International and Community Services
Welcome to the 2017 RMIT Degree and Diploma Guide for International and Community Services.

Why should you want to study with RMIT? More than anything else, RMIT has fantastic relationships with the International and Community Services industries that make these fields of study the fastest growing areas of employment in Australia. Whether it be to prominent peak bodies such as the Victorian Council of Social Service, or small- to medium-sized businesses such as RedR Australia, MacKillop Family Services or the fabulous Aboriginal health service Sunrise, we have the connections that make sure what you study is what is needed for a rewarding and successful career.

But it’s not just where you will end up that matters; it’s also what you do along the way. And this is where RMIT stands out. Aside from the fabulous location, RMIT offers the opportunity to travel within Australia and around the world, as part of study tours and industry placements that will literally change your life. RMIT students spend time all over the world: some in the Northern Territory working in remote locations with Aboriginal health services to deliver assistance to some of the most disadvantaged people in Australia; some work with prisoners on projects that are transformational as well as inspirational; and others work on projects in communities around the world.

RMIT offers a wonderful opportunity to combine areas of study in incredibly creative ways. You might combine studies in youth work with town planning, or international studies with criminal justice, or you might do social work while studying a Diploma of Languages, making you ready for work in different parts of the globe.

RMIT’s programs of study in these areas are founded on world class research, which in turn feeds into what it is that you learn. Program teachers draw on their own research findings to ensure what you learn is well informed.

This guide gives you the opportunity to reflect on how you might pursue a career in these exciting and fast growing fields; to think about how, with RMIT’s help, you might sharpen your talents to deliver changes that make a difference to other people’s lives.

All of the programs of study on offer in International and Community Services share one thing in common: they will make you ready for life and work.

Best wishes,

DAVID HAYWARD
Dean
School of Global, Urban and Social Studies
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### Acknowledgement of Country

RMIT University acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional owners of the land on which the University stands. RMIT University respectfully recognises Elders both past and present. We also acknowledge the traditional custodians of lands across Australia where we conduct business, their Elders, Ancestors, cultures and heritage.
Kathy Calvin, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation, was correct when she said, “Young people aren’t the leaders of tomorrow. They are the leaders of today and tomorrow.”

Youth workers pave the way for future generations by addressing the social, behavioural, welfare, developmental and protection needs of young people between the ages of 10 and 25.

Youth workers provide emotional and practical support to young people, developing their skills and confidence and securing their well-being and connection to their community. This investment in our youth population has a positive and long-lasting effect on society’s development.

The role of a youth worker is diverse, with many exciting and challenging career opportunities that involve working in schools, residential care facilities, youth centres, health clinics and community centres.

RMIT’s youth work programs tap into this diversity by working towards securing environments in which all young people can explore their individual and collective capabilities and thrive intellectually, physically and creatively.

If you are passionate about working with young people, a career in youth work might be right for you.

Youth Work at RMIT

C4352 | Certificate IV in Youth Work
National Curriculum Code: CHC40413
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c4352

C5331 | Diploma of Youth Work
National Curriculum Code: CHC50413
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5331

BP191 | Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work)
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp191

PATHWAYS

The Youth Work Certificates IV and Diploma offer great practical learning experiences and can be a good pathway to a bachelor degree, whether it be in youth work, social work, psychology, international studies or nursing, or to a career in the field.
“My biggest highlight was working alongside Victoria Police, as part of the Ropes Program, which gives young offenders a second chance.”

DOROTHY BERTRAND
Diploma of Youth Work

“My passion for young people inspired me to study the Diploma of Youth Work. When I was in a really rough part of my life, I had a youth worker reach out to me and she saved my life. Sometimes all it takes is one person to change a life, and since that person changed mine, I made it my goal to hopefully be that person for someone else.

“It was a phenomenal and insightful experience because every shift I was working with a different young person with a different story. It’s an experience I will carry with me into my career as a youth worker.

“Having teachers who are so experienced in the field and willing to share their knowledge is a really important and appreciated asset, which makes RMIT one of a kind.

