Message from the Director

The semester is now well and truly underway, with many students settling into their studies and their new life in Melbourne. Of course, those students who participated in the Introductory Academic Program (IAP) have been given a great head start that has no doubt given them more time to focus on their studies. For more information, please read on.

Happy reading!

Michelle Hoodbhoy
Director, International Services
International and Development Portfolio

Student Profile

RMIT recently welcomed 12 new AusAID students from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, South Africa and Sri Lanka (please see picture above). The students commenced their studies in Semester 1, 2008 and are undertaking a range of programs from TAFE right through to PhD studies. Programs they are studying include:

- Biotechnology
- Education
- Geospatial Science
- Information Systems and Security
- Management
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Social Sciences
- Sustainable Energy
- Telecommunications Engineering

Introductory Academic Program

The Introductory Academic Program (IAP) is facilitated by RMIT’s International Student Information and Support (ISIS) unit. During the four-week program, students undertake the following activities:

- RMIT orientation and familiarisation with RMIT services
- Melbourne city excursion
- Day trip to Ballarat (regional city located west of Melbourne)
- Academic skills workshop

Although the IAP incurs an additional cost per student, the benefits justify this. Students find the program greatly beneficial to adjusting to life in Melbourne and familiarising themselves with RMIT.

Microsoft Invests in RMIT

Global software giant Microsoft has selected RMIT University as the only Australian tertiary institution to receive research funding through its US$1 million Beyond Search program. Researchers from the School of Computer Science and Information Technology will receive US$40,000 for a 12-month project that will improve the useability of Microsoft’s internet search engines.

RMIT was one of 24 universities in nine countries to be awarded funding.

DID YOU KNOW?

RMIT’s Scholarship and Sponsorship Office are available to assist sponsors and students with the following:

- All pre-admission issues
- Case management of sponsored students through the ISIS unit
- Coordination of arrival services
- Facilitation of meetings between students and academic staff
- Referrals to other University services including health and counselling services and special interest clubs and societies

Contact Sharon Yap for further information regarding the scholarship and sponsorship office.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

We are keen for your feedback! Please address all comments and queries to:

Sharon Yap
RMIT University, International Services Manager, Research and Client Relations
Email: sharon.yap@rmit.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 9925 1540
REW Student Services

RMIT English Worldwide (REW) is committed to helping students make the transition to life in Melbourne as quickly and as easily as possible. Our Student Services team members Miriam, Winnie, Sally and Zakia are experts in providing information, support and assistance on everyday issues such as accommodation, banking, or just general advice about living in Melbourne. They can also provide direction on educational matters such as course information, applications and liaison with RMIT University.

Whilst we try to maintain an English speaking environment, Miriam and Winnie are always willing to help students in their native tongue of Chinese, and Zakia can assist in Arabic (please see Zakia’s profile within this newsletter).

Studying English in Melbourne is not all about work! Our Student Activities Coordinator, Nick dedicates his time to improving the student experience by organising social activities to ensure students get the perfect balance of study and social time.

The team is headed by Jenelle Klintworth. After 10 years at the helm, Jenelle continues to marvel at how enriching it can be to work with international students.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

RMIT University regularly hosts international delegations, including those on study tours, exchange partners, government and business groups. During the January to March 2008 quarter, we have had the pleasure of meeting with the following individuals/organisations:

- Brazil - Brazilian Trade Delegation
- China - South China Normal University
- Australia China Investment Corporation
- Zhejiang Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
- Dubai - Dr. Majed - Director, King Abdullah Scholarship Program
- Indonesia - Saca Wacana Christian University
- University Kristen Satya Wacana (UKSM)
- Malaysia - High Commissioner of Malaysia
- International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
- Malaysian Universities
- University Putra Malaysia
- Oman - Consul General
- Serbia - Belgrade University
- Taiwan - Central Taiwan University of Science and Technology
- UK - Northumbria University
- University of Hull
- USA - Rolls Royce Corporation
- Vietnam - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education
- Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS)

Source: RMIT University Protocol Office

WHAT’S ON RMIT’S WEBSITE?

- Scholarships website [www.rmit.edu.au/international/scholarships](http://www.rmit.edu.au/international/scholarships)
- 2008 academic calendar [www.rmit.edu.au/academic-registrar/academic_calendars](http://www.rmit.edu.au/academic-registrar/academic_calendars)
- Refund policy [www.rmit.edu.au/international/refundpolicy](http://www.rmit.edu.au/international/refundpolicy)
- New programs available to international students! [www.rmit.edu.au/international/newprogram](http://www.rmit.edu.au/international/newprogram)
- RMIT University alumni information [www.alumni.rmit.edu.au](http://www.alumni.rmit.edu.au)

Contact Us

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Introducing...Emily Rose

‘Hi, I am responsible for coordinating the admissions and pre-arrival aspects of RMIT’s scholarship programs. I am able to assist with acceptance and visa documentation, academic monitoring and sponsor visits.

‘Previously I worked as an International Student Services Officer at RMIT University’s International Student Services Centre. I now work closely with my old team and RMIT University’s International Student Information and Support (ISIS) office, to monitor student academic progress and provide support where required.

‘I really enjoy interacting with our students and sponsors. For those I have not met yet, I look forward to speaking to you soon.’

Emily Rose
International Scholarships Officer
International Services

Staff Profiles

Jenelle Klintworth
Head of Student Services

Zakia Haddara
Administrative Assistant
RMIT English Worldwide (REW)