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Welcome to the December 2021 edition of the **Study Melbourne Student Newsletter**.

Thank you to all international students for your resilience and remarkable contributions in 2021! Our next edition will be in February 2021, but you can stay in touch by connecting through our [social media channels](#). For those graduating or leaving Victoria, we wish you the best of luck on your next adventure.

Summer is here, and we have an exciting [calendar of events](#) coming up, including weekly badminton sessions, bushwalking trails, community bike rides, and wellbeing workshops. You can read all about the [Inclusion Program](#) and our event partners on the Study Melbourne website.

[Discover Melbourne and Victoria](#) this festive season – explore our markets, lights, festivals and much more. [Moonlight Cinema](#) returns to Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria from early December, bringing the nostalgia of picnics and popcorn under the stars.

Stay connected and have fun by joining our [upcoming events](#) on the Study Melbourne website.

Regards,

The team at Study Melbourne

Study Melbourne Hubs

The Study Melbourne Hubs in Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur are now open!

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The **HCMC Hub** is located right in the centre of District 3, on Dien Bien Phu street.



The **KL Hub** is located in the heart of Petaling Jaya at Jaya One.

Study Melbourne is excited to announce the **Kuala Lumpur (KL)** and **Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Study Melbourne Hubs** are now officially open. The KL Hub opened on 23 November and the HCMC Hub on 1 December. Both launches were attended by students and alumni, as well as representatives from Victorian institutions and the Malaysian and Vietnamese governments.

What's Happening at the Study Melbourne Hubs

Visit the Study Melbourne Hubs to discover a vibrant and friendly space alive with opportunities to experience Melbourne. Students enrolled at Victorian institutions can bring their own devices and connect to the Hubs' Wi-Fi network to access online learning from Victorian education providers.

You can register for free events on career development, entrepreneurship, leadership and global connections. If you are considering Melbourne as a study destination, the Hubs are the perfect place to find out why Melbourne is Australia's best student city.

Find out more about what's happening at the Hub by visiting the [Study Melbourne website](#).



Providing students with an opportunity to re-connect to Melbourne at last month's barista coffee making workshop at the **Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai**.

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From 15 December, fully vaccinated international students can travel to Australia **without a travel exemption**.

You must meet Victoria's entry **requirements for overseas travellers**, including COVID-19 testing, vaccination requirements and 72 hours of home quarantine on arrival.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Victoria!

For more information about returning to Victoria, visit <https://www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/student-arrivals>.

Study Melbourne Empowered Series

Leadership

Study Melbourne Ambassador Lu Ngo sat down with mentors and mentees to reflect on what they have learned and gained from the **Study Melbourne Leadership Labs Vietnam and Malaysia**. The successful six-week pilot program included over 400 attendees exchanging ideas, improving leadership skills and empowering each other in the journey to become true leaders.

Listen to the full episode on the **Study Melbourne website**, with insights from our mentors (Lu Ngo, Chris Chew, Cheryl Nguyen) and our mentee (Minh Duc Nguyen).

Everyday Heroes Latin America - Recently, Study Melbourne partnered with Internash and student leaders through the Empowered Partnership to deliver Everyday Heroes Latin America, celebrating Victoria's Latin American student community and alumni. The program finished with students learning how to create videos and Instagram reels to strengthen their brand, creativity and sense of community.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[See example student videos here: Things that can happen & Hobbies of Mine!](#)[Translate ▼](#)[The next Study Melbourne Everyday Heroes program will launch in early 2022 and will celebrate stories](#)

across Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and The Philippines. Stay tuned!



Career development

Career Catalyst will continue to provide our interview preparation online course and career navigator over the Career Catalyst team's Christmas break. From Monday, 10 January, we'll be back in full swing with our free Career Catalyst services resuming throughout January and February. These workshops will help you expand your network and teach you to stand out in the competitive job market. Book in now!

- [Interview Preparation Workshops](#)
- [LinkedIn Workshops](#)
- [Resume & LinkedIn Coaching](#)
- [Interview Preparation Online Course](#)
- [Career Navigator](#)

On 23 November, as part of the launch of the **Study Melbourne Hub KL**, Gonul Serbest, CEO of Global Victoria, announced the recipients of Career Catalyst Cadetships for Malaysian students offshore. The 15 Malaysian students offshore will undertake a jobs ready program and 3-month virtual cadetship with a Victorian company worth AUD \$5,000.

Entrepreneurship

The Study Melbourne Future Founders Program is Australia's only entrepreneurship program exclusively for international students. Get inspired by watching all the speakers and keynotes at this year's Future Founders Festival or students pitching their ideas through the 'Hack for Happiness' Hackathon.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Future Founders Program Bootcamps 2021](#) are designed for international students who are ready to commit to developing a business idea.[Translate](#) ▼

The Bootcamps offer you:

- a chance to fast-track progress on building your new business;
- mentoring and feedback from business coaches and experienced founders; and
- a valuable opportunity to make a start on your career as an entrepreneur.

The program will run in-person at [State Library Victoria](#) over two weeks from **4 to 15 February and 18 February to 1 March 2022**. [Apply now](#) as applications will close Sunday 16 January 2022.

Future Founders Venture Scholarships – Looking for extra support for your new business venture? Applications will open in January 2022. The six-week scholarship program also includes StartSpace Loft membership and exclusive one-on-one coaching and mentoring opportunities. If you're an international student working on a new business venture, [sign up](#) to receive updates from the Future Founders Program to ensure you are first to hear when the scholarship applications are open.

Visit the [Study Melbourne events page](#) - An essential guide for student events in Melbourne and surrounding areas.