“RMIT has provided me with so many skills and helped me develop as a person. I now know what to do in difficult situations and how to report them, how to be a leader, different ways to work with young people and how to be a balanced worker in a highly demanding field.”
“My first placement was with Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) assisting the National Program Coordinator, which allowed me to get involved with major projects. It has been a year now and I am still working with the organisation.”

NATASHA GERENTE
Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work)

“I had just graduated with an Associate Degree of Science, Art and Humanities in Los Angeles and felt that my major was too broad. I wanted to know more about children’s rights and ways of empowering younger generations.

“I chose RMIT’s Youth Work program because of the field education opportunity and the excitement of a new continent.

“I also had the opportunity to take a second placement at a very highly involved youth organisation in the heart of Phnom Penh, in Cambodia. Unlike my time at AYCC, I wasn’t able to hang out with young people as much, but was given important tasks such as attending a meeting at the Senate, writing a final report and applying for funding.

“It was a great achievement to see the organisation receive funding from two major organisations and the European Union during my stay.”
Job projection

Youth workers are increasingly in demand and are employed in alcohol and other drug agencies, major welfare services, youth justice settings, school support programs, educational institutions, national and international organisations.

In comparison with the 2014 statistics, the number of welfare support workers, which includes youth workers, employed in Australia will increase 21 per cent by 2019.

Youth worker annual salary

Youth workers provide community-based activities for young people in a variety of settings through not-for-profit and government agencies and organisations.

| Minimum average | $62,585 |
| Average | $69,080 |
| Maximum average | $75,575 |

Top states where youth workers are employed

Youth workers are needed all over Australia to support the social and emotional growth of young people.

The need for community carers and support workers is at an all-time high, and there is a need for even more skilled workers in aged, disability and community services to assist people with day-to-day tasks so they can continue to live full lives and maintain connections with their community.

Some fast facts about the changing nature of the Australian community:

— An Alzheimer’s Australia Vic study recently reported that the number of Victorians with dementia is set to grow by 300 per cent by 2050.*

— The Australian Government Productivity Commission’s 2013 publication *An Ageing Australia: Preparing for the Future* reported the population aged 75 or more years is expected to increase from about 6.4 to 14.4 per cent of the population; that’s four million older people who might require support to live independently.

— With the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, organisations and service providers are focusing on improving the accessibility of their services to better meet the needs of the differently abled people.

These issues are not exclusive to Australia; there is a similar demand for carers and community service workers abroad.

RMIT’s extensive offerings in the community services field are taught by staff who have substantial professional experience in the area.

RMIT AND SUNRISE PARTNERSHIP

RMIT has partnered with Sunrise Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, which provides leading holistic and culturally sensitive healthcare across 14 remote communities in the Northern Territory.

Under the partnership program, RMIT teachers travel to Katherine to deliver intensive blocks of the Certificate and Diploma courses in Alcohol and Other Drugs to Sunrise staff members over a year.

The partnership was established through Sunrise wanting to ensure their staff has the skills necessary to deal with the complexity of a client cohort that is one of the most disadvantaged in the world. Sunrise CEO Dale Campbell said, “Sunrise likes establishing links with agencies that have a sense of social obligation.”

The program has since seen five groups of Sunrise workers undertake the Certificate IV and Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD).

Watch the Northern Territory graduation video to learn more.

http://tinyurl.com/RMIT-SunrisePartnership

*Source: Alzheimer’s Australia Vic commissioned Prevalence Data research by NATSEM, University of Canberra February 2016.
Individual Support
This program combines studies in aged, disability and home care to prepare you with the skills required to provide personal care support to a range of people in different settings, including in-home support, residential care and day programs.

C3319 | Certificate III in Individual Support
National Curriculum Code: CHC33015
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c3319

Community Services
This program will prepare you to carry out casework, provide client services, and support youth and families in social, community and welfare organisations, as well as community education or development projects, locally and internationally.

C4363 | Certificate IV in Community Services
National Curriculum Code: CHC42015
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c4363

C5345 | Diploma of Community Services
National Curriculum Code: CHC52015
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5345

Community Services
Financial Counselling
In this program you’ll learn how to provide information, support and advocacy to help people in financial difficulty, and work as an accredited financial counsellor within areas of law and policy including consumer credit law, debt enforcement practices, the bankruptcy regime and government concession frameworks.

