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

This month we are excited to celebrate all the creative submissions from our annual storytelling competition with **Melbourne Writers Festival 2021**. Join us on Thursday 21st of October for our **free celebration event** hosted by writer and dancer **Adolfo Aranjuez**.

Did you know Victoria's education institutions rank among the best in the world?

According to the 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), six of our Victorian Universities are listed in the Top 400 in the world, with The University of Melbourne (#33) and Monash University (#80) also listed in the Top 100.

If you're looking to study with an institution with global recognition and standing, our world class universities have got you covered! **The Study Melbourne course finder** lets you search for courses, scholarships and places to study.

Regards,

The team at Study Melbourne

COVID-19 UPDATES

Getting your COVID-19 vaccination

From 13 September everyone aged 12 years and over will be 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.

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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.

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

The Victorian Government is working with education providers and the Australian Government on an International Student Arrivals Plan.

The plan has been submitted to the Australian Government for consideration and if endorsed will create a safe pathway for a limited number of international students to arrive in Victoria each week.

Timing for the start of international student arrivals will be confirmed following further consultation with the Australian Government.

Universities will select enrolled students who can return to Victoria under the first stage of the plan. There is no application process.

Student selection will begin after the Australian Government has confirmed its support for the plan.

If you are a student visa holder enrolled with a Victorian university, please wait for your university to contact you.

International students are an important part of the Victorian community. We look forward to welcoming you back to our classrooms, campuses, and communities when conditions allow.

Learn more about Victoria's [International Student Arrivals Plan](#).

🌐 Global connections

Study Melbourne has partnered with Internash to deliver an [Everyday Heroes Latin America](#) program for our Latin American students, with the first event commencing on 28 October 2021. This five week long program fosters connectedness and inspiration, showcasing the positive contribution of Latin American students and alumni to Victoria and the cultural links between Victoria and Latin America.

This program also includes a professional development workshop for participating students to learn videography and how to record personal stories on TikTok.

[Register now](#) to secure your place. Places are limited so don't miss out!

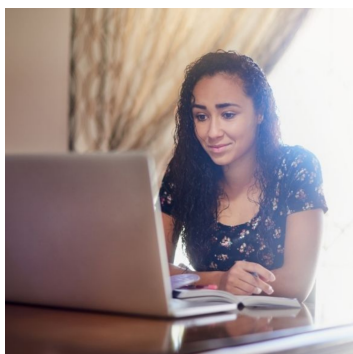
👛 Entrepreneurship

[Future Founders Program](#) – Presented by Study Melbourne and StartSpace, the [Bootcamps](#) offer students intensive and reflective learning, aimed at helping you solidify the business plan and model of your new venture. [Applications now open](#). Please note that applications will close Sunday 16 January 2022.

💻 Career development

[Career Catalyst](#) – Stay tuned for next month's Study Melbourne Career Catalyst webinar, [Shaping Your Future As An International Student](#). We'll be equipping you with a job compass to help you navigate the next steps of your career, with a toolkit of resources that can make your journey easier.

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



Study Melbourne Online Course Guide

Study Melbourne has created a dedicated [Online Course Guide](#) to showcase online study courses from our education providers.

"Wherever you are, and wherever you want your studies to take you, you can get started immediately by joining

International students can opt for 100 percent online study from their home country or start their course online and transition to on-campus learning in Melbourne if and when conditions allow.



Get ready for grass pollen season

Grass pollen season brings an increase in asthma and hay fever. During the season, a high grass pollen count and a certain type of thunderstorm can also **trigger thunderstorm asthma**.

For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

In Victoria, the grass pollen season runs from October through December. Take action to prepare and protect yourself and people in your care this grass pollen season.

Find out more on the **Better Health Channel**.

Study Melbourne Hubs

The Study Melbourne Hubs are a new and exciting initiative for international students.

Our global network of Hubs are located in China, Malaysia, Vietnam (opening soon), 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

Shanghai Hub

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On Saturday, 28th August 2021, the [Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai Pitch Bootcamp](#) was held in collaboration with

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AustCham Shanghai.

The successful event brought 70+ talented students and 60+ outstanding industry leaders for skills development and career building.

Through the one-day event, students deep-dived into exercises that would allow them to discover and grasp their hidden talents.

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

Scan our WeChat mini app QR code for more details.



Support for international students

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](#).

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

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.

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
- 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

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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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