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Welcome to our March 2023 edition of the Study Melbourne Student Update.

The start of Autumn marks the start of semester for many of you and you may have already participated in orientation week at your university, TAFE or college. If you are still preparing to leave your home country, we look forward to welcoming you to Melbourne very soon.

Living abroad is very exciting and at Study Melbourne, we're here to support you every step of the way. Make time to head down to our [Study Melbourne Hub](#), located centrally at 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne, to meet up with friends, engage in cultural events and networking opportunities or just to have a cup of tea or coffee. We even have qualified caseworkers to help you with any issues you're facing – this service is free and we are always available for a confidential discussion.

March is set to be full of fun and free activities, especially for international students! Here's a snapshot of what's on offer this month:

Melbourne Comedy Festival free tickets – 29 March to 23 April 2023

If you're up for some laughs, don't miss the [Melbourne Comedy Festival 2023](#), where Study Melbourne is partnering with the Comedy Festival to give away free double passes exclusively to international students to attend the Best of Comedy Asia. More details below.

Melbourne Food and Wine Festival presents free Coffee Tours

Do you love coffee or want to find out more about Melbourne's coffee culture? As part of our partnership with the [Melbourne Food and Wine Festival](#), Study Melbourne is giving international students exclusive tickets to experience a free [Coffee Tour](#)! See below for more details.

We warmly welcome you to Melbourne – Australia's best student city!

Study Melbourne Team

Introducing our new 2023 Study Melbourne Ambassadors



We are excited to introduce and welcome the 2023 Study Melbourne Ambassadors!

As community leaders and changemakers, the Study Melbourne Ambassadors will share their experiences, knowledge and insights with the international student community.

The ambassadors will help to improve our ability to deliver high quality programs and services for all international students in Victoria, to enrich the student journey and enhance student employability. Each ambassador represents a voice of the community we serve across our programs and initiatives.

We look forward to working with each of them over the coming months.

Find out more about our [student programs](#).

Free Coffee Tour for international students



Calling all coffee (and tea) lovers! As part of our partnership with Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, Study Melbourne is giving students the opportunity to book a free Coffee Tour in March, April and May.

Walk between three different cafés on each tour and stop for a drink and a snack while learning about the unique local coffee scene. You will also meet like-minded coffee lovers!

We have a limited number of free tickets — hurry and [book your spot](#) today!

Free tickets to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2023



Study Melbourne, in partnership with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, is giving international students the opportunity to attend the [Best of Comedy Zone Asia](#), featuring comedians from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Study Melbourne has a limited number of free double passes for performances on:

- Thursday 30 March, 6:15pm
- Friday 31 March, 6:15pm
- Saturday 1 April, 6:15pm
- Sunday 2 April, 5:15pm
- Wednesday 5 April, 6:15pm.

The registration link for a free double pass* will be posted in the [Study Melbourne Facebook Group – International Students of Melbourne and Victoria](#) on **20 March 2023**. Make sure you join today to avoid missing out!

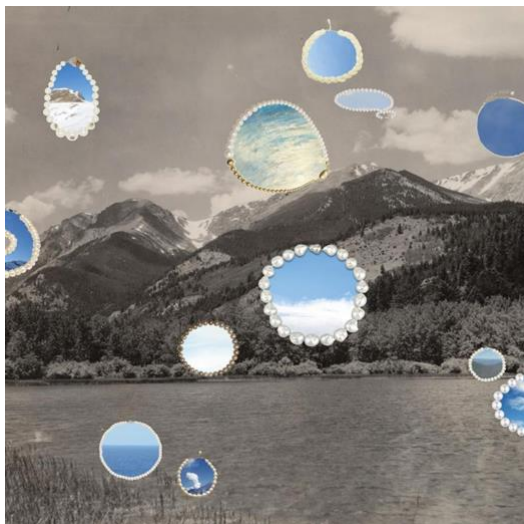
To be eligible for this offer:

- You must be an international student enrolled in a course of study in Victoria
- You must register for the tickets with a student email

- You must pick up the tickets from the Study Melbourne Hub at 17 Hardware Lane Melbourne and show a valid student ID

*Each person can receive one double pass to one performance only.

Melbourne Now exhibition for international students at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)



Calling international students – you're invited to the opening of the exhibition Melbourne Now at the NGV.

The NGV Community Ambassadors have a day of fun planned for international students. The schedule is as follows:

- **10am–3pm:**

Drop by during these hours for drawing activities and tours led by international students

- **1pm–2pm**

Join a panel discussion featuring current and graduate international students. Also hear from NGV Community Ambassadors and Scotty So, an exhibiting artist of Melbourne Now, as they share their experiences living and studying in Melbourne. Study Melbourne will also be joining the panel as we facilitate the sharing of valuable insights into the unique challenges and opportunities faced by international students, pursuing their passions in this vibrant city.