C5360 | Diploma of Community Services (Financial Counselling)
National Curriculum Code: CHC51115
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5360

Alcohol and Other Drugs
RMIT’s Alcohol and Other Drug programs will prepare you with the skills you need to make a difference to people’s lives by providing services and interventions to clients with drug and alcohol dependency.

C4364 | Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs
National Curriculum Code: CHC43215
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c4364

C5346 | Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs
National Curriculum Code: CHC53215
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5346
Christine Craik is a social work lecturer at RMIT and the National Vice-President of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW).

Describe the focus of your teaching expertise.
I worked in the field for 30 years, in casework, advocacy and social action, so my teaching comes from a lot of experience. I don’t think you can do one without the other.

What inspired you to teach in this field?
I wanted social workers to come out of university with an eye for action as well as casework. The philosophy of social work at RMIT is cutting edge, a critical approach to meet the needs of our changing society. I’m really pleased to be part of this environment.

How did you come to decide on your thesis topic?
My research focuses on women, children and domestic violence and is largely inspired by my social work practice in these areas, and my after-hours work as a crisis de-briefer at The Alfred Hospital. It was quite obvious to me that the deaths of many women at the hands of their partners were not being picked up or included as family violence, and I wanted to do something to address this issue.

What are the possible future applications of your research topic?
Ideally, the outcomes of my research will lead to all hospitals having a routine screening program for family violence in their emergency departments. This would involve education and mentoring for staff to identify situations of domestic violence.

Begin your career in social work at RMIT
BH105 | Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bh105

BH106 | Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)/Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bh106
SOCIAL WORK OUTRAGE!

Each year in March, the social work team hosts the Outrage! Lecture to celebrate World Social Work Day. Speakers are invited to speak out on a matter of public significance on which they feel morally outraged and propose strategies aimed at change for the better. The lecture expresses RMIT’s commitment to advocacy for social justice and a particular legacy in shaping the future through the education of critical and reflective practitioners committed to social change.

“I want to help kids who may be struggling to choose a better path in life, like I did.”

SAHARA DENG
Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)

After growing up in foster care, social work student Sahara was inspired to help people in a similar position.

“I chose to study at RMIT because it was recommended as a great and multicultural university, and also because it’s right in the city.

“I really enjoy the mixture of different subjects, which are so interesting and challenging. I also feel lucky to have great teachers, who are always there to assist us and seem to love what they teach us. It inspires me to do my best in class.

“We had an excursion to the Melbourne Magistrates Court of Victoria to learn how we can help individuals who are experiencing family or domestic violence, which sparked a deep interest in me to follow this line of work.

“If you have a deep interest in wanting to help others and make a change, this is the course for you.”

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Psychology is a science that provides powerful tools and methods for exploring human experience and behaviour. Psychologists support the health and well-being of individuals and society through one-to-one counselling as well as designing and implementing policies and campaigns.

HOW TO BECOME A PSYCHOLOGIST AT RMIT

Step 1 — Undergraduate Degree

Choose from
3 years
— Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)
— Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)
— Bachelor of Arts (Criminology and Psychology)

Or
5 years
— Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)/ Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)

Step 2 — Honours Degree

1 year
— Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology) (Honours)

After completing your Honours Degree, you qualify for registration as a provisional Psychologist.

Continue onto step 3 to become a fully qualified Psychologist.

Step 3 — Professional Masters

Choose from
2 years
— Master of Clinical Psychology
— Master of Science (Psychology)

Or
3 years
Professional Doctorate
— PhD (Psychology)

Step 4 — Registrar Program

Complete a registrar program of practice endorsement, which includes supervised practice and professional development.

Congratulations! You are a Psychologist.

You can start working with people towards health and well-being.
FREYA CRISTEA
Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)

“I’ve always been interested in the way our social environment can fundamentally structure who we are and how we act. I wanted to understand our roles as individuals within a bigger society—that’s what inspired me to study Psychology.

“The integration of relevant theory with real-life application attracted me to the program, as well as the university culture, which really resonated with me.

