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Director's message
Welcome to another edition of Sponsor News. Semester 2 has just commenced and we have welcomed over 2850 international students from 90 countries into 213 programs across all sectors from ELICOS and foundation studies through to doctorate programs.

Amid the industry challenges, this is a good result and we thank you for your continued support.

To all our sponsors around the world who observe the holy month of Ramadan, we wish you a blessed time and a happy celebration for Eid ul Fitr.

Happy reading and good luck!

Michelle Hoodbhoy
Director, International Services
International and Development Portfolio

RMIT welcomes Confucius
Australia's first Chinese Medicine Confucius Institute was opened at RMIT University on 20 June 2010 by His Excellency Xi Jinping, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China.

The Confucius Institute will promote the study of Chinese culture and language, with a focus on Chinese Medicine – one of the world's oldest and longest standing health care systems, tracing back more than 2500 years.

RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Margaret Gardner AO, said Chinese Medicine played an increasingly important role in global health.

"Since 1993, RMIT has worked with the Chinese Government and the World Health Organization to develop education and research in the Asia Pacific region," Professor Gardner said.

"Today, RMIT is the largest provider of Chinese Medicine studies in Australia.

"From helping local farmers export herbs and winning multi-million dollar research grants to pioneering the world's first Master degree in Medical Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine, RMIT has been a leader in this field.

"The Chinese Medicine Confucius Institute is a significant highlight in our long-term relationship with China."

The Confucius Institute is a collaborative project between RMIT and the Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, supported by the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing.

Important: Updated forms

Please be aware that all forms used by International Services have been changed to reflect the new street address and highlight that onshore international students can also submit forms to the international student desk at Info Corner.

Old forms will no longer be accepted so Sponsors are asked to make sure their files are updated. A total of 24 forms have been revised.

All forms are available at:
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/international/brochures
New RMIT programs in 2011

Please use the links for detailed program information.

Associate Degree in Fashion and Textile Merchandising (AD013)
From 2011 RMIT will be the first university to offer this program in Australia. The internationally recognised associate degree aligned to industry skills, will offer industry-based projects with Australia’s top fashion retailers and is a fantastic opportunity for fashion students.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/ad013

Bachelor of Science (Geospatial Science) (BP087)
This is an exciting new degree with a strong focus on practical skills development. The program will include a component of compulsory work experience, industry-collaborative projects and regular field trips to assist with applying theory in practice.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp087

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (BP184)
This degree will equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the pharmaceutical industry. As part of the program students will be required to undertake a compulsory 40-week professional work placement, unique to RMIT.

http://www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp184

Mandatory changes to OSHC from 1 July 2010
As of 1 July 2010, all students are required to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the entire proposed duration of their student visa. The RMIT-preferred OSHC provider is Medibank Private, however we accept OSHC from other approved providers.

The changes, by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), will affect all students who apply for a student visa on or after 1 July 2010.

Students who received their Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from RMIT before 1 July 2010 are only required to show at least one year of OSHC.

All international students holding an Australian student visa are required to maintain valid OSHC as a condition of their student visa.

Exceptions may include Norwegian and Swedish students and students studying for less than three months on a visitor or tourist visa.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.rmit.edu.au/programs/international/health

Spot-light on Endeavour student, Abushahed Emon

Some of the best things about RMIT include the infrastructure of the campus, the library and facilities, the vibrant city life, the friendly teachers and staff members and of course, the well designed program, which has helped shape me for my future career in filmmaking.

“RMIT has a unique reputation in my country. The Advanced Diploma in Screen and Media has the right curriculum for developing my skills.

“I recently received a fellowship at the ‘Asian Film Academy’ (AFA) in South Korea. This is an opportunity for young filmmakers to undertake an educational program hosted by Dongseo University and Pusan International Film Festival, which is designed to foster young talent and establish an Asian filmmakers network. We will be working with famous director Abbas Kiarostami (the dean), Ogiganami Naoko as the directing mentor and KIM Hyung-gu as the cinematography mentor.”

