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November 2020

Highlights

The Victorian International Education Awards 2020 are now open!



The [Victorian International Education Awards](#) (VIEAs) 2020, presented by Study Melbourne, are an initiative of the Victorian Government to support the international education sector and promote best practice.

This year's awards include 14 categories: seven recognising student excellence, and seven shining a spotlight on Victoria's best education and student service providers, with Premier's Awards going to the top student and top provider.

The awards provide clear quality indicators to future students, demonstrating they are the best in their field, innovating and setting benchmarks in international education service delivery.

- Applications are now open and close at **11.59pm on Friday 13 November, 2020**.
- Visit the [VIEA website](#) for full details and to apply online.

For enquiries, please email via@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au

IEAA Excellence Awards 2020



The International Education Association of Australia (IEAA), Australia's leading organisation for international education professionals, has recognised the leaders and innovators behind Australia's international education sector at the IEAA Excellence Awards 2020 online ceremony on 15 October.

While it has been a challenging year for the sector, these awards help us celebrate and recognise the significant contribution, passion and dedication of the many leaders and innovators behind Australia's international education sector.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners, particularly our Victorian colleagues from Monash University, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Deakin University. A full list can be found on the [IEAA website](#).

Victorian Youth Strategy



The Victorian Government is developing a new state-wide youth strategy. Engagement with young people and communities right across Victoria is being undertaken to build a strategy that will create real, meaningful change.

There is a Youth Forum specifically for International Students on Thursday 17 December. Students can [register for the forum](#).

Please share the link to the [Victorian Youth Strategy](#) with your networks, and explore the interactive consultation process to make your contribution.



International Student Sentiment Tracker

The Study Australia Partnership is conducting an onshore international student sentiment study across four quarterly national surveys. The project will provide insights to help shape international student services and communications. The first quarterly survey was in field in July 2020 and received approximately 7500 responses.

We invite your international student cohort to participate in the second quarterly survey, which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

Please click [here](#) to complete the survey. The survey will be open until **Monday 9 November, 2020**.

Austrade has engaged research agency Edified to conduct this research on their behalf. The survey will be carried out in compliance with the Privacy Act, and all answers will be completely anonymous.

As a thank you for their participation, everyone who qualifies and completes the survey will go into a draw to win **1 of 4 grocery e-gift cards**, each to the value of AU\$50. [Terms & Conditions](#) apply. Thank you in advance for your promotion of this survey.

If your students experience any difficulties in completing this survey or have any questions, please contact Edified: research@edified.com.au.

International Education Market Insights



The latest edition of Global Victoria's International Education Market Insights are now available. Global Victoria's network of Education Services Managers (ESMs) share their in-market insights into opportunities for Victorian education providers in global education markets including: Latin America, Japan, South Korea, China, South East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Turkey and Africa. **Read the latest reports [here](#).**

Coronavirus update

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



Students impacted by 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

At 11:59pm on 27 October 2020, changes were made to restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Check coronavirus.vic.gov.au to find out how these changes affect you, and keep up to date with future changes.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) [roadmap for reopening](#) provides steps on easing restrictions, dependent on how many active coronavirus (COVID-19) cases are in the community and public health advice.

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

- The Victorian Government has helped more than 31,000 students through the Fund with a one-off support of up to \$1100.
- Applications are still open.
- The one-off support is available for eligible students who have lost wages and work due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and meet all other eligibility criteria.
- Bridging Visa holders (A and B) can now apply.

More information on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

Free meals and groceries for international students

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](#). The Victorian Government 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.

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](#).

Test Isolation Support

Victorian workers can apply for a \$450 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Test Isolation Support that provides financial support while they self-isolate to wait for the results of a coronavirus (COVID-19) test. International students can apply for this financial support. Find out more about the [\\$450 Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Test Isolation Support](#).

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.](#)

Mental Health Advice Line for Education Sector Staff

The Victorian Government is working with Orygen – a specialist mental health provider for young people – to provide practical mental health consultation to counselling and wellbeing staff supporting international students in Victoria.

Orygen's advice line will provide counselling and wellbeing staff with an opportunity to debrief and discuss any issues of concern and seek professional advice on how to refer international students to mental health services.

The clinical advice will be provided by senior clinicians from Orygen who have strong experience in delivering positive approaches to the prevention and treatment of mental disorders in young people.

The telephone number for the advice line is **0409 016 403**. The advice line is available Monday-Friday from 9am to 4.30pm until 30 June 2021.

Get Involved

South Korea: Global Practical Training Program by KCCE

The Korean Council for University College Education (KCCE) recently announced the 2021 [Global Practical Training Program](#) (GPTP) for students in higher vocational education. The program will consist of preparatory training, practical training, and post training. Victorian providers who are interested in offering this 16-week training program should submit a proposal to KCCE via email at okkim@kcce.or.kr by **30 November, 2020**.

To learn more, please email Betty Chung, Education Services Manager, Korea at betty.chung@global.vic.gov.au.

South Korea: Transnational education opportunity for Industry 4.0 courses

Austrade Seoul recently posted in their [Market Information Package](#) (MIP) weekly newsletter that a Korean online university is seeking to develop 8 or 10-week online certificate programs for courses related to Industry 4.0 with Australian education providers. Starting with a short-term program, this opportunity has the potential to expand to degree courses.

If you are interested in this opportunity, or would like to learn more about it, please contact Emily Chung, Education Manager, Austrade Seoul at emily.chung@austrade.gov.au or Betty Chung, Education Services Manager, Korea at betty.chung@global.vic.gov.au.

China: The Victoria-China Education Partnership Beyond COVID-19

In conjunction with the 2020 China International Import Expo, the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office in China will host an international education focus session, *Moving Forward: The Victoria-China Education Partnership Beyond COVID-19*, in Shanghai on 6 November, 2020.

Victorian education providers and their partners in China will be invited to the session to share their practice and experiences in addressing COVID-19 challenges and their progress during this time. The session will be hosted in the Cordis Shanghai Hongqiao from 3:00 to 6:00pm (Beijing Time) on **Friday 6 November**, and there will also be a live broadcast at the same time.

If you are interested in participating in the session, please contact Qian Li, Education Services Manager in Beijing at qian.li@global.vic.gov.au.

Industry News

Korea Australia Researcher Network (KARN)

The Korea Australia Researcher Network (KARN) was launched in 2019 with the support of the Australian and Korean governments to strengthen research collaboration between Australian and Korean researchers. It is the only network in Korea that is dedicated to promoting further research collaboration between the two countries. To learn more or to become a member, please visit the [KARN website](#).

Victoria Focus session at the 2020 China Education Expo

Qian Li, the Education Services Manager in Beijing, joined the 2020 China Education Expo Online Course Sharing with seven other Victorian education providers from 7-10 October. The

live broadcasted event attracted over 200 viewers and successfully promoted international education opportunities in Victoria.

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