“This program prepares you for the workforce by teaching professional practices, such as communication in culturally and linguistically diverse situations, addressing other individuals and exploring real-life scenarios.

“The built-in placement component is ideal for exploring and participating in the professional field.

“I really solidified my sense of self during my studies. I’ve made life-long friends with like-minded people who share a passion for making a difference in the world.”
**Applied Science (Psychology)**

Examine mental states and processes and how they affect human behaviour. This program is based on how human research applies to actual situations, and is aimed at resolving real human problems.

**Courses:** core psychology sequence + research statistics and electives of choice

**Placement:** research project or 15-day industry placement

**Careers:** clinical psychology, counselling, research, human resources management and health.

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**Bp154 | Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)**

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp154

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**Social Science (Psychology)**

Explore the way social and cultural conditions shape our psychological makeup and affect human experience and behaviour.

This program is a social science degree with a psychology specialisation designed for people who plan to work in areas that call for a grasp of the insights, traditions and practices of psychology and the social sciences.

**Course:** core psychology sequence + politics, sociology, environment, policy

**Placement:** 35-day industry placement

**Careers:** social psychology, social policy, organisational behaviour, human resources management and welfare services.

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**Bp112 | Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)**

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp112

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**Criminology and Psychology**

Combining an accredited psychology major with an applied criminology major, this program gives you the knowledge and skills for a wide range of careers in the justice and human services sectors.

**Course:** core psychology sequence + 12 criminal justice courses

**Placement:** placement only if chosen as elective

**Careers:** investigation, corrections, drug and alcohol counselling, victim support office, policy, crime analysis.

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**Bp295 | Bachelor of Criminology and Psychology**

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp295

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**Social Work/Social Science (Psychology)**

This double degree combines social work and psychology to give you a unique and broad grounding in both areas. You will increase your knowledge and understanding of human development, human needs and personal problems, and how they interact within individual, group, organisational, community and policy contexts.

**Course:** core psychology sequence + social work practice courses

**Placement:** social work field placement

**Careers:** social work, psychology, counsellor advocacy, case management, child protection, human resource management.

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**Bh106 | Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)/Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)**

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bh106
LIDIA MARY OPPEDISANO
Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)

“This program has refined my problem-solving and organisational skills, taught me how to actively listen and accept individual differences.

“My favourite subjects have been Developmental Psychology and Professional Practices in Psychology, because they helped me realise the career I want to pursue.

“In Developmental Psychology we learned about all the stages of life, and how we develop and learn at these stages. In Professional Practices we mentored first-year psychology students. I thoroughly enjoyed helping my mentees understand the things I once struggled with, and seeing their sense of accomplishment when they figured things out. I felt success in their success, and this made me realise how much I would love teaching.”
Provide a critical link in developing and facilitating communication between people who do not share a common language, around the globe.

RMIT’s Translating and Interpreting programs are designed to help people with advanced bilingual skills to develop professional translating and/or interpreting skills, and knowledge of underlying theoretical approaches and industrial issues.

RMIT is approved by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI), and has delivered translating and interpreting education for more than 40 years.

Listen to Charissa Gong speak about her global career

http://tinyurl.com/Charissa-RMITTranslating

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Translating

Translating refers to the written transfer of meaning from one language into another. For thousands of years, the practice of translating has connected people of different cultures. Being able to communicate across cultures is a vital skill in our increasingly globalised world.

C6133 | Advanced Diploma of Translating
National Curriculum Code: PSP61012
CRICOS Code: 080274M
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c6133

Interpreting

Interpreting is the oral transfer of communication between speakers of different languages. Throughout your studies you’ll gain advanced oral transfer skills for interpreting in specialised settings. You’ll learn how to use communication media in interpreting, and study and apply ethical principles in a range of professional contexts.

C5328 | Diploma of Interpreting
National Curriculum Code: PSP52412
CRICOS Code: 080431C
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5328

C6134 | Advanced Diploma of Interpreting
National Curriculum Code: PSP61112
CRICOS Code: 080275K
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c6134
“The aim of Auslan (Australian Sign Language) interpreters is to provide effective communication between two parties without personally influencing the situation beyond what is absolutely necessary.”

