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## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INSIDER

*Image: Jane Zhang for Melbourne International Student Week.*

It's hard to believe we are already approaching the halfway mark for 2022 and it's heartening to see the pace of recovery continuing to hasten. This month's International Education Insider offers you an insight into the steady flow of programs and initiatives in place to support Victoria's international education sector to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Study Melbourne is thrilled to be announced as a finalist for the PIEoneer Awards 2022. We've been recognised in the Student Support category for our industry leading Study Melbourne Hubs 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. Congratulations to all our fellow finalists and we look forward to the winners being announced on Friday 9 September in London. Read [more](#).

It was fantastic to see such a great turn out of students at Melbourne International Student Week. The Study Melbourne team had so much fun connecting with our international student community over the opening weekend at Federation Square. We also enjoyed meeting students at events and activities held over the week including in our Study Melbourne Hubs in [Shanghai](#), [Kuala Lumpur](#) and [Ho Chi Minh City](#) (which hosted a very fun music night on the rooftop of the Hub). As part of MISW, Study Melbourne hosted an International Education Industry Recovery Briefing, with the Hon. Steven Dimopoulos MP and insights into student sentiment from the Lygon Group. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with industry colleagues and learn more about student perspectives and experiences.

Applications for the [Victorian International Education Awards](#) have now closed. It's an exciting time to recognise our international education providers for your hard work supporting the sector. We are looking forward to the awards ceremony to be held later this year and appreciate the time invested in developing submissions. Good luck to all applicants!

It was an honour to host Her Excellency Busadee Santipitaks, Ambassador of Thailand to Australia recently. The visit reaffirmed the commitment of Victorian education providers in Thailand. With nearly 4,000 Thai students enrolled in Victorian institutions it is a key emerging international education partner.

Study Melbourne was also inspired by a recent keynote address by Zondwa Mandela, the grandson of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Chairman of the Mandela Legacy Foundation, and an innovator in solving global youth unemployment. Zondwa was the special guest at the launch of MentorMatch - a new mentoring platform initiative presented in partnership with Rotary Districts of Victoria and Study Melbourne to build social connectedness for students utilising the skills and experience of Rotarians.

We are looking forward to connecting with colleagues and education agents from across the globe at the upcoming ICEF ANZA conference in Adelaide on 15-17 June. If you would like to discuss opportunities to connect your incoming agent delegations with Study Melbourne, please get in touch with us at [Study Melbourne](#).

*The Study Melbourne Team*

## NEWS & UPDATES



### PIE Award Finalists

Study Melbourne is thrilled to be announced as a finalist for the [PIEoneer Awards 2022](#). We've been recognised in the Student Support category for our industry leading Study Melbourne Hubs 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. The Hubs provide events and activities designed to enhance employment options, social connection and student empowerment, as well as connecting them to support services and study spaces.

Congratulations to all of our fellow finalists and we look forward to the winners being announced on Friday 9 September in London. Read [more](#).



### Melbourne International Student Week supported by Study Melbourne

Study Melbourne is proud to have been the major sponsor of the inaugural [Melbourne International Student Week](#).

Presented by the Committee for Melbourne, the initiative offered a week-long celebration of Victoria's vibrant student community with live music, food, cultural activities and experiences, and helpful information and support programs for our international student community.

We had so much fun connecting with our international student community at Federation Square over the opening weekend, and events held in our Study Melbourne Hubs in Shanghai, Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur, rounded out the weeklong festivities.

Big thanks to our colleagues at Jobs Victoria, Live in Melbourne, Creative Victoria, Victoria Police, Department of Health, Department of Education and Training and City of Melbourne and to our partners at Melbourne International Student Badminton, Beyond Melbourne, Filipino Community Council of Victoria, and Indian Care for bringing their expertise to international students over the weekend, raising awareness of important issues and offering specialist content and information.



