

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH DEGREES

 **VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA





RESEARCH IN MELBOURNE

Advance your academic career with a research degree in Melbourne – one of the best places in the world to live and study.

A city of ideas and energy, Melbourne is the number three city in the world for quality of life, (according to *The Economist Intelligence Unit*), and one of the top ten business centres in the world. It is highly attractive to innovative companies, with many Australian and international firms conducting leading-edge research and development in Melbourne.

You will experience different cultures, and build academic and professional networks to last a lifetime.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY?

- **Your research has real-world applications.** Victoria University (VU) has a focus on applied research – which means your work will be applied in industry, government and the community. Your research makes a difference.
VU researchers have made major contributions to a host of projects – providing economic advice to the Australian Government; working to tackle the diabetes epidemic; advising Pacific nations on developing new tourism policies; collaborating with the Victorian Government on sustainable water use, and much more.
- **Get to know our research partners.** You will benefit from VU's partnerships with government, major companies, other universities in Australia and internationally, and other research institutions. You can connect with companies and individuals that are leaders in their field.

- **Build your networks.** Working alongside VU researchers and our partners, you will build lasting networks with peers and colleagues. Research at VU will set you on your way to future collaborations and opportunities.
- **First class facilities.** Whether your research is lab-based, literature-based or field-based, you will find Victoria University an exciting place to work.
 - Our new Learning Commons and Exercise Science and Sports Science Laboratory Precinct combines state-of-the-art learning facilities for all students with VU's new Institute for Sport, Exercise and Active Living.
 - The Centre for Health, Research and Education is a A\$35 million joint venture between Victoria University, the University of Melbourne, and Western Health. The centre combines the most up-to-date laboratory facilities with a working hospital.
 - Whitten Oval, home of the Western Bulldogs football club, houses a teaching and research hub for Victoria University sports and exercise science students.
- **All the support you need.** We'll provide you with academic and other support to make sure you get the maximum benefit from your time at VU, and we'll help you make the transition to the next steps in your professional career.

ABOVE: Three of Victoria University's ten campuses are located in Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD), and another four are within 10 kilometres of the CBD.

FRONT COVER: Researchers working in Victoria University exercise science facilities.

CHOOSE YOUR FIELD OF STUDY

You can choose from nine key research areas:

- Strategic economics
- Tourism
- Sports performance, exercise and active living
- Education, access and transition
- Sustainable environment technologies
- Diversity and wellbeing
- Communication and sensor technologies
- Applied informatics
- Logistics and transportation.

See the following paragraphs for more information about each of these key research areas.

You can also undertake faculty-based research in a host of other areas. For more information visit www.vu.edu.au/research

STRATEGIC ECONOMICS

Carry out research into how economic factors shape our society and environment. Study the causes and consequences of economic, technological and social change. Your research in this field will be of great interest to governments, business and the community.

THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC ECONOMIC STUDIES

Join our team of experts focusing on economic, technological and social change in the contemporary world.

The centre has six areas of research:

- governance and regional economies
- growth, trade and development
- inequality and work
- information technologies and the information economy
- sustainable development and the environment
- technology, innovation and industrial change.

Researchers at VU's Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, in partnership with pharmaceuticals company Merck, investigated the economics of the world pharmaceuticals industry. VU researchers developed expertise that has seen VU become an influential player in Australian government policy.

Syurkani Syurkani's research focussed on the methods used by the central bank to determine monetary policy in Indonesia. His study analysed the limitations of the current approach, and demonstrated that Bank Indonesia should consider a rule-based monetary policy approach with core inflation as its ultimate target. Syurkani's thesis was highly praised by a distinguished group of examiners and he has returned to a senior position in the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.



TOURISM

Carry out research in the tourism sector: its management, planning and marketing aspects; its economic and social impacts; and its sustainability.

Research projects could encompass:

- Economically and environmentally sustainable tourism
- Tourism and climate change
- Destination vulnerability to climate change and natural hazard risks
- Travel and wellbeing
- Tourist behaviour
- Culturally appropriate tourism
- Tourism and poverty alleviation
- Small business and entrepreneurship
- Social impacts of tourism and events
- Leisure and business events.

