

EDUCATION ABROAD

RMIT OUTGOING STUDENTS

PASSPORT

YOUR GLOBAL  
PASSPORT

# your journey

## CONTENTS

- Exchange program [4](#)
- TAFE students...study in Europe and gain credit [6](#)
- Intercampus exchange @RMIT Vietnam [7](#)
- Other mobility options [8](#)
- Study tours [9](#)
- How much does an Education Abroad adventure cost? [10](#)
- Frequently asked questions [11](#)

RMIT's learning and teaching are informed by international best practice, producing graduates who are ready to take their place on the world stage—opening up possibilities for work and professional acceptance across the globe.

While RMIT's original campuses are based in Melbourne, through academic links with more than 120 institutions world-wide—and especially through our two campuses in Vietnam—RMIT connects students with an international network of research and learning.

RMIT students engage with the world academically, culturally and professionally before and after graduation. The opportunity for international travel and learning is a part of many programs. Mobility options include international exchange programs, study tours and overseas work placements. At any level, most RMIT students have the opportunity to build an international component into their program.

**RMIT provides a world of choice.**

## The RMIT Global Passport:

**4 continents, 30 countries and more than 120 partner universities**

Spend a semester or two in:

Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA or Vietnam.

For a complete list of our partners, visit:  
[www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/exchangepartners](http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/exchangepartners)



Student exchange involves studying for one or two semesters at an overseas institution with which RMIT has a reciprocal agreement. (That is, we send students to them, they send students to us.) There are over 120 RMIT student exchange partner institutions spread across the world.

Planning a successful education abroad experience takes time. It can't be left to the last minute. Start researching where you would like to go and what is required six to twelve months before the program starts. Your first resource is the Education Abroad Office (EAO) web site.

Also, the friendly staff at the EAO can guide you through any questions about studying overseas.

[www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/educationabroad](http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/educationabroad)

#### **Do I need to know another language?**

Not necessarily. Many partner institutions provide instruction in English or in a combination of English and the local language. Some provide instruction in the local language only.

#### **What can I study?**

Many partner institutions teach in English and offer a wide variety of undergraduate courses from a number of disciplines. There are also opportunities for TAFE and postgraduate students.

#### **Can I obtain credit for study I complete while on exchange?**

The courses you successfully complete overseas are credited to your RMIT program (provided you have sought approval in advance from your school).

#### **Does the Exchange extend my program by a semester or a year?**

No, provided that you have completed and passed all approved courses at the particular institution.

#### **Is there anything else?**

Student exchange has a host of advantages. You get to live 24/7 in another environment—and perhaps a very different culture—while studying. You will make new friends and develop different perspectives on the world.

### **Eligibility**

All applicants, whether higher education or TAFE, must:

- » enrol in a full-time on-campus load at the partner institution (i.e. equivalent to 36–48 RMIT credit points)
- » have approval for the exchange semester(s) and study plan from your school
- » have sufficient funds to finance your exchange semester(s).

In addition to the above, *higher education students* must:

- » have a minimum overall credit average i.e. grade point average (GPA) of 2.0. (Note that some partner institutions may require a higher GPA)
- » be enrolled in an RMIT program (students on a leave of absence not exceeding one year can still apply)
- » have completed at least *one year (96 credit points)* of academic study at RMIT.

In addition to the above, *TAFE students* must:

- » have a minimum overall distinction average i.e. grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. (Note that some partner institutions may require a higher GPA)
- » be enrolled and active in an RMIT program
- » have completed at least *one semester* of academic study at RMIT.

**‘I was lucky enough to spend six months in Valencia, Spain. The whole exchange was a wonderful opportunity as I met people from all over the world, travelled around Europe, and learnt new ways of thinking and learning.’**

Adrienne Murphy  
BA Design (Industrial Design)  
Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain

# HANGGE

## program

### How do I apply?

#### To get the ball rolling you should:

- » attend an information session – details are available on the EAO web site
- » do some research on what country and partner institution at which you would be interested in studying
- » download an application form and read it thoroughly
- » understand what is required for the study plan (course approval)
- » discuss your proposal with your school program leader/coordinator and have them approve your study plan
- » submit your application to the EAO by the due date along with all other required documentation
- » check available financial support.

