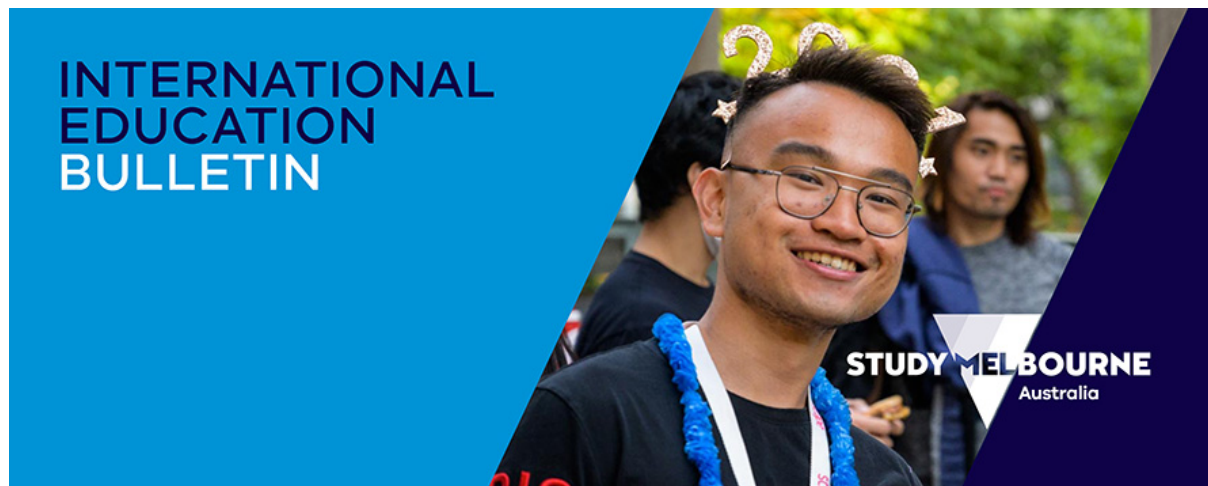


[Forward this email](#) | [View in web browser](#)

April 2021

COVID-19 information and support

Victoria's current restriction levels

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

For all 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](#)

Highlights

Study Melbourne Hubs



The new [Study Melbourne Hub in Shanghai](#) is now open. The Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) Office in Shanghai hosted an opening ceremony on **31 March 2021**, attended by distinguished guests, our education partners and local staff.

Commissioner for Victoria to Greater China Brett Stevens addressed the attendees with participants from Melbourne joining online.

The hub is the first of a global network of Study Melbourne hubs planned for high-growth international education markets. Other hubs will open in Bengaluru, Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur – all in regions with a strong interest in international and online study, as well as technology investment and expertise.

The Study Melbourne hubs are available to our education providers and partners who require support in hosting events for recruitment, research collaboration, industry engagement and networking purposes.

Contact the [VGTI office in Shanghai](#) for more information.

Future Founders program



Study Melbourne is once again teaming up with StartSpace to present the [Future Founders](#)

[Program](#), a year-long entrepreneurship program aimed at international students and budding entrepreneurs.

Delivered across onsite and online platforms, the program will include community roadshows led by industry experts, 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 startup teams.

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, which includes initiatives to reset and stimulate the sector and position Victoria for a strong recovery.

Expression of interest — food aid partnership with SecondBite



Image courtesy of R. Timbury, Casamento Photography/ University of Melbourne.

SecondBite is seeking education providers and community organisations to help distribute meals to international students in need of food aid.

SecondBite has partnered with FareShare to distribute up to 125,000 pre-prepared frozen meals to international students across Melbourne.

The meals are ideal for students seeking tasty, nutritious food. They are culturally appropriate, include vegetarian, halal and kosher options, and are available for collection from SecondBite's university partners, including the University of Melbourne, Monash University and La Trobe University.

The program is supported by the Victorian Government's \$1.35 million investment to SecondBite, Foodbank Victoria and OzHarvest to provide food relief for international students experiencing financial hardship.

Food support also is available at [Foodbank's pop-up grocery store](#) from **10am to 2pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday** (except public holidays), located at 230 La Trobe Street.

OzHarvest prepares bags of groceries for collection across metropolitan Melbourne as well as in Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat. Find a list of collection points on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

For more information, please email Emma Last at emma.last@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au.

Career Catalyst



[Study Melbourne Career Catalyst](#) provides international students with the right skills and connections to launch their careers in Victoria.

The comprehensive career development hub is free to join and helps students to connect, learn and grow through a community of peers and industry leaders.

Attracting and retaining good employees is critical to addressing skills shortages and driving innovation, but Victorian industries remain largely unaware of 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 how the program can help you, [contact Outcome.life](#).

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.

Mental health advice line for education staff

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

The Victorian Government has engaged [Orygen](#) to establish an advice line with senior clinicians available to offer secondary consultation, practice support and clinical advice.

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

Get involved!

Registration of interest — Make your mark in Melbourne

Victoria is looking for the world's best talent, who:

- work in industries of advanced knowledge
- have skills that will contribute to Victoria's economic recovery, or
- have a track record of commercialising innovative ideas and bringing them to market.

If this sounds like you, find out which [skilled visas](#) are eligible for nomination. Make sure you meet the eligibility criteria before submitting a [Registration of Interest](#).

Latin America — Study Melbourne virtual education fairs

Interested in recruiting in Latin America? Save the date for 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.

Expression of interest — ASEAN China Sports Culture Development Alliance and the Maritime Silk Road Art Education Alliance

The ASEAN-China Centre and Hainan University have launched the ASEAN-China Sports Culture Development Alliance, and the Maritime Silk Road Art Education Alliance.

Victorian education institutions with an interest in sports, arts or design can register their interest in joining the alliances.

To find out more, please email our Education Services Manager, Chengdu at Terry.Wang@global.vic.gov.au.

Applications open for Category Two funding — The International Student Welfare Program

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available for organisations to work in partnership delivering activities to support the wellbeing of international students.

The Victorian Government's International Student Welfare Program funds projects that enhance the experience of international students studying in Victoria.

This includes projects addressing topics such as student wellbeing (including sexual and mental health), student empowerment, and safety.

Applications also may be considered for activities that enhance projects funded last year, which aimed to support international students impacted by COVID-19.

Applications for Category Two funding through the International Student Welfare Program must be submitted via the [Business Victoria website](#) by **11.59pm on Friday 23 April 2021**.

Find out more on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Industry News

Victoria EdTech Summit Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman - 25/26 May 2021

Virtual EdTech mission to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Oman will showcase advanced Victorian EdTech solutions and tools to K-12 schools, higher education institutions and public sector organisations.

The free event focuses on sharing knowledge and best practice for education professionals and potential customers.

The two-day summit will include a program of workshops, speakers, and expert panel sessions, as well as pitches from Victorian companies.

The Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office in Dubai has engaged a leading conference and exhibition organiser with local expertise to deliver the program.

The event aims to support leading private and public sector agencies, universities and private schools.

Privacy | Email: studymelbourne@ecodev.vic.gov.au



Unsubscribe

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

[Subscribe to the International Education Bulletin](#)