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Welcome to the May 2021 edition of the **Study Melbourne Student Newsletter**.

There are many international students in Melbourne and Victoria with family and friends affected by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in India.

Study Melbourne and the Victorian community stands with you in hope and solidarity during this very challenging time.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) who are always available to assist you. Get in touch via email at [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au) or on the phone at **1800 056 449**.

If you need extra support, read our article on [Looking after your mental health during coronavirus](#).

Stay safe, and please keep in touch.

*The team at Study Melbourne*

### Victoria's restriction levels

Victoria further relaxed its COVIDSafe settings from 11.59pm Friday 9 April 2021.

Find out what this means for you on the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

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### Translated coronavirus (COVID-19) information

Access translated materials about COVID-19 on the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

العربية, Bahasa Indonesia, English, 한국어, 日本語, ภาษาไทย, Türkçe, Português, 简体中文, 繁體中文, Español and tiếng Việt.

## Supporting the safe return of international students to Victoria

International students are an important part of the Victorian community, and we look forward to welcoming you back to our classrooms, campuses, and communities when conditions allow.

The Victorian Government is working with education providers and the Australian Government on a plan for the gradual return of international students. It is difficult to provide a timeline for when students can return to Victoria in significant numbers. Timing will be confirmed following further consultation with the Australian Government.

**Limited travel exemptions** are available for international students who can meet specific criteria including some health/medical students and PhD research students.

For information about student visas, including how online study outside Australia may count towards a Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa, visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

Study Melbourne offers support to students who are currently overseas.

- We invite you to join our [free online Study Melbourne events](#) to build your employability and leadership skills, and to connect with others in the Study Melbourne community.
- Our [International Student Accommodation Legal Service](#) offers free and confidential help for international students with accommodation issues.

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. We encourage you to keep in touch with your education institution for ongoing support.



## Leadership Labs 2021

The [Study Melbourne Leadership Labs 2021](#) will support the empowerment and leadership skills of emerging and future international student leaders.

Between May and July 2021, we will be running weekly Study Melbourne Leadership Labs on various topics.

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## Leadership Labs Launch on the **21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021**

Do you know someone who would love to come along? Please share this [event](#) with your network and help us bring together as many international students as possible to become the leaders of tomorrow, together.



## Future Founders Program Roadshows

Ever wondered what it takes to get a business idea off the ground? [Book in to join us](#) at one of our free roadshow events in May to find out.

Study Melbourne is teaming up with StartSpace to present [the Future Founders Program](#), a year-long free entrepreneurship program to inspire international students and budding entrepreneurs.

The roadshows offer opportunities to hear from successful founders about their experiences, participate in group workshops focused on building a business proposition, and network with fellow students and like-minded people over light refreshments.

There is more than one approach to your career after study – could this be for you? Find out more about the [Future Founders Program](#), or [sign up](#) to hear about upcoming announcements.



## Four easy steps to protect your bicycle

Bicycle thefts are increasing in Victoria. Victoria Police are reminding everyone in our community to lock up their bicycles when unattended to prevent them from being stolen.

Ways you can protect your bicycle against theft include:

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1. Use a good quality lock

2. Lock your bicycle properly

3. Make your bicycle identifiable

4. Insure your bicycle

For further information on how to protect your bicycle, please contact your Police Division Crime Prevention Officer and/or Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. ([www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au))



## Career Catalyst

**Study Melbourne Career Catalyst** is a comprehensive career development hub that helps international students to build employability skills and make valuable industry connections.

As the first international student career accelerator of its kind in Australia, Study Melbourne Career Catalyst offers an exclusive suite of free webinars, workshops, and initiatives designed to help you launch your career in Victoria.

In partnership with **Outcome.Life**, our program is supporting and empowering students by providing the right skills to excel in the job market.

With Career Catalyst, it's not just one career coach who has your back – you have a whole community and network helping you connect with your future employer.



## International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service

### International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service

As an international student, you may have questions such as:

- How many hours can I work?
- What does 'cash-in-hand' mean?



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- What is the minimum wage I should be paid?

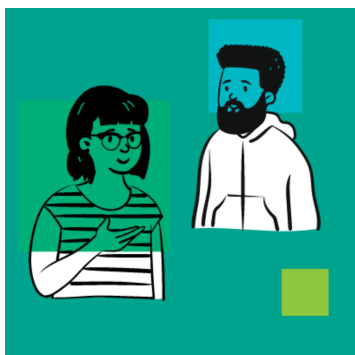
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- How do I pay for my accommodation bond?
- What are the minimum standards for a rooming house and its rooms?
- What if there is a problem with where I am staying?

### Study Melbourne's International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service

is a free and confidential legal service to help international students.

The service is provided by independent lawyers specialising in work rights and tenancy law. To make an appointment or ask a question, please email [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 056 449.

