STUDYING AT VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Department of Education

VICTORIA
State Government Australia





PICTURE YOURSELF IN A LEADING STUDY DESTINATION

FOR A TOP INTERNATIONAL STUDY DESTINATION, VICTORIA IS THE LEARNING CHOICE OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD.

The majority of international students who attend Victorian government schools achieve excellent results and choose to continue their further education in Victoria. These graduates are highly successful in national and global career markets. The choice to study at a Victorian government school offers unique benefits for the future. Students grow to reach personal and academic goals like:

- gaining strong English language skills
- entering a new and supportive school
- obtaining an internationally recognised high school certificate
- sharing in active local communities and experiencing a new lifestyle
- becoming a global citizen who is culturally, socially and politically aware
- forging a further education or employment pathway, at home/abroad.

Not only is Victoria home to a leading Australian education system and progressive English language facilities, it is also home to many of Australia's world-class universities.

This ideal mix of education advantage puts Victoria at the forefront of learning and has built a global reputation for excellence.



PICTURE YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS

A QUALIFICATION ACCEPTED AROUND THE WORLD – IN VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS.

In senior secondary years, students study towards the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). VCE is an internationally recognised qualification. The comprehensive study program spans senior high school Years 11 and 12. Students who successfully complete their VCE receive an assessment score. Universities use this score to decide which students will be offered a degree study place.

All Australian and many international universities accept VCE. Achieving this qualification gives students direct entry to their preferred higher education study destination, in Australia, at home or around the world.

Victorian government schools are unmatched in creating higher education learning pathways. Students benefit from the choice of over 90 different subjects providing opportunities to find their strengths and a higher education pathway that suits them best.

The VCE offers students a strong foundation for higher education and future employment. Subject variety and advanced teaching techniques build each individual's confidence and ability. It is an important first step on the journey to tertiary education and workforce success.

10 REASONS FOR CHOOSING A VICTORIAN EDUCATION

QUALITY IS THE NUMBER ONE REASON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SELECT VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AS THEIR EDUCATION DESTINATION OF CHOICE. A CONSISTENTLY HIGH PROPORTION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS SUCCESSFULLY PROGRESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN VICTORIA TO PURSUE FURTHER STUDY.

1. Quality education – leaders in learning

Victorian government schools enjoy an unrivalled academic reputation. More international school students advance to higher education. Most of those students remain in Victoria for further study. No wonder 230,000 students from all over the world choose Victoria every year.

2. VCE – an international qualification

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is a global learning passport that lays the foundation for students to move on to further study. It is highly respected by world education bodies and offers direct access to many renowned international universities.

3. Excellent English language programs

Victorian language centres are among Australia's most advanced. With access to new technology and expert teachers, students receive the individual care and practical support needed to grow confident in their use of English.

4. Multicultural, safe and friendly community

Melbourne is one of Australia's most multicultural cities, with a long history of embracing people from every race and nation. All schools value and respect individual and cultural diversity. Students stay connected with home through cultural activities both inside and outside school.

5. Caring individual welfare support

The happiness and security of international students living and studying in Victoria is of great importance. Student care, from arrival to the very last day, is of highest priority for the large network of teachers, friends and families providing support specifically for international students in Victorian government schools. Parents are regularly involved and informed through face-to-face meetings, phone contact and student reports.

6. Wide choice of schools

Students choosing to study in Victoria enjoy a vast choice of over 200 conveniently located schools. A broad range of special programs and outstanding educational opportunities are offered, along with the assurance each school has met strict accreditation standards.

7. Supportive and safe homestay families

Homestay families offer the safety and support of a real family. Homestay families are carefully selected and rigorously monitored by schools to ensure that students are provided with the best care and support in friendly, safe and secure environments.

8. Government owned – secure and trusted

In an increasingly complex world, it is reassuring to find an education provider to trust. Victorian government schools have an established reputation for student welfare, support and achievement. With thousands of graduates every year, that leadership will never be in doubt.

9. World-renowned universities

A Victorian education opens windows of opportunity to further learning. Melbourne is home to universities and colleges recognised around the globe as centres for education excellence. International students are positively encouraged in building pathways to degree study.

10. Outstanding place to live

Melbourne, Victoria is one of Australia's best student cities, placing top 5 in the QS Best Student Cities ranking for 2026. Consistently outranking other world cities in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index, Melbourne boasts superior education and healthcare, culture, infrastructure and services. So students enjoy an outstanding quality of life.



