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December 2020

Highlights

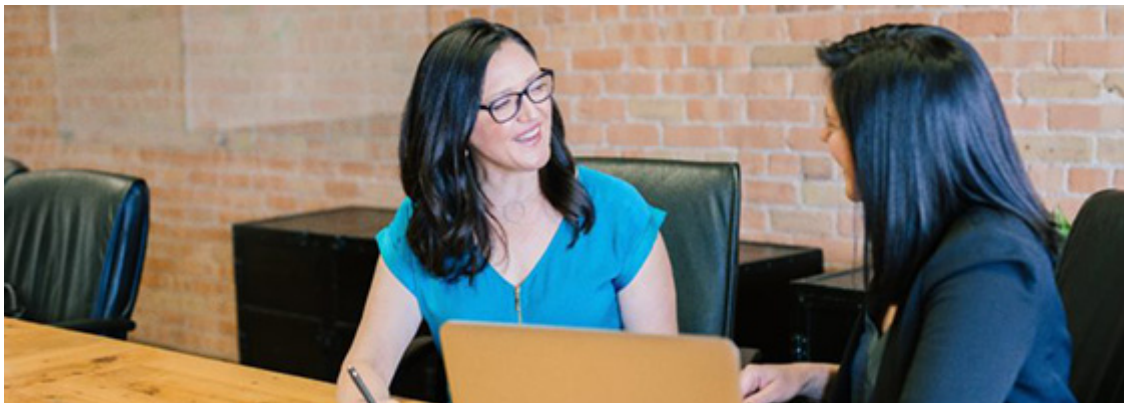
Free meals and groceries for international students in Victoria



The Victorian Government, through Study Melbourne, has provided \$1 million in funding to SecondBite, Foodbank Victoria and OzHarvest to provide free food and meals to international students in Victoria who are doing it tough. International students who are struggling to pay for their food and groceries can access free and healthy food at Foodbank's [International Student Pop-Up Store](#).

Keep an eye on our social media or visit the [Study Melbourne website](#) for updates on other pop-up stores coming soon.

MentorMatch – strengthening community connections in Victoria



Study Melbourne is working with [Outcome.life](#) through a new social innovation project called MentorMatch to build a mentoring tool pairing international students with Rotary International to increase social and community connections.

Victorian EdTech start-up Outcome.life was successful through the Victorian Government's CivVic Labs accelerator program, which facilitates start-ups to work with government to solve complex social challenges through innovative and disruptive market solutions.

Using AI technology, MentorMatch will match international students with local businesses and community leaders as well as their student peers, expanding their professional networks, boosting their social skills and supporting intercultural awareness and connections between international students and the broader community.

Interested mentors or international students can register here for more information about [how to get involved](#).

Victoria confirmed as Australia's Edtech Hub



From 2021, Melbourne will host the [EduTECH International Congress and Expo](#), the largest education technology exhibition in the Southern Hemisphere. Held in Sydney for the last nine years, EduTECH attracts delegates from around the world and across the education and training sector, including educators, edtech founders, thought leaders, investors and administrators. EduTECH will provide a valuable global platform for Victoria to showcase its thriving digital edtech ecosystem and world-class education institutions.

This announcement comes as Melbourne is rated as having the largest number of edtech companies in the recently released HolonIQ Australia and New Zealand EdTech 50 – an annual list of the most innovative edtech startups across the region. Read the full list of the [ANZ Edtech 50](#) and learn more about [Victoria's edtech capabilities](#).

Study Melbourne Career Catalyst



As the first international student career accelerator of its kind in Australia, **Study Melbourne Career Catalyst** offers an exclusive suite of services, events and initiatives designed to support international students develop their professional skills, connect to industry and employers and

launch their careers.

The program is delivered through a partnership with [Outcome.life](#) to provide an end-to-end employability skills and career development hub for international students living, working, and studying in Victoria

It's free to join and will empower students with the right skills and connections to take the next step in their career journey and unleash their potential as part of the next generation of global business leaders.

To find out more about the program visit the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Calling established Victorian exporters – the Global Gateway program is now accepting applications



Eligible Victorian businesses who can show an annual export revenue of \$2 million in either the 2018/19 or 2019/20 financial years can apply for a one-off grant of up to \$50,000 to stabilise their business and adapt export strategies in response to the challenges caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Delivered by Global Victoria – the Victorian Government’s trade agency – the program provides flexibility for grant recipients to identify and engage a domestic or international professional service provider to deliver strategic solutions for their business needs.