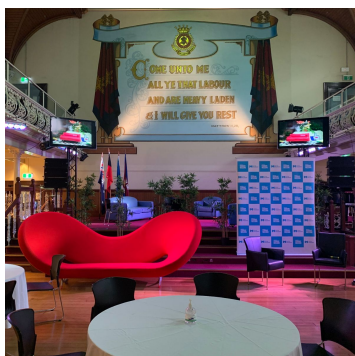


### Partners in Wellbeing

**Partners in Wellbeing** offers free wellbeing support to international students across Victoria via telephone and video technology.

If you are experiencing poor mental health, contact Partners in Wellbeing on **1300 373 300**.

The Partners in Wellbeing helpline is open **Monday-Friday 9am-10pm**, and **Saturday/Sunday 9am-5pm**.



### The Couch – International Student Centre is Back

The City of Melbourne, in partnership with the Salvation Army, is reopening **The Couch International Student Centre**.

The Couch offers international students a safe place to make friends, learn new skills, have fun, enjoy free, cooked meals, give back through volunteering and connect with the local community through events and activities.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[• Address: Salvation Army 614, 69 Bourke Street Melbourne](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- **Opening Hours:** 6pm – 8.30pm Mondays to Thursdays (from 29 March)
- **Cost:** Free for international students, but register in advance. A free meal is provided.

Follow their [Facebook page](#) for updates.



## Food aid relief for international students

OzHarvest provides bags of groceries for collection in metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat. Find the collection points on the [Study Melbourne website](#).

## Support for international students

### COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment

If you're self-isolating while waiting for COVID-19 test results and can't earn an income during that time, you may be eligible to receive the \$450 Test Isolation Payment. Find out more about the [COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment](#).

### Emergency financial relief

If you're experiencing financial hardship, you may be eligible for emergency financial assistance through the Victorian Government's [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#).

The program is for temporary and provisional visa holders and undocumented migrants who are unable to access Commonwealth income support, and have zero or very little income, savings or community support.

If you received an International Student Emergency Relief Fund payment and still require assistance to pay for basics like rent, food and bills, you can apply for an emergency payment.

Please visit [www.redcross.org.au/vicrelief](http://www.redcross.org.au/vicrelief) to apply.

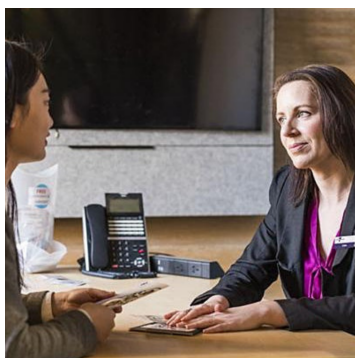
### Other support

There is other support available for international students in Victoria:

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- a dedicated [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support hub](#)
- free [legal advice](#) on accommodation and employment matters
- confidential support and practical help through the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#).

Visit the [Study Melbourne events page](#) - An essential guide for student events in Melbourne and surrounding areas.



## Scam Awareness for International Students - 21 May 2021

Join Study Melbourne for a conversation with the experts on scams - how international students can avoid them and where to find help.

A scam is a crime where somebody tries to trick you into giving your personal details or money. So how can you protect yourself when you're living away from home, speaking a foreign language, and you're unsure of who to trust?

We'll show you the most common scams for international students and explain where to seek help if you're a victim of a scam.

The best way to protect yourself is through awareness and education.

This online event is free to attend! [Register here](#).

## How To Be A Standout Job Candidate – 24 May 2021

Have you applied for many jobs and still wonder why isn't working out?

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Centre Kangan Institute have partnered to deliver](#)[Translate ▼](#)

a workshop to help you prepare a customised job application (cover letter and resume) to stand out in a crowded job market.

You can learn how to tap into the hidden job market, including building up your networks and cold calling.

This event is free to attend! [Register here.](#)



## Tenants Victoria: International Student Residential Tenancy Webinar Series

"Know Your Rights" is a webinar series hosted by Tenants Victoria under the International Student Tenancy Outreach Program supported by Study Melbourne.

Georga Wootton (Tenancy Lawyer) and Julie Hoang (International Student Outreach Worker and Lawyer) presents a monthly webinar tailored for international students about their rights as renters.

### Upcoming episodes:

1. **May 25, 2021 01:00 PM** What Happens During a Tenancy - Common Problems
2. **Jun 29, 2021 01:00 PM** Ending Your Tenancy - Evictions and Notices to Vacate

This event is free to attend! [Register here.](#)



### [Read: Race, culture and sexuality as an international student](#)

Have you heard of the concept 'intersectionality'? Study Melbourne Ambassador [Shashwat Tripathi](#) discusses how it can impact international students.

[Read the story.](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Read: 10 reasons to study in Melbourne](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Known for its vibrant laneways, cultural diversity and world-class education options, there's so much to love about Melbourne. If you're looking to study abroad, here are ten reasons why Melbourne might just be the ideal pick.

[Read the story.](#)

## Useful Links

### Health and wellbeing

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

### Work

[Working in Victoria](#)[Your rights at work](#)

### Transport discount

[iUSEpass](#)

### Safety

[Student safety](#)

### Others

[Victoria Police](#)[Help from a consulate or embassy](#)[What to do in an emergency](#)

Contact us at [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au)

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