PICTURE YOURSELF IN AUSTRALIA'S BEST STUDENT CITY

QUALITY LIFESTYLE – CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLACE TO LIVE IS IMPORTANT TO THE HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING OF EVERY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT.

A great quality of life makes study inspiring and happy.

Victoria offers students an enviable lifestyle that nurtures success and the confidence to take steps forward in life.

Melbourne is ranked in the top five student cities in the world (QS Best Student Cities 2026) and is also one of Australia's most multicultural cities.

World renowned for celebrating the food and heritage of all nations, Victoria also presents students with a wide variety of sport, history, entertainment and arts to explore.

Living and learning in a diverse centre like Melbourne, Victoria is a great preparation for study or work anywhere.

Learning together with students from around the world means different cultures become part of daily life.

While that is fun and exciting, growing in knowledge and acceptance of each other also nurtures globally aware citizens – helping students to become successful in an increasingly interconnected world.

A LIVEABLE CITY



International students and their families say Melbourne is a great place to live because:

- the education system is world class
- there are lots of things to do and see
- people are friendly and welcoming
- transport, student accommodation and public amenities are plentiful
- the city is peaceful, stable and clean
- the cost of living is reasonable and the climate is good

The city of Melbourne, Victoria, is a fantastic place to live. Not only is the city a hub of activity with something for everyone, but Melbourne is ranked top five in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index in 2025. Melbourne also places in the top five cities in the world for students in the 2026 QS Best Student Cities ranking.

In its annual survey, the Economist Intelligence Unit consistently ranks Melbourne higher than global cities like New York, Paris and Sydney. Melbourne achieves excellent ratings for education, healthcare, culture and environment, infrastructure and overall stability.

Whether walking among the city skyscrapers, enjoying a relaxing picnic in the park or savouring Chinatown yum cha, Melbourne is a wonderful place to live, study and play.

Multicultural, safe and friendly community

Victoria offers a thriving modern culture and a wide choice of activities outside school. Its people are sociable and relaxed but also enthusiastic about their passions. Victorians are well known for their love of world food, arts, culture, sport and indoor or outdoor activities.

More than half of Victorians have a direct family link overseas. International students are a valuable part of a diverse society that includes people:

- from more than 300 nations
- who speak 290 languages
- who follow over 200 religions

Victorians love to celebrate different cultures. Countless people enjoy taking part in events like Chinese New Year, Vietnamese (Tet) New Year, Diwali Indian Festival of Light, Pako Festa, Easter Festival and Cultural Diversity Week. It sometimes seems like there is a festival every week!

Other Victorian cities

Centres for tourism, agriculture and industry feature among Victoria's many progressive student cities. The people who live in these communities are open, friendly and make newcomers feel welcome.

Public transport

Melbourne is easy to get around and well serviced by an excellent public transport network. Trains, trams and buses are within easy access of home, school, CBD and popular event destinations.

Students find timetables easy and convenient. Planned connections between services also keep travel time down. Some schools even have a dedicated school bus service.

Timetables are displayed at every stop and free copies are also available at train stations, information centres or online.

All public transport users aged between 5 and 18 years (under 19) are entitled to pay a discounted fare. Full information about the city public transport system, including prices, maps and timetables, is available from **www.ptv.vic.gov.au**

Seasonal climate

Victoria's temperate climate offers plenty of opportunity for outdoor activity and an active, healthy lifestyle. Like other countries in the southern hemisphere, Australia's seasons follow the sequence:

Summer:	December to February
Autumn:	March to May
Winter:	June to August
Spring:	September to November



MELBOURNE WAS RANKED TOP FIVE IN THE GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX IN 2025.



PICTURE YOURSELF
WITH A QUALITY EDUCATION

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR ELITE EDUCATION, CURRICULUM DIVERSITY AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

Victorian government schools are committed to providing every student with a quality education that offers choice, diversity, opportunities and pathways.

Education remains the Victorian government's number one priority. The vision for public education has been, and will continue to be, to create outstanding learning opportunities for every student, in every classroom, in every school, no matter where it might be.

There are over 1,500 government schools in Victoria, each with individualised education programs to suit every student's needs and interests.

Classroom excellence comes through the leadership shown in Victorian schools.

Our school leaders and teachers receive innovative professional development throughout the year to keep their skills fresh and relevant to teaching our future generation.