CENTRE FOR TOURISM AND SERVICES RESEARCH

What will the tourism of the future look like? Join a team of researchers who are leading the way in the study of tourism and the emerging green economy, establishing Green Growth 2050 strategies for tourism destinations and enterprises.

The centre works closely with international and Australian industry and government agencies, applying its research to assist destinations to plan for and manage change.

Among the centre's partners are the UN World Tourism Organisation, Tourism Australia and Tourism Victoria, the Australian Tourism Export Council, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, Pacific Asia Travel Association and a range of industry bodies, government agencies, NGOs and research institutes in the Asia Pacific.

Tourism is the largest export sector for most Pacific island countries, but these countries are highly vulnerable to climate change. A major Victoria University-led project is analysing the tourism policies of ten Pacific island countries (including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga), carrying out case studies, developing a framework and making recommendations that will assist Pacific island nations to adapt to climate change and ensure a resilient tourism industry into the future. The project is supported by AusAID and in collaboration with the University of New South Wales, the University of the South Pacific, industry and NGO partners.

In another major project, Victoria University is working with the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism to develop a low carbon, Green Growth 2050 Roadmap for Bali, to ensure its tourism industry is sustainable into the future and continues to deliver livelihood improvements for its people.

SPORTS PERFORMANCE, EXERCISE SCIENCE AND ACTIVE LIVING

Conduct research into how athletes can perform better, how sport organisations can be better managed, or how the human body responds to exercise. Our internationally-recognised researchers, first class research facilities and our connections with industry make Victoria University a world leader in sport and exercise education and research.

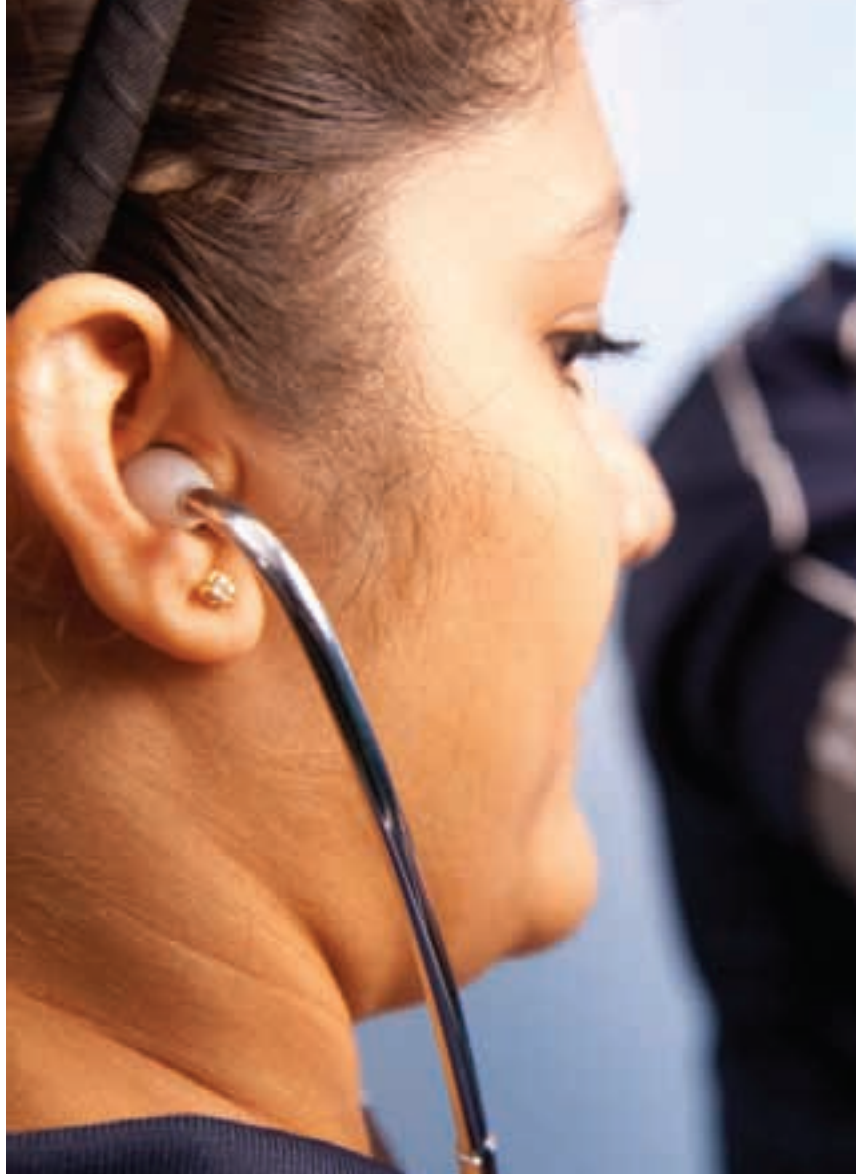
You will study in facilities that are among the best in the world, and at the forefront of today's technology. They include our A\$68 million dollar sport and exercise science precinct, with high-tech labs and an altitude hotel, a new A\$51 million medical research facility at Sunshine Hospital, and a teaching and research hub at Whitten Oval, home of professional football club the Western Bulldogs.