## Industry Roundtable to Improve International Student Employment Outcomes

The Victorian Government, through Study Melbourne, is committed to boosting global career outcomes for international students studying with Victoria.

On 25 May, Study Melbourne hosted a roundtable on international student employment at Investment Centre Victoria. Co-chaired by the Hon. John Brumby AO, Chair [International Education Advisory Council](#), and Mr Simon Phemister, Secretary, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, the roundtable was attended by senior representatives from local and international businesses, industry peak bodies, education providers and government.

With acute skills shortages experienced across Victorian industries and businesses, international students are a major untapped talent pool capable of contributing to knowledge and skills priorities. Business leaders demonstrated a shared commitment to improving employment pathways and outcomes for this talented cohort. Roundtable participants recommended insightful approaches, including offering more quality work experiences to international students during their study, amending recruitment policy and processes, and actively promoting international student capability among industry.

More information on this initiative will be available on the Study Melbourne website shortly. Boosting global career outcomes builds on our [Empowered](#) series, which is aimed at building employability, leadership and entrepreneurship skills for international students





## Study Melbourne Hub Ho Chi Minh City Music Festival 2022

The Study Melbourne Hub Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) hosted its first music concert on 13 May in celebration of Melbourne International Student Week.

The event featured performances by Vietnam-based students and alumni of Victorian universities to the backdrop of a Federation Square installation on the rooftop of the HCMC Hub. It mirrored Melbourne International Student Week events held in Victoria and celebrated the vibrancy of Melbourne and HCMC.

Over 120 people attended, including education and government partners and students from high schools and universities. See the event video and photos [here](#).



## Study Melbourne Research Partnerships stopping the spread of 'fake news'

Launched in October 2021, the Study Melbourne Research Partnerships program provides \$2.8 million in funding for major research projects between Victorian education providers and international partners. One of the partnerships, between Deakin University and Gadjah Mada University, looks at tackling misinformation.

Since the beginning of the global pandemic, COVID-19 information has spread around the world through mass media and social platforms, creating what authorities term an 'infodemic'. Unfortunately, not all information is accurate or trustworthy. Some are even categorised as 'fake news'.

Deakin University and Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia will use a computational-based detection, machine learning, and human factor engineering approach to design a decision support system that functions as a warning mechanism for misinformation related to COVID-19. The final tool is being developed for use by organisations and governments in developing appropriate communications and education strategies.

Find out more about the Study Melbourne Research Partnerships on our [website](#).



## Study Melbourne Hub India celebrates South Asian women in STEM

Study Melbourne celebrated the inspiring efforts and achievements of South Asian women in STEM through an empowering panel discussion with STEM Sisters on 29 March 2022.

The forum provided insights on the diversity and inclusiveness of STEM women in Australia, showcasing some of the outstanding South Asian women in Australia, including:

- Professor Asha Rao - Associate Dean, Mathematical Sciences, RMIT University
- Megha Bote - Cyber Security Consultant, Capgemini
- Ritika Saxena - PhD Research Student, Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI)
- Neelam Yadav - Information and Data Officer at IPC Health, STEM Sisters Volunteer
- Ruwangi Fernando - founder of STEM sisters, STEM changemaker and lecturer at Victoria University



The event also saw the launch of [MAGNIFY's](#) third issue, which features journeys of successful STEM women and discusses how women in STEM stand out among their peers.

Connect and harness opportunities for women in STEM by visiting the [Study Melbourne Hub India](#) and STEM sisters [website](#).



## International Student Arrivals

Study Melbourne continues to work with the sector to support the arrival of international students to Victoria, and to warmly welcome returning and commencing students.

### Pre-departure testing

While the Australian Government no longer requires people travelling to Australia to have a COVID-19 test before travel, travellers must ensure they meet the requirements of individual airlines and those of any countries they will transit through. Visit the [Australian Government's International travel page](#) for more information.

