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Welcome to the April 2023 edition of the Study Melbourne Student Update.

As the academic year progresses, we hope you have had the chance to meet other international students and explore the city. Make sure you make the most of opportunities to upskill, connect with others, and to be recognised with an application in the 2023 Victorian International Education Awards. Look out for the dedicated email with more details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Future Forte

Join Future Forte (previously known as Future Female) on 27 April 2023 at the Study Melbourne Hub. Learn about Future Forte's program offerings for international students in 2023, explore opportunities and network with government and industry representatives, student leaders and the Future Forte team. [Register now!](#)

Multicultural festivals

Immerse yourself in Sri Lankan culture, explore South Asian cuisines or try local delights from Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Bosnia and more with free multicultural festivals. [Find out more.](#)

International Day Against Homophobia Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) Day – 17 May

Study Melbourne is going rainbow for IDAHOBIT Day. Join our LGBTIQ+ community and friends for boardgames, snacks, and fun. This is a social event everyone is welcome. [Register now.](#)

Embark on a free tour of iconic Melbourne places

Take a guided tour of Melbourne's most beloved historical spots on a free walking tour. [Find out more.](#)

Connect with Aboriginal culture

Attend the exhibitions and cultural activities at the Koorie Heritage Trust to educate yourself on Aboriginal culture, heritage and histories. [Find out more.](#)

Anzac Day

Australians and New Zealanders observe [Anzac Day](#) on 25 April each year. Anzac stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The date marks the first major military action fought by the Anzac members in 1914, when troops landed in Gallipoli in World War I. Anzac Day is a public holiday in Australia with many people attending the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance.

There is plenty to see and do in Melbourne and Victoria this month. Head on to [What's On Melbourne](#) for more ideas.

Study Melbourne Team

UPDATES

Meet our 2023 Study Melbourne Ambassadors



We are proud to announce our 2023 Study Melbourne Ambassadors – Adyant, Amanda, Daniel, Divya, Jayden, Khanh, Kushal, Max, Minji, Sachreet and Yanyan.

Our Study Melbourne Ambassadors are global citizens who will leverage their experience and strengths to help create a rich and supportive community for international students.

They will also be involved in running student programs and represent Study Melbourne at official events.

Visit [our website](#) to learn more about their diverse experiences, their field of expertise and their passions.

If you happen to see our ambassadors at one of our Study Melbourne events, programs or initiatives, please come up and say hi! They would love to chat and share their insights.

Australia named world's 3rd best higher education system in 2023



In the largest-ever series of QS subject-specific rankings, Australia has the 3rd best higher education system globally, with the University of Melbourne one of only three universities worldwide to have 48 disciplines each ranked within the top 50.

Australia was the fourth best-represented country overall, with a significant rankings in Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences.

Monash University achieved 40 and 46 ranked disciplines in the top 100 and top 200 respectively, making Victoria the only Australian state with two universities with 40 or more subjects ranking in the world's Top 100. For more information visit the [Top Universities website](#).

Study Melbourne Career Catalyst



Study Melbourne Career Catalyst is a Victorian Government program delivered by InternMatch to help international students develop their careers and reach their full potential.

The program offers coaching, workshops, and networking events that are all free and designed to improve students' professional skills and connect them with employers.

Event: How to build a personal brand

Your personal brand is the combination of your skills, personality traits, attitudes, and values, presented as a consistent package both professionally and personally. Enhancing and implementing your personal brand can have a significant impact on the roles you secure, how potential employers perceive you during interviews, and how well you integrate into the workplace.

This online workshop will provide you with a clear understanding of your personal brand, including how to showcase it, personal development tools, taking yourself to the market, and important tips to help you stand out.

- **Date:** 16 May 2023
- **Time:** 12:00pm – 1:00pm
- **Cost:** Free
- **Location:** Online
- [Register now](#)

Protecting the work rights of international students



For numerous international students in Australia, the search for employment is a crucial matter. However, students often encounter challenges in the workplace. As part of Victorian Law Week, Study Melbourne is hosting a session to explore methods for safeguarding the work rights of international students.

The event will feature professionals from leading organisations in Victoria, including JobWatch, The International Student Accommodation and Employment Legal Service, Jobs Victoria, The Migrant Workers Centre, and Victoria's Wage Inspectorate. If you are an international student this discussion will provide you with information and resources.

