Message from the Director

Australia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms Julia Gillard, recently made a Ministerial Statement, to the House of Representatives, on international education. This was a significant event as it placed the incumbent government’s position regarding the importance of international education on record. The Ministerial Statement also addressed future areas of focus for the current government, namely; the quality of education and student experiences. Good news indeed for all future international students. As developments unfold we will keep you informed.

Australian Education International (AEI) have updated the Guide to studying and living in Australia. This is a great resource that I strongly encourage you to use and promote to potential students. It is also located on the Study in Australia web site at www.studyinaustralia.gov.au.

Happy reading!

Michelle Hoodbhoy
Director, International Services
International and Development Portfolio

Swine flu and RMIT’s response

RMIT International Services is aware that there may be concerns relating to the current outbreak of H1N1 (known as Swine or Mexican influenza). Please be assured that RMIT is monitoring the situation, working closely with AEI and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Please refer to the following web site for further information: www.rmit.edu.au/news/swineflu.

RMIT scores a Fair Trade University first

RMIT University has passed a five-point test to be named the joint first Fair Trade University in Australia.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO, the Vice-Chancellor and President, welcomed the award.

‘Fair Trade is a global movement tackling poverty and empowering producers through trade.

‘We have been a Fair Trade Workplace for the past year. Becoming a Fair Trade University fits perfectly with RMIT’s vision of being global in outlook and action.

‘Our staff and students can make a difference in so many ways. Here in Melbourne, we can make informed purchasing decisions’, Professor Gardner said.

Cameron Neil, Operations Manager with the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ) was delighted to present RMIT with its certificate as part of Fair Trade Fortnight – Australia’s biggest annual celebration of all things fair trade.

‘By becoming a Fair Trade University, RMIT has recognised the life-changing difference that choosing fair trade makes to the lives of developing country producers, their families and communities – helping send their kids to school, building roads and ensuring access to better health care’, Mr Neil said.

‘But I’m delighted to say that we will go further and incorporate Fair Trade into elements of our curriculum, into our work-integrated learning, and into our campus life in Vietnam, as well, of course, as ensuring fair trade helps guide our procurement policies’, Professor Gardner added.
Out and about

The International Scholarships and Sponsorships Team visited the UAE Embassy, Kuwait Cultural Office and Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission in April. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen ongoing relations in order to work together to provide better support to sponsored students. The scholarship team would like to thank the sponsors for their warm welcome and hospitality during the visit.

Student safety

RMIT University is committed to providing a safe and secure study environment for all students. Recent news coverage depicting disturbing attacks on Indian students will not be tolerated by RMIT or the wider community. Rest assured that RMIT will support the Victorian Premier’s strong response and will continue to work with the State Government of Victoria and the City of Melbourne, along with seven other Melbourne universities, to ensure the wellbeing of Indian students. To date there have been no reported cases involving RMIT students. To find out more, please visit:

Universities Australia media release – action plan for student safety
FAQs and recommended responses to address safety concerns from Indian students

PhD duration change

Recently, RMIT changed the CRICOS registration of PhD programs from a three-year program duration to a four-year program duration. This CRICOS registration change allows a student to apply for and receive a student visa for four years.

At RMIT, students are allowed a maximum duration of four years to complete a PhD. This policy has been in place at RMIT since 2000. A decision was made to change the CRICOS registration so that students who require an extension after three years need not renew their student visa.

Students at RMIT may complete their PhD in the minimum time of two years and a maximum time of four years. Most students complete their PhD between three to three and a half years.

For current students, their program has not changed therefore complete their PhD between three to three and a half years. of two years and a maximum time of four years. Most students at RMIT may complete their PhD in the minimum time

Student profile

‘I studied architecture at the undergraduate level. However, my interest has shifted to urban development and management since I started working for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Katmandu.

‘I am now studying for my masters and I couldn’t be happier. I chose RMIT because only RMIT offered the course I wanted to pursue. RMIT is simply the best! I have already learnt so much from the lecturers, who are all very experienced. What I learn at RMIT I plan to apply in Katmandu. I would really like to one day work in a leadership position within Nepal’s Urban Environment Planning and Management sector.’

Jenish Joshi from Nepal
Master of Social Science
(International Urban and Environmental Management)

Goodbye and good luck!

