



Welcome to Melbourne!

Australia's Best Student City!

Information for new students



Victoria is Australia's education state

- Melbourne is the capital of Victoria – a state in Australia.
- Victoria has 10 universities, 12 public TAFEs and 400 private providers.
- 259,000 students from over 175 countries chose to study in Victoria in 2025.
- Melbourne is a multicultural city with 40% of residents born overseas.





Melbourne, Victoria

Melbourne is Australia's best student city

- Australia's #1 Student City and #4 in the world (QS Best Student City 2027 rankings).
- Australia's #1 Most Liveable City and #3 in the world (EIU Liveability Index 2026).
- A world-class education ecosystem.
- Exceptional public transport.
- Welcoming and friendly culture.
- Green open spaces and gardens.
- Vibrant arts and food scene.
- Sporting capital of the world!



A supportive learning environment

- Education providers have dedicated support for international students.
- Welcoming cultural, community and social groups.
- Students from all backgrounds feel safe, welcomed and valued.
- A place for personal growth and cultural exchange.



Living in Victoria

Before you leave

- Organise your documentation, including a passport valid for the length of your visa.
- Make a list of important contacts.
- Have some Australian currency.
- Find out what you can and cannot bring into Australia.
- Purchase Overseas Student Health Cover and bring enough prescription medication to last the first few months in Australia.
- Use the Study Melbourne travel check list.



Pre-Departure Checklist

Everything you need to prepare for your international study journey



Preparing to study overseas is an exciting journey, but there's a lot to organise before you take off. This Pre-Departure Checklist covers all the essentials, from organising important travel documents and sorting out your visa, to managing your finances, completing health checks, and packing wisely for your big adventure.

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To make things easier, you can:

- **Tick off each step** as you go
- **Print the checklist** to keep with you for reference

Task Details	Completed	Checklist
Documentation & Visa Preparation		☐
Check Visa Status	Ensure student visa is approved and valid. Review visa conditions.	☐
University Offer Letter & Acceptance	Ensure offer letter from the university is received and accepted.	☐



Download the pre-departure checklist



Check what you can and cannot bring into Australia

Settling in

Moving to a new country and a new city can be hard, so we have created a series of settling-in videos:

- Cost of living and budgeting
- Navigating public transport
- Finding suitable accommodation
- Setting up a bank account
- How to make social connections and new friends
- How to manage culture shock



Watch the
settling-in
videos



Choice of accommodation

- There are a number of accommodation options to suit your budget and lifestyle:
 - ON CAMPUS: convenient and social, with access to campus facilities and support services
 - PRIVATE RENTAL: live independently in student accommodation or share a house with others
 - HOMESTAY: live with a local family for a cultural experience and on-hand support
- Study Melbourne offers a free and confidential legal service if you have any issues with your accommodation provider in Victoria.



Cost of living calculator

- Understand the cost of living in Melbourne.
- Estimate the cost of living based on your lifestyle and needs.
- Compare costs based on different accommodation and transport choices.
- Compare the cost of living in Melbourne to other Australian capital cities.



Try the Cost of
Living Calculator



Travel around Victoria

- Victoria has a world-class network of trains, trams and buses.
- V-Line trains service all regional city locations from Melbourne city.
- You can drive with an international licence for 6 months (then you need to apply for a local licence).
- You can ride a bike, e-bike or e-scooter but make sure you understand the road rules and ways to stay safe (this includes wearing a seat belt and helmet).



Health and safety

It's important to enjoy Australia's beaches and warm weather safely:

- Always swim on patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags.
- Never swim alone and ask a lifeguard for help if you see someone in trouble in the water.
- Check the weather and beach conditions online before travelling.
- On hot days, protect your skin from the sun with protective clothing, SPF 50+ sunscreen and a hat.
- If you are unsure, it's ok to ask for help.



Social life and making friends

- One of the best ways to make the most of your time in Victoria is to get social, meet fellow students and become active in the local community.
- Here are our top tips to make friends and meet new people:
 - Join university clubs and societies.
 - Attend Study Melbourne events.
 - Check out your local library.
 - Volunteer in your local community.



Working in Victoria

Work while you study

- If you hold a Student (subclass 500) visa, you are permitted to work up to 48 hours per fortnight (or 24 hours per week) during the semester and unlimited hours during term breaks and holidays.
- However, it is important that working part time does not interfere with your studies.
- While employed, you must remain enrolled in your course, meet all attendance requirements and maintain satisfactory academic results.



Career Readiness

- Study Melbourne offers free professional development programs and events for recent graduates and alumni.
- Meet prospective employers at the Study Melbourne Careers Fair.
- Access free help and support from the Migrant Workers Centre team.
- Volunteer, network and pursue internships.
- Study Melbourne offers free and confidential legal support if you have any issues with your employer.



Become a Study Melbourne Ambassador

- Co-design leadership, employability and connection events and programs.
- Represent Study Melbourne at official events and functions to build your social and professional networks.
- Undertake exclusive professional development training to develop your leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Attend social, cultural and professional networking events.



Post study work rights

- Once you have completed a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree, you may be eligible for the Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) Post-Study Work stream.
- An Australian employer may be able to sponsor you for a new visa.
- You can submit a Registration of Interest through Victoria's Skilled Visa Nomination Program.