Morning tea will be provided.

Event details:

- **Date:** 17 May 2023
- **Time:** 10:00am-11:00pm
- **Location:** Study Melbourne Hub, 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne
- **Cost:** This is a free event
- [Register now](#)

Studying in Greater Melbourne – Hajra's experience



Studying in Victoria can be a life-changing experience, offering students a world-class education system and a wide range of experiences. While Melbourne is the most well-known city, regional areas like Geelong provide plenty of opportunities to learn, make friends, and explore.

Hajra Bibi, an international student from Pakistan, has been studying a Diploma of Nursing at The Gordon TAFE in Geelong and highly recommends studying in Victoria. For Hajra, Melbourne was an easy choice due to its weather conditions and traditional restaurant foods. She feels safe and welcomed at The Gordon TAFE, with manageable and interesting study material.

Hajra also won free tickets to the Avalon Airshow through Study Melbourne. The Airshow is one Victoria's major events, attracting visitors from all over the world. She was amazed by the pilots and aircraft workers' skills and the diverse crowd, including children and people from different cultures. The Airshow showcased the excitement and diversity of studying in Victoria.

Read her full story on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Future Founders Program for international students and entrepreneurs in Melbourne



If you're an international student or an aspiring entrepreneur, the [Study Melbourne Future Founders Program](#) is for you! This entrepreneurial program is free and is brought to you by Study Melbourne and [StartSpace](#). Regardless of the stage you are at, it will guide you from ideation to actualizing your business.

This program will equip you with practical skills, and you will learn from successful international students and migrant founders who have made it in the Victorian startup community. You'll also have the chance to network with other students and entrepreneurs in the startup ecosystem.

Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai hosts Melbourne Fashion Festival-themed event



On 13 March 2023, Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai hosted a Melbourne Fashion Festival themed event: Insights and inspirations from leading designer Chris Ran Lin.

During the event, Chris shared his inspiring journey of moving from China to Melbourne to study fashion courses to then realising his dream of becoming a famous designer.

The session provided a comprehensive understanding of Victoria's fashion industry and fashion courses.

The event was attended by students, alumni and local partners, and included a quiz on the Melbourne Fashion Festival and a T-shirt painting workshop.

Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai aims to showcase Melbourne's culture and attract prospective students to Victoria. To find out more visit the [Shanghai Hub web page](#).

Study Melbourne's Mentor Match program: connecting international students with local mentors



Study Melbourne participated in the CivVic Labs Accelerator Program in 2019-20 to develop 'Mentor Match', a mentor matching program that connects international students in Victoria with local mentors to provide practical advice and support for personal and professional growth.

A dedicated stream of the program was launched in 2023 in partnership with the [Study Melbourne South Asia Hub](#), through which 25 international students from India were matched with mentors in Melbourne before they left India. Now in Melbourne, the program aims to help

international students integrate into Australian social and business communities, expand their networks, and bridge cultural differences by having them meet regularly with their mentors. Both mentors and mentees have positively received the program.

Tim Reynolds, a Rotary mentor, stated that "developing our relationship... has been an enriching experience for me."

Similarly, Sagar Dasani, an international student mentee, shared that "the quality of conversation and advice I've got really made me question and research so many new things."

If you are interested in enrolling visit the [Mentor Match website](#).

Showcasing international student alumni knowledge through a fun night of trivia



The Brainiac Night, organised by the Study Melbourne Hub Kuala Lumpur, took place over two nights in March. The trivia event was designed to provide a platform for international student alumni to connect.

The participants were divided into four teams and tested on their general knowledge of Victoria and world history. This friendly competition served as an excellent opportunity for alumni to showcase their knowledge and learn new facts and insights about Victoria.

Visit the [Study Melbourne Hub Kuala Lumpur web page](#) to stay updated on upcoming events.

DISCOVER MELBOURNE

Discovering Melbourne's hidden gems: Ofuroya, Australia's first traditional Japanese bathhouse





Each month, we will delve into interesting facts about Melbourne, and to kick off our series, let's begin with [Ofuroya](#). On July 7, 1999, Ofuroya, Australia's first traditional Japanese bathhouse, opened in Collingwood, and it is still a popular destination for soaking today.

