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May 2021

COVID-19 information and support

A message of solidarity to our community in India during the current COVID-19 crisis

Study Melbourne's thoughts are with our Indian staff and their families affected by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in India.

Staff working in the international education sector, including international student peer workers and Study Melbourne staff, can seek free expert advice.

Contact the Orygen education provider advice line on **0409 016 403**. It operates **Monday-Friday 9am to 4.30pm until 30 June 2021**.

International students can reach out to our team at the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) who are available to provide support.

Study Melbourne and the Victorian community stands with you in hope and solidarity during this very challenging time.

Stay safe, and please keep in touch.

The team at Study Melbourne

Victoria's current restriction levels

Victoria further relaxed its [COVIDSafe Settings](#) from 11.59pm Friday 9 April 2021.

For updates on COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

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 if someone cannot earn an income while they self-isolate.

Support for your international students



Study Melbourne continues to provide regular help and support through our dedicated [COVID-19 support hub](#). Please share this resource with your students.

Students who are still experiencing hardship may be eligible for financial assistance through the [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#), which is available to eligible international students in Victoria, including those who have received a payment from the International Student Emergency Relief Fund.

International students in Victoria can access other support, including:

- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- a dedicated [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support hub](#)
- help to find work through the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)
- a directory of [community support and food relief](#)
- access to [free legal advice](#) on accommodation and employment matters
- confidential support and practical help through the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#)

Supporting the safe return of international students to Victoria

We acknowledge the significant contribution our education providers make to Victoria and the serious impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the sector.

The Victorian Government is continuing to work with education providers and the Australian Government on a plan that will facilitate the gradual return of international students when conditions allow.

To support this plan, the Victorian Government has put forward a proposal to the Australian Government which would enable the safe arrival of key economic cohorts, including international students, to support Victoria's and Australia's economic recovery. The proposal would see a limited number of arrivals each week in addition to the existing international passenger arrival cap.

The Victorian Government's \$33.4 million [International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan](#) includes initiatives to reset and stimulate the sector and position Victoria for recovery.

It will build on our strengths – being home to Australia's best student city and boasting globally-renowned education institutions – to stand out in a competitive market.

All segments of the education sector can access and leverage initiatives under this plan.

Initiatives include a Pathway to Victoria scholarship program and international research partnerships to encourage prospective students to make Victoria their first choice. The Victorian Global Education Network will be expanded into the emerging high-growth markets of Vietnam, Brazil and Kenya. Five new international Study Melbourne Hubs will sit alongside the Government's Trade and Investment Network, creating a pathway for students to study in Victoria and securing a greater share of overseas students studying online.

The 2021-22 State Budget - International education sector



The 2021-22 State Budget supports the international education sector with a \$50.9 million investment to continue rolling out the Global Education Network and Study Melbourne Hubs.

These initiatives promote Victoria as a world-class study partner and facilitate education, training and research partnerships with key growth markets around the world.

[Learn more.](#)



Future Founders program

Study Melbourne is teaming up with StartSpace to present the [Future Founders Program](#), a free year-long entrepreneurship program to inspire international students and budding entrepreneurs.

Delivered across onsite and online platforms, the program has commenced with a series of [community roadshows](#) led by industry experts, including chats with successful founders sharing their experiences, interactive workshops focused on tailoring a business proposition and networking opportunities.

The investment is part of the Victorian Government's \$33.4 million International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan announced in the Victorian Budget 2020-21.

Later in the year, the program will feature immersive bootcamps, the Future Founders Festival and Australia's first international student incubator initiative, with \$10,000 venture scholarships on offer for up to eight start-up teams. [Sign up here](#) for future announcements about the program.

Launch of Study Melbourne Leadership Labs 2021 - Friday 21st May



[The Study Melbourne Leadership Labs](#) is back again in 2021, empowering international student leaders across Melbourne.

These events are FREE for students and alumni studying in Melbourne (on-campus or online).

The program helps international students improve their employability skills, networking opportunities and mindsets.

Read more about the program's impact last year, including a range of student testimonials on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

International Education Advisory Council Update



The reconfigured [International Education Advisory Council \(IEAC\)](#) recently convened on **4 May 2021**.

The IEAC is an advisory body providing strategic advice to Government on risks and opportunities for a more innovative and competitive international education sector.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IEAC will have a critical role in advising Government on sector stabilisation and recovery.

The Chair and board members commenced their two-year terms on 28 January 2021, with the first meeting held in March.

Career Catalyst



Study Melbourne Career Catalyst is an employability hub that connects international students with industry and employers.

As the first international student career accelerator of its kind in Australia, Study Melbourne Career Catalyst offers an exclusive suite of free services, events, and initiatives designed to help students develop their professional skills, build industry connections, and launch their career in Victoria.

Attracting and retaining good employees is critical to addressing skills shortages and driving innovation – this initiative connects Victorian industries with the untapped potential of the local international student community.

The integrated, strengths-based employability program is delivered through a partnership with Outcome.Life.

To find out more about the program, check out our [Career Catalyst 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.

Get involved!

Opportunity - Chinese vocational colleges seek assistance to develop degree programs in specific subject areas

Vocational education reform in China has resulted in collaborative approaches towards its entire vocational education framework and industry engagement.

Three-year vocational colleges in China are looking for assistance to elevate their programs to a bachelor level. This includes capacity building programs for teachers and management staff to develop curriculum and operation models.

For more information, please contact Qian Li at qian.li@global.vic.gov.au.

Latin America — Study Melbourne virtual education fairs

Interested in recruiting in Latin America? We are running two Study Melbourne virtual education fairs.

- Brazil: 22/23 June 2021
- Latam: 23/24 June 2021

To find out more, please email our Education Services Director Latin America at andrea.voto-bernales@global.vic.gov.au.

Industry News

Victoria India Innovation Exchange - April to June 2021

[Edugrowth](#) will be running a series of public and invite-only events that connect the Victorian and Indian EdTech and education innovation ecosystems.

Indian and Victorian educators and EdTech entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to connect and gain insights from each other's respective EdTech ecosystems.

Experts from across India and Victoria will share mutual learnings on education innovation, education technology and the education sector at large.

We will discuss technology platforms, innovation models, and product efficacy from each lens, targeting each audience and cultural nuances.

Gordon TAFE event at the Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai - 1 April 2021

[The Gordon TAFE](#) was one of the first Victorian education institutes to host a roundtable discussion at the newly established Victorian Government [Study Melbourne Hub Shanghai](#).

The inaugural hub is part of the government's \$33.4 million International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan, including a global network of hubs in emerging high-growth markets.

These hubs will showcase Victoria's global leadership in digital training and education innovation by connecting edtech companies, education providers, educators, researchers and investors to

grow Victoria's education services sector. TAFEs will also be supported to meet growing global demand for online professional short courses.

Joe Ormeno, CEO of The Gordon, said that in the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic, the flow of talent and resources between countries and regions is becoming increasingly important.

Facilitated by the VGTI China office, The Gordon has worked with the Association to run various successful online training courses.

MAAC Career Talk - Promotion of Victoria as a study destination and promotion of Victorian universities

On Saturday 17 April, the SEA education team delivered a short presentation at the [Malaysian Australian Alumni Council](#) (MAAC) 'Career Talk' event.

The face-to-face event was held at USCI University for alumni and their children.

Students experienced a virtual campus tour of the universities and heard stories by featured graduates.

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