BENJAMIN HOOPMANN
Diploma of Interpreting

“Both of my parents are Deaf so I wanted to work in a field in which I could still be part of my cultural community. I am also drawn to the varied nature of the work, as sign language interpreters go wherever they are needed by the Deaf community. I like being around people and I didn’t want to be stuck behind a desk.

“The quality of service an interpreter provides is something that can affect people’s lives in a very real and immediate way. Proper training will help me accomplish this goal, and RMIT’s program has a very good reputation.”

Professional translators and interpreters work in:

- Government
- Private agencies
- Courts and legal service
- Business
- Health and community service
- NGOs and INGOs
- Foreign embassies
“I really enjoyed attending Work Integrated Learning sessions, where I worked with occupational therapy and justice students on real-life situations that we would face when practicing in the industry.”

NATASHA BROWN
Advanced Diploma of Translating

“I initially volunteered as an interpreter in hospitals helping the Korean community to gain access to healthcare. This inspired me to want to work professionally in this area as there is a real need for Korean-English interpreters in my home state, Western Australia.

“I chose RMIT because it has a great reputation in the interpreting and translating industry.

“My English has also improved in many ways. Before I started this course I didn’t have much knowledge about grammar or sentence structure.

“RMIT offers a lot of free workshops in English grammar, public speaking and Maths and Physics. I recommend you do as many as you can; they are so helpful.

“I feel privileged to be able to help the Korean community within Australia. Being born in Korea myself, I understand the barriers language presents when moving to a new country.”
“Through my classes I have been exposed to the most up-to-date interpreting practices to address the interpreting needs arising from sectors such as education, business, legal, medical, immigration and community services in Australia and overseas.”

ADRIANA GRABIAS
Advanced Diploma of Interpreting

“Moving to Australia from Poland and looking for my first job showed me bilingual skills are key to a successful start in a new country.

“Studying interpreting has helped me to improve my English language proficiency and allowed me to communicate my ideas seamlessly.

“It has also presented an opportunity for me to connect with the Polish community in Melbourne and provide assistance to those facing language barriers.

“I am especially proud of an assignment that involved weekly recordings of dialogues, monologues and sight translation throughout semester. While it was challenging, it gave me the opportunity to practice my skills learned during the course, including effective note-taking and memory training. Through regular feedback and documented self-reflection activities I could track my progress in developing into a fully qualified professional interpreter.”
Enhance your employability and cross-cultural skills by learning a language at RMIT.

You can learn a new language or continue with your current VCE language studies, and increase your ability to work in Australia and overseas.

Designed as a stand-alone program or to complement other RMIT studies, the Diploma of Languages is available in part-time mode in Chinese Mandarin, French, Japanese and Spanish. Chinese and Japanese are also offered in full-time mode (one year) for beginners.

RMIT also offers language electives in:
- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- Greek
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Spanish

The benefits

Learning a language will:
- broaden your career options and enhance your employability
- prepare you for a global career working abroad
- develop your cross-cultural skill and knowledge of cultures and societies
- give you the opportunity to connect with experienced teaching staff who are immersed in the language and associated culture you have chosen

Languages at RMIT

DP005 | Diploma of Languages
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/dp005
“I’ve always loved studying languages so I was delighted to learn that I could continue my studies and expand my cultural learning at RMIT.”

YASMINE FERRER
Diploma of Languages
Bachelor of Arts (International Studies)

“Becoming part of the RMIT Spanish club has allowed me to meet like-minded people and practice speaking Spanish.

“In my third year of uni, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to complete an internship at an international NGO in Madrid, Spain. The internship required me to work and interact with people in Spain, as well as some countries in Africa. Being in Madrid gave me a taste for my dream career working for an international NGO, and allowed me to improve my verbal and written Spanish language skills and intercultural communication skills.

“Studying the Diploma of Languages alongside my international studies degree has really enriched my experience and will certainly assist me in my future career.”
Ten RMIT students studying the Diploma of Languages (Spanish), in conjunction with other students studying international studies, education, architecture and music industry, participated in an intensive Spanish course at an RMIT partner university, La Salle University in Mexico City, Mexico.