Victoria University has strategic partnerships with the Australian Institute of Sport, the Australian Sports Commission, the Victorian Institute of Sport, the Western Bulldogs football club, the University of Melbourne and many international sports universities and sports governing bodies in Brazil, Canada, Italy, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia and Jordan.

INSTITUTE OF SPORT, EXERCISE AND ACTIVE LIVING (ISEAL)

ISEAL represents the future of research in sport, exercise science and active living. Join our expert team of more than 150 professors, research associates, postdoctoral fellows and PhD students. You can conduct cutting-edge research in:

- **Sport**
High performance sport sciences, sports business and management, sport tourism, community sport, sport in society, culture and sport.
- **Exercise science**
Fundamental research in exercise science such as exercise physiology, biomechanics, clinical exercise sciences including exercise rehabilitation, industry applications of exercise science.
- **Active living**
Physical activity for specific populations, community development through sport and physical activity, active ageing.



CENTRE FOR HEALTH, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Based at Sunshine Hospital, this newly-opened A\$35 million centre is a joint venture between Victoria University, the University of Melbourne and one of Melbourne's major health service providers, Western Health. Besides state-of-the-art facilities for biomedical and health science research, the centre provides access to clinical populations, and opportunities to apply your research to community needs. Research at the centre has applications to:

- Muscular dystrophy
- Sarcopenia and ageing
- Obesity and diabetes
- Exercise as therapy
- Cardiovascular physiology and diet
- Gastro-intestinal physiology and cancer.

ABOVE: Students using state-of-the-art equipment in our new A\$68 million dollar sport and exercise science building.



EDUCATION, ACCESS AND TRANSITION

Contribute to excellence in teaching, education, and helping people make the transition from secondary school to further study. VU research focuses on all aspects of access to education and success in education.

You can research:

- Collaborative practitioner research in literacy, maths or social education
- Experiential learning
- Problem-based learning
- Engagement with educationally and socially disadvantaged youth
- Information and communication technologies and pedagogy
- Vocational and work-based learning.

WORK-BASED EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE (WERC)

At Victoria University's Work-based Education Research Centre (WERC), you can research how learning takes place in workplaces. The centre works on projects in Australia and internationally to improve the quality of vocational education and training.

The centre has won several awards for research and industry engagement, and secured significant external funding for its work. Among the centre's recent projects:

- Developing a technical vocational education and training quality assurance framework for East Asia Summit countries
- Mapping the Australian Core Skills Framework to the OECD Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey
- Strengthening assessment, delivery and practice of vocational education and training in schools.

External partners include The National Quality Council, The National Centre for Vocational Education Research, the Australian Vocational Education and Research Association (AVETRA) and the Victorian TAFE Development Centre.



