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June 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.

### Support for your international students



Study Melbourne continues to provide regular help and support through our dedicated [COVID-19 support hub](#). Please share this resource with your students.

Students who are still experiencing hardship may be eligible for financial assistance through the [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#), which is available to eligible international students in Victoria, including those who have received a payment from the International Student Emergency Relief Fund.

International students in Victoria can access other support, including:

- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- a dedicated [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support hub](#)
- 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](#)

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## Supporting the safe return of international students to Victoria

The Victorian Government is continuing to work with education providers and the Australian Government on a plan to gradually return international students to Victoria when conditions allow.

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

This will depend on health advice, the rollout of vaccines and other factors that need to be considered to ensure the safety of the community.

We acknowledge the significant contribution our education providers make to Victoria and the serious impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the sector.

All segments of the education sector can access and leverage initiatives under the Victorian Government's \$33.4 million International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan.

[Learn more.](#)

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



Study Melbourne is pleased to announce the launch of the [Future Founders Festival](#).

Designed for international students and budding entrepreneurs, the Festival is completely free and will run from **15 July 2021 – 16 July 2021**.

The Festival program includes a range of online events featuring inspiring and successful founders from international student, migrant and refugee backgrounds, and a pitch competition offering everyone the opportunity to participate, including students who are based offshore.

The Festival is part of the [Future Founders Program](#), a free year-long entrepreneurship program presented by Study Melbourne and [StartSpace](#).

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.

## 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 help – including food and financial assistance – is made available to international students impacted by the pandemic.

More support will be delivered to international students struggling to put a meal on the table with a \$4.5 million boost to expand food relief. With support from Study Melbourne, [FoodBank for International Students](#) will be running until December 2021.

The Victorian Government has also extended the [Red Cross Extreme Hardship Support Program](#) to the end of 2021. The EHSP will continue to support international students to meet basic needs such as rent, utilities and groceries.

## Study Melbourne Leadership Labs 2021



[Study Melbourne Leadership Labs](#) are empowering international student leaders across Melbourne.

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 and mindsets.

## 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 career in Victoria.

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.

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

## 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.

Visit the [events page](#) to find out more.

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## 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.

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## Study Melbourne Hubs

### Shanghai — Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai Highlights (May 2021)



The Study Melbourne Hub in Shanghai opened on 31 March and has had very positive engagement from students, Victorian education providers and local government. Approximately 30 students are utilising the hub per day and a number of successful events have been held.

**11 May** - [Victorian Government Trade and Investment \(VGTI\) China](#) hosted a networking function at the [Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai](#).

With over 80 attendees, the function showcased Victorian life science capabilities to Chinese companies and connected them to further strengthen the sector footprint in China.

**20 May** - [The International Education Division \(IED\)](#) of the Department of Education had the first agent online-offline session in the Hub.

This is the first offline agent session hosted since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

**22 May** - [The University of Melbourne Alumni Association Shanghai](#) (UMAAS) successfully delivered an alumni event at our Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai.

This event attracted over 100 University of Melbourne alumni across a broad range of study disciplines by using our offsite student facility to connect Victorian graduates with businesses.

We also invited students to join the Future Founders Program 2021 (Virtual Roadshow) at the Hub, helping to connect with our onshore students online.

## Study Melbourne Hubs — updates and announcements

Implementation is well underway to establish Study Hubs in Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chi Minh City. Both hubs are expected to open in the coming months, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

At the end of May Study Melbourne launched a virtual hub in India, in response to delays to the planned opening of a physical hub in Bangalore due to the COVID-19 situation in India.

Virtual programs include [Study Melbourne Confidence Crew South Asia](#), a targeted 16-week wellbeing and resilience program.

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## Get involved!

### Southeast Asia — EdTech Virtual Trade Mission (21-25 June 2021)

The 5-day online program presents an opportunity for Victorian EdTech companies to promote their capabilities in K12 and Higher Education segments.

In addition, it will explore the capabilities of Victorian companies to support learners across Southeast Asia.

The events will help identify market opportunities, fast-track market entry, and improve success prospects in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

For more information please contact Joanne Hashim, Education Services Regional Director – SEA at [joanne.hashim@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.hashim@global.vic.gov.au).

### Indonesia — Australia Cooperation in Online ICT Education (29 June 2021)

The proposed webinar will explore partnerships among TAFE institutions in Australia, Indonesian polytechnics and companies and identify viable ICT-aided skills development models suitable for Indonesia.

The webinar will be sponsored by the [International Labour Organization](#) and the Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia with the support of the [Australian Embassy Jakarta](#).

For more information please contact Joanne Hashim, Education Services Regional Director – SEA, at [joanne.hashim@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.hashim@global.vic.gov.au).

### China — International Education Seminar (July 2021)

A dedicated Victorian International Education Seminar will be held in Chongqing in early July 2021.

[Victorian Government Trade and Investment \(VGTI\) China](#) is working closely with our strategic partner, Chongqing Education Association for International Exchanges, to run a full-day seminar.

The purpose of this proposed seminar is to showcase Victoria's strength and excellence in the education sector (Universities and TAFE).

The seminar will present key case studies in China to help understand Chongqing's demands in research and commercialisation, including translational programs to generate collaboration models.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Victoria providers have actively engaged with stakeholders in Chongqing to deliver online, blended courses such as the TVET International Skills Training and English Language and Training.

This conference aims to consolidate what we have achieved and expand the scope of collaborations.

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