The global intensive course was an exciting experience. Students put their Spanish language skills into practice while living, learning and experiencing Mexican culture.

Greater Mexico City has a population of more than 21 million people, almost as large as Australia’s entire population. The city is rich in history, tradition and culture with ancient ruins, art and traditional Mexican food such as Tacos al Pastor.
Engage with the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world and prepare yourself for success in international organisations, businesses and government agencies.

With RMIT’s Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) you will build your understanding of intercultural, social and political issues and processes. You will have the opportunity to learn on the job through overseas internships, and develop professional skills in international relations, cultural communications, diplomacy, business and humanitarian policy.

RMIT global studies staff are leading professionals in their field who enjoy sharing their knowledge, experience and contacts to prepare you for work and life as a global citizen in a global career.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
positively contribute to global issues

RMIT PROFESSOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CHASS COMMITTEE

RMIT Professor Joseph Siracusa has been elected president of Australia’s prestigious Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS), for a three-year term.

Siracusa said, “My vision for CHASS is to include arts (broadly defined) in the renewed debate for greater STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at every level.”

Siracusa is Professor of Human Security and International Diplomacy in the global studies team at RMIT. He is internationally known for his writings and media commentary on US presidential politics, nuclear weapons, international diplomacy and global security. He has authored and co-authored 310 refereed publications, including 75 books, monographs and chapters, 115 journal articles/entries and scholarly reviews, and 120 refereed proceedings.

The CHASS secretariat has been housed at RMIT since 2013.
“I want to wake up every morning knowing that any trials and tribulations I face during the day will be worth it, because I have made some kind of positive difference.”

NATASSIA BELL
Bachelor of Arts (International Studies)

Before considering international studies, Natassia felt like she was stuck studying something she wasn’t passionate about, so she made the switch to study the Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) at RMIT.

“I was drawn to the practical aspect of the course at RMIT, particularly the internship. Gaining relevant experience as part of my degree is very exciting.

“The teaching staff are fantastic; I feel like my tutors and lecturers actually care about me. The city campus is also great. It’s fun to look at, and the student spaces are all really nice. I particularly enjoy the balconies for studying when the weather is good.

“International studies focuses a lot on real-life issues, and so most of the assignments we do are based on real-time world events. We also have to do a lot of our work in pairs or groups, so we learn how to work with people that might be very different from ourselves to produce something of quality.

“Recently we participated in a Mock United Nations conference. The event itself was a five-hour conference, but the preparation leading up to the event was an entire semester’s work. This was one of the most interesting yet difficult assessments I have done, but it was also very fun.

“International studies is such a huge subject. I’ve never learnt so much in such a short period of time, and my desire to learn more is greater than ever.”
“One of the best things about this program is at the end of your study, you are not only ready to work internationally, you will have already done so.”

MICHAEL MARINELLI
Bachelor of Arts (International Studies)

International studies student Michael Marinelli has had many opportunities to explore the world during his degree.

In his first year of study, Michael participated in a global intensive study tour to The Netherlands and Bosnia.

“The trip exposed me to the world of International Law as well as the fallout from war crimes. It was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to really immerse myself in practical learning due to the field-trip nature of the tour.”

Michael also had the opportunity to go to China and Hong Kong, giving him deepened knowledge of the region’s foreign policy and history.

Michael has plans to do a semester in the USA, thanks to RMIT’s John Storey Junior Memorial Scholarship available to students.”
Spending of the fund is decided democratically by the fairtrade joint body, comprised predominantly of women, surprising among the patriarchal norms found in India. In the other organisations and industries that I visited different impacts were strongly visible. They included skills development, livelihood opportunities and international market access for small artisan and producer groups. These groups were rural and remote silk producers, trafficked women attempting to leave a life of prostitution, people affected by leprosy living on the edges of the community, and people economically marginalised because of their disabilities. In the garment industry fair-trade meant receiving at least minimum wages, having the ability to join worker unions, working in a healthy and safe environment, learning a craft, and permanent contracts with benefits. Fairtrade is changing the worlds of each of these communities and it is improving the lives of the most disadvantaged people in the supply chain. But it is struggling against systemic contextual challenges. My tea plantation host family laugh when I ask if they are able to save and I realise that even with fairtrade this is not a relevant goal for this community. While they receive a range of benefits, the Plantation Labour Act (PLA) allows them to be paid lower than the Indian minimum wage. In a cotton community I visit a high-quality school built using fairtrade premium funds and I am told that large portions of salaries in India are spent on private schooling as there are vast quality differences between public and private schools. Fairtrade alone cannot overcome these systemic challenges.

