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

**This month we are excited to announce our 2021 Student Ambassadors.** Our Ambassadors help create a rich and supportive community for current and prospective international students in Victoria.

If you're studying online from overseas, there are many ways to get involved and stay connected to the Study Melbourne community.

**In partnership with Melbourne Writers Festival**, we bring your stories to life in this year's storytelling competition: **Melbourne Beginnings**.

We also invite you to one of our virtual or physical Study Melbourne hubs in key locations across the world to connect with others, including Victorian alumni who can tell you about their own experience of living and studying in Victoria. For more information visit [studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/Hubs](https://studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/Hubs).

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](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 056 449.

For up-to-date information and resources on COVID-19, including health, travel and education matters, visit our dedicated **COVID-19 Support for International Students hub** page.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and have a wonderful month ahead!

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## Melbourne, Australia's Best Student City 2022

Melbourne is proud to again be recognised as Australia's best student city in Australia, according to the prestigious [QS Best Student Cities 2022](#).

Melbourne is home to not only world-class education and research but is also a safe and vibrant city that offers students support services and a wide range of things to do.

For more information, visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

### Victoria's restriction levels

Victoria has moved to COVIDSafe Settings.

*A stay-at-home curfew is now in place. Between 9:00pm and 5:00am, you cannot leave your home (or the home of your intimate partner or bubble buddy) other than for limited reasons, including:*

- authorised work
- health and medical purposes
- care and support of a child or someone with special needs
- in an emergency or to escape harm

Find out what this means for you on the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

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### 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

Welcoming international students back to Victoria as soon as it is safe to do so is a priority for the Victorian Government.

Victoria's International Student Arrivals Plan is being developed to enable international students to gradually return to Victoria.

Students who urgently need to return to Australia to complete or continue their studies will be prioritised.

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 look at our [student arrivals webpage](#).

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. We encourage you to keep in touch with your education provider for ongoing support.



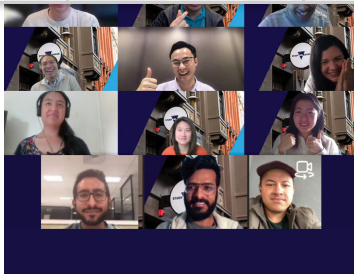
## Melbourne Writers Festival

Win amazing prizes with your stories of being an international student.

Study Melbourne has partnered with [Melbourne Writers Festival](#) to bring your stories to life in this year's storytelling competition: [Melbourne Beginnings](#).

Dive into your imagination and memory to submit a piece inspired by the concept: "This is how my story began...". Flex your creative muscles to make it a tale to remember.

Amazing prizes are on offer for the best storytellers across six categories.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Meet our 2021 International Student Ambassadors](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Study Melbourne is excited to announce the [Ambassadors for 2021](#).

Our Ambassadors help create a rich and supportive community for current and prospective international students in Victoria.

You can read all about our 2021 Ambassadors [here](#).

Stay tuned for more updates on the program, including new student stories.



### **Leadership Labs 4Impact stream**

#### **[Study Melbourne Leadership Labs](#)**

**2021** supports the empowerment and leadership skills of emerging and future international student leaders.

From this month, join the **Leadership Labs for 4Impact stream**.

Students will form a social enterprise project team based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The program will help strengthen teams interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

Four social enterprise business leaders will mentor project teams focusing on climate action, quality education, and reducing hunger over the 12-week program.

Students will also have a chance to pitch their social enterprises to win \$10,000 in scholarships from The Hacker Exchange.

To find out more about Leadership Labs including information about the mentors visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

### **Study Melbourne Confidence Crew: South Asia – Everyday Heroes**

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Everyday Heroes series (August - September).

International students from South Asia are invited to connect in this virtual program designed to support our South Asian international student community both in Victoria and overseas, who have been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

*"Confidence Crew has really helped me manage everything better!"* — Priya S.

In our Everyday Heroes series, we'll be talking to some real everyday heroes in the form of current and former international students like you about what they are doing to make positive change in the world we live in.

Book your free [tickets here](#).



## Study Melbourne Confidence Crew: South Asia - Quadcasting winners

Study Melbourne is excited to announce the winners from the [Confidence Crew Quadcasting program](#).