THE VICTORIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

A unique structure

Four cornerstones set Victorian education apart:

Teachers

who inspire a love of learning in each individual, embracing differences, creativity and personal development to help every student be their best and excel academically.

Environments

that open windows of exciting and interactive learning using innovative ideas, new technology and award-winning, purpose designed schools and classrooms.

Programs

of well-balanced learning through a rounded curriculum offering every student a wide range of study choices and future directions.

Qualifications

respected globally, including the VCE senior high school certificate and a big range of vocational qualifications.

Victoria, a leader in learning

- Well-known tradition of academic excellence.
- Home to top-ranking international universities.
- Secure career and higher education pathways
- Exceptional student support, protected by law.
- Active, dynamic and high-quality education.
- Internationally recognised qualifications.

Record of VCE excellence

Each year, there are 1,000 international students who join with 50,000 students from across Victoria to complete their VCE. These graduating students gain pathways to university in the Australian and international higher education sector. Many students achieve outstanding academic results, leading to prized career and further education opportunities.

High performance education

Victoria has excellent literacy and numeracy standards, setting some of the highest national curriculum standards of any Australian state.

In 2025, National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results showed that Victorian students at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 performed higher than the Australian average in all domains of the assessment, which includes reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

International student success

Victorian international students thrive because teachers provide students with the confidence to achieve constantly better results. That inspiration and guidance saw approximately 98% of students from Victorian schools successfully complete VCE in 2024.

Vibrant learning environments

Our teachers link their lessons into the space where they're teaching as well as to your individual needs.

Well-designed spaces make it easier for students and teachers to work together in small or large groups.

By being a student in a government school in Victoria, Australia you will learn:

- both inside and outside the classroom walls
- to engage in activities in flexible outdoor spaces, connecting you to the natural environment and to your community
- in zones using appropriate furniture and materials for certain types of learning including:
  - soft-seating areas for small-group collaboration
  - quiet places for students to reflect and work individually
  - makerspaces (using furniture with built-in storage for supplies and materials) – where students can develop problem-solving skills by sitting alongside teachers, parents or mentors.
- by continuously thinking and exploring as well as also experiencing opportunities on a global scale.

State of the art technology

Technology brings the world into our classrooms and gives you the chance to reach out across the world. Laptops, tablets, interactive whiteboards, video conferencing, smart devices, 3D printing and robotics are all part of our modern learning environments.

Victoria is the Education State

Making Victoria the Education State means putting education at the centre of everything we do, and providing a great education to every student at every school.

The Education State is focused on improving student outcomes and setting high expectations for all students, challenging them to achieve their best.

A Victorian education provides students with the education and skills to compete in new and emerging industries globally.

Choosing a Victorian education opens windows of opportunity for international students and pathways to achieve university and career dreams.

Victorian education facts

Every Victorian government school teacher is university trained and qualified

Innovative teaching methods are used to cater for all student learning needs

Low average of 21 students per high school class (13 in EAL) and teacher/student ratio of 1:11.8

About 90 secondary schools accredited to provide student accommodation and welfare

> MAKING VICTORIA THE EDUCATION STATE MEANS PUTTING EDUCATION AT THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING WE DO, AND PROVIDING A GREAT EDUCATION TO EVERY STUDENT AT EVERY SCHOOL.



TODAY'S VICTORIAN CLASSROOMS ARE EQUIPPED WITH INTERACTIVE LEARNING TOOLS AND CUTTING- EDGE TECHNOLOGY.

VICTORIA'S PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Prepare for success – English language schools and centres

Victoria's international students quickly achieve English language competency. This skill provides the confidence for study success and opens opportunities to live and work around the world.

In a Victorian government school English language program, students forge their own success pathway to high school. Teachers qualified in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) grow the robust English language skills students need to enter their preferred high school.

To improve school readiness and prepare for academic success, mainstream secondary school subjects are offered alongside English language studies.

Combining the experiences of learning English and high school study boosts student confidence in social, academic and professional settings.

Across Melbourne, 6 dedicated English Language Centres are located within easy travelling distance of schools.

Victorian secondary schools also host in-house English language programs.

- All instructors hold special English language teaching qualifications.
- Generally, students take only 2 terms (20-21 weeks) to gain English competence.
- Students with English language experience may finish in less time.
- Small classes of 2-12 students with access to extra private tuition.
- Language studies may run alongside mainstream high school subjects.
- Multicultural education aides provide added class and individual support.