ABOVE: Cheese scientist Professor Nagendra Shah in the Food Science laboratory at Werribee Campus.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGIES

Carry out research that makes a difference to the future of the planet. Victoria University's research focuses on managing demands for resources, and the development of sustainable environmental technologies that have application in Australia and overseas.

You will work with Victoria University experts alongside many research partners: water companies, the CSIRO, Dairy Innovation Australia, and major world universities including University of California, Los Angeles (USA), the University of Melbourne, Beijing University of Technology (China), Fudan University (China), Nanjing University of Technology (China), Poitiers University (France), Nuremburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Arizona State University (USA) and Suncheon National University (Korea).

Victoria University's areas of expertise include:

- water treatment
- water management
- green and safe construction including fire prevention
- economics, social and policy research on water use and environmental sustainability
- human behaviour in fire
- dairy technology.

Professor Nagendra Shah's low-fat mozzarella is appreciated by weight-conscious pizza lovers the world over and his research into probiotic bacteria has led to the more efficient use of *Bifidobacterium* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus* in a range of dairy products.

He was presented with the California Dairy Research Foundation's prestigious William C. Haines Dairy Science Award at a ceremony in San Francisco in 2009.

Professor Shah teaches and conducts research in the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences at VU's Werribee Campus. He is now working on microencapsulation to enhance stability of probiotic bacteria at room temperature as a precursor to its addition to juice, and on the impact of reducing salt content in cheeses.

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION (ISI)

The institute uses science and innovation to maintain natural resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

You can become involved in research programs that will improve the quality of water and diversify sources of water. The centre's areas of focus include desalination technologies, industrial water recycling and brine management, advanced membrane technology, and community responses to desalinated water.



DIVERSITY AND WELLBEING

Your work in the field of diversity and wellbeing will help individuals and communities to meet the challenges of social, cultural and economic inequality. VU research focuses on:

- Community and health psychology including mental health, violence and youth issues
- Migration and settlement
- Cultural diversity in film and literature
- Languages and communication
- Community diversity, including refugee and newly arrived communities
- Racial and gender discrimination
- Social and cultural diversity in the workplace
- Socially inclusive policies

INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY, EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND SUCCESS (IDEAS)

At the Institute for Diversity, Educational Access and Success, your research can help students from diverse and under-represented backgrounds to reach their full potential.

Our work focuses on developing the evidence base of learning and teaching practice and theory. The institute has strong local, national and international collaborations with schools and other educational partners.

IDEAS is developing partnerships with world-class researchers and educators. Our research community has active collaborations with:

- The University of Texas El Paso (UTEP)
- The University of Melbourne
- Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

Among our projects:

- Avid: a college readiness program that aims to increase the numbers of students who enrol and succeed in tertiary studies and training
- VU School Partnerships: research that aims to increase the number of students moving to post-secondary education through pathways between vocational courses and undergraduate degrees
- Flag and Follow: a research project that looks at ways to identify students who are at risk of attrition during their university education, and provides timely, personalised interventions to improve the likelihood of educational success.

The institute works closely with a range of industry and government partners, including Siemens, Dow, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Melbourne Water, City West Water and other water companies.

Victoria University provides you with the opportunity to carry out research on large-scale pilot facilities, providing more realistic performance measures. Your research will help companies and communities to make better use of water, ensuring water security into the future.

Indian PhD student Prasad Inamdar is researching how Melbourne could meet part of its water needs with a series of new lakes, wetlands and ponds, which will not only beautify urban parkland but also help meet the needs of water-hungry cities.

He is currently studying alternative methods for harvesting rainwater in urban environments so that it can be effectively and efficiently used to supplement a city's non-potable water supply.

Mr Inamdar is working under the supervision of Dr Ashok Sharma at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and with staff at Victoria University on projects with a local water company.

COMMUNICATION AND SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES

Conduct research that taps into Victoria University's strengths and expertise in communications and sensor technologies. These fields are closely linked with the discipline of electrical engineering and related areas of science.