Victorian international students Maurice Amee, Vrinda Singh and Ashvini Tamgadge created their winning [Quadcast #Relatable](#) about the struggles many students have faced during COVID-19 and how best to make change - from the inside, out.

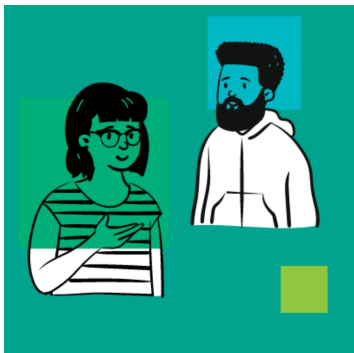
Listen to all the podcasts on [Spotify](#) or <https://anchor.fm/confidence-hackers>.

## Dealing with shyness

Study Melbourne Ambassador Shohail Ibne Mahbub shares his 'tried and tested' tips for overcoming shyness and getting out of your

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[comfort zone. Read now.](#)[Translate ▼](#)

You can also visit our [Student stories page](#) on the Study Melbourne website to read how students have spent their time in Melbourne and Victoria!



## Partners in Wellbeing

Are you feeling stressed? Talking to someone can help you feel that you're not alone.

[Partners in Wellbeing](#) provides free support and advice to international students during COVID-19 and beyond.

Contact the team between 9am – 10pm weekdays and 9am – 5pm weekends. Call 1300 375 330 or [visit their website](#).



## Career Catalyst – Employability events

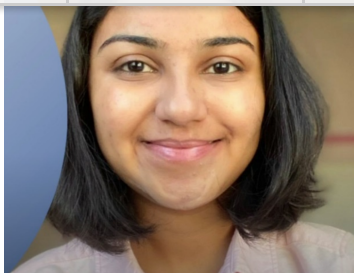
[Study Melbourne Career Catalyst](#) is a comprehensive career development hub that helps international students build employability skills and make valuable industry connections.

This month's free events include interview and LinkedIn workshops, one-on-one resume coaching sessions, and an employability webinar on [Skilled Migrant Visa in Victoria](#).

In this Study Melbourne Career Catalyst webinar, [Outcome.Life](#) chats with Sarah Leraci and Damian Marquardt from Jobs, Precincts, and Regions Victoria so you can better understand the new Skilled Migrant Visa and how you can seize this opportunity.

## Career Catalyst – Scholarship winners

Study Melbourne is also delighted to announce two [Career Catalyst scholarship winners](#) who

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)will receive \$2,000 each to undertake Outcome.  
life's Work Readiness Program[Translate ▼](#)

The winners were selected based on their participation and impressive skills development across Career Catalyst's interview online course, LinkedIn coaching and employability webinars.

Congratulations to **Shuo Wang** and **Harshili Shah** – both studying IT at Monash University.

Watch their [story videos here](#)



### IndianCare – Project SASS

Are you looking to belong to a community of like-minded people?

**Project SASS** is an innovative, student-led project that connects students with support and events, to help you make friends or build your career skills.



### Food aid for international students

The Victorian Government is supporting Foodbank, OzHarvest and SecondBite with funding to **provide food aid** to international students in Victoria experiencing financial hardship.

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.

The store is open from **10am to 2pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday** (except public holidays) and is located at 230 La Trobe Street.

OzHarvest and SecondBite are providing bags of groceries and pre-prepared frozen meals for collection across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Future Founders Program 2021](#)[Translate ▼](#)

**The Future Founders Program 2021** is a free program designed for international students and budding entrepreneurs.

As part of the program, the **48-hour Hackathon** offers a hands-on introduction to entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem.

Set for the weekend of 28-29 August (online), you will join a team to develop and build a product idea, which you'll then present to expert judges.

You can also subscribe to the **Future Founders YouTube channel** and catch up on the Future Founders Festival sessions and speakers.

In September 2021, the **Future Founders Bootcamps** will run over two weeks with students developing a business idea.

To be amongst the first to hear when the Bootcamp application has launched please sign up to **register your interest**.

## 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.

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for an emergency payment.

Please visit [www.redcross.org.au/vicrelief](http://www.redcross.org.au/vicrelief) to apply.

## 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](#).

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



## 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](#)

Contact us at [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au)

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