Choosing the right school

Selecting a school is an important step. Guidance is available to ensure students choose a school offering the education, care and support needed to be happy and successful in their studies. All accredited schools are strictly monitored for student welfare and accommodation services as well as academic performance.

Curriculum

The curriculum in Victorian government primary schools emphasises literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills. Literacy includes the ability to understand and produce both verbal and written language in a variety of settings, such as speaking and listening, spelling, reading and writing. Numeracy is the ability to understand and apply mathematics.

There are also opportunities to develop scientific, sporting, artistic, technical, and social skills as students are encouraged to explore their world. Information technology subjects enable students to code, program equipment and use software critical for their futures.

Your child will sometimes learn with the whole class, and at other times be grouped for sessions with children who have similar learning styles and knowledge. Your child will also receive individual instruction when required. As your child develops, they will learn to work independently and collaboratively in flexible learning environments.

English as an Additional Language

Many Victorian government schools offer the subject English as an Additional Language at all year levels. In addition, a range of other services, such as language support, are provided in schools to further support students whose first language is other than English.

Welfare

Teachers aim to create a safe and happy environment where students are valued, praised and encouraged.

Primary school students must reside with a parent or legal guardian for the duration of their primary school course. Secondary school students can choose alternative accommodation options.

Student report cards

Student report cards are used in all Victorian government schools to report student achievement in Years Prep to 10. Report cards are usually provided for parents in June and December every year. Clearly written comments will tell you what your child knows and can do. It will also identify areas in which your child needs further help or can improve. The report card will clearly describe what the school will do to support your child and might suggest things you can do to help at home.

Parent-teacher interviews

Parent-teacher interviews are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher(s). By asking questions and gathering more detail about the information provided on the student report card, you have an opportunity to become more involved in your child's learning and give them support where needed.



IN A VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM, STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR OWN SUCCESS PATHWAY TO HIGH SCHOOL.



PICTURE YOURSELF WITH PATHWAYS TO TOP 100 WORLD-RANKED UNIVERSITIES

STUDYING IN VICTORIA PROVIDES A PATHWAY FOR YOU WITH THE VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (VCE) – A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE SUCCESS.

Victoria offers a smooth passage for international students through each stage of education. Choose one of our world-famous universities or further your studies with vocational education. We are renowned for the design of our education system and its easy links to further study.

The richness, diversity and flexibility of the school curriculum in Victoria will help you plan for a successful future. Our curriculum is based on providing you with choices, which mean not all subjects, are compulsory.

Whichever direction you choose after school, our school curriculum will enable success.

This flexible and broad curriculum encourages you to:

- develop independent thinking
- increase your life skills
- think and reflect on your future
- face the future with confidence.

Our teachers apply the curriculum in the classroom in ways that suit many different learning styles.

THE VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (VCE)

VCE – a world-recognised qualification

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is a senior high school certificate which provides international students with a global perspective, a world-recognised education and pathways to university in Australia and across the globe. The VCE offers a wide range of subjects which help students to create their own learning pathway to further education.

Benefits of the VCE

The VCE offers international students with flexible study options and a number of key benefits including:

1. pathways to Melbourne's top-ranking universities and tertiary institutions across Australia and worldwide
2. an individually tailored education
3. English language tuition and support specifically for international students
4. a wide range of over 90 subject choices
5. prior learning recognition.

A wide range of subjects

A diverse and flexible curriculum - one distinct advantage of a Victorian education is the varied and dynamic subject choices. VCE students can choose from over 90 subjects, in nine key learning areas, including languages (other than english) which offers the flexibility to achieve further study or workforce goals. Learning areas include:

- English
- languages (other than english)
- mathematics
- science
- business studies
- humanities
- the arts
- technology
- health and physical education.

A range of vocational education and training subjects are also offered as part of the VCE Vocational Major. Students should seek advice from their school staff about whether the VCE Vocational Major is right for their future study and career ambitions.

For a full list of individual subject choices available, visit the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority at: https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

Prerequisites

To enrol into the VCE, international students must have completed Year 10 or equivalent and achieved at least 60% on average in each core academic subject over the past two years. Additionally, students will need to meet minimum English language requirements or complete 20 weeks of intensive English language. For more information see English language requirements.

Studying towards your VCE

Each VCE subject is also made up of two units. For example, Mathematical Methods 1–2 is made up of Unit 1 and Unit 2. Students need to complete a total of 16 of these units (8 subjects) in order to satisfactorily complete their VCE.