Projects can help businesses facilitate new channels to market or diversification of markets, and to help them with activities including market intelligence, market access and marketing and promotion.

Eligible businesses interested in applying and discussing a project can contact the Global Gateway team by emailing global.gateway@global.vic.gov.au. Businesses will be connected to a Global Victoria representative based on sector focus or market of interest.

Interested businesses are encouraged to visit global.vic.gov.au/globalgateway today.

Applications are open now until 11:59pm 17 January 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and support for international students

Students impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) can find help and support on the [Study Melbourne website](#). Study Melbourne



continues to update this site on a regular basis as more support becomes available. We encourage you to share this hub with your students using the promotional social media images available [at this link](#).

Safely reopening Victoria

All of Victoria has now moved to [COVIDSafe Summer](#) restrictions. Check coronavirus.vic.gov.au to find out how these changes affect you, and keep up to date with future changes.

International students are important to the Victorian community. We look forward to welcoming overseas students back to Victoria when it is safe to do so. The latest information about travelling to Victoria to commence or continue studies is published on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Financial support for international students

The Victorian Government offers emergency financial assistance to international students.

International Student Emergency Relief Fund

- Since opening in May 2020, the Fund has supported more than 33,000 international students – almost a quarter of the international students currently in Victoria.
- Students can apply if they have lost wages and work due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and meet all other eligibility criteria. Eligible students can receive one payment per person.
- Applications will close at 11:59 pm on 31 December 2020.

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

Extreme Hardship Support Program

Students who can't access the International Student Emergency Relief Fund may be eligible for financial assistance through Victoria's [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#). Find out how to apply through the [Red Cross](#).

Further Support

In addition, international students in Victoria can access other Victorian Government support including:

- one-off [rent relief grants](#) of up to \$3000 for people in rental hardship due to the pandemic
- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- help to find work through [Working for Victoria](#)
- a dedicated [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) online support hub](#) on the Study Melbourne website
- a directory of [community support and food relief](#)
- access to free [legal advice](#) on accommodation and employment issues.

Services Spotlight



Study Melbourne Student Centre

The Study Melbourne Student Centre building is still temporarily closed but our staff continue to work online and over the phone to provide case management support and information referral services for international students on a wide range of issues. This includes mental health support and free legal advice on employment and accommodation matters. Resources at the centre have been enhanced to help meet the unprecedented demand for support from students, including increased capacity to provide case management and emergency assistance. [Visit the Study Melbourne website to find out how to get in contact.](#)

Industry News

Indonesia: International Lecture Series

The Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) office in South East Asia, in collaboration with the Nationwide University Network in Indonesia (NUNI), recently organised an international lecture series, from 26-30 October 2020. The lecture series featured five key note guest speakers from Deakin University, RMIT University, Victoria University, Australian Catholic University and Swinburne University and five high profile Indonesian speakers.

Topics presented included Jobs and Entrepreneurship, Architecture and Urban Planning, Health, Technology and Transportation, and Big Data. The five lecture sessions attracted over 3,500 participants from 62 universities.

Indonesia: 7th Annual Indonesia Economic Forum

VGTI SEA sponsored a session titled *Fostering Connection and Strengthening Relations: a Higher Education Dialogue towards a successful IA-CEPA* at the 7th Annual Indonesia Economic Forum (IEF) event on 26 November 2020.

Bambang Brodjonegoro, Indonesian Minister of Research and Technology joined as the keynote speaker. This was followed by a discussion on the IA-CEPA and Victorian (University of Melbourne, Deakin University and Monash University) and Indonesian universities (BINUS University, Pelita Harapan University, Institut Teknologi Bandung and Universitas Indonesia) experiences of international collaboration and identified ways forward.

China: Moving Forward – The Victoria-China Education Partnership Beyond COVID-19

During the recent 2020 China International Import Expo in Shanghai, the VGTI in China organised the seminar *Moving Forward: The Victoria-China Education Partnership Beyond COVID-19* to share both Victoria and China's successful strategies and practice in addressing

COVID-19 challenges within the international education sector, and explore emerging opportunities and innovative partnerships post the pandemic.

The seminar had over 50 attendees onsite with 15 participants joining online. Speakers from Victorian universities, Chinese education organisations, and industry representatives presented on research collaborations, vocational education teacher training, and student exchange programs.

Mr Brett Stevens, Victoria's Commissioner to Greater China, witnessed two MoU signings between Victorian providers and their new partners in China. It was also reemphasised by all participants that there is still a strong demand for international education collaboration in China and enhancing the Victoria-China education partnership.

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