

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Welcome to our March edition of the **Study Melbourne Student Newsletter 2021**. We are excited to bring you many new initiatives and updates, including free employment webinars such as the [Study Melbourne Career Catalyst](#) and our [Ambassador stories](#)!

It's been a challenging time for many students who are facing hardship due to the current restrictions. Study Melbourne is here to support you during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Visit the [COVID-19 Support for International Students](#) hub for practical advice and links to official information.

Read on to see all the details and stay safe.

Study Melbourne

Victoria's current restriction levels COVIDSafe Settings

Victoria returns to [COVIDSafe Settings](#) from **11:59pm on Friday 26 February 2021**. These restrictions are designed to balance getting us back to doing the things we love, while also putting in place measures to protect all that we have worked so hard for. For key updates, please visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Information on how to stay safe and well is available on the [Victorian Government Department of Health coronavirus website](#).

You can also access [translated information](#) about coronavirus (COVID-19).

[Arabic](#), [Bahasa Indonesia](#), [English](#), [Korean](#), [Japanese](#), [Thai](#), [Turkish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Traditional Chinese](#), [Spanish](#) and [Vietnamese](#).

Find financial support

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- If you are facing hardship, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Victorian Government's [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#). The program is available to eligible international students in Victoria, including people who received a payment through the International Student Emergency Relief Fund. Learn how to apply through the [Red Cross website](#).
- The [International Student Emergency Relief Fund](#) supported more than 33,000 international students who faced financial hardship through lost wages and work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund gave a one-off payment of up to \$1100 and was delivered in partnership with Victoria's tertiary education providers. **Applications closed on 31 December 2020.**

Coronavirus (COVID19) Test Isolation Support

Workers in Victoria can apply for a [\\$450 Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Test Isolation Payment](#), which provides financial support while they self-isolate to wait for the results of a COVID-19 test.

Other support for international students in Victoria

Other support for international students in Victoria includes:

- free groceries at the [Foodbank International Student Pop-Up Store](#) in central Melbourne - open until the end of March 2021
- help to find work through [Working for Victoria](#)
- one-off [rent relief grants](#) of up to \$3,000 for people in rental hardship due to the pandemic
- [utility relief grants](#) to help pay overdue bills
- 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](#).



Free groceries and meals for international students in Victoria

The Victorian Government has awarded a total of \$1.35m 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 struggling to pay for their food and groceries can access free and healthy food at [Foodbank's International Student Pop-Up Store](#) in the CBD, open until the end of March 2021.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

In addition to this, OzHarvest is providing pre-prepared bags of groceries for collection across

[Translate ▼](#)

metropolitan Melbourne as well as in Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat. To find a location near you, [click here](#).



International student sentiment survey – Your opinion matters!

We want to better understand the issues you face as an international student in Australia. The insights gathered from this survey will be used to improve student wellbeing and support services.

The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. As a thank you for participating, you will go into a draw to win 1 of 4 grocery e-gift cards, each to the value of AU\$50, [Terms & Conditions](#) apply.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey: [Survey link here](#). The survey will be open until **9am AEST, Tuesday 6 April 2021**.

Thank you in advance for your participation. If you experience any difficulties in completing this survey or have any questions, please contact Edified: research@edified.com.au. For information regarding privacy, please refer to the privacy policies for [Austrade](#) or [Edified](#).

Victoria's Big Harvest — Seasonal Work

If you are interested in exploring seasonal work, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/bigharvest for more information, including what's involved, training opportunities, pay and your work rights.

SuniTAFE has also developed a series of immersive videos to show you what it's like working on a farm. To access the videos, [click here](#).

Study Melbourne Career Catalyst

**LET'S TAKE ON
THE BIG
VICTORIAN
HARVEST**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

partnership with [Outcome.life](#). It's free to join and will help you to connect, learn and grow through a community of peers and industry leaders. Career Catalyst is accessible online but will also be delivered out of the [Study Melbourne Student Centre](#) – the home for career development and employability services for students living, working and studying in Victoria.

[Register here](#) for job services and support, including resume and LinkedIn coaching and interview workshops.

