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

This month we are excited to celebrate six outstanding international student winners from our annual story telling competition with **Melbourne Writers Festival 2021**. You can enjoy the winning stories about **Melbourne Beginnings** [here](#). A notable mention to our shortlisted finalists – congratulations!

With lockdown restrictions easing in Melbourne and the weather warming up, it's important to keep safety in mind. Remember to follow the Victorian Government's **COVIDsafe health advice**, including good hygiene, physical distancing, and wearing a mask when required. Easy ways to stay COVIDSafe include keeping hand sanitiser and a mask in your bag.

Stay tuned and have fun by joining our **upcoming events** on the Study Melbourne website.

Regards,

*The team at Study Melbourne*

## 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 aged over 12 years old.

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

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and education matters, visit our dedicated [COVID-19 Support for International Students hub page](#).

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### 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](#).

## STUDENT ARRIVALS

### International students to gradually return to Victoria from the end of 2021

International students will start arriving in Victoria by the end of 2021 under the Victorian Government's International Student Arrivals Plan, which has been endorsed by the Australian Government.

The Victorian Government is working with universities to commence the first stage of the plan, which will prioritise students at Victorian universities who urgently need to return for practical work, such as health and medical students and postgraduate research students.

Universities will select enrolled students who can return to Victoria. If you are a student visa holder enrolled with a Victorian university, please wait for your university to contact you. If you have not been contacted, it means you have not been selected yet.

The second stage of the plan will expand to include more students, including those who are enrolled with other education providers such as TAFEs, English-language colleges, private education providers and secondary schools. More information about stage two will be available soon.

Read more about the [Victorian Governments International Student Arrivals Plan](#) ([coronavirus.vic.gov.au/international-student-arrivals-plan](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/international-student-arrivals-plan).)

## Study Melbourne Empowered Series



**Leadership**


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with leaders from the community and with representatives of Victorian Government. Are you excited to join us? RSVP by the 26th of November to secure your spot [via Zoom](#).


**Leadership Labs Vietnam & Malaysia** - After six weeks of activities, Study Melbourne Leadership Labs Vietnam & Malaysia wrapped up on October 19. It was amazing to see over 300 students register to participate from more than 30 universities, TAFEs and private institutions across Victoria, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

**Leadership Labs 4Impact Winners** - Study Melbourne is delighted to announce the winning teams of the Leadership Labs 4Impact stream. The winning teams successfully pitched their social enterprises to win \$10,000 in scholarships for professional development from The Hacker Exchange. Congratulations to Butterfly Effect (Team 25) and Hungry No More (Team 30).

Visit the **Study Melbourne events page** - An essential guide for student events in Melbourne and surrounding areas.

 **18 NOV - Everyday Heroes Latin America**

 **26 NOV - Leadership Labs CONNECT**

 **29 NOV - Wellbeing Map - Taking Stock**

 **1 DEC - LinkedIn Workshops - Career Catalyst**

 **7 DEC - Interview Preparation Workshops - Career Catalyst**



## Study Melbourne Ambassadors workshop

Our **Study Melbourne Ambassadors for 2021** attended two “Write to Impress” workshops led by acclaimed author and writing teacher: Claire Thomas.

The workshops gave our Ambassadors the opportunity to learn how to generate ideas, control their structure and hone their writing skills to strike a resounding chord with audiences.

You can read more about their experiences on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

## Online Study options — Study

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Experience Melbourne's world-class education from home.

Study Melbourne is excited to announce that our [Course Finder](#) now includes online study options for international students.

Choose a study option that suits you - 100% online, start online and finish in Melbourne or study on Campus in your home country with a Victorian institution.



## Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program

[Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program](#) will support international students undertaking English language or Foundation courses before beginning their principal course in Victoria.

There are over 3,000 scholarships, which will be managed by Victorian universities and TAFEs and offered to selected students as part of the admissions process. All enquiries should be made directly with each institution.

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## Study Melbourne Hubs

**The Study Melbourne Hubs are an exciting, new initiative for international students.**

Our global network of [Study Hubs](#) are located in China, Vietnam, Malaysia and virtually in India.

The [Study Melbourne Hubs](#) support offshore international students (current, future and alumni) studying or looking to study with a Victorian education provider.

For more information visit [studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/Hubs](https://studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/Hubs)

### Study Melbourne Hubs in Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chi Minh City opening soon

With COVID-19 restrictions lifting in Malaysia and Vietnam, new Study Melbourne Hubs in [KL](#) and [HCMC](#) will officially open in the coming weeks. The KL Hub is currently able to

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The Study Melbourne Hubs provide a location for offshore students to come together, access support and information on studying in Victoria, and participate in programs and events.

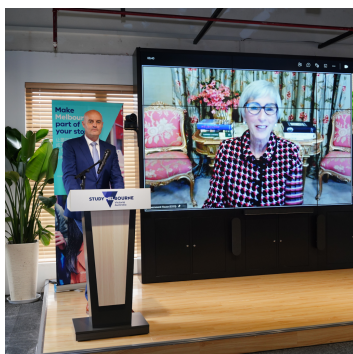
Students can book study spaces and meeting rooms (including free Wi-Fi, delicious Melbourne coffee and water facilities).

To keep up to date on the latest at the Hubs in KL, HCMC, Shanghai and India (virtual hub), go to [Study Melbourne Hubs](#).

## Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai



### Bringing the Melbourne study experience to Shanghai



[Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai](#) held the *Power of Role Models* event on October 18. The Governor of Victoria addressed the alumni event to over 50 students, alumni and university representatives at the Hub.

Four fantastic Victorian alumni Jill Tang, Lin Zhang, Evan Zhang and Shujuan Wang shared their study experiences in Victoria.

The Hub will continue to host various programs and activities for our students.

Find out more through our WeChat mini-app.



## Support for international students

### **Requirement for overseas licence holders to convert to a Victorian licence within six months of residing in Victoria**

VicRoads has provided important information about Victorian driver licence requirements.

In October 2019, a change in the law required all overseas driver licence holders (irrespective of the type of visa held) to obtain a Victorian licence within 6 months of residing in Victoria. This requirement, which was suspended due to the impacts of COVID-19, has now recommenced.

Each driver will have unique circumstances and are encouraged to use VicRoads [online tool](#) to calculate the date by which they need to convert to a Victorian licence.

International students who wish to convert to a Victorian licence are encouraged to act now to ensure they have enough time to make any appointments necessary to complete all requirements before their conversion date.

Until their conversion due date, international students can continue using their overseas licence to drive in Victoria as long as it is still valid.

For more information about the process of converting to a Victorian driver licence, visit the [VicRoads website](#).

### **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 [COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment](#).

### **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](#).

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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](http://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](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 056 449.

### Foodbank International Student Pop-Up Store

The [FoodBank International Student Pop-Up Store](#) is supported by Study Melbourne and provides free and culturally diverse food and pantry items to international students.

All international students are welcome to come along, say hello and choose from a diverse range of fresh product, pantry and staple items.

Students simply need to bring along a shopping bag or cart, along with a Student ID. The space is COVID-safe of course, with contactless sign ins, social distancing markers and hand sanitiser stations on-site.

Located at Aurora Melbourne Central, 230 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, the Pop-Up Store is open 10am – 2pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays).

### Other support

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

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- 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](#)

Contact us at [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au)

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