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Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the Study Melbourne Student Update.


We hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer break and discovering the best that Melbourne has to offer. This month, take time to meet new people and extend your friendship circle.

There are lots of ways to connect with the Study Melbourne community in Melbourne, in Victoria and globally through our [Study Melbourne Hubs](#) and [Study Melbourne events page](#). Build your skills, discover new experiences, meet new friends, find support services and resources, and build your network.

If you are looking for places to visit this festive season, here are some ideas:

 Argyle Square [skating rink](#)

 Window displays at Myer and David Jones in [Bourke Street Mall](#)

 Christmas Square at [Federation Square](#)

 [Carols by Candlelight](#) on Christmas Eve at Sidney Myer Music Bowl

For all the details and other ideas, visit the [City of Melbourne](#) and [Visit Victoria's What's On](#) pages.

Don't forget you can also find programs and support services for international students at the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) located at 17 Hardware Lane,

Melbourne.

Read on to see all the details.

Study Melbourne Team

Melbourne has been voted the friendliest city in the world!



Melbourne is officially the friendliest city in the world, adding to our title as the most liveable city in Australia and Australia's best city for students.

Melbourne beat 23 other global cities to take the title based on research by [William Russell](#), an international health insurance provider. Dubbed the “capital of cool” where residents are “known for their friendliness”, our wonderful

city scored highest on:

- 👉 Resident happiness
- 👉 Safety
- 👉 LGBT+ inclusivity
- 👉 Top attractions
- 👉 Highest-rated hotels

For more reasons to choose Melbourne visit [our website](#).

Study Melbourne Career Catalyst industry networking event

Last month, the Study Melbourne Career Catalyst industry networking event attracted over 100 international students and alumni. Students heard from Anu Villarosa, Director, People Experience at Pitcher Partners. Anu provided practical and helpful advice for working for an innovative company and how to become a high-performing employee.



The Study Melbourne Career Catalyst program offers an exclusive suite of services, including one-on-one career coaching services, free practical workshops, premium networking events and in-person student events at the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#).

To attend more events like this, visit the [Study Melbourne Career Catalyst webpage](#).

Future Founders Festival celebration



The Study Melbourne Future Founders Festival took place on Thursday 24 November with over 200 international students and alumni sharing their ideas and making new connections.

A big congratulations to Eugenia Yuan from [Inspiring Chats](#) who won first place in our pitch competition with her innovative social network idea.

Eugenia is the Co-founder of [Inspiring Chats](#) and the Community and Partnerships Manager at RMIT Activator. Originally from China, Eugenia moved to Melbourne in 2016 and completed a master's degree in Social Work in 2018 at Monash University.

For more information and to register your interest for the Future Founders Roadshows and Venture Scholarships in early 2023 visit the [Future Founders website](#).

Reminder: Unrestricted work rights for student visa holders to end on 30 June 2023

Due to workforce shortages, the Australian Government temporarily relaxed student visa work limits for all sectors of the economy.

From 30 June 2023, the number of hours that an international student can work during the academic year will again be capped. Students can continue to work unlimited hours during study breaks.



For more information visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

Maria Luisa Une Mato earns commendation for International Student of the Year – English Language Training



Maria Luisa Une Matoo is an English language student at Discover English, but her credentials stretch far beyond.

Since she moved to Melbourne in early 2022, Maria has immersed herself in our multicultural environment and found ways to make other international students feel welcome. Through Bachata and Salsa dancing classes, she found a community of fellow Latin Americans and on the side, Maria volunteers in the Hispanic catholic community.

Learn more about [Maria](#) and our other winners and finalists on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Congratulations to our ICC Men's T20 World Cup giveaway winners!

More than 370 international students received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with tickets from Study Melbourne



Sarbjeet Singh (Sunny) was one of the lucky international students to win a double pass to the T20, but his experience was a little different.

Sunny was one of five Study Geelong Ambassadors who were flag bearers at two of the ICC matches.

"Cricket has always had a special place in my heart and when I was offered the role of flag bearer, I got really excited and I readily agreed."

When Sunny decided to study in Geelong, he never imagined it would lead to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"My experience being a flag bearer has been so great. When I stepped on the field holding the flag, I literally got goosebumps—I was actually standing next to the players!"

Visit the [Study Melbourne website](#) to learn about the winners and their Melbourne study experience.