New flyer for AusAID students

A new information flyer is available for prospective students who wish to apply for an AusAID scholarship. The flyer can be downloaded from the RMIT International Services scholarship web page. www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships/international

Enhanced scholarship web site

The scholarships web site for international students has been enhanced for improved usability. It’s now easier than ever for students to find a suitable scholarship based on eligibility, interest or program. www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships/international

2011 Postgraduate program guide now available

The 2011 postgraduate program guide is now available to download from the RMIT web site. Hard copies can also be ordered for events and for distribution to student.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/international/brochures

AusAID update

RMIT University has welcomed seven new Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) students in July 2010 to our growing AusAID community from countries such as East Timor, Indonesia, Mongolia, Vietnam, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands. These students are studying a range of programs from TAFE to postgraduate research in areas such as Media, Sustainable Energy, Advertising, Business Management, and Building and Construction. The Introductory Academic Program (IAP) was completed successfully and the semester exam period is almost upon us. We look forward to welcoming the February 2011 cohort.

This year RMIT had three ADS scholars and one Australian Leadership Awardee (ALA) complete their programs. The ADS awardees completing their program with RMIT were Asma Ali Zaidi from Pakistan, Phanthanavong Phouthavong from Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Henry Franky from Indonesia. The Australian Leadership awardee Iljmurun Yayalt from Mongolia, who completed her program last semester, was also present for the completion ceremony. We hope that the students enjoyed their time here in Melbourne and that they are able to take valuable skills and knowledge from their study at RMIT to contribute to and engage with our region and the world.

AusAID Completion Ceremony held on 16 July 2010.

From left to right: Emily Rose (SC), Phanthanavong Phouthavong, Henry Franky, Iljmurun Yayalt, Michelle Hoodbhoy (Director, International Services), Fiona Ellis (Director Student Services), Keith Ong (Manager, Research and Client Relations), Asma Zaidi Ali and Sabina Ranjit (SCO)
Open Day 2010

RMIT Open Day 2010 promised – and delivered! The eager eyes of close to 35,000 attendees were met with student fashion parades, architecture exhibitions, workshops and amazing state-of-the-art laboratories and work spaces.

Students attended information sessions on over 250 degrees and diplomas, industry trends, study and career options and were inspired by RMIT’s internship and overseas study opportunities.

The day was full of excitement with even a surprise flash-mob dance astonishing onlookers.

Attendees had the chance to get a taste of student life amid the buzz of a vibrant city and discovered the exciting experiences that await them at RMIT.

www.rmit.edu.au/openday

International students urged to “Think Before”

A new Australian initiative raising awareness of student safety has undergone its worldwide launch. The “Think Before” campaign is designed to increase awareness amongst international students of the importance of remaining alert in their new surroundings.

The short animation follows a culturally-neutral character named George as he places himself in potentially high-risk situations, avoiding danger by pure chance each time. The animation asks the question “Are you feeling lucky?” while spreading the message that students should always take precautions and never leave safety to chance.

This initiative is a collaboration of the Australian Government, Police and various education organisations in Australia that recognise that the biggest danger of all lies in failing to acknowledge that danger does exist. Show your support by directing students to the web site.

www.thinkbefore.com

Emily McPherson’s extreme makeover

The refurbishment of RMIT University’s historic Emily McPherson building is now complete and is the new state-of-the-art home for the Graduate School of Business and Law.

The building boasts the latest in multimedia technology, teaching and meeting spaces especially designed for collaborative learning and executive education.

“The Graduate School of Business and Law is proud of the building’s history and is eager to contribute to its future at RMIT,” says Professor Jackson.

Introducing … Robbie Materia

International Services was pleased to welcome Robbie Materia as the new Marketing and Web Coordinator in June. His services and experience will be of valued assistance in the development of all marketing collateral for International Services and in ensuring that the RMIT brand is represented honestly, accurately and effectively in our international markets.

“I have only been in this role a short time but was immediately impressed at the level of dedication and enthusiasm shown by everyone in the team.

“My background is in marketing and multimedia, with several years experience in both the planning and production sides of marketing communications, which, amongst other things, will assist me in creating an enhanced web experience for all visitors to our site.

“I strongly believe that internal communication is equally as important as the communication with our students, so I encourage you to share with me your feedback and opinions on all our marketing materials. I look forward to hearing from you.”

International Services has moved

International Services has relocated to a new address (pictured below) Building 22, level 4, 330 Swanston Street, Melbourne. The team has settled in nicely and is looking forward to servicing students from its new home.

