International Student Emergency Relief Fund

Applications opened for the Victorian Government's $45 million International student Emergency Relief Fund on 19 May 2020.

The fund supports international students in Victoria facing financial hardship through loss of employment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The fund is delivered through Study Melbourne for the Victorian Government, and in partnership with Victoria's tertiary education providers.

The eligibility criteria and documentation requirements for the fund are outlined on the Study Melbourne website. University and TAFE students can access the fund directly through their education providers. Students enrolled with private education providers can apply online through the Study Melbourne website.

Information is available on the Study Melbourne website, through Study Melbourne social media channels, and through stakeholder promotional toolkit.

A number of students at private education providers have also submitted incomplete applications or not supplied the necessary documents. We encourage these students to reapply if their application was incomplete or contained mistakes. There are a range of services in place to help them submit a successful application.

- a detailed Application Guide and Frequently Asked Questions are available to provide guidance on their application
- a dedicated call center team can help students reapply, including arranging access to interpreters if needed, and can be contacted on 1800 056 449
- translated reference examples of the application form are available

Students at private education providers are also encouraged to follow these tips to make a successful application.

Check their education provider is on the list of eligible private education providers and colleges in Victoria.

1. Confirm eligibility before starting. Check the eligibility criteria in the International Student Emergency Relief Fund Program Guidelines (Stream Two).
2. Read the application support information, including the Application Guide (Stream Two) and Frequently Asked Questions
3. Prepare supporting documents before starting the application. Only JPEG, PDF or PNG formats will be accepted. Learn more about Preparing supporting documents.

4. Use a desktop or laptop computer to do the application, not a mobile device.
5. Check that all information is correct before submitting. If students provide incomplete or incorrect information their application can't be processed.
6. Students can contact Study Melbourne on 1800 056 449 for application support and can also arrange an interpreter if needed.

Further support for international students in Victoria

The Victorian Government has a range of support available to international students in addition to the International Student Emergency Relief Fund:

- one-off rent relief grants for people in rental hardship due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, to help keep renters in safe and stable accommodation
- help to find work opportunities through Working for Victoria
- a dedicated coronavirus (COVID-19) online support hub on the Study Melbourne website to link students with a wide range of support programs and services including a directory of community support and food relief
- access to free legal advice on accommodation and employment matters
- dedicated support through the Study Melbourne Student Centre including access to free and confidential counselling and practical help, access to mental health services and referral to other services.