#### Remember, applications must include:

- » completed application form (this is more than a formality, the thoroughness of your application is an important consideration in the selection process)
- » completed and signed study plan
- » statement of Purpose – 500 word essay
- » folio (if required)
- » two academic references
- » two passport photos.

If you have any questions, check out our frequently asked questions web site or contact the EAO.

[www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/faq](http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/faq)

#### Application deadlines for Exchange

Semester 1	30 June (previous year)
Semester 2	1 December (previous year)



# TAFE students...

## study in Europe and gain credit

This is a special student exchange opportunity for TAFE marketing, fashion and engineering students to study in the UK, Denmark, France or The Netherlands for one semester. The destination depends on your current studies.

Participating universities include the UK's Canterbury College; Denmark's VIA University College; Amsterdam Fashion Institute in The Netherlands; and Lycée Jean Perrin in the south of France. Courses undertaken are relevant to your current studies and even include a work-integrated learning experience.

To assist with costs, financial assistance is available from the Australian Government, including AU\$1000 towards an airfare and AU\$1 500 per month (pro rata for up to four months) to assist with living costs. To be eligible you must be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident; be enrolled and active in an RMIT program; and have completed at least one year of study with a distinction average.

Knowledge of a second language is only necessary for students who will be studying at Lycée Jean Perrin. These students must speak French or enrol in French classes before commencing their exchange. Specific entrance requirements do apply for each exchange opportunity, please refer to the web site for program dates and further information.

[www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/invokse](http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/invokse)



‘The courses at Ryerson University gave me a new perspective in journalism as I gained insights into another country’s media functions. This was an invaluable life experience. My broadcasting teacher was the special events producer for CBC. He arranged for our class to go on a backstage tour of CBC where we met and chatted with Peter Mansbridge (Canada’s Kerry O’Brien). These sorts of opportunities are what makes exchange so important and so beneficial.’

‘The life experience as well as professional experience gained has been amazing. Thanks to the John Storey Junior Memorial Scholarship for supporting me in what turned out to be the best semester of my life.’

Tessa Mudge  
BA (Communications)  
Ryerson University, Canada

# Intercampus exchange @ RMIT VIETNAM

Established in 2001, RMIT International University Vietnam (RMIT Vietnam) delivers internationally recognised degrees from campuses in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Since opening its doors, RMIT Vietnam has enjoyed rapid and continuous growth and development. The number of students enrolled and the number of academic programs offered continues to grow strongly.

RMIT Vietnam offers diverse academic programs (that are all taught in English), regionally based research projects, and new business and government partnerships. Programs available are aligned with the economic and social development of Vietnam (and the region) and include information technology, food technology and safety, infectious diseases and water supply.

Attracting students from all over the world, students come from China, Europe, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, the UK and the USA. Australian students are attracted to Vietnam as it is relatively close and the cost of living is quite affordable. There are also unlimited exchange opportunities available to RMIT students.

Sharing skills and experiences while on Exchange is not a one-way process: both sides gain from the experience. If you are considering studying in Vietnam, then obviously you will be taking with you skills that you have gained in Australia. In return you can expect your professional network to expand, your interpersonal skills to be refined, and to gain an international perspective on your studies and professional knowledge.



Hanoi campus



Ho Chi Minh City campus

Applicants for intercampus exchange at RMIT Vietnam follow the same process; it's just the closing dates that are different. If applying for an intercampus exchange, ensure your application is submitted to the EAO three months prior to the commencement of the Vietnamese semester for which you are applying.

## STUDY OPTIONS

### Undergraduate

- » Commerce
- » Business
- » Communications
- » Information Technology
- » Design

### Postgraduate

- » MBA
- » MBA Executive

Since 2003, RMIT Vietnam has won the prestigious Golden Dragon Award for excellence in education services six times. It has also received awards from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade.

# Other mobility options

## Work-integrated learning

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is an important part of RMIT's approach to education as it brings together the theory learnt in the classroom with the realities of the workplace. Many programs offer a co-operative year (usually referred to as a co-op year) of hands-on work placement, for example clinical placements are a major element of many programs in the medical sciences. Other disciplines also offer industry placements of varying lengths.