22 DEC - Melbourne International Student Badminton



12 JAN - LinkedIn Workshops - Career Catalyst



18 JAN - Interview Preparation Workshops - Career Catalyst



3 FEB - United In Wellbeing



STEM Sisters

Join the [Stem Sisters](#) in their five series workshop, which enables STEM Ambassadors to talk confidently to their colleagues and inspire them to pursue careers in STEM.

STEM Sisters is home to a diverse group of female international students and female migrants committed to an intersectional approach for empowering Women of Colour in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

For more program updates, follow the Stem Sisters [event page](#).

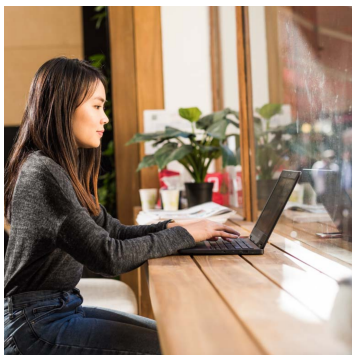
The Couch - International Student Centre

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cooked meals, give back through volunteering, and connect with the local community through events and activities.

It is located at 69 Bourke Street, Melbourne, and is open on Monday to Thursday from 6pm – 8.30pm. Visit [The Couch](#) to find out more about nightly events and register to attend.

The Couch will have a Christmas event on the 22nd of December. It will be closed from the 23rd of December and reopen on the 4th of January 2022. The Couch is an initiative of the City of Melbourne and the Salvation Army 614.



Study Melbourne Course Finder

Students around the world are learning with Melbourne's leading education specialists. Choose from 100% online or on-campus study or more flexible options such as starting online and completing your course in person.

Search for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, vocational study or professional development courses, and find out how Melbourne gives you the opportunity to thrive, wherever you are.

Find a study option that suits you, using the [Study Melbourne Course Finder](#).



The Courage of Viriliana

Study Melbourne Ambassador [Ziggy Hao](#) interviewed Viriliana Hernandez, the winner of the 2021 Melbourne Writers Festival storytelling competition for the Vocational Education and Training category. Her piece, '[One Day I woke up in Australia](#)' showcases the courage of international students when starting their study journey in Melbourne.

[Read Ziggy's article](#) on the Study Melbourne website.

Farewell to Foodbank's Pop Up International Student Supermarket

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The [FoodBank](#) Pop Up Supermarket for international students has now closed. The supermarket delivered much-needed support to students experiencing hardship during lockdowns. Since the supermarket opened its doors in October 2020, it has welcomed more than 66,000 international students from 134 countries and 294 different learning institutions.

The supermarket has provided international students with more than 609,000 kilograms of food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, rice and noodles, yoghurt and cheese. The Pop-Up Supermarket has been a FoodBank initiative supported by the Victorian Government through Study Melbourne, to assist international students.

Food aid continues to be available for international students

International students can continue to access food aid through [FoodBank](#). They can also connect with The Couch International Student Centre, which provides free meals.

FoodBank

Visit [FoodBank](#) and use the [Ask Izzy](#) (<https://askizzy.org.au/>) function to find out about food aid available in your local area.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Getting your COVID-19 vaccination

Everyone aged 12 years and over is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine and the Moderna vaccine have been approved as safe for young people

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aged over 12 years old.

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The best person to talk to if you have concerns about your health and being vaccinated against COVID-19 is your doctor.

For up-to-date information and resources on COVID-19, including health, travel and education matters, visit our dedicated [COVID-19 Support for International Students hub](#) page.

Victoria's restriction levels

Victoria has moved to COVIDSafe Settings. Find out what this means for you on the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

Translated coronavirus (COVID-19) information

Access translated materials about COVID-19 on the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

العربية, [Bahasa Indonesia](#), [English](#), [한국어](#), [日本語](#), [ภาษาไทย](#), [Türkçe](#), [Português](#), [简体中文](#), [繁體中文](#), [Español](#) and [tiếng Việt](#).

Support for international students

COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment

[COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment](#) If you're self-isolating while waiting for COVID-19 test results and can't earn an income during that time, you may be eligible to receive the \$450 Test Isolation Payment. Find out more about the

Emergency financial relief

If you're experiencing financial hardship, you may be eligible for emergency financial assistance through the Victorian Government's [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#). The program is for temporary and provisional visa holders and undocumented migrants who are unable to access Commonwealth income support, and have zero or very little income, savings or community support.

If you received an International Student Emergency Relief Fund payment and still require assistance to pay for basics like rent, food and bills, you can apply for an emergency payment. Please visit www.redcross.org.au/vicrelief to apply.

Support for you - Study Melbourne Student Centre

[The Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) offers free and confidential information, referrals and practical support for Victoria's international students. Our multilingual staff offer wellbeing support, including help with accommodation, health, employment and legal problems.

If you know anyone in our international student community who needs extra support, please encourage them to contact our team via email at info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au or call 1800 056 449.

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There is other support available for international students in Victoria:

- help to find work through the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)
- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- a dedicated [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support hub](#)
- free [legal advice](#) on accommodation and employment matters
- confidential support and practical help through the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#)
- free, one-to-one support and advice to international students through the [Partners in Wellbeing](#) team
- for information about family violence and statewide support services visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).



Useful Links

Health and wellbeing

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

Work

[Working in Victoria](#)[Your rights at work](#)[Transport discount](#)[iUSEpass](#)

Safety

[Student safety](#)

Others

[Victoria Police](#)[Help from a consulate or embassy](#)[What to do in an emergency](#)

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