Message from the Director

Happy New Year!


During 2007, RMIT again proved to be a popular choice for sponsored students. We saw an increase in the number of sponsored students from the Middle East, especially those from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On behalf of RMIT University and our many sponsored students, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2008.

Michelle Hoodbhoy
Director, International Services
International and Development Portfolio

RMIT Welcomes Saudi Arabian Ambassador

RMIT recently welcomed the Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Mr Hassan Talat Nazer, and Dr Ali Mohammed Albishri. Recipients of the King Abdullah Scholarship Program (KASP), who are currently studying at REW, were on hand to meet with the dignitaries. These students were only too willing to share their experiences of Australia and RMIT University.

2008 Update

Tuition Fees

Please be advised that 2008 tuition fees have been set and are now available on our website.

Commencement and enrolment dates for Semester 1, 2008

These dates have been confirmed and are as follows:

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<tr>
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<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Commencement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>30 January 2008</td>
<td>11 February 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>20 February 2008</td>
<td>3 March 2008</td>
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Omani Student Society of Victoria Graduation

The Omani Student Society of Victoria (OSSV) Graduation Ceremony was held at RMIT University’s Storey Hall on 6 October 2007. The Omani Student Society is a body that represents all students from Oman who are currently studying in Victoria.

The Omani student body is a tightly-knit group and each semester they organise a ceremony to congratulate students who are due to complete their studies. This ceremony was attended by all Omani students in Victoria, plus their families, and other community and education representatives. Mr Hamed Mohammed Hamood Al-Hajri, Consul-General of Oman, was also in attendance.
**Salaam RMIT**

Pakistan’s Sheeraz Memon, on scholarship from the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, is currently studying for his PhD in Communication Engineering.

‘I chose RMIT because I was impressed with the background and research skills of the academics. My field is digital signal processing and some of the academics in this field have many years of research experience.’

Sheeraz joined RMIT University in 2007 and while he has been very busy with his studies, he has still found time to indulge in some extracurricular activities.

‘There are many services and facilities available to international students at RMIT. I have joined RMIT’s Islamic Society and just recently I participated in RMIT’s annual Islamic Awareness Week and really enjoyed it. It was a wonderful celebration.’

In addition to holding regular activities and inter-faith gatherings, the RMIT Islamic Society (RMITIS) have also been instrumental in the development of ‘Salaam RMIT’, an informative guidebook that is popular amongst new international students from the Muslim faith. Understandably, these students are concerned about the services and facilities that will be available to them, not only at RMIT, but also in Melbourne. By using this guidebook, students are able to easily locate prayer rooms, mosques and halal restaurants.

‘Before I left Pakistan, I was really worried that I would not have access to halal food in Melbourne. So the first thing I looked for when I got here was halal meat. It didn’t take me long to find. There are a lot of halal shops and restaurants here, as well as many shops that sell the spices I like. They even have the same brands that are in Pakistan. I am more than happy with the food here. In fact, in some ways I think the food is better here than what is in Pakistan!’

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**Staff profile: Catherine Fay**

‘I have only recently joined RMIT University. As the International Scholarships Coordinator, I coordinate the international scholarships and sponsored students’ program. Part of my role involves acting as a contact person for sponsor bodies, Australian and overseas Government bodies, and the RMIT community. I also train RMIT staff in scholarship procedures and participate in the continuing development of RMIT’s sponsorship program.

‘Like a lot of our international students, I am quite new to Melbourne, so I understand the questions they have. The difference is I have a better idea on where to get the answers and of course I am more than happy to pass this knowledge onto the students that I meet.’

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**INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS**

RMIT University regularly hosts international delegations, including those on study tours, exchange partners, government and business groups. During the October to December 2007 quarter, we have had the pleasure of meeting with the following individuals/organisations:

- China
  - Changzhou Municipal Education
  - China Centre for International Education Exchange
  - China Eastern
  - China Air
  - Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art
  - National University of Defence Technology
  - Tianjin University of Science and Technology
  - Zhejiang University of Media and Communications

- Denmark
  - Copenhagen Technical Academy
  - Arhus Maskinmesterkole

- India
  - Xavier Labour Relations Institute

- Malaysia
  - Malaysian High Commission
  - Sarawak Civil Service
  - University Teknologi MARA
  - University Kerbagsaan Malaysia (UKM)
  - University of Malaya

- UAE
  - Institute of Applied Technology

- UK
  - Leeds Metropolitan University

- USA, UK
  - G8 Consortium Education Committee

- France, Korea and China
  - Centre for Military Science and Technology
  - Ministry of Education and Training
  - Ministry of Finance

Source: RMIT University Protocol Office