

[Forward this email](#) | [View in web browser](#)

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BULLETIN

**STUDY MELBOURNE**

17 September 2021

News and updates

COVID-19 vaccines

From Wednesday, 25 August everyone aged 16 years and over is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, including international students. The vaccines are free.

People are encouraged to book their vaccine at a vaccination centre using the [online booking system](#).

People aged 18-39 who have already booked for their first vaccine dose at a vaccination centre will be offered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

They do not need to rebook or change their existing vaccine appointment at a vaccination centre.

People who have already had a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will be offered a second dose of the same vaccine brand.

For the latest vaccine information from the Victorian Department of Health, please visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine.

The COVID-19 Rent Relief Grant Program

The Victorian Government is assisting Victorians, including international students, who are struggling to pay their rent.

The [COVID-19 Rent Relief Grant program](#) will help renters who are experiencing rental hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic. Grants of up to \$1500 will provide direct financial support to renters by making a contribution towards the cost of their rent directly to their landlord on their behalf.

The one-off payment is specifically for renters paying more than 30 per cent of their income in rent who are living in a primary residence to help them maintain safe, secure, and stable accommodation. Grants will be targeted at those who have lost an income of 20 per cent or more due to the pandemic.

There is an annual income limit of \$62,860 for singles and \$94,300 for couples, and to be eligible applicants can't have more than \$2,000 in savings. The landlord and renter will also need to enter into a rent reduction agreement for a period after 27 May 2021.

Applicants who may be eligible include international students, casual workers on holiday and

working visas, skilled visa holders, seasonal workers, New Zealand citizens and all refugee and temporary protection visa holders.

For more information about the Rent Relief Grants, and to make an application visit the [Housing Vic website](#).

International Student Arrivals

Creating a pathway for our international students to safely return to Victoria remains a priority for the Victorian Government.

Victoria's International Student Arrivals Plan will create a safe pathway for limited numbers of international students to return to study in Victoria. The plan is being developed in consultation with the Australian Government.

Once the Student Arrivals Plan is approved, education providers will advise each student when a place for them becomes available. Expressions of interest are not required.

Any student participating in the Student Arrivals Plan will need a valid student visa.

For more information, please visit our [student arrivals webpage](#).

Global Education Network 2021



Victoria's global education network is unrivalled among Australia's states and territories and has recently been expanded to include an Education Services Consultant in Kenya, Mr Mahul Shah, and an Education Services Manager in Malaysia, Ms Cassie Tam.

Located in key markets, our Education Services Managers and Consultants promote Victoria as a study destination, provide market intelligence back to the sector, and provide on-the-ground support to Victorian education and training institutions interested in accessing new opportunities and growing their overseas business development activities.

The role of Education Services Managers is to promote Victoria's international education sector and to facilitate education, training and research partnerships between Victoria and priority offshore markets.

For more information about the network, including a map of locations and contact details, please visit the [industry section of the Study Melbourne website](#).

International Education Sector Briefing



Study Melbourne has recently commenced a rolling monthly [International Education Sector Briefing Program](#), which focuses on a different market/region each session.

These briefings are delivered by our Commissioners in market and offshore Global Education Network, in light of current travel restrictions and limited opportunities for direct market engagement.

They will provide on the ground market intelligence updates regarding new opportunities, student/agent feedback, competitor activities, changes to education policies and various Victorian Government business development activities in market.

Please see the schedule for the upcoming market briefing:

- Latin America 5 October from 8:00 – 9:00 am AEST
- South Asia 25 October from 2:00 – 3:00 pm AEST
- South East Asia 15 November from 2:00 – 3:00 pm AEST
- North Asia 6 December from 2:00 – 3:00 pm AEST

Please contact Atal Samad at atal.samad@global.vic.gov.au for further enquiries.

Study Melbourne funds virtual industry experiences for international students



Study Melbourne is excited to partner with Austrade on the [Study Australia Industry Experience Program \(SAIEP\)](#) delivered by Practera. Study Melbourne has fully funded 400 international student places for Victorian universities (up to 45 places per institution) in this national flagship employability program. The Program will run over three cohorts, July 2021 (completed), November 2021 and July 2022.

Students will have the opportunity to undertake a 2-week extra-curricular Work Integrated Learning (WIL) project with a Victorian company, working in a team with other students. The focus is to build employability skills and connections with industry while studying with your institution (either onshore or offshore).