‘PAY IT FORWARD’ TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION IDEA AIMS TO ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

Michael Marinelli and fellow student Jessica Heron were acknowledged as finalists in The Big Issue’s 2015 Big Ideas competition, a social enterprise planning competition between students at participating universities.

“Our social enterprise idea is The Urban Refuge Hostel, a hostel where you pay for a night’s stay and the money goes towards supporting an underprivileged person in a refuge, The Urban Mission,” said Michael.

“It’s a one-for-one style business that aims to help alleviate homelessness and danger for people on the streets whilst providing high-quality, value-driven, socially conscious options for travellers who need somewhere to stay. It also empowers travellers to make more ethical purchases when circling the globe.”

HERE BE DRAGONS

Check out Here be Dragons, RMIT’s Global Studies magazine, which features articles of critical reflection, reviews, photos and poetry from current students, staff and alumni.

globalstudies.squarespace.com/#/publishing
A multidisciplinary team of 20 RMIT students recently travelled to Myanmar to undertake research in rural and remote communities, as part of a global intensive program, International Perspectives in Community Development.

Students were hosted by ActionAid, an international Non-Government Organisation in Yangon, Myanmar, where they had the opportunity to visit rural and remote villages to learn more about participatory community development.

Students had the opportunity to talk with young people in central Myanmar, who are working to make positive changes for their community.

The majority of people living in Myanmar’s Dry Zone rely on agriculture for a living, but experience erratic weather and poor soil quality.

RMIT Program Director of the Master of Social Work, Susan Costello, and Associate Professor Roberto Guevara accompanied the students overseas.

“The students were engaged in qualitative research to gain an understanding of the current situation in Myanmar,” Costello explained.

“Viewing Myanmar through the lens of other disciplines allowed students to consider what it means to be a developing nation in relation to issues such as urban planning, the environment, social issues and tourism.”

Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) student Chelsea Gillis took part in the tour because she wanted to apply her theoretical knowledge in a practical setting.

Her project focused on the role of stakeholders in making a community-based tourism project successful.

“A lot of my research involved observation and participation; for instance, seeing how power dynamics were overcome during interactions with local people and how we were encouraged to share our own culture rather than just observe theirs,” Gillis said.

“During my time in Myanmar, I experienced how ActionAid programs empower people, enabling them to achieve a better life for themselves.”

Gillis realised that through the participatory process, locals had control over decisions that affected them, therefore they were more likely to commit to the project’s development.

“I’m grateful that I had the opportunity to engage with the local people and understand their perspectives,” Gillis said.

“The trip was invaluable and provided learning opportunities I would never have in the classroom.”

Students presented their reflections and recommendations in a forum attended by the Minister of Tourism, tourism operators and other NGOs in Myanmar.

“Students learned to apply and adapt their skills and knowledge, which will be useful for future work or careers,” Guevera said.

The subject, International Perspectives in Community Development, is a global intensive available to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
HOW TO APPLY

Before applying for a program at RMIT, refer to the program information available at www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us. All the information you need to apply is at www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/applying-to-rmit.

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*Some certificate III and below programs are administered by direct application. This will be explained in the individual program information available at www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us.

Current Year 12 Students

If you are a current Year 12 student applying for Semester 1, you must apply through VTAC for all programs except some that are certificate III and below, which may require you to submit an RMIT school-based application.

Non-Year 12 Students

If you are a non-Year 12 student applying for Semester 1, you must apply for degrees and associate degrees through VTAC but have the choice of applying for certificate IV, diploma and advanced diplomas either through VTAC or direct to RMIT. Please select one application method only.

RMIT Students and Recent Graduates

Current RMIT students and recent graduates can fast-track their application for a new program by applying direct to RMIT as an internal applicant.