Additionally, to be awarded the VCE, students must also satisfactorily complete English or English as an Additional Language (EAL) as a compulsory subject. International students can choose all other subjects depending on their planned tertiary study pathway, academic strengths and individual interests. See some popular examples on the next page.



Example 1:

Year 11	Year 12
English / EAL Unit 1–2	English / EAL Unit 3–4
Mathematical Methods Unit 1–2	Mathematical Methods Unit 3–4
Information Technology or Legal Studies Unit 1–2	Information Technology or Legal Studies Unit 3–4
Accounting or Economics Unit 1–2	Accounting or Economics Unit 3–4
Business Management or Visual Communication Design Unit 1–2	Business Management or Visual Communication Design Unit 3–4
Other elective units to suit university prerequisites and career goals	Other elective units to suit university prerequisites and career goals

Successful completion of a VCE study plan like this example may lead to university courses such as:

- Accounting
- Architecture
- Arts
- Banking and Finance
- Business
- Commerce
- Global Studies
- Legal Practice
- Marketing

Example 2:

Year 11	Year 12
English / EAL Unit 1–2	English / EAL Unit 3–4
Mathematical Methods Unit 1–2	Mathematical Methods Unit 3–4
General or Specialist Mathematics Unit 1–2	Further or Specialist Mathematics Unit 3–4
Chemistry Unit 1–2	Chemistry Unit 3–4
Biology or Psychology Unit 1–2	Biology or Psychology Unit 3–4
Other elective units to suit university prerequisites and career goals	Other elective units to suit university prerequisites and career goals

Successful completion of a VCE study plan like this example may lead to university courses such as:

- Nursing/Midwifery
- Medicine and Surgery
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology

Example 3:

Year 11	Year 12
English / EAL Unit 1–2	English / EAL Unit 3–4
Mathematical Methods Unit 1–2	Mathematical Methods Unit 3–4
Physics Unit 1–2	Physics Unit 3–4
Chemistry Unit 1–2	Chemistry Unit 3–4
Specialist Mathematics or Geography Unit 1–2	Specialist Mathematics or Geography Unit 3–4
Other elective units to suit university prerequisites and career goals	Other elective units to suit university prerequisites and career goals

Successful completion of a VCE study plan like this example may lead to university courses such as:

- Agricultural Science
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Environmental Science

Please note individual universities and courses require specific prerequisite subjects and minimum entry requirements. Each school's international student coordinator or careers adviser will be able to guide international students in choosing the most appropriate VCE subject mix to facilitate university entry.



A DIVERSE AND FLEXIBLE CURRICULUM – ONE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OF A VICTORIAN EDUCATION IS THE CHOICE OF SUBJECTS.

YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Recognition of prior learning

VCE studies offer international students a distinctive difference. Most students complete their VCE over two years. However, prior learning and English language skills allow for students to accelerate their learning.

Victorian government schools may accept students into a flexible course of study designed to build on existing academic achievements. Individual schools make their own decision on a student's suitability for a flexible pathway. Before enrolling students into a flexible VCE study program, schools give careful consideration to:

- recognition of prior learning
- English language skills
- student ability to successfully complete minimum VCE units
- student maturity
- past academic results.

Schools may offer international students one of seven flexible pathways to successfully complete their VCE.

Year 11

International students have five flexible pathways choices when commencing their VCE study at Year 11

Pathway	Duration	Start	Past learning recognised	English requisite met	English language tuition		
					20 weeks concurrent with VCE study	10 weeks prior to start of Year 11 10 weeks concurrent with VCE study	20 weeks prior to start of Year 11
Accelerated	1½ Years	Term 3	X	X	-	-	-
Typical	2 Years	Term 1	X	X	-	-	-
Supported	2 Years	Term 1	X	X	X	-	-
English 10	2¼ Years		X	X	-	X	-
English 20	2½ Years		X	X	-	-	X

Year 12

In exceptional circumstances, schools can offer international students VCE enrolment at Year 12. Students will then typically follow one of two flexible pathways:

Pathway	Duration	Start	Past learning recognised	English requisite met	English language tuition
			Outstanding achievement level		20 weeks prior to start of Year 12
Graduate	1 Year	Term 1	X	X	-
Supported	1¼ Years	Term 1	X	X	X

To find out more about applying for recognition of prior learning, visit the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority at https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/results/credit-recognition/Pages/Index.aspx or contact the International Education Division by emailing international@education.vic.gov.au

Success Stories

Yixin (Lisa) – China
Victorian Global Learning Awards – Year 12 Community Engagement Award



"Community engagement is not just about 'leaning in'. Focusing on engaging with the community has a unifying effect that makes us a better student cohort."

