

EVOLVE



My Home Away from Home

Gabriel Pitta and his friends share their experiences of studying abroad



International Students Work Rights Legal Service

To make an appointment:

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STUDY MELBOURNE

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Editor's Note



Studying abroad can be a daunting experiences. However, if done right it could be the best adventure you could have. A majority of the students studying at RGIT are from outside Australia and for many the culture, food and lifestyle is poles apart from their own.

This edition of Evolve explores the challenges, achievements and adventurous experiences along the way that International students garner when they set foot in Australia for the first time. At RGIT, student welfare is a focus and we go all out to ensure a supportive and holistic learning environment for our students.

Student activities, excursions and practical workshops and sessions are all part and parcel of enabling holistic learning. This issue of Evolve is a snapshot of the everyday activities organized at RGIT in recent times. So sit back, relax and enjoy!

With love,
Divya Marie

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Hobart corner

By: Jeewan Thapaliya

Suu Bok Lee, Making us Proud

Vision and effort, are the determining factors for success. It is indeed a fulfilling experience when a student does the hard yards and achieves success. It is even sweeter when you know that you have played an integral role in helping them through this journey.

The RGIT Hobart campus takes immense pride in hospitality student Suu Bok Lee, who has achieved his goals and ambition. Seems like only yesterday, he walked into the Hobart campus and commenced his course in commercial cookery.

We saw him preparing his dishes; going through assessments and actively participating in work based training. Now we are pleased to see him scale new heights and go on to managing a restaurant. The RGIT family are proud of Suu Bok's achievements and hope he goes a long way with that captivating and charming smile on his face.



Students express their love over lunch

At RGIT Australia, the welfare of our students is of prime importance and we go all out to ensure that they have an enjoyable study experience.

Teachers are the first point of contact for students. They play a very significant role in providing students' with proper guideline and helping them make the most out of their studies. As the time of graduation nears, the flood gate of memories open and students begin reliving their cherished moments with nostalgia. They are grateful for each other's company and support along with their trainers for making their academic pursuit a memorable one.

Students of the Diploma of Leadership and Management class are experiencing similar sentiments. The July 2016 batch invited their trainers for a cultural lunch. It

was their way of expressing their gratitude and love to their trainers. The trainers were proud of their students success. What can

be better than seeing the smiling faces of your happy students?



Nothing inspires me more than a challenge!

Sourabh Bhardwaj is a business trainer at RGIT, much loved by his students. Sourabh has worked in the management sector in a variety of roles and at various levels. His previous stints include but is not limited to retail, publishing and environmental sectors. He shares his experience offers students great insight into the marketing, customer service and financial aspects of the business world. We caught up with him for a quick chat on what inspires him.



What were you doing before RGIT?

Before becoming a business trainer at RGIT I worked as a junior accountant with a small family business where I used to liaise with bankers, insurers and solicitors and handled complete financial cycle of products and services. Prior to that I worked

as a Marketing manager with a publishing house where I was required to nurture, develop and maintain an effective network with business partners, market players and the media.

Why did you become a trainer?

I have been working in the field of business for more than a decade now. In the past I provided hands on training to my staff and colleagues and found it to be an immensely interesting and challenging experience. Training students taking into consideration their different learning styles, academic abilities and providing additional support is something I've always enjoyed and liked. The process involves a lot of innovation and learning.

What do you like most about your job?

I have had students from almost every part of the world and

therefore it has been an eye opener of sorts and a good learning curve for me as well in terms of breaking down cultural stereotypes. I have come to know about different cultures, practices and how businesses operate differently to that of Australian standards overseas.

Any quotes or motivation you live by?

I always tell my students and business partners that “nothing inspires me more than a challenge” – and as a business trainer I thrive on working in such a challenging environment.

What do you do in your free time?

I like to attend meetings and seminars and understand their perspective on business issues in Australia. I am more of a kinaesthetic learner and like to participate in things around me.

"I have had students from almost every part of the world and therefore it is a very good learning curve for me as well."