Nine AusAID scholarship students are due to complete their programs in July 2009 (please refer to the student summary below). In celebration of their achievements, RMIT has organised an AusAID completion ceremony for the students, to be held on Wednesday 22 July. At this ceremony students will be presented with their transcripts and Statement of Academic Completion. Of course we will also be there to wish them bon voyage and good luck for their future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Student name</th>
<th>Student program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Development Scholarship</td>
<td>Kuen Motsoapitsso Molapgo</td>
<td>Master of Engineering – Quality Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathimath Nishan</td>
<td>Lam Cuong Le</td>
<td>Master of Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Rasnipate Katrewa</td>
<td>Siphiwe Bridget Thwala</td>
<td>Master of Midwifery</td>
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<td>Kevin Dick Abel</td>
<td>Wah Wardningsih</td>
<td>Master of Technology – Textiles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Leadership Award</td>
<td>Jenish Joshi</td>
<td>Master of Social Science – International Urban and Environmental Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Partnership Scholarship</td>
<td>Diana Shinta Purwanto</td>
<td>Master of Laboratory Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AusAID Awards seek to develop the capacity of individuals and their workplaces, to contribute to long-term development, stability and security of Australia’s partner countries; and the establishment and maintenance of mutually beneficial linkages between partner countries and Australia, as well as within regional networks. In respect of these objectives, RMIT hopes that the above students will return home to contribute effectively to the development of their country and region.

Invoice reminder

Semester 1 2009 invoices were mailed to all sponsors in April. If you have not received your invoice yet, or the contact details of your finance department have changed, please contact the Scholarships and Sponsorships team.
Capital Works update

In 2008, RMIT invested AU$47 million across 40 major projects that included infrastructure upgrades, building renovations and constructions, campus landscaping, recreational facilities, sustainability projects and feasibility studies. Highlights include:

» completion of nine 35-capacity classrooms
» relocation of RMIT English Worldwide (REW) to newly refurbished premises
» introduction of student recreation spaces, including flat-screen TV and kitchenette facilities, on the City campus.

This is just the beginning of RMIT’s commitment to the AU$500 million Capital Works Program, scheduled to be completed by 2013. For further details, please refer to the Capital Works web site.

International delegations

RMIT University regularly hosts international delegations, including those on study tours, exchange partners, government and business groups. During the March to June 2009 quarter, we have had the pleasure of meeting with the following individuals/organisations:

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Individuals/organisations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Australia Ambassador Designate to Chile</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>China Academy of Space Science</td>
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<td>China Aerospace Science &amp; Industry Corporation (CASIC)</td>
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<td>Foshan University</td>
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<td>NJUA – Jincheng College</td>
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<td>Shanghai University of Finance and Economics</td>
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<td>South China Normal University</td>
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<td>Xiamen University</td>
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<td>Xianyang Normal University</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Pontificia Javeriana University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Director General, Odile Quintin, Education and Culture, European Commission</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>Birla Institute of Management</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Dublin City University</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Hosei University and Oberlin University</td>
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<td>Muroran Institute of Technology</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Islamic University Malaysia</td>
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<td>Universiti Sains Malaysia</td>
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<td>University of Malaya</td>
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<td>Oman</td>
<td>Consul General of Oman</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Hacettepe University</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Prof. Harloe from the University of Salford</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Case Western Reserve University</td>
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<td>Prof. Sam Aroni from UCLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>MOET</td>
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Source: RMIT University Protocol Office

REW partnership in Saudi Arabia

RMIT English Worldwide have recently entered into a partnership with King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, supplying this prestigious university with course and assessment materials for their Preparatory English Program (PEP). Some 3000 Saudi students take this course every year in preparation for joining the mainstream university, where the language of instruction is English. REW are working in close collaboration with KFUPM to ensure all course and assessment materials are relevant and appropriate to the Middle Eastern university context, and to provide these students with the best possible English language learning outcomes.

Economic forecast looks good

Thailand’s Tharatee Mookdee recently commenced her PhD studies in accountancy. She brings with her considerable experience, having worked as an accountant within Thailand’s government and banking sectors, in addition to teaching accounting at Thailand’s Mae Fah Luang University.

When asked why she chose to study at RMIT, Tharatee explained, ‘I heard from my friend, a PhD candidate at RMIT, that RMIT provides good study resources. My friend was right! So far I am satisfied by the learning resources and environment. I have also found the academics to be dynamic and proficient.’

‘I think accountants play a significant role in business, no matter the world’s economic climate. Research in accounting also contributes valuable views to all stakeholders. I would like to help shape the future economy by being a good accounting researcher and academic, with publications to my name. I want to pass on any knowledge and experiences I gain to my future students.’

Tharatee is keen to make her mark on the world and we wish her well.

What’s on RMIT’s web site?

2009 academic calendars
www.rmit.edu.au/academic-registrar/academic_calendars

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

Programs and fees 2009
www.international.rmit.edu.au/info/programfees.asp

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

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

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

Welcome Booth at Melbourne Airport
Making the future work magazine

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Newsletter feedback

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

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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. Prepared in June 2009. CRICOS provider number 00122A.