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Application Step-by-Step Process Model:

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(Via agent, exhibition, email, phone or fax)

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STEP 3: Student acceptance
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STEP 4: International admissions issues electronic
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STEP 5: Student finalises visa conditions
with Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

STEP 6: Student makes travel and/or accommodation
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STEP 7: Student arrives in Australia

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STEP 9: Student registers for OSHC card and
sets up bank account, mobile phone, etc.

STEP 10: Classes begin

GOOD LUCK!
Introduction to Australia

For more than 50,000 thousand years, Australia's Aboriginal people have lived and thrived in Australia's unique and challenging natural environment. Australia's rich vegetation and native wildlife helped them establish their presence on the land. Today it is believed the Aboriginals are the world's oldest civilisation.

'Terra Australis' was the last landmass to be discovered by European explorers. Talk of this mystical land and the riches it held inspired explorers to sail into the unknown. It wasn't until Captain James Cook arrived in Botany Bay in 1770 that the great southern land was officially discovered by Europeans.

Australia's biggest attraction is its natural beauty. The landscape varies from endless sunbaked horizons to dense tropical rainforest to chilly southern beaches, making the Continent a natural wonderland of beautiful beaches, crystal blue waters, amazing ancient rock formations and pristine rainforests. Australia boasts over 7,000 beaches, more than any other nation.

Australia has 16 world heritage listed properties with its historic townships, bustling cities, vivid landscapes and exotic flora and fauna all adding to its unique appeal. Much of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world and the lifestyle is one second to none.

Australia is made up of six states (Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania) and two territories (Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory). Each state and territory has its own parliament, flag and floral emblem. Australia became a federated nation after the union of the six colonies on 1 January 1901. Bound by one parliament, one constitution and one flag, Australia celebrated its Centenary of Federation in 2001.

The culture and customs consists of a rich tapestry of nationalities including traditions, legends, myths and folklore. The indigenous 'Dream time' forms the base of tens of thousands of years of spiritual aboriginal art and culture. In Australia over 200 different languages and dialects are spoken, including 45 indigenous languages. The most commonly spoken languages (other than English) are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.
Introducing Melbourne

As the capital of Australia's smallest mainland state - Victoria, Melbourne is one of Australia's younger cities. The settlement that became what is now Melbourne was established in 1835. In 1851 the discovery of gold including the largest gold nugget the world had seen led to the Victorian Gold Rush. Melbourne's population grew seven-fold in a decade and stands at 3,600,080 at the moment. To this day Melbourne benefits in many ways, especially in our collection of magnificent Victoria-era buildings and gracious gardens.

Twenty-first century Melbourne is a modern cosmopolitan city. Often considered the most European of Australia's cities it has been voted as the most liveable city in the world. Melbourne is Australia's largest port, home to Australia's automotive industry and many of Australia's largest companies. Melbourne is the first Olympic host city in the Southern Hemisphere: home to Australian Football and Cricket - Melbourne is Australia's Sporting Capital.

The City of Melbourne is the home, workplace and leisure center of one of the world's most harmonious and culturally diverse communities. Residents from more than 140 nations live side by side in Melbourne, making Melbourne today a welcoming, outgoing and confident city, a reflection on the generous and inclusive spirit of its people. As one of the most multicultural cities in the world (over 30% of people were born overseas), Melbourne offers locals and visitors alike the opportunity to eat at a restaurant with a different cuisine every night of the month.

Introducing Princeton Institute of Education

Princeton Institute of Education is a private Registered Training Organisation (RTO) located in suburban Melbourne providing quality education in a range of programs. Here at Princeton we pride ourselves on our commitment to education and our high level of student support and our expertise in training. All of our programs are nationally recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Princeton provides a level of customer service, flexibility and academic excellence that only a private institute can offer. You will be a valued client, and your individual needs are our priority. Class sizes are limited so more personalised tuition and attention can be achieved. Our aim is to ensure you have a high quality learning experience that provides you with opportunities to reach your potential and achieve your goals whilst also being an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.
Arranging Visas:

Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a student visa. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your country.