CENTRE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MICRO-ELECTRONICS

At this university research centre, you can join our team of experts conducting research into:

- **Telecommunications**
Work on the wireless telecommunications services of the future
- **Microelectronics**
Design new microelectronic systems for solving instrumentation problems
- **Optics and photonics**
Use optical fibre technology and optoelectronic imaging.

We have strong partnerships with government, industry and research centres nationally and internationally. We are affiliated with the Australian Communications Research Network (ACoRN), and the National Networked Teletest Facility for Integrated Systems (NNTTF).

APPLIED INFORMATICS

Join Victoria University's internationally renowned group of experts in applied informatics.

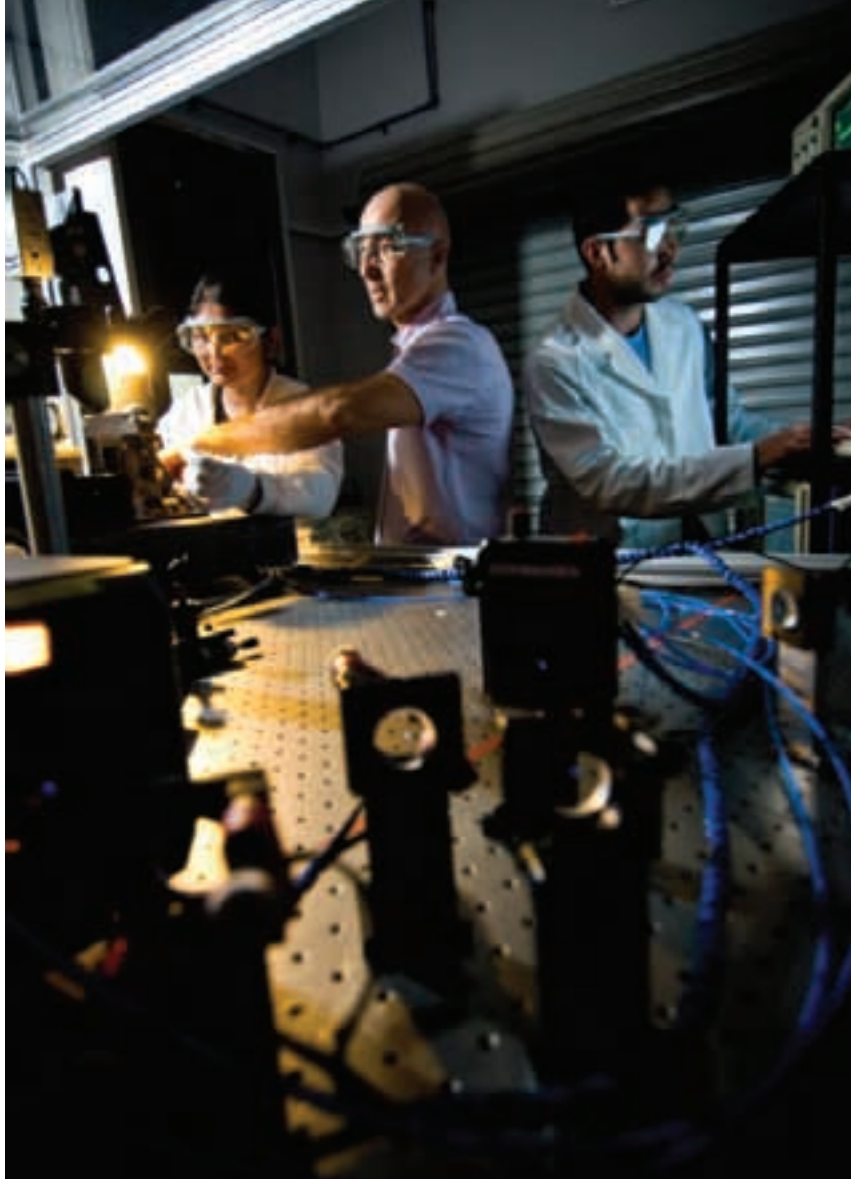
We provide leadership in innovative e-technologies. Our research teams specialise in web mining, data management, health informatics and e-health service-oriented computing.

Your research in applied informatics can be applied to almost every industry, sector, and community.