Melbourne home to Australia's Most Reputable University



Melbourne is home to Australia's most reputable university, according to the [Times Higher Education rankings](#).

The rankings are based on the world's largest invitation-only opinion survey of senior, published academics. It asks scholars to name no more than 15 universities that they believe are the best for research and teaching in their field.






The University of Melbourne (ranked 45th) is the only Australian university to finish in the world's top 50.

Find out more about why students love to study in Melbourne on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Water safety advice this summer

Victoria has many incredible beaches and waterparks to experience and explore this summer.

Before heading to one this summer, make sure you know how to keep safe:

-  Check the local water environment and weather conditions
-  Obey all water safety signs
-  Swim between the flags
-  Let family and friends know where you are going
-  Never swim alone

For more tips visit the [water safety webpage](#).



SERVICES & SUPPORT

Study Melbourne Student Centre



The [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) is a dedicated space for all international students in Victoria. We provide support, events, connections, and opportunities.

Recently, the Student Centre team was delighted to welcome a group of visiting students from Okinawa Prefecture in Japan.

All international students are encouraged to visit the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) at 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne 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.

Address: 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne

Opening hours: 9am-5pm Monday-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

Question of the month

As an international student, how can I get advice about renting/landlords/bonds and my rights as a tenant?

Answer: Accommodation issues can be stressful. If you need advice about your situation, speak to the team at the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#).

At the Student Centre, the [International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service](#) can provide advice about rent increases, your bond, the condition of your property, or any other aspect of your tenancy. The service offers free advice to international students renting in Victoria, to support you when renting gets complicated.

To book an appointment to speak confidentially with a tenancy lawyer, contact the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) – phone 1800 056 449 or email info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au.

Our team are here to help. For more information, visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Flood Support Package for eligible international students

Flood hardship support is a Victorian Government funded financial payment for temporary visa holders (including international students) who are experiencing financial hardship and whose work has been impacted by recent floods in Victoria.

This support is for people who do not have access to Commonwealth income support (including SRSS, Special Benefits and Job Seeker) or the Victorian Government's Personal Hardship Assistance Program (PHAP).

Once your application is assessed, eligible single people can receive up to \$580. Families receive more based upon situation and size.

To see if you are eligible and to apply, visit the [Red Cross website](#).

How to get help working as an international student in Melbourne

With semester two complete, now is the time to start your search for a part-time or full-time job. Here are our top tips to get you started:

1. Get in touch with your education Student Services team to see if they know of any opportunities.
2. Ask friends or fellow students if they know anyone looking for employees and how you can get in touch with them.
3. Visit job search websites like [SEEK](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Indeed](#) and [Workforce Australia](#).
4. Access the dedicated services and resources at [Jobs Victoria](#), including:

- Career Guidance
- Interview and CV tips
- Skills and training advice
- Local job support

5. Register for a [Career Catalyst event](#) for help with resume writing, LinkedIn profiles, one-on-one coaching and more



Study Melbourne Hubs



The Study Melbourne Hubs continue to grow in popularity. Our global network of Hubs support students across China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Latin America and South Asia.

The Study Melbourne Hubs support offshore international students (current, future and alumni) studying or looking to study with a Victorian education provider.

"Studying remotely from my home country was challenging in the beginning with online classes. However, I got great support from my university and my professors with study groups and frequent online workshops. With the support from the government, it was so good to have the Study Melbourne Hub - where I can come, study, and connect with the staff, where I can make friends with other Victorian students. At first, I was so alone studying at home all by myself! For me, the Hub is like a community. I really like it!"

- Chi Nguyen, The University of Melbourne

To learn more about the Hubs visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Do you have asthma or hayfever?

If you have current, past, or undiagnosed asthma or seasonal hay fever you are at increased risk of thunderstorm asthma.

You can protect yourself and those in your care by following these simple steps:



You can protect yourself and those in your care by following these simple steps:

- 📱 Monitor the epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast on the VicEmergency app
- ☁️ Don't be outdoors in a storm, especially during the winds that precede them
- 😷 Take your preventative medication as directed, even when you're symptom free
- 😴 Carry your reliever and know how to manage an asthma attack

For more information visit the [Better Health website](#).

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](#)
- Information about [Flood Recovery Assistance](#)
- If the Medibank breach has Affected, you visit the [Medibank website](#).

USEFUL LINKS

Health and wellbeing

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

[Study Melbourne Student Centre](#)

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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