Year 11 VCE Subjects		Year 12 VCE Subjects		University Name/Course	Extra-Curricular Activities
Chinese First Language 3-4 Maths Methods 1-2 Specialist Maths 1-2 English as an Additional Language 1-2 Chemistry 1-2 Physics 1-2	+	Specialist Maths 3-4 General Maths 3-4 Maths Methods 3-4 English as an Additional Language 3-4 Physics 3-4	=	**University of NSW, Bachelor of Actuarial Studies / Science**	• International Captain • Public Speaking Captain • Senior Concert Choir • Jazz Vocal Ensemble • Organised Orientation Day and Harmony Day

Jehyeong (Jayden) – South Korea
Victorian Global Learning Awards – Year 12 Arts Resilience and Innovation Commendation Award



"Studying together and exchanging cultural insights plays a pivotal role in overcoming language barriers and cultural differences, and in identifying similar interests."

Year 11 VCE Subjects		Year 12 VCE Subjects		University Name/Course	Extra-Curricular Activities
Korean Second Language 3–4 English as an Additional Language 1–2 Japanese Second Language 1-2 Psychology 1–2 General Maths 1–2 Health and Human Development 1-2	+	English as an Additional Language 3–4 Japanese Second Language 3–4 Psychology 3-4 General Maths 3-4 Health and Human Development 3-4	=	**Deakin University, Bachelor of Social work (honours)**	• International college captain • Organised International week • International student choir lead

Hao Ting (Priscilla) – Vietnam
Victorian Global Learning Awards – Year 12 Global Citizenship Award



"Understanding other cultures is essential for promoting tolerance, productive relationships and connectedness. It can also empower individuals to advocate for changes that will tackle global challenges."

Year 11 VCE Subjects		Year 12 VCE Subjects		University Name/Course	Extra-Curricular Activities
Maths Methods 1–2 General Maths 1–2 English as an Additional Language 1–2 Visual Communication 1–2 Chemistry 1–2 Health and Human Development 3-4 Food Studies 3-4	+	Health and Human Development 3–4 General Maths 3-4 English as an Additional Language 3–4 Chemistry 3-4 Business Management 3-4	=	**Monash University, Bachelor of Nutrition Science**	• International vice-captain • performing arts captain • International student mentor club • School fashion revolution week participant



PICTURE YOURSELF WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT LIFE

A TRUSTED EDUCATION PROVIDER – ONE OF THE FOREMOST REASONS TO CHOOSE A VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IS THE CARE AND SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS RECEIVE.

Victoria is a leading government educator and has set high levels of accountability for its superior student care and welfare standards.

High levels of academic and personal support help students do well. From the moment of arrival, special coordinators are on hand to help students settle into life and study.

Our international student coordinators and teachers personally guide students to become familiar with a new home and school.

Victorian schools have policies, systems and processes to create respect and inclusion and encourage international students to be active in school life.

These supportive environments are fostered by a closely monitored student welfare program that also manages high-quality homestay accommodation.

Students are protected and have every opportunity to succeed.

WELFARE SUPPORT AND ACCOMMODATION - SECONDARY SCHOOL

Staff who understand what international students need

Sometimes experience and intuition make all the difference. Victorian government schools have been educating international students for decades.

The real difference comes from caring and understanding staff like our:

- principals and assistant principals who are responsible for student wellbeing;
- international student coordinators for all-hours help with personal, homestay or school issues
- multicultural and language aides who offer support with cultural and language concerns
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) teachers providing English language help and guidance
- careers advisors who develop workforce and further education pathways with students
- year level coordinators who work closely with others to guide all students in a year level
- trained nurses and confidential counsellors who help with student health and wellbeing.

Dedicated international student support

Because international students have unique needs, an international student coordinator is placed in each high school. For many students, this is the first time living away from home. Dedicated support is on hand to welcome students, help the transition into school life and meet ongoing individual needs. Right up until the final day of secondary school.

International student coordinators also keep in touch with home. Parents are kept involved and informed through regular contact.