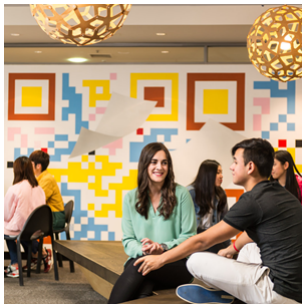
Study Melbourne offers dedicated resources for students who are travelling to Victoria from overseas, and for those who have just arrived.

Connect your students to Study Melbourne's [International Student Arrivals](#) and Welcome to Melbourne, Victoria [web page](#) to help them settle into student life, learn about support services and programs for international students in Victoria and find helpful checklists and resources.

## EVENTS & KEY DATES

### Study Melbourne Student Experience Network Webinar

Join this webinar to learn more about the latest Victorian Government employment and career development programs and initiatives available to help international students to thrive while they're living and studying in Victoria. In this webinar we'll discuss the opportunities, and positive ways these programs are connecting students to our communities and workplaces.



#### Event details:

- **Date:** 17 June 2022
- **Time:** 11:00am - 12:00pm AEST
- **Location:** Online
- **Cost:** Free - [Register now](#)

### Study Melbourne Monthly Sector Briefings

Delivered by Victoria's Trade and Investment Commissioners and Global Education Network, monthly sector briefings provide on the ground market intelligence and updates regarding new opportunities, student/agent feedback, competitor activities, changes to education policies and Victorian Government business development activities in market. Each month we focus on a different country or region, with the next briefing focused on Southeast Asia.



#### Event details:

- **Date:** 21 June 2022
- **Time:** 2:00pm – 3:00pm AEST
- **Location:** Online
- **Cost:** Free - For the full schedule of our upcoming market briefings register via [Eventbrite](#).

Contact Kim Cleary at [kim.cleary@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:kim.cleary@global.vic.gov.au) for further enquiries.

## MARKET ENGAGEMENT



## Study Melbourne hosts Thai Ambassador



Study Melbourne was proud to host Her Excellency Busadee Santipitaks, Ambassador of Thailand to Australia, on Friday 23 May. As part of the visit, the Ambassador met with representatives from Victorian universities at a roundtable, providing an opportunity for universities to learn about the education opportunities in Thailand.

The Ambassador visited Kangan Institute and William Angliss Institute, to learn more about Victoria's VET capabilities in the auto manufacturing and hospitality and tourism areas, both of which are major contributors to the Thai economy.

Following a visit to Monash University, the Ambassador also met with representatives from RMIT University, and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, to discuss areas of collaboration in the green energy and circular economy space.

The visit strengthened strategic linkages between Victoria and Thailand. To find out more about opportunities in Thailand, please contact Cassie Tam, Study Melbourne Education Services Director for Malaysia and Thailand, at [cassandra.tam@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.tam@global.vic.gov.au)



## Victoria's Sport Courses Profiling Session at Chengdu Sport University



Study Melbourne held the inaugural Victorian Sport Courses Profiling Session at Chengdu Sport University on 12 May in collaboration with Victoria University, La Trobe University and Deakin University.

The event showcased the advanced sports facilities, sports courses and research outcomes of these Victorian universities and attracted over 130 undergraduate students, including international students.

Key areas of interest included sports management, sports exercises and sports analytics. Terry Wang, Study Melbourne Education Services Manager in Chengdu, will continue to facilitate discussions on student exchange, articulation partnerships and joint research between Victorian universities and Chengdu Sport University.

Please contact Terry for any further information on sports education opportunities in China at [terry.wang@global.vic.gov.au](mailto:terry.wang@global.vic.gov.au).

**SERVICES & SUPPORT**



## Support for international students in need

Study Melbourne continues to provide help and support for international students including:

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

We encourage you to share these resources with your students.

## COVID-19 UPDATE



### COVID-19 vaccine third dose | Coronavirus Victoria

If you are aged 18 and over and you had your second vaccine dose three or more months ago, you are due for your third dose now. For more information about COVID-19 Pfizer and Moderna third doses visit the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

### 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.



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