The bathhouse offers separate sections for men and women, with deep baths designed for comfortable sitting in hot water.

Trying a Japanese bath is a unique experience that can reduce stress and improve blood flow and circulation, leading to healthier skin. To make a booking enquiry visit the [Ofuroya website](#).

SERVICES & SUPPORT

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 24/7 phone line.

At the Hub you can:

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

Address: 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne.

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

24/7 phone line:

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

- Overseas call: +61 3 9623 1512

Email: info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au

Question of the month

What are some benefits of studying a Diploma?

Answer: Here are our top five reasons why studying a Diploma can be a great option:

- Diplomas take less time to complete (1-2 years) and can be less expensive than a full-time degree program
- Diplomas improve career prospects by enhancing skills, knowledge, and expertise
- Diplomas offer flexible study options such as online or part-time study, accommodating individuals with work or other commitments
- Students can study subjects most valuable to their career
- Diplomas provide a pathway to further education, such as a degree program, and can save time and money by providing credits towards a higher qualification.

There are plenty of other options available — which you can explore with our [Course Finder](#).

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; and
- Changes to renting arrangements.

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

Jobs Victoria Advocates at the Study Melbourne Hub every Monday



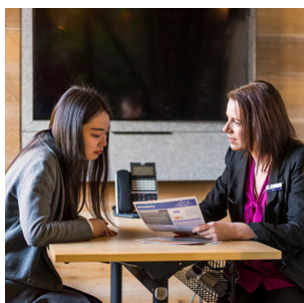
Every Monday from 12pm to 4pm Advocates from Jobs Victoria are in the Study Hub and can assist you with your job search.

The service can:

- Help you find employment
- Provide you information and tips about getting a job
- Support you to apply for jobs on the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)

If you want to meet with an Advocate, visit the Study Melbourne Hub, no appointment necessary.

Protecting your rights as a student: How to address concerns with your education provider



It's essential to have your rights protected and concerns addressed regardless of where or what you're studying. In case of any issues with your education provider, following the proper procedures to achieve a fair resolution is crucial.

While attempting to resolve the issue with your education provider directly, seeking further assistance is recommended if necessary. If you're a student enrolled in a private institution and you're unable to resolve a complaint directly with your education provider, you can seek assistance from the [Study Melbourne Hub](#).

For problems with your public university, TAFE, institute, or school, contact your state or territory ombudsman by visiting the [Ombudsman website](#).

Improve your English with Study Australia's new spoken practice test for IELTS and PTE

Study Australia has recently introduced a new English-speaking practice test that could benefit students preparing for their IELTS exam. The test is designed to help students evaluate their spoken English skills and determine their performance level in exams such as IELTS and PTE.



The test consists of 10 easy verbal questions, and upon completion, students receive a comprehensive report indicating areas of improvement and strengths in their spoken English. It is recommended that students find a quiet location before taking the test and speak clearly for the best results. We wish you good luck and hope to see you in Melbourne soon!

Find out more on the [Study Australia website](#).

Victorian Pride Centre welcomes LGBTIQ+ international students



[Victoria's Pride Centre](#) provides a warm welcome to the vibrant LGBTIQ+ international student community, offering practical and supportive services to visitors from across Australia and beyond.

Every first Sunday of the month, international students can experience a perfect introduction to the centre with Sunday

Sizzle (1pm to 6pm), a social barbeque on the rooftop terrace. At the event, students can safely socialise, enjoy free entry, and have meat or vegetarian sausages in bread and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks from the bar. The DJ plays music all afternoon and downstairs in the lobby. Visitors can also browse the free Gay Stuff Markets from 1pm to 5pm.

VPC has an open-access community Events Calendar that organisations can submit their events to. Check out the [calendar here](#).

Additional support for international students

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

- 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](#)

USEFUL LINKS

Health and wellbeing

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

[Study Melbourne Hub](#)

Work

[Working in Victoria](#)

[Your rights at work](#)

[Jobs Victoria online hub](#)

Transport

[iUSEpass](#)

[Metro Trains](#)



Safety

[Student safety](#)

[Victoria Police](#)

Others

[Legal advice](#)

[Events](#)



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