Homestay: a secure and rewarding experience

While away from home, a homestay family helps students find a place to belong. Arriving in a foreign country is daunting enough. Without personal relationships, local community or confident language skills, young people can find settling in hard. Homestay offers a unique living experience where young people engage in a different way of life.

As part of the family, homestay students rapidly grow confident using English, experience life as a local and are supported with their study routine. As an active family member, students share in fun social, sporting and cultural activities. Most importantly, homestay families offer the support needed for learning success.

Homestay families are carefully evaluated and rigorously administered by international student coordinators. Only families who will actively support students to adapt to living and studying in Australia join the program. Schools find a matching homestay family based on student needs, and also give families regular advice on helping students fit in and thrive.

Becoming part of the school community

International students are warmly encouraged to become involved in their school community. Together with homestay family living, there is no better way to immerse students in Australian culture and strengthen English language learning.

An enormous range of international celebrations are planned right through each school calendar. Students have the chance to showcase their own culture, traditions and lifestyle to school and local communities. .

Other social and school events embrace international student participation. Friendships are often formed at social activities, performances and excursions, band or choir, camps, sporting clubs and more.

School activities and events add to the positive learning experience enjoyed by all students. Being involved balances academic and social life and helps students with integration, peer connections and strengthening friendship groups.



A HOMESTAY FAMILY OFFERES A GREAT WAY TO IMMERSE STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIAN CULTURE AND STRENGTHEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING.

PICTURE YOUR DAY AT A VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

A typical school day

Victorian school days are Monday to Friday, between around 8:30am and 3:30pm. All students are expected to be present and a daily attendance record is kept.

Primary school students generally have a dedicated class group and teacher. Secondary students have a more flexible arrangement, moving between classes and purpose-built facilities, or even outdoors for interactive teaching time.

Over rest breaks during the day, students might spend time with friends, visit the library or join a lunchtime team sport activity.

Students are issued with homework according to their level of study. Homework completion is expected and forms part of the regular student assessment for parent reporting.

A day in primary school	
8.50am	Class begins
8.50am to 11.00am	Classroom activities
11.00am to 11.30am	Recess (snack time) – under teacher's supervision
11.30am to 1.30pm	Classroom activities
1.30pm to 1.45pm	Lunch in class – under teacher's supervision
1.45pm to 2.30pm	Play time
2.30pm to 3.20pm	Classroom activities
3.20pm	Study support / Home time

A day in secondary school	
8.30am	Class begins
8.30am to 9.25am	Teaching period 1
9.25am to 10.15am	Teaching period 2
10.15am to 10.45am	Recess
10.45am to 11.35am	Teaching period 3
11.35am to 12.20pm	Teaching period 4
12.20pm to 1.20pm	Lunch time
1.20pmto 2.10pm	Teaching period 5
2.10pm to 3.00pm	Teaching period 6
3.00pm	Study support / Home time





PICTURE YOURSELF WITH A WIDE CHOICE OF SCHOOLS

YOUR CHOICE OF OVER 200 ACCREDITED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS LOCATED ACROSS VICTORIA.

Victoria welcomes international students from over 80 different countries across the globe.

Participating government schools accept enrolments from students entering Preparatory (Prep) primary to Year 12.

Government schools teach students to strive for positive personal and intellectual growth.

International students entering Victorian government schools must be of appropriate age and have achieved the minimum academic requirement.

Student visas are issued through the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and allow students to live in Victoria during their schooling.

Applying to study in Victoria is simple, whether you use an education agent or choose to apply directly online at www.study.vic.gov.au.

Depending on your country of origin, different documents may be required. So, check this easy step-by-step guide on the next page and refer to our website for additional detail.

HELPFUL ENROLMENT INFORMATION

English language requirements

There are no English language requirements for students attending Prep to Year 6 at a Victorian government school.

Secondary school students must have a good level of English language skills prior to commencing their course of study. To meet the minimum English language requirements for secondary school students, a student must provide documented evidence that the student has met one of the below.