For more information and a full program visit the [NGV website](#).

Important announcement from the Australian Government – post study work rights changes



From 1 July 2023, international higher education graduates with eligible qualifications will be granted an extra [two years of post-study work rights](#). The allowable [work hours cap](#) for international students will also be increased from 40 hours to 48 hours per fortnight.

Post-study work rights for international graduates will be increased from:

- 2 years to 4 years for select bachelor degrees
- 3 years to 5 years for select master degrees
- 4 years to 6 years for all doctoral degrees.

A two-year extension of post-study work rights is available for international graduates with select degrees that are in areas of verified skill shortage. View the [indicative list of eligible occupations](#) in demand and the related qualifications which are eligible for the extension.

The extension is in addition to the existing additional one to two years of work rights for eligible students who study, live and work in regional areas.

More information can be found on the [Post-Study Work Rights Fact Sheet](#).

Study Melbourne Future Founders Venture Scholarships 2023 – applications open



If you're an ambitious international student founder of a new or early-stage business, we're inviting you to apply for our Study Melbourne Future Founders Venture Scholarships

There are 5 scholarships to be awarded for the 12-week program running from April to July 2023 including:

- \$10,000 seed funding for your business
- bespoke business mentoring and coaching
- StartSpace Loft membership

Applications are open until **Sunday 26 March, 11:59pm**.

Learn more about the eligibility criteria and how to apply via our [website](#).

Victoria's Big Build Graduate Program – applications open



Are you a graduate looking to kickstart your professional career? Victoria's Big Build Graduate Programs are open for applications until **27 March 2023!**

There are approximately 100 graduate roles available across 5 Big Build project teams in a range of disciplines including **Engineering, Communications and Graphic Design, Human Resources, Information Systems, Land Planning and Environment, Law** and many more.

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- have completed your degree between January 2021 and January 2024
- hold a bachelor or master's degree relevant to the role you're applying for
- have full Australian working rights at time of application.

[Discover more](#) about the Big Build Graduate Program, application dates and your eligibility.

Applying for scholarships, grants and bursaries



Scholarships, grants and bursaries can cover the cost of tuition fees and living expenses while studying in Australia.

Here are some ways to help you apply for funding:

- Head to our [Course Finder](#) and select 'scholarship' to research the different scholarships available
- Check the eligibility criteria for each scholarship
- Prepare all necessary documentation
- Submit your application directly to the university, government body or business.

In addition, don't forget to check out the [Australia Awards scholarships](#) offered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

For more guidance, [refer to this article](#) on the Study Melbourne website.

Travelling to Australia? Make sure you know what you can bring with you



Are you about to depart for Victoria or are your friends and family planning to visit? Here is a list of what you can and cannot bring into Australia due to strict customs and biosecurity laws.

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Home cooked meals
- Food from the plane
- Meat, poultry, egg or dairy
- Live plants and seeds.

For a full list, visit the [Australian Border Force website](#).

Hear from Swedish exchange student, Johanna



As more international students return to Melbourne and Victoria, we caught up with Swedish exchange student, Johanna.

In this [article](#), we hear from Johanna on the reasons why she chose Melbourne as a study destination, her love for our diverse city and tips for prospective international students.

Melbourne – a safe and welcoming city



Safety is a top priority for many students when choosing a study destination. We're proud to say that Melbourne is ranked as one of the world's safest cities according to the [Economist Safe Cities Index 2021](#).

The city is ranked highly in:

- Digital security: Melbourne is a leader in technology, focusing on ensuring personal information and online activities are protected
- Health security: The city has a strong healthcare system, with access to quality medical care and emergency services for students
- Infrastructure security: Melbourne's infrastructure is designed to withstand natural disasters and other emergencies
- Personal security: Melbourne is known for its low crime rates and safe streets, providing students with a peaceful environment to focus on their studies.

For more information about why Melbourne is Australia's most liveable and best student city, visit our [website](#).

Internationally renowned First Nations artists visit Ho Chi Minh City



Study Melbourne Hub Ho Chi Minh City was proud to host a morning coffee talk with [Isaiah Firebrace](#) and [Mitch Tambo](#), 2 internationally renowned First Nations artists, on 23 February 2023.

This was a unique sharing session to reflect on the 2 artists' accomplishments, how they incorporate their cultural background into their artistry and their efforts in preserving Indigenous culture.

The event welcomed students and alumni from FPT Melbourne Polytechnic, Deakin University and the University of Melbourne.

A student from Melbourne Polytechnic shared her strong impression of the event, describing it as an 'insightful knowledge-sharing session and massive networking opportunity with these international artists'.