Mid-Year Entry (Semester 2)

Not all RMIT programs will accept applications for mid-year entry. A list of programs accepting mid-year applications is published in May on the RMIT website (www.rmit.edu.au/midyear).

Selection Tasks

Many programs at RMIT have selection tasks as part of the selection process, such as:
- an interview
- a test
- a folio
- a supplementary form or pre-selection kit

It is very important that you carefully read any instructions to complete a program’s selection tasks. Selection tasks are listed under programs on the VTAC or the RMIT websites. These selection tasks are compulsory. Applications without selection tasks will not be considered.

Entry Requirements

To be considered for admission, you must meet RMIT University entry requirements as well as specific program entry requirements. For more information please refer to the program information available on the RMIT website (www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us).

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Jacky Burton
Professional Career Development Practitioner
The Knox School

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FEES EXPLAINED

Tuition Fees for Certificates, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas

The tuition fees you pay depend on whether you are offered a Victorian Government–subsidised place or a full-fee place, based on the eligibility criteria.

Victorian Government–Subsidised Places

For eligible students, this training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding.

Tuition fees for a government-subsidised place vary according to each program. For a full list of program fees for a government-subsidised place visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/vocational/govtsub.

You will be offered a government-subsidised place if you meet the eligibility criteria based on your citizenship, age, prior education, the number of programs you are studying in the current year and the number of government-subsidised programs you have commenced in your lifetime at each level.


If you are applying for a government-subsidised place, you will be required to provide documentation to establish your eligibility.

You will be enrolled according to how qualifications are defined in the relevant industry training package. This may impact on your eligibility for a government-subsidised place for individual qualifications. For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/vocational/eligibility.

RMIT University’s Registered Training Organisation (RTO) code is 3046.

Fee Concession

You may be entitled to a concession on your tuition fees if you are in a government-subsidised place and you meet the eligibility criteria.

For more information about the eligibility criteria and how to apply visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/vocational/concession.

Full-Fee Places

Students in full-fee places are required to pay a tuition fee that covers the full tuition costs of their program. Financial assistance may be available through the FEE-HELP scheme. The tuition fees vary according to each program and are adjusted on an annual basis. Visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees for more information.

FEE-HELP

FEE-HELP is an optional loan scheme that assists eligible students to defer payment of up to 100 per cent of their tuition fees. To learn more about FEE-HELP visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/helploans/fee-help.

Other Fees

In addition to tuition fees, you will be charged a student services and amenities fee (SSAF). Eligible higher education students will be able to defer payment of the fee through SA-HELP.

For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/ssaf.

You may also be required to purchase items related to your program, including field trips, specified textbooks and equipment. These expenses vary from program to program.

For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/other.

Scholarships

RMIT offers more than 2000 coursework and research scholarships to vocational and higher education students.

Equity scholarships provide an opportunity for students who have experienced financial or educational disadvantage to achieve their academic goals, while merit scholarships recognise and award outstanding academic success. www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships

Tuition Fees for Degrees and Associate Degrees

Commonwealth Supported Places

A Commonwealth supported place is a place at university where the tuition fee is jointly paid by you and the Australian Government. Your share of the fee (student contribution) is set by the government and is determined by the discipline areas (bands) of your individual enrolled courses, not the overall program.

For more information about what fees you will pay in 2017 visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees.

HECS-HELP

You may be eligible to defer payment of the student contribution through the HECS-HELP loan scheme if you are an Australian citizen or holder of an Australian Permanent Humanitarian Visa. You must pay your student contribution up front if you are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident (other than Australian Permanent Humanitarian Visa holder). For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/helploans/hecs-help.

Full-Fee Places

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Fee information relates to 2017 and should only be used as a guide. Fees are set on an annual basis and may be subject to change each calendar year.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees
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Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. +61 3 9925 2260
www.rmit.edu.au/infocorner

This guide is designed for Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents of Australia.

Further information for international/non-residents of Australia:
RMIT International
Tel. +61 3 8670 7047
(within Australia: 1800 998 414)
Email: isu@rmit.edu.au
www.rmit.edu.au/international

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