Tips for curing homesickness

Homesickness is nothing to be ashamed of, it happens to a lot of people who move abroad for the first time. RGIT Australia contacted Insider Guides, the International student guide in Australia written by local students to help International students understand the local culture. Managing Director of Insider Guides, James Martin, shares his own experience studying overseas.

I did my student exchange in Bordeaux, France. It was, by far, the best experience of my life, and was one of the main inspirations for starting Insider Guides. However, I did get a bit homesick. Luckily, I had some friends around me who encouraged me to change the lens in which I viewed the world. They encouraged me to be curious, open to the world and fall in love with what was happening around me in my city. They encouraged me to fully embrace the experience. I



did, and it changed everything.

Here are my tips:

BE A TOURIST IN YOUR NEW CITY

Explore the parks and markets, visit some local bars, and try some exotic new food. Make the city feel familiar to you, and appreciate that life is short, and you might only be in this country

for a short time. There's so much to explore!

LOG OFF FACEBOOK AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

When I was abroad, I was always checking Facebook and was sad to be missing all the parties and events with my friends at home. When I got back, I realized I hadn't really missed out anything important. In fact, my friends were more keen to know my adventures and look through my photos! Facebook and other social media are like a highlight reel for people's lives. If you view the world through social media, you aren't getting the full story of what's happening back home and it's a great way to make you feel depressed.

Give yourself a break from it, and start creating your own adventure.

Make the city feel familiar to you, and appreciate that life is short, and you might only be in this country for a short time. There's so much to explore!





CREATE A ROUTINE

This one really helped me. I'd get up and do a run and some exercises every day; then I'd make coffee and read for 20 minutes. It became a ritual, and I loved it. It took my mind off home for a while and allowed me just to enjoy life in this new moment. Once I got back to Australia I

kept up this routine, and significantly improved my life. I feel like a routine provides scaffolding (structure) to your day.

TAKE LOTS OF PICTURES

I find when I take pictures I tend to appreciate what's happening around me a lot more. Plus your

photos will be a great way of remembering all the places you have visited and the wonderful people you meet.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW, VOLUNTEER OR JOIN A CLUB

Being in a new city is an excellent opportunity to learn something entirely new. Try art classes or cooking. Maybe it's time to start learning yoga or dancing! Check your institution's website for clubs to join or think about volunteering opportunities.

What's new at RGIT?

Wi-Fi upgrade

RGIT Wi-Fi offers campus visitors basic access without the need to establish an account. Temporary casual access to the internet and secure intranet sites for students and staff is also available by contacting one of our friendly staff at the student reception and presenting your RGIT student ID or staff ID card.

Coverage

An additional 4 Wi-Fi access points are being installed in all remaining Teaching and Learning areas by the end of April intake 2017, with more to come as we continue to assess and improve RGIT Wireless Network. 8 Wireless Access points have been set up at the main campus covering all levels at RGIT Main Campus.

The changes



RGIT Wi-Fi can operate at up to 100Mb/s under optimal conditions at the Main Campus and up to 400Mb/s at Victoria House Campus.

The perpetual "RGIT Level 1-8" Wi-Fi network that has been around for a bit, was deemed a bit unstable is now officially in retirement. The Wireless Access point's hardware has been upgraded to Enterprise high-performance 802.11ac Wi-Fi Access Point featuring dual-band 3x3:3 MIMO technology, 1750Mbps wireless throughput and support for 250+ client devices per access point.

All access is secured and moni-

tored against our central staff and student firewall.

The speed

RGIT Wi-Fi uses 802.11n base stations that can operate at up to 100Mb/s under optimal conditions at the Main Campus and up to 400Mb/s at Victoria House Campus. Actual speeds will vary according to location, signal strength, and the number of people connected in your immediate proximity.



EVOLVE RGIT ACHIEVER

#rgitevolve



Nurturing children's lives, one step at a time

Marcela Vega is a young bubbling woman from Colombia. There is a motherly warmth that she emanates through her calm personality and her eyes radiate patience. Teaching little kids is what Marcela enjoys doing now, however this was never her dream before.

What inspired you to be a Childcare Educator?