Find out
more



Help and support

Study Melbourne Hub

- A safe and inclusive place for international students in the centre of Melbourne.
- Study spaces, free tea, coffee and snacks.
- Access free support and advice from experienced staff.
- Attend free professional development programs, social activities and networking events.
- Free legal advice for employment and accommodation issues.
- Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.



Adapting to a new city

- One of the most exciting things about studying abroad is the opportunity to live in a new city and experience a different culture.
- While it can be fun and exciting, it can also lead to feeling overwhelmed and home sick. This is normal. Here are some ways to help:
 - Talk to family and friends
 - Talk to your teachers or mentors
 - Talk to one of the friendly staff at the Study Melbourne Hub
 - It's always ok to ask for help.



Free services

- Study Melbourne offers:
 - Free and confidential student support and referrals to specialised services.
 - A free legal service for international students experiencing issues with their accommodation or employer.
- International students can receive help to find a job, including:
 - Where to look for jobs
 - Resumes
 - Cover letters
 - Interview preparation



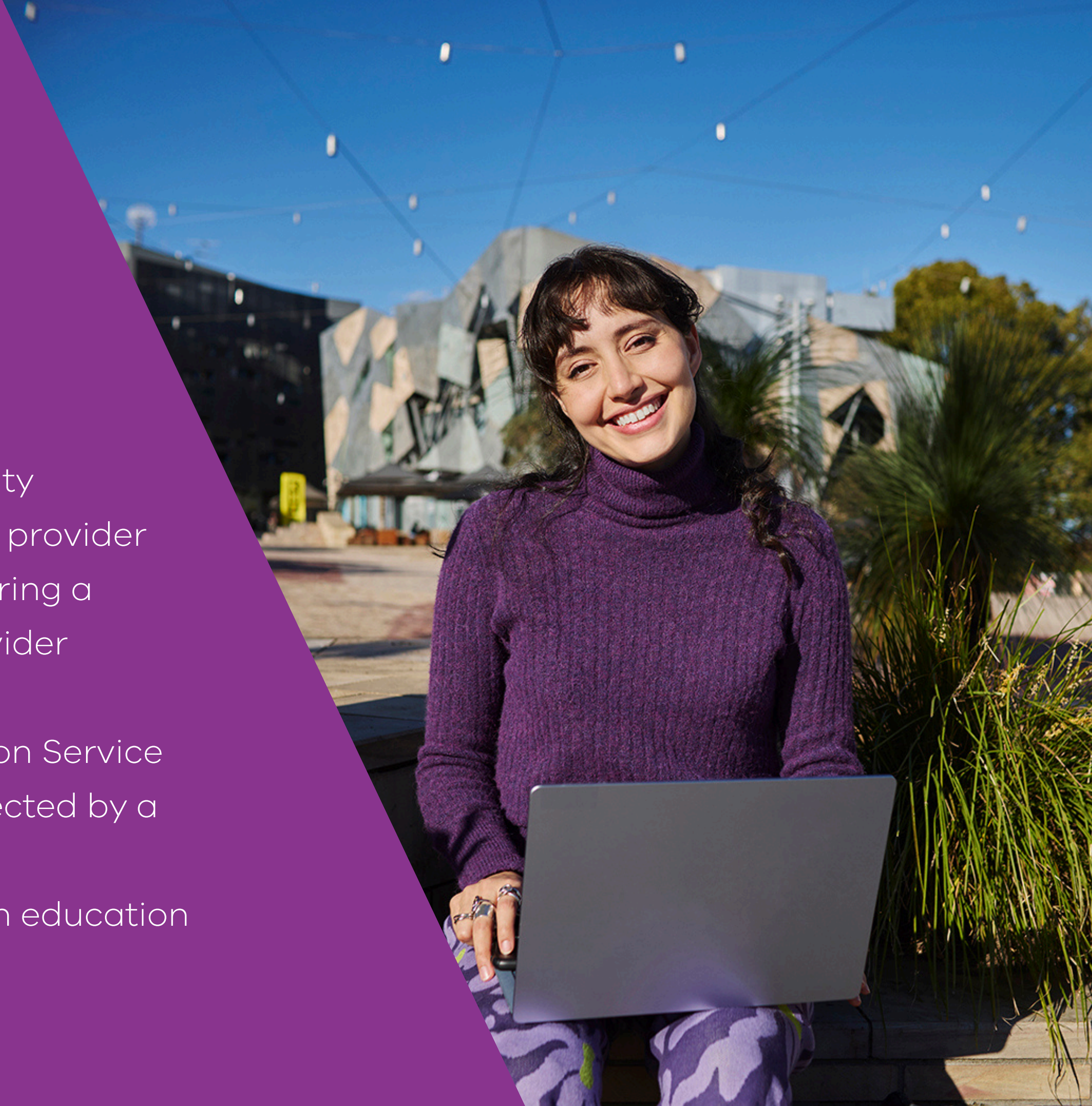
Rights and protections for international students

- International students have the same rights under Australian workplace law as all other employees.
- Australia has strict anti-discrimination laws and racism of any kind is unacceptable and against the law.
- International students can access free and confidential help with employment or accommodation issues through Study Melbourne's free legal service.



Tuition Protection Service

- Australia has an excellent reputation for quality education. However, sometimes an education provider may close, fail to start a course, or stop delivering a course part way through. This is called a 'provider default'.
- The Australian Government's Tuition Protection Service (TPS) may support international students affected by a default with:
 - a place in a course with another Australian education provider, or
 - a refund of unspent tuition fees.



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We can't wait to meet you!