We apply our expertise to a range of projects, including water resource management, helping health professionals with decision-making, and e-tourism.

You will have the opportunity to work alongside our many research partners, which include the World Health Organisation, the Victorian Institute of Sport, the Australia e-Health Research Centre, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Chinese Academy of Science.

Guangyan Huang is carrying out research on spatial temporal data mining on water resource decision support, in partnership with South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership and The University of Queensland. This has practical applications to environment protection and water resource management. She has published 4 A*/A ERA ranked papers during her PhD study.



CENTRE FOR APPLIED INFORMATICS

This leading academic research group is committed to the development of innovative e-technologies, including:

- Health informatics and e-health
- Service-oriented computing
- Online dispute resolution
- Data management and web mining
- Modelling sports performance, tourism, law and other sectors.

Dr Guandong Xu's research has focussed on application of data mining and computing solutions to the health and industrial sectors. He investigated the impact of socio-economic factors on diabetes in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Since completing his studies, Victoria University has provided him with a platform to make the best of his achievements, and he is currently working at the Centre for Applied Informatics as a research fellow. He recently gained an opportunity to be a visiting research scholar at a Danish university, helping him to broaden his horizons to the European research environment and build long-term research partnerships.



ABOVE: Victoria University Library at Footscray Park Campus.

LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION

Explore the impact of global developments in logistics and transportation. Work with our experts, using the latest research techniques to increase knowledge of performance and productivity. Your research could focus on:

- Distribution systems
- IT and information systems in supply chain management
- International trade and economics of transport and distribution.

INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

Through our Institute of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, we can connect you with national and multinational enterprises and government partnerships. These collaborations provide research opportunities and workplace learning, and ensure relevant and tangible benefits to industry and the community.

Our local partners include the Australian Logistics Council, local, state and federal departments of infrastructure, and the Victorian Transport Association. Internationally our partnerships are in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

The centre is currently working with the Victorian government, the Australian government and major companies such as Linfox, IBM, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Origin Energy on projects to improve the productivity of the logistics and services sector.

FACULTY-BASED RESEARCH

Besides the areas mentioned above, you can conduct research and receive supervision in many other fields. To find out the many research options available through our three faculties visit www.vu.edu.au/research/faculty-based-research:

- Arts, Education and Human Development
- Business and Law
- Health, Engineering and Science

Prabodh Malhotra's PhD research developed a new model for making medicines more affordable for India's poor. His thesis identified how trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) will raise drug prices in India. The thesis has been published as a book titled *Impact of TRIPS in India: an access to medicines perspective*.

"Under the current health care model, only 35 per cent of people in India have access to medicines. My study has international implications, as the new model would provide access to medicines to the entire population." – Dr Prabodh Malhotra

HOW WE HELP YOU

To ensure that you have the best chance of success, we offer excellent support to our international students. Our dedicated, friendly staff will assist you with all aspects of studying with us.

- **Academic support**

We offer a comprehensive research training program for research students.

This program includes workshops and seminars on topics relevant to researchers. The focus is on forming communities of practice, bringing together students and experienced researchers to share experiences and expertise.

We also offer a host of workshops and facilities to help you in adjusting and improving your research, writing and studying skills.

- **Support services, welfare and accommodation**

We understand the challenges that international students face when trying to adjust to a new culture and environment, making new friends, and successfully completing your studies all at the same time. You are not alone – we are here to help you with any questions and make your experience a positive one.

- Pre-departure advice
- Settling in to Melbourne
- Orientation to Victoria University
- Social activities
- Accommodation
- Health cover
- Your Next Steps farewell program.

For details, visit www.vu.edu.au/international-students/life-at-vu

- **Scholarships**

We offer a range of scholarships that provide financial assistance during your time as a research student. Some scholarships provide a stipend that covers fees and living allowances, while others only provide partial funding. We offer the following scholarships for international students:

1. International Postgraduate Research scholarships (incorporating VU living allowance) – 2011 stipend rate: A\$22,860
2. VU Postgraduate Research scholarships – 2011 stipend rate: A\$22,860

The main VU scholarship round opens in August and closes in October each year. The mid-year scholarship round opens in April and closes in May each year.