I was in love with the English language and decided to pursue my studies in English. However, at that time I didn't realize that the only career outcome of an English course was teaching. I never planned on becoming a teacher, and I totally hated the idea back then. What changed my mind was the innocent nature of children. I believe there is a lot to learn from them and the fact that they gain happiness from the littlest things makes them great examples of true happiness.

How did you manage to get your first job in Australia?

When I first came to Melbourne I was working in hospitality industry and that job really took its toll on me. I wanted to teach again and to do that I needed to be certified. I enrolled for the ECEC course at RGIT and things just worked out for me. I got a job as a Spanish teacher at



"My advice to International students is to keep applying for jobs. Don't give up even if things do not work out."

an Institute here and I also work as a before and after school care assistant for Camp Australia.

What do you like most about your job?

I like the fact that I learn something new everyday, from both the children and my other colleagues. Studying and working at the same time is very hard, however, my job gives me the flexibility to choose when I work and to also choose the location I am willing to travel to. This has helped me so much as whenever I feel the pressure from work, I

can just take it easy and concentrate on my study.

What Advice do you have for other students on Job Applications?

Well, all I can say is keep trying and don't give up. I applied to so many jobs, I can't remember the number of times things didn't work out, however I did not give up. So my advice is just keep going till something works out. Relentless forward motion is the key to success.



My home away from home



"I think settling down in Melbourne was relatively easy, in the beginning when I first arrived the only problem I faced was with the language but now I have learnt to manage that as well."

Studying abroad can be one of the most uplifting experiences you can have. The thought about leaving your comfort zone and moving to an alien country where you know no one or nothing can be daunting at first, however once you get the hang of it, it could very well be the greatest adventure of your life. A few of our International students from the Diploma of Leadership and Management program give us a glimpse of what it feels like studying abroad.

Gabriel Pitta

I come from Colombia and have been living abroad for over a year now. Of all the things, I think I miss the food, culture and my family back home. I think settling down

in Melbourne was relatively easy, in the beginning when I first arrived the only problem I faced was with the language but now I have learnt to manage that as well. Due to cultural differences, I did find a few aspects of Australia strange such as their lifestyle and behaviour. I was also surprised to find that people drive in the opposite side here (in Colombia it is different) and I had to adjust to that. I must say that the public transport here is top notch and I definitely prefer it over the transport system in Colombia. I think studying in Melbourne definitely was one of the best experiences I ever had as it gave me the opportunity to meet people from across the

world, improve my English and travel far and wide.

Yanmin Wang

I am from China and have been living in Australia for a year and three months now. I miss the food of my home country the most. I settled down in Australia really fast, however the only difficulty I faced was finding a good part time job to help manage my expenses while I studied. Also, something I experienced in Australia was that the population is very small when compared to my home country. I have occasionally felt that some Australians have reservations against us coming here, but that is only a negligible minority. Mostly

everyone has been great. I think the air in Australia is much better than in my country and makes it easier to breathe. Overall, I think the experience of studying abroad is great as you not only manage your study load but also have to fend for yourself and manage your own expenses and that is something I would not have done in my home country.

Victor Serranic

I come from the capital city of Spain, Madrid and it has been only seven months since I moved to Australia. I miss the food of my hometown very much. Australia was definitely not a difficult place to settle down in, everything was easy except finding a cheap place to rent. Something I found particularly interesting is the multicultural aspect of Melbourne and the number of tourists and visitors it has. I like the diverse culture in Melbourne as I think it adds perspective to how you look at the world. Overall, I am very happy I chose to study in Australia.

"I like the diversity of culture in Melbourne as I think it adds perspective to how you look at the world."



Jian Li

I am from China and I have been living abroad for the past three years. I think, for me, initially it was quite difficult adjusting as there was a huge cultural difference between Australia and China. However, I managed to adjust soon by communicating with the locals and learning. I like living in Melbourne because I think the air is much cleaner and less polluted than China. I think although it was hard in the beginning, now I have adjusted well and it is very easy living here.

Chien-Ming Lin

I am from Taiwan but I have been living abroad since the

past two and a half years. Although I have been away from home for so long, I still miss the food and weather of my country. Initially when I arrived in Melbourne I did face some difficulty in