In order to apply for a visa you will need a valid passport, an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) and any other documentation required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application. For example, if you are under 18 you must have a completed CAAW form to ensure your accommodation and welfare is approved by your education provider.

You must ensure to allow enough time for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

The Australian Government’s Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm for the latest information.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

As well as links from the DIAC website the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website www.dfat.gov.au/embassies has a comprehensive list of Australian embassies, high commissions, consulates and representative offices around the world.

Migration Agents

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIAC on your behalf, but please note that you do not need to use a migration agent to lodge any kind of visa application.

Education Agents

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their
service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend. 

**Please Note:** Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are NOT licensed to provide migration advice.

### Visa Conditions:

If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):

- Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions please visit [www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students)
Arranging Travel:

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least 1-2 weeks before the start of Student Orientation to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet-lag.

You should fly into Tullamarine International Airport which is the closest international airport to Melbourne city. Visit www.melbourneairport.com.au/. Melbourne’s CBD is located approximately 25kms south-east of Tullamarine International Airport on Tullamarine Freeway-less than 25 minutes by car.

Documents

You should prepare a folder of official documents to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from Princeton Institute of Education
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by Princeton Institute of Education
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver’s licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.
If you are travelling with your family you will need to include their documents as well. **Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage.** In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

### What to Bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, declare it anyway on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) homepage www.aqis.gov.au:

- Read “What can't I take into Australia?”
- And also let your family and friends know “What can't be mailed to Australia?”

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (35kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

### Seasonal Considerations

Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February.

If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive.

### Clothing

On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

Most primary and secondary school students will be required to wear a school uniform to classes and other school activities. You should check with your education provider what is included in the uniform package.

### Other Items You Might Need to Include (most can also be purchased in Australia)
The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

**Bringing Your Computer**

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated.

Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

**Mobile Phones & Laptops**

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be Austel Approved in order to function in Australia.

**On Your Flight**

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be very HOT so wear light weight clothing.
underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an **Incoming Passenger Card** to fill in. This is a legal document. You must tick ✔️ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products. This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don't be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than AU$10,000 in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is **strongly recommended** however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.

## Entry into Australia

### Australian Immigration

When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

### Baggage Claim

Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged go to the **Baggage Counter** and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

### Detector Dogs

You may see a **Quarantine Detector Dog** at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

### Australian Customs and Quarantine

Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn't have. You must declare ALL food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.
Australia has **strict quarantine laws** and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU$60,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require **treatment** to make them safe. Items that are **restricted** because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the **Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)**.

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit [www.daffa.gov.au/aqis](http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis).

**Arrivals Hall**

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you have chosen airport pickup service provided by Princeton Institute of Education, you will be met at the exit of Customs in the Arrival Hall.
Getting From the Airport:

**Public Buses**

Public buses operate from the terminal to various areas in Melbourne. Information on destinations and schedules can be obtained from the information desks within the airport. Coming out of the Arrival Hall, you will find a bus stop right in front of the building.

**Shuttle Buses**

SkyBus offers an express bus service from the airport to the city centre terminating at Southern Cross train station where you can change for both regional and metropolitan trains and trams. **This service operates 24/7, including all public holidays. Buses run from every 10 minutes throughout the day.**

- $16 Adult - one way - Return $26
- $36 Family 2- (2 adults and 1-4 children) - Return $56
- $22 Family 1- (1 adult and 1-4 children) - Return $36
- $6 Child (4-14 years) - One way
- $120 - 10 trip ticket

Tickets can be purchased on arrival at the bus stop or purchased online at [www.skybus.com.au](http://www.skybus.com.au).

On arrival at Southern Cross Station in the city, SkyBus provides a complimentary hotel transfer service, subject to availability, during the following hours:

- 0600-2200 Monday to Friday; 0730-1730 Saturday and Sunday, (excluding Christmas day).

**Taxis**

Taxis are available from the ground floor level of Melbourne Airport, outside Terminal 2 (T2 - International) and both domestic terminals (Terminal 1 - T1 and Terminal 3 - T3). Expect a taxi fare of around A$50 to A$60 for a single trip between the CBD and Melbourne Airport.