“We have been given a marvellous opportunity to work and teach in this refurbished building and to integrate our postgraduate business and law programs,” Professor Margaret Jackson, Head of the Graduate School of Business and Law, said.

With the school now operating from the main campus grounds, the move to the Swanston Street campus has also given students the opportunity to connect with the wider RMIT community.
International delegations

RMIT University regularly hosts international delegations, including those on study tours, exchange partners, government and business groups. During the June to August 2010 quarter, we have had the pleasure of meeting with the following individuals/organisations:

» Foshan University, China
» Haryana State, Member of Parliament, India
» Kasetsart University, Thailand
» King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia
» Hong Kong Arts School (HKAS), Hong Kong
» HTW Dresden, Germany
» Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam
» Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, Thailand
» Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China
» Secretary-General, Office of Civil Service Commission, Thailand
» TESDEC College, Samoa
» Tianjin Municipal Education Commission, China
» Tianjin University, China
» Universiti Malaya, Malaysia
» University of Salford, United Kingdom

What's on RMIT's web site?

Scholarships web site
www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships/international

2011 academic calendar
www.rmit.edu.au/academic-registrar/academic_calendars

Publications and translated materials
www.international.rmit.edu.au/agent/marketing_materials/brochures

Entrance requirement web page
www.international.rmit.edu.au/info/noosr/entrycountry.asp

Refund policy
www.rmit.edu.au/policies/refunds

Programs and Fees 2010 and 2011
www.international.rmit.edu.au/info/programfees.asp

New programs available to international students
www.rmit.edu.au/international/newprogram

RMIT University alumni information
www.alumni.rmit.edu.au

RMIT International Services contact details
www.international.rmit.edu.au/agent/contactus

Newsletter and media feedback

If you have any feedback on this newsletter, or if you require any assistance in dealing with local media, please contact:

Robbie Materia
Marketing and Web Coordinator
Email: robbie.materia@rmit.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 9925 1646
Fax: +61 3 9639 9663 6925
Update on the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Program

**New version of QPT**

Since July, we have changed over the Version of the Quick Placement Test (QPT) available on RMIT's Agent's website.

**QPT validity**

A student’s QPT result is valid for 12 months, for the purposes of offers and visas. However, if the result is older than six months when the student arrives in Melbourne, they will be re-tested at REW, in order to ensure correct class placement.

**Academic English**

All courses are now all called English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses. However, our courses are appropriate for students pursuing university studies, those who need English for their professions or simply for everyday communication.

REW welcomes MATRIX students

REW has welcomed 12 English language students recently affected by the closure of the Melbourne Matrix centre in July of this year. The students from Japan, Korea, Colombia and Thailand, have been enrolled into our language centre at all levels and are already part of the REW community.

REW, accredited by the National Accreditation of ELS Scheme (NEAS) and member of English Australia, was one of several institutions selected by English Australia to host the displaced students. REW also hosted 36 English language students affected by the Geos closures earlier in the year.

REW in partnership with the Oman Aircraft Control College

In June this year, the Oman Aircraft Control College (OACC) announced the graduation of 100 Air Traffic Controllers, all of whom undertook REW's Aviation English Program. As a result of collaboration between the Omani Ministry of Defence, BAE Systems and REW, the ATC trainees were the most recent cohort to complete our program, which has been running since 2005.

REW delivers teacher training to China Eastern Airlines

REW continues to provide offshore training for groups in the Aviation industry. A recent four week program took place on the outskirts of a wintry Shanghai. There were 12 students from various regions of China, but mostly from the Shanghai area. The participants worked in a variety of departments within China Eastern Airlines including management planning, first class cabin crew, China Cargo and the planning division. All of the trainee teachers possessed a high language ability in English with most being English majors graduates. They were a talented group of students who were keen to learn and eager to try out new approaches and methods.

Have you visited our News Centre?

For all the latest REW news and updates, please visit the News Centre tab on our website.

www.rmitenglishworldwide.com/news.html

For English language enquiries, please contact:
REW English Worldwide (REW)
Email: englishworldwide@rmit.edu.au
Web site: www.rmitenglishworldwide.com
CRICOS provider code: 01912G

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