Project SASS - South Asian Student Support

[Project SASS](#) (South Asian Student Support) is run by [IndianCare](#) and aims to promote the welfare and wellbeing of Victoria's South Asian International Students from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. It is supported by Study Melbourne's International Student Welfare Program and the Victorian Government.

Project SASS is an innovative, online, student-led project that delivers culturally appropriate, evidence-based activities to increase students' leadership skills, workplace knowledge and employability, social cohesion, and address their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

[Find out more about their latest events.](#)



International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service

As an international student, you may have the following questions:

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



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

- What is the minimum wage I should be paid?

[Translate ▼](#)

- 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?

If you need help understanding the law or you have a legal problem, Study Melbourne's International Student Employment and Accommodation Legal Service is a free and confidential legal service to help international students. This service is provided by independent lawyers specialising in work rights and tenancy law. To make an appointment or ask a question, please contact our friendly staff by emailing info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au or call 1800 056 449.

Partners In Wellbeing — mental health support funded by the Victorian Government

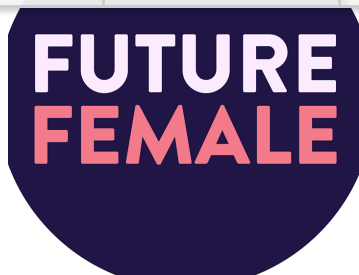


Partners in
Wellbeing

For some people, the psychological, social and economic effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have impacted their mental health and wellbeing. It's natural to feel a range of emotions, including stress, worry, and anxiety; it doesn't always mean something is wrong. However, if you are not coping or have been feeling down for several weeks, help is available through [Partners In Wellbeing service](#). The free service offers one-on-one support to help you improve your wellbeing, develop strategies to copy and provide emotional support when you need it.

Future Female - International Women's Day Event

Celebrate International Women's Day with the [Future Female](#) team. Future Female focuses

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

on international women studying in Victoria and
empowering women, and advancing gender

equality locally and internationally. A masterclass session was held on the **11th of March 2021**. Speakers included Tasneem Chopra & Khayshie Tilak Ramesh.

Watch the Livestream event [here](#).

New skills new social networks: Volunteer in 2021

Ever thought about volunteering? It's a great way to build your skills and experience, do something different with your free time, and help a cause or organisation that you support! This presentation will explain online volunteering and you'll also learn about in-person volunteer opportunities, depending on current restrictions.

Event details:

- **Date:** 17 March 2021
- **Time:** 2:30pm AEDT

This event is free – [register in advance to take part](#).

Mental Health programs for Nepali students

Mental health issues are on the rise as people are experiencing financial hardship and social isolation due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19). To help provide accurate information about mental health, Australia Nepal Public Link has organised mental health first aid training programs for Nepali international students in Victoria to understand mental illness better.

Event details

This training is designed for Nepali speaking international students.

- **Date:** 20-21 March 2021
- **Time:** 9am to 4:30pm AEDT (for both days)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

• Location: Corpus Christi Primary School
13-21 Widford Street, Glenroy

[Translate ▼](#)

This event is free. To register your interest, submit your details [via this form](#) and Australia Nepal Public Link will contact you with the details.



Read: Six outdoor places to explore in Victoria

Make the most of the warm weather and go on an outdoor adventure! Study Melbourne Ambassador **Josh Cook** shares his six favourite open-air spaces in Victoria.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Celebrate: 2020 VIEA Winners — Congratulations!

The Victorian International Education Awards are an initiative of the Victorian Government to support the international education sector and raise awareness of the sector's benefits to the broader community.

[View all the student and alumni winners.](#)

[View all the provider winners.](#)



Read: Inspiring Leaders: Karen Gee

Study Melbourne Ambassador **Megha Bote** spoke to technology leader Karen Gee as part of our 'inspiring leaders' interview series.

[Read the full interview here.](#)



Celebrate: 'Bold New World' storytelling competition — Melbourne Writers Festival 2020

Experience the birthplace of a bold new world through the eyes of our international students!

[Read the winner and shortlisted entries here.](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Useful Links](#)[Health and wellbeing](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Study Well](#)[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

[Unsubscribe](#)[Update subscription preferences](#)[Privacy policy](#)

Copyright © 2021 Study Melbourne. All rights reserved.