**Train**

Currently there is no train connected to the airport. However, you can take buses or SkyBus that are connecting to train stations within Melbourne Metropolitan area.

**Airport Reception Service**

Princeton Institute of Education can arrange an airport pickup service to take the stress away from arriving in a new country. You will be met at the Arrival Hall of Melbourne Airport and driven to your prearranged accommodation. If you would like this service, please indicate so on the application form. The cost is AUD$125 and is payable with the tuition fees.
Keeping in Contact:

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and your education provider in Australia, with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. (Do not change these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have arrived safely. It is important to ALWAYS let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by post.

You are required to attend Orientation at Princeton Institute of Education Campus as stated in your offer letter.

Accessing Money:

You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.

How Much to Bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately AU$1500 to AU$2000 available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money as either Traveller’s Cheques or on an international credit card. Traveller’s cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

Please note that it is not safe to bring large sums of money with you! Lost credit cards or traveller’s cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.

Currency Exchange

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to do so as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Melbourne, you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at major streets such as Swanston Street, Elizabeth Street and Collins Street in the city as well as in the centres of suburban residential areas.
Electronic Transfer

You can transfer money into Australia by **electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer** at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately **48 hours**, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

ATMs

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at **ATMs displaying the Cirrus Logo** (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.

Credit Cards

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that **repayments** to many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.

Arranging Accommodation:

Princeton Institute of Education uses the services of an agency to provide homestays which approximately costs **AUD$200 per week**. You can rent a property either alone or shared with other people. Rent varies depending on whether you share or live alone. It can be from **AUD$120 to AUD$250 per week**. Student Services at Princeton Institute of Education can advise regarding accommodation options.

Temporary Accommodation:

**Hotels, Motels & Backpackers**

Generally, the price you pay for accommodation will determine its quality. However, it can be expensive to stay in a good quality motel or hotel for a long period of time. Backpacker accommodation is relatively inexpensive but you may need to bring your own pillow and sleeping bag if you choose this option.

Here is a list of Melbourne’s temporary accommodation options for your reference:

**Melbourne Central YHA** from **$33 per night**, 562 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Tel: +61 3 9621 2523, Email: melbcentral@yhavic.org.au

**Victoria Hall** from **$24 per night**, 380 Russell St, Melbourne, Tel: +61 3 9662 3888, URL: www.vichall.com.au
Urban Central from $28 per night, 334 City Road, Southbank, Melbourne, 3006, Tel: +61 3 9693 3700, Email: stayplay@urbancentral.com.au, URL: www.urbancentral.com.au

King Street Backpackers from $26 per night, 197-199 King Street, Melbourne, Tel: +61 3 9670 1111, Email: info@kingstreetbackpackers.com.au, URL: www.kingstreetbackpackers.com.au

Oaks on Collins Hotel Apartment from $119 per night, 480 Collins Street, Melbourne, +61 3 8610 6444, Email: oaksoncollins@theoaksgroup.com.au URL: www.oakshotelsresorts.com/oaks-on-collins

Travelodge Docklands Hotel from $116 per night, 66 Aurora Lane, Docklands, Melbourne, Tel: +61 3 8615 1000, Email: tdkl@travelodge.com.au,

**Staying With Friends or Family**

If you know someone in Australia, this is a great way to settle-in to life here. Your friends or family can provide advice, support and encouragement in your first days in Australia. However, if you are under the age of 18 you must obtain approval from your education provider first.

**Bringing My Family**

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants (check your individual circumstances with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship See: Arranging Visas). Family members include your spouse, and you and your spouse's dependent children. Before bringing your spouse or children to Australia, you will have to prove that you can support them financially. The cost of supporting a family in Australia is very high. You may have to consider and discuss many issues with your family.

**Issues to Consider**

Rather than bringing your family together with you to Australia, some students may find it useful to arrive first, settle into studies, find appropriate accommodation, adjust to living in Australia and then arrange for their family to join them.