	Years 7, 8 & 9	Year 10	Years 11 & 12
IELTS or IELTS indicator**	5	5.5	6
AEAS	46-56	57-66	67 and above
TOEFL iBT or Special Home Edition**	35-45	46-59	60-78
TOEFL Essentials	5.75	5.75	7.5
EIKEN	Grade 3	Grade 3	Grade 2A
iDAT	60-70%	60-70%	70-80%
PTE academic	29-36	36-46	47 and above
Cambridge B2 for schools	154-162	162-168	169 and above
English-taught students	Student has been taught at school where English is the primary language of instruction for at least 2 years		
Successful completion of English language program	If the above requirements cannot be met, applicants can choose to undertake one of the following to meet their English language requirements: • undertake English language studies in a Victoria government school as part of their course, if available • undertake an English language course in Victoria through another CRICOS-registered provider, face to face only. The duration of English language provision will normally be 20 or 21 weeks (two terms), depending on when the student commences the school year. If at the end of the two terms, the student's English language proficiency is still not sufficient for them to commence their core studies, they may be required to undertake additional English language studies.		

Academic requirements

Students must have achieved at least 60% on average in each core academic subject over the past two years. Please contact international@education.vic.gov.au for further information.

Age and education requirements

All school students must be of an appropriate age for the entry level for their school course, regardless of their country of citizenship.

To be granted a visa for school studies, the student must meet the following Migration Regulations 1994 age requirements:

At least 6 years	At the time of visa application
Less than 17 years	Commencing Year 9
Less than 18 years	Commencing Year 10
Less than 19 years	Commencing Year 11
Less than 20 years	Commencing Year 12

Prior to submitting an application, students should check the age requirements specified on the Department of Home Affairs website at www.homeaffairs.gov.au

Accommodation and welfare requirements

Four accommodation options are available for international students:

Option 1	Live with a parent or legal guardian
Option 2	Live with a Department of Home Affairs approved relative
Option 3	Parent-nominated homestay
Option 4	School-arranged homestay

The following welfare provisions apply:

All students aged under 15 years must live with a parent, legal guardian or Department of Home Affairs approved relative (selection Option 1 or 2). Information on gaining Department of Home Affairs approval can be found at www.homeaffairs.gov.au. Students aged 15 and older may choose any of the four available options. Parent-nominated homestay or school-arranged homestay accommodation must be approved by the host school. Before Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) is issued, the Accommodation Placement Fee must also be paid.



VICTORIA WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM OVER 80 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE.



APPLICATION PROCESS

1 Gather information and read terms, conditions and policies

Visit www.study.vic.gov.au or contact our office for information on enrolment and studying at a Victorian government school. Read the Terms, Conditions and Policies available at www.study.vic.gov.au. An accredited education agent can also assist you with selecting a school and lodging your application.

2 Apply for school enrolment

International students seeking to enrol in a Victorian government school should complete the application form and submit it with any required documents to the Department of Education.

There are 3 ways to apply:

1. **Accredited education agent:**
   visit **www.study.vic.gov.au** for a list of accredited education agents
2. **Online at:**
   www.study.vic.gov.au
3. **By email:**
   international@education.vic.gov.au

3 Receive your application acceptance email

Applications received are assessed to determine whether a student meets the entry requirements to study in a Victorian government school. Application assessment cannot commence until all required documents are received. To avoid unnecessary delays, be sure applications are signed and include all the required supporting documents. Applicants will receive an email from us either stating that we have accepted the application or that we require further information to conduct the assessment.

4 Receive your Letter of Offer and Written Agreement

Successful applicants receive a Letter of Offer and Written Agreement to review.

5 Sign Written Agreement

Return a copy of the Written Agreement signed by the parents / legal guardian (and the student if aged 18 years and over) by the due date.

6 Receive an invoice

After submitting your signed Written Agreement, you will be sent an invoice.

7 Pay your invoice

Please pay your invoice by the due date to secure your enrolment place in a Victorian government school.

8 Receive your Confirmation of Enrolment Letter

Following acceptance and invoice payment you will receive your:

- Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) Letter
- Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) Letter (if you have chosen for us to arrange your accommodation, i.e. homestay)
- Pre-departure Guide.

9 Apply for a student visa

Students applying for a student visa must apply to the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) office. Please visit the DHA website, www.homeaffairs.gov.au for information on how to apply for a visa and visa requirements.

10 Arrival detailsw

Homestay accommodation students must provide the Department of Education with arrival details at least two weeks prior to the welfare commencement date specified on the CAAW. You will also receive information about your homestay family.



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Authorised by the Department of Education
2 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002.

This document is also available on the internet at www.study.vic.gov.au

International Student Program

Department of Education

GPO Box 4367, Melbourne Victoria 3001, Australia

Email: international@education.vic.gov.au

Web: www.study.vic.gov.au

Victorian Government Schools International Student Program

Email: international@education.vic.gov.au
Web: www.study.vic.gov.au

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