For more information, see www.vu.edu.au/research/research-students/scholarships-for-research-students

- **Commercialising your research**

We assist our research students to develop their capacity to commercialise their research and intellectual property. You can participate in our seminars and workshops on intellectual property-related topics.



ABOVE: Students at Victoria Place, one of the University's purpose built student accommodation facilities.

RIGHT: Students at Victoria University's Footscray Park Campus, located just 10 minutes by car from Melbourne's Central Business District.





CHOOSE THE RIGHT COURSE

Victoria University (VU) can offer you a place in a course as an international student if you meet the English language and academic entry requirements.

The entry requirements provided below apply to most masters by research or PhD courses, although some courses may have additional entry requirements, including specific subject prerequisites or higher English language requirements.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Masters by research

- Overall band score of not less than 6.5 in IELTS test with no individual bandscore below 6.0 or a score of not less than 92 with no section score less than 22 in the internet-based TOEFL.
- Bachelors degree with a distinction average in the final year, or equivalent qualification or professional experience demonstrating a capacity to undertake a masters by research.

PhD

- Overall band score of not less than 6.5 in IELTS test with no individual bandscore below 6.0 or a score of not less than 92 with no section score less than 22 in the internet-based TOEFL.
- Four-year bachelors degree with honours, or an honours degree at H1 or H2A honours level, or equivalent.
- Masters by coursework degree with minor thesis with average grades of at least H2A/Distinction (above 70 per cent) or equivalent.
- Masters by research degree, or demonstrated exceptional ability during partial completion of a research project.

DURATION

Masters by research

Two years full-time.

PhD

Minimum three years (full-time) to a maximum of four years.

THESIS AND EXAMINATION

Masters by research

30,000 – 60,000 word thesis with a minimum of three examiners.

PhD

Minimum of three examiners and a 60,000 – 100,000 word thesis.

ANNUAL TUITION FEES

For both the masters by research and the PhD, annual tuition fees range from A\$21,000 to A\$43,280.

SUPERVISION

Both the masters by research and the PhD have two supervisors, one principal and one associate.



HOW TO APPLY

Simply follow these six steps and you are on your way to becoming an international research student at Victoria University.

You will find it helpful to begin by registering with our international application and enquiry management system at <http://eaams.vu.edu.au/enquiry>

STEP 1: Select a masters by research, PhD or professional doctorate.

STEP 2: Align your research interests with Victoria University's research strengths.

Consider how to align your proposed research with Victoria University's nine key research areas or faculty research areas, as described in this brochure. If you are not sure about your specific research topic, please send an enquiry to us via your account at <http://eaams.vu.edu.au/enquiry>

Your account will enable you to lodge your research query via the enquiry menu and establish your contact with a Victoria University academic.

STEP 3: Prepare a brief research proposal.

Within two A4 pages include your title, aims, significance of the research, methodology, facilities and equipment required.

Once you prepare your research proposal (with or without the consultation of our academic staff), you can submit it via the enquiry menu in your international application and enquiry management system account.

Please note: if you have had any correspondence with a Victoria University academic to prepare your research proposal, highlight the name of the academic and attach the relevant correspondence to your enquiry.

STEP 4: Find a supervisor.

Coordinators of key research areas or school postgraduate coordinators will correspond with you, through the international application and enquiry management system, to assist you to find a supervisor.

STEP 5: Submit your application to Victoria University International.

If your research proposal is compatible and acceptable you will be advised to lodge a postgraduate application form to Victoria University International via the application menu in your international application and enquiry management system account.

To apply as an international student at Victoria University, register your details on the international application and enquiry management system account at: <http://eaams.vu.edu.au/portal>

Once you have registered and submitted your application online, you can:

- check your application status
- respond to the admission officer's comments
- prepare to accept your offer.

STEP 6: Enrolment and commencement.

For more information, visit: www.vu.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-studies/research-degrees

CONTACT

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