Before making a decision to bring your family to Australia it is important to consider the following issues:

- The cost of airfares for your family to and from Australia;
- Possible higher rent for a larger home;
- Limited employment opportunities for your spouse;
- Extra costs for food, clothing and other necessities;
- The effect on you and your studies if your family is not happy in Australia;
- Whether your children will adjust to school in Australia;
- Waiting lists for child care centres; and
• Whether to come alone to Australia first and arrange things for your family, or to all come at the same time.

For more information visit: www.immi.gov.au

**Child Care**

Finding suitable childcare in Australia requires patience and planning. Waiting lists for places in most childcare centres are long.

Many schools offer before- and after-school care programs (usually 7:30am-8:45am and 3:30pm-6:00pm). Children who need these programs must be registered with the school.

Here are some childcare centres near Princeton Institute of Education for your reference:

ABC Box Hill, 1056-1058 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Tel: +61 3 9898 5533, Email: box@childcare.com.au, URL: www.childcare.com.au/box-hill

Central Box Hill Children's Services Centre, 517 Station St, Box Hill, Tel: +61 3 9890 4934

Watt's Street Childrens Centre, 10 Watts St, Box Hill, Tel: +61 3 9899 7411

Elland Avenue Occasional Care Centre, 6 Elland Avenue, Box Hill, Tel: +61 3 9890 4883

**Schools:**

If you would like to bring your children to Australia with you, you must be aware of the following schooling issues:

1. It is an immigration policy that school-age dependants of international students undertake formal schooling while they are in Australia.
2. Children must be five years of age or older by 30 April of the year they start school in Victoria.
3. You will need to provisionally enrol your child in a school before you leave your home country and you will normally have to pay the school fees one semester in advance. The school will issue an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment Form (eCoE) stating the program and its duration, so that you can obtain the appropriate visa for your child.
4. The Diplomatic Mission in your country can tell you which State schools are registered to take international students. Fees are payable by international students at all State schools unless you:
   a. Are in receipt of sponsorship or scholarships from the Australian Government (e.g. the Australian Development Scholarship, IPRS);
   b. Hold a higher institution or approved non-government scholarship. These scholarships must be approved by the State government for the dependants to be exempt from school fees.
5. You will be responsible for school fees and other costs including school uniforms, books, excursions and stationery.
6. When choosing the most appropriate school for your child, it is best to ask questions about the school's curriculum, size, extra-curricular activities and the size of individual classes.

7. You should also take into consideration the distance from the school to your education institution, the suburb in which you intend to live and the method of transport you plan to use.

For further information, please contact Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on +61 3 9637 2000 or visit their website at www.education.vic.gov.au.

There are two types of schools in Australia – State schools and independent schools.

**Government Schools**

International students are warmly welcomed and valued in Victorian government schools and they are not only well supported to achieve their academic goals, but they are also strongly supported as part of the school community. They are encouraged to contribute their talents and enthusiasm to the wide range of activities available in school and in Victorian community.

**A quality pathway to higher education**

Quality is the number one reason why Victoria is a top international study destination, chosen by students and their families worldwide. In fact, more than 100,000 international students chose to study in Victoria last year. Along with Victoria's leading education system and English language facilities, Victoria, and, in particular, Melbourne, are home to some of Australia's best universities. It is these combined intellectual assets which have built recognition of Victoria as a global centre of excellence in education. Victoria has the highest international student transition rate to further education in Australia and retains one of the highest proportions of international students beyond school.

**Over 100 schools to choose from**

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development administers the International Student Program in Victorian Government schools and assists students and parents in selecting the secondary school that best suits each student. The International Student Program includes over 100 specially accredited secondary schools and each school offers a high quality education and different specialist programs and facilities. Schools also arrange English language tuition, short-term study tours and caring homestay accommodation for students.

**Independent Schools**

There are 514 Catholic schools and 276 Independent schools in Melbourne and across Victoria. The majority of private schools are in Melbourne. There are 11 Independent boys schools and 24 Catholic boys schools across Melbourne and Victoria. There are 22 Independent girls schools and 28 Catholic girls schools throughout Melbourne and Victoria. The rest of Melbourne and Victoria Catholic and Independent schools are co-educational. In Victoria there are 20 boarding schools. Fourteen of them are Melbourne schools.