To secure your institution's allocated Study Melbourne funded places for your students please contact Hayley Bolding - Director at our implementation partner Practera hayley@practera.com / 0449 192 291.

Study Melbourne Leadership Labs – Vietnam and Malaysia launch



Study Melbourne Leadership Labs is the Victorian Government's exclusive and free leadership and social entrepreneurship initiative for international students.

On September 14th, the program launched a pilot in Vietnam and Malaysia to level up student leadership skills and build cross-cultural relationships with peers between Australia and Vietnam.

Over six weeks program, mentors and mentees connect for one-on-one mentoring to explore leadership strengths, particularly in a cross-cultural context.

Stay connected for our panel events: Leaders in Australia and Vietnam (5th October) and Leaders in Australia and Malaysia (6th October) and graduation event.

Please visit the [Leadership Labs webpage](#) for more information about the program.

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 to those who cannot earn an income while they self-isolate

Support for international students in need

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:

- 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](#).

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

Shanghai —Study Melbourne Information Session



Study Melbourne hosted a Study Melbourne Information Session on 11 August at [Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai](#).

Victoria's Commissioner to Great China, Mr Brett Stevens, delivered the opening speech at Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai.

During the session, students watched a short film produced by Study Melbourne and Practera. The film showcased case studies from students and employers involved in [Victorian Government work-integrated \(WIL\) Learning programs](#).

Mr. Michael Baird, Investment Director, VGTI China & Rob Scott, Managing Director, Australia China Technology Incubator, also highlighted the successful outcomes of the [GSTAR program](#).

Lastly, Dr. Lin ZHANG, a Victorian alumnus and a [Study Melbourne Ambassador](#), shared his experience and Stories.

Industry News

Malaysia — Cassie Tam as Global Victoria's newly appointed Education Services Manager



We are pleased to welcome Cassie Tam as Global Victoria's newly appointed Education Services Manager to Malaysia!

We are pleased to welcome Cassie Tam as Global Victoria's newly appointed Education Services Manager to Malaysia!

Cassie holds a Master's Degree in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and has a strong international education background.

Prior to joining Global Victoria, Cassie worked at the British High Commission in Malaysia as the Education Trade Manager, leading the sector team to develop international education through trade promotion activities and strategic market intelligence.

Cassie also worked with the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund, building partnerships for the joint UK and Malaysian research and innovation activities that foster social and economic development.

Cassie has in-depth knowledge of the education system in Malaysia and an extensive network of international education stakeholders.

We look forward to Cassie's contribution to strengthening Victoria's education relationships in Malaysia, supporting Victorian education providers in the market, and leveraging the Study Melbourne Hub in Kuala Lumpur to promote Victorian education, training, and research.

India — Study Melbourne Agent briefings to be conducted in Sri Lanka and India in September 2021

Study Melbourne webinars on "Study & Life in Victoria" will be held between 21 – 27 September 2021 for Education agents in Sri Lanka (AECC, Colombo and 3W Global Education) and in India (UniXperts and Abe Services).

The purpose of the proposed webinars is to promote Victoria as a study destination; showcase Victoria's strength and excellence in the education sector and highlight Study Melbourne initiatives for International students during the Pandemic.

For details and inquiries, please contact Anita Kumari, Trade Manager, South Asia by email: anita.kumari@global.vic.gov.au.

Vietnam — Partner with VinUniversity – Vietnam to delivery articulation programs in Health Sciences

[VinUniversity \(Hanoi\)](#) is looking to partner with Victorian universities to co-deliver articulation programs in Health Sciences.

VinUniversity has a strong focus on developing healthcare, nursing, and medical doctor programs that meet the highest international standards.

VinUni proposed other areas for cooperation, including:

- student and faculty exchange (summer school, internships – new campus in Nha Trang)
- grants for research partnerships
- competitions for students and faculty
- knowledge sharing for institution management, leadership training and learning from young Victorian universities
- other articulation programs (STEM)

If your institution is interested in this opportunity, please contact Ms Chau Ngo, Education Services Director Vietnam, at chau.ngo@global.vic.gov.au for further details.

[Privacy](#) | Email: studymelbourne@global.vic.gov.au



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Industry](#)

Copyright © 2021 Study Melbourne. All rights reserved.



The International Education bulletin is distributed by the [Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions](#).

[Subscribe to the International Education Bulletin](#)