Visit our [website](#) to keep up to date with activities at the Study Melbourne Hub Ho Chi Minh City.

Superannuation and your entitlements



Are you seeking employment in Australia or have commenced employment? Don't forget that you may be entitled to superannuation contributions from your employer.

In Australia, superannuation is often called "super" and is a way of saving money for retirement. Even if you leave Australia, you may be able to claim your super before you go.

To learn more about superannuation and how to apply, [read this article](#).

Explore the outdoors and lace up your sneakers for a cardio session with a view



Exercising is a great way to de-stress after a long day. Melbourne offers some of the best running tracks in Australia. Explore iconic landmarks like the [Royal Botanic Gardens](#), [Melbourne Zoo](#), and [Shrine of Remembrance](#).

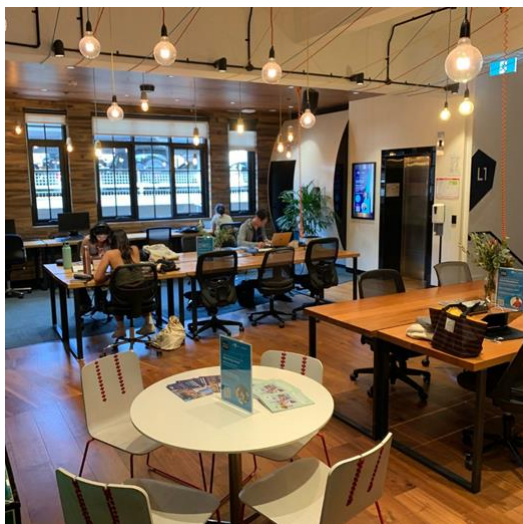
Here are our top suggestions for your next run:

- Albert Park
- Maribyrnong River Trail
- Merri Creek Trail
- The Yarra Bend
- The Tan Track.

Don't forget to stay in the loop with running events on [What's On Melbourne!](#)

SERVICES & SUPPORT

Study Melbourne Hub



The [Study Melbourne Hub](#) (formerly called the Study Melbourne Student Centre) provides confidential help and advice to all international students in Victoria. We support students with a range of enquiries including financial hardship, accommodation, wellbeing and mental health support, legal information and education provider problems.

All international students are encouraged to visit the Hub to learn about the space and the services we offer. You can also contact us to make an appointment via email or our 24/7 phone line.

At the Hub you can:

- Access student workspaces
- Get tips on everything about living and studying in Victoria
- Enjoy free coffee, tea and WiFi

Address: 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne.

Opening hours: 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday

24/7 phone line:

- **Local call:** 1800 056 449 (free from landline phones)
- **Overseas call:** +61 3 9623 1512

Email: info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au

Study Melbourne's free legal service for international students



The [International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service \(ISEALS\)](#) provides free and confidential legal advice to international students living in Victoria about their accommodation and work rights.

The service is run through Study Melbourne and assists students with issues like:

- Underpayment
- Bullying and discrimination
- Sexual harassment
- Unfairly being fired, or forced to quit from their job
- Being engaged as an independent contractor
- Rental properties that fall below standard
- Issues with bond and rent
- Changes to renting arrangements.

If you need assistance, please contact the [Study Melbourne Hub](#) to make an appointment.

Question of the month

As an international student what insurance is required to study in Australia?

Answer: As an international student in Australia, you are required to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the entire duration of your study in Australia. But there are also other types of insurance which you may find useful. [Learn more about OSHC.](#)

Finding accommodation that's right for you



Seeking accommodation options can be confusing. Insider Guides has developed a tool called Homebase to help you understand what accommodation is right for you based on your lifestyle choices, with useful advice about each option.

[This article](#) also lists the [types of accommodation](#) options you might like to consider.

How much does it cost to live in Australia?



If you're considering living in Melbourne and would like to find out the cost of living, you can use the Study Australia [Cost of Living Calculator](#) which compares Melbourne to other Australian cities.

Study Melbourne also offers plenty of support for students including financial advice. Visit [our website](#) for more information.

Additional support for international students

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

- Tips and advice for [working in Melbourne and regional Victoria](#)
- [Utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- Free, one-to-one support and advice through [Partners in Wellbeing](#)
- Information about [family violence and state-wide support services](#).

USEFUL LINKS

Health and wellbeing

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Victoria updates](#)

[Study Melbourne Hub](#)

Work

[Working in Victoria](#)

[Your rights at work](#)

[Jobs Victoria online hub](#)

Transport

[iUSEpass](#)

[Metro Trains](#)



Safety

[Student safety](#)

[Victoria Police](#)

Others

[Legal advice](#)

[Events](#)



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