RMIT also offers specific project-based, interdisciplinary team WIL opportunities in Vietnam. These projects work towards achieving a specific objective of the partner organisation. Partners include hospitals, orphanages, non government organisations (NGOs) and other community-based, not-for-profit organisations.

Discuss the options for international work placements, internships and clinical experience with your program leader. Alternatively, visit the web sites listed below for further information.

### WIL Vietnam interdisciplinary projects

[www.rmit.edu.au/WILVietnam](http://www.rmit.edu.au/WILVietnam)

### WIL in creative practice contexts

[www.rmit.edu.au/dsc/wil/students](http://www.rmit.edu.au/dsc/wil/students)

## RIIERP

The RMIT International Industry Experience and Research Program (RIIERP) provides opportunities for students to undertake significant international work experience and research. Open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, places are offered on the basis of academic merit and performance in interviews.

About 165 companies in 16 countries were involved in the program in 2008. RIIERP participants include major global companies such as BMW, Volkswagen, Robert Bosch and Siemens.

Traditionally strong in Europe, RIIERP has also entered into agreements with companies in Asia (China, Thailand, Japan and Singapore), the USA and Canada.

[www.rmit.edu.au/riierp](http://www.rmit.edu.au/riierp)



RIIERP graduate, Tuan Nguyen, is now a senior engineer at Airbus in Hamburg, Germany.

# STUDY tours

Study Tour destinations include:

- > Canada
- > United States
- > Vietnam
- > China
- > Europe (including separate tours to Denmark, France, Italy and Germany)

Study tours of two to four weeks are an affordable and interesting way of combining new experiences with credit towards your program.

Tours generally take place during the summer holidays or the mid-year break and they are all accompanied by an RMIT staff member. Often they are the result of years of relationship building between RMIT and overseas companies, institutions and governments. As a result, study tours can open doors that are closed to the everyday tourist. They provide an unusual opportunity to rapidly get to know the cultural and business environment of other countries, through visiting local businesses, attending classes at an overseas university, or joining a cultural tour.

There are several study tour models that run within RMIT.

Some study tours operate as general electives that are open to all RMIT students (providing they have academic approval). For example, the College of Business offers tours to destinations in Asia, Europe and North America. These tours give TAFE, undergraduate or postgraduate students the opportunity to undertake an elective in a foreign country.

Information about travel grants for study tours is available at:

**[www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/tours](http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/tours)**.

For more information on upcoming study tours, please contact your school.

## Discover a new world

Consider a Study Tour as an introduction to overseas travel, and in turn discover a different culture that will expand your world and broaden your approach to your studies.

The destination you choose largely depends on where your interests lie. If you have an interest in business globalisation, then consider one of the Asian or North American study tours. For a more European flavour, consider the Denmark Study Tour and learn about the European Union at Århus School of Business.

Generally the course content of a Study Tour is designed to cater to all students, regardless of the RMIT program studied.

# How much does an Education Abroad adventure COST?

The good news is – it's affordable.

As you will need to pay for travel, visas, accommodation and living costs, we recommend that you have between AU\$10000 and AU\$12000 for your semester abroad. These costs vary, depending on where you are going and how long you are going for. With regard to tuition, exchange students are not required to pay tuition fees to the host institution, but Study Abroad students are.

## Financial Assistance

### RMIT

- » RMIT University provides a limited number of travel grants to assist students who are undertaking a mobility activity that is for academic credit within their RMIT program. This can be:
  - » Exchange or Study Abroad AU\$2000
  - » Study Tour AU\$1000
  - » International Industry Placement/Internship/Fieldwork (unpaid only) AU\$1000.
- » John Storey Junior Memorial Fund offers education abroad scholarships of up to AU\$3000 to applicants—awarded on: academic merit; community service; extra-curricular interests; successful placement at an RMIT partner institution; and previous international experiences.
- » In some instances, colleges or schools will provide assistance for certain opportunities. Please check with your program coordinator if any additional support is available.

### Federal Government

- » The Endeavour Awards is the Australian Government's merit-based scholarship program that provides opportunities for Australian citizens and permanent residents to undertake study in the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and the Americas. AU\$2500 is the average scholarship awarded, however, it can be as much as AU\$5,000 depending on the number of students traveling to each country. This program is administered by the EAO (on behalf of the University) and is only open to undergraduate students participating in an exchange program. No separate application is required, the EAO will follow-up with you directly, once you have applied for (and been accepted) into the exchange program.
- » OS-Help, a Federal Government initiative, is a loan scheme that assists students with additional funds to study overseas. While only available for full-time undergraduate students with a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP), these loans (approximately AU\$5000) can be paid off as part of your HECS debt.
- » Most students who currently receive Youth Allowance or Austudy will continue to do so while studying abroad, with the possibility of being eligible for the living away from home allowance. For more information please refer to [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).

### Host international institutions

- » Some countries and institutions offer scholarships to attract Australian students. Please refer to the exchange partner list on the web site and follow up with the Education Abroad Office.



‘I am and will be forever grateful for my experience as an exchange student. The John Storey Junior Memorial Scholarship allowed me to do more than I could have wished for as I was able to travel and see more of Sweden and Europe than I thought I would be able to see. Money goes a lot further for European travel when you're based in Europe. It gave me the opportunity to see countries that I thought were too far out of my reach from Australia, countries such as Sweden, Russia, England, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam.’

Samuel Polley  
Linköping University, Sweden

## What happens to my HECS debt?

This will not change. While on an exchange program you continue to be enrolled as an RMIT student, paying any fees and accruing HECS as usual.

# Frequently asked QUESTIONS

## Are there any application deadlines?

Yes. To apply for exchange in Semester 1, you will need to submit your application by 30 June (of the previous year). For exchange in Semester 2, your application will be due by 1 December (of the previous year).

If you are applying for an Intercampus Exchange at RMIT Vietnam, then ensure your application is submitted to the EAO three months prior to the start of the Vietnamese semester for which you are applying.

## How long can I go on an Exchange or Study Abroad program?

If you are studying a three to four year degree, then you can apply for Exchange or Study Abroad for up to two semesters. For students undertaking a one to one-and-a-half year program, you can apply for one semester of Exchange or Study Abroad.

When planning your Exchange or Study Abroad program, ensure you research your RMIT program requirements and financial needs thoroughly.



**‘Bentley University is a state-of-the-art university, combining amazing facilities, wide subject choice, a diverse student body and an action-packed campus life. This whole package combines to give every exchange student the American college experience that they dream of.’**

Stephanie Haggerty  
Bentley College, USA

## How early should I start planning for my Exchange?

Application deadlines are approximately six months prior to the commencement of the overseas semester. Prior to this deadline you should allow at least three months to research the country and institution you want to study at, prepare your application, and obtain approval for your study plan (allow at least four weeks to organise this with your school).

## I am an international student; can I go on an Exchange program?

Exchange programs are available to all students, including international students. However, you cannot go on exchange to your home country. You have to enrol in sufficient credit points at the partner institution to ensure that your program is not extended. You will remain on your current student visa.

## I want to go on a Study Tour. When should I apply by?

Application forms are available at each Study Tour destination page on the web. Additional selection criteria (including an interview) may apply, and extra documentation may be required depending on the destination, visa requirements and citizenship of Study Tour participants. Closing dates vary for each tour, but in all cases early application is advised.

In some cases, a deposit is required at the time of application.

## If I have any other questions, who should I contact?

Contact the EAO. Contact details can be found on the back cover of this brochure.

[www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/educationabroad](http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalpassport/educationabroad)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

RMIT University  
Education Abroad Office  
City Campus, Building 15 (off Bowen Lane)  
Ground Floor, 124 La Trobe Street  
Tel: 9925 3947 | Fax: 9925 5235  
Email: [eao@rmit.edu.au](mailto:eao@rmit.edu.au)

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate and current at the date of printing. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the RMIT University web site before lodging your application.

Date of issue: July 2009

RMIT CRICOS provider code: 00122A

*Photographs courtesy of RMIT Images; Adrienne Murphy (page 5); Tessa Mudge (page 6); Tuan Nguyen (page 8); Samuel Polley (page 10); Stephanie Haggerty (page 11).*

