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Welcome to the March 2023 edition of the Study Melbourne International Education Insider.

We recently welcomed our new Study Melbourne Ambassadors for 2023 who will each represent our international student community across our programs and initiatives. We strive to draw on the experiences of our ambassadors and work closely with them to enrich the international student experience.

You may be aware that there are a number of important changes for international students, including extended post study work rights for eligible graduates and an increase to the student working hours cap. See below for more details.

We also celebrate that Victoria's relationship with India goes from strength to strength, with Deakin University being the first university in the world to open an international teaching campus in India and, RMIT University and the University of Melbourne delivering dual degree programs between India and Australia. .

March has only just begun and Melbourne is already proving why it is Australia's events capital. Study Melbourne has had the pleasure of hosting and meeting students at the [Avalon Airshow](#) and [Paypal Melbourne Fashion Festival](#). Melbourne will soon play host to the [Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2023](#), [Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show](#) and [Formula 1 Rolex Australian Grand Prix](#).

We look forward to keeping you up to date on news and events throughout the year. Don't forget to follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

The Study Melbourne team

NEWS & UPDATES

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 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**. Please encourage your students to join for this and other free programs and events.

To be eligible for this offer:

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

- They 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.

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](#).

Jakarta – BRIN-Victoria Research and Innovation



The Victorian Government, through Global Victoria, delivered the BRIN-Victoria Research and Innovation Forum in Jakarta from 21-22 February.

The Forum, which is the first engagement of its kind between Australia and BRIN (Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency), was an outstanding success, with over 420 participants joining over the 2 days.

The Forum was delivered in partnership with BRIN and was a key opportunity for Victorian universities to showcase their higher degree research programs.

Victoria's Lead Scientist, Dr. Amanda Caples, led a delegation from Deakin University, Monash University, RMIT University, Swinburne University and The University of Melbourne.

Participants heard from BRIN and Victorian researchers on research areas of strategic mutual interest, including environment and marine biosciences, health, aerospace, advanced manufacturing and energy.

The Forum also provided opportunities for Victorian university representatives to engage with BRIN researchers interested in undertaking a higher degree research program with an international partner under BRIN's Degree By Research Scholarship Program.

Growing education partnership between India and Australia – building of Australian university campuses and qualification mechanisms



Deakin will become the first university in the world to open an international teaching campus in India.

Deakin University will open its state-of-the-art campus in India by mid-2024. The campus will be located in the heart of the smart business district, Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) and will offer students the opportunity to study cyber security and business analytics. 41% of Indian students choose Victoria as their study destination of choice and the new Deakin University campus will pave a new way for Indian students to obtain an Australian education by bringing it closer.

RMIT University expands into India with partnership

The Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS) and RMIT have partnered to deliver the first dual degree program between India and Australia.

Commencing in mid-2023, the BITS-RMIT Higher Education Academy (The Academy) aims to provide high-quality transnational education to Indian students and facilitate significant regional collaboration with India. The Academy will initially offer four undergraduate engineering programs where students will begin their learning at BITS followed by two years at RMIT in Melbourne with potential for a career in Australia or India.

The University of Melbourne launches Bachelor of Science dual degree with major Indian universities

Indian Students are now able to complete a new Bachelor of Science dual degree, following an enhanced partnership between the University of Melbourne and University of Madras, Savitribai Phule Pune University, and Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (Hyderabad).

This degree allows students to complete their degree at both home and abroad, spending the first two years studying in India, followed by two years on campus in Melbourne. The benefit to students is that this dual degree provides more Indian students with direct pathways to complete their studies.

Fashion Graduates featured as part of the PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival



Study Melbourne was delighted to feature two international student fashion graduates as part of the Global Victoria Fashion Showcase, in partnership with [PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival](#).

Yuxi Liu and Canwen Zhao, graduates from the RMIT School of Fashion worked with internationally renowned milliner, Richard Nylon to prepare their designs for the runway. The central theme of their creations was sustainability, and both were thrilled to show their creations alongside other Melbourne designers including first nations designer Ngali, Mastani, Bul, Anrsdorf, Kuwali and A.BCH.

Study Melbourne Future Founders Venture Scholarships 2023 – applications open



If you know of an ambitious international student founder of a new or early-stage business, invite them 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 their business
- bespoke business mentoring and coaching
- StartSpace Loft membership

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

More information about the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

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](#).

MARKET ENGAGEMENT

Nairobi – pre-departure session



Pre-departure briefings were recently held across Kenya in Nairobi and Eldoret.

H.E. Luke Williams, Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya attended and addressed more than 100 registered students, agents and university representatives.

Students from Victoria University, Holmesglen, Deakin University, Kaplan Business School, Federation University Australia, La Trobe University, Swinburne University of Technology, Australian Catholic University, Monash University, RMIT University, and the University of Melbourne attended. They found the session to be extremely useful and a great networking opportunity.

For further information please contact Mr Baris Satar, Director Education Services, Middle East, Africa & Turkey on baris.satar@global.vic.gov.au.

India – pre-departure



The [Study Melbourne Hub South Asia](#), in partnership with Internash, delivered three pre-departure information sessions in Hyderabad, Delhi and Bangalore on 24, 27 January and 1 February 2023.

The events provided new students with the opportunity to learn more about the student experience in Victoria, the support services and programs they can access, and hear from Victorian education providers.

Girish Vijayaraghavan, Business Manager from Swinburne University said *"These pre-departure sessions were great. I would like to emphasise that the support provided by the Study Melbourne South Asia Hub to students departing to Australia has not only been an instrument in helping students understand what to expect from a government representative but also boosts their confidence levels..."*

We look forward to welcoming these new students from India and supporting them to have the best possible experience living and studying in Melbourne.

Kuala Lumpur – pre-departure session



The Study Melbourne Hub Kuala Lumpur recently delivered pre-departure briefings to more than 100 students and parents on 29 January and 4 February 2023.

Kar-Yee, Senior Country Officer for the University of Melbourne, presented information for the students, so they are well prepared for arrival, including tips on what to expect when they arrived at Melbourne Airport, through to opening a bank account. This was followed by a very insightful talk about academic adjustment and tips by Prof. Shanton Chang, Professor and Associate Dean (International), School of Computing and Information Systems, Faculty of Engineering & IT.

Shaun Koh, the President of Malaysians of Melbourne University (MoMU), together with his team shared information about MoMU and the advantages of joining a student association.

For more information on the Study Melbourne Hub Kuala Lumpur visit our [website](#).

Study Melbourne monthly sector briefing



Study Melbourne is pleased to start the third round of its international sector briefings, which each focus on a different market/region.

These briefings are delivered by Victorian Government Commissioners and Education Services Managers offshore. They provide on-the-ground market intelligence and updates regarding new opportunities, student/agent feedback, competitor activities, changes to education policies and various Victorian Government business development activities in country market.

Upcoming market briefings:

- Middle East and Africa, **6 April 2023**: 2pm–3pm AEST
- Latin America, **4 May 2023**: 9pm–10pm AEST
- South Asia, **1 June 2023**: 2pm–3pm AEST
- Southeast Asia, **6 July 2023**: 2pm–3pm AEST

Register your attendance on the Study Melbourne website.

Please share these events with colleagues within your institution who work as regional specialists, or anyone who may be interested in attending these sessions.

Contact Atal Samad at atal.samad@global.vic.gov.au for further enquiries.

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.

SERVICES & SUPPORT

Study Melbourne's free legal services 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.

Study Melbourne Hub



The [Study Melbourne Hub](#) (formerly called the Study Melbourne Student Centre) is a vibrant space dedicated to our community of international students. Located in Melbourne's iconic Hardware Lane, we can help with a range of enquiries including financial hardship, accommodation, wellbeing and mental health support, and legal advice.

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

At the Hub, students 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

Additional support for international students

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

- Legal support through the free [International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service](#)
- Help to find part-time work through the [Jobs Victoria online hub](#)
- [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](#).

We encourage you to share these resources with your students.



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