- Both the Indian and Australian partners must submit proposals
- Australian researchers can apply directly to the Department of Industry and Innovation via the [following link](#)
- Indian researchers should review [this application document](#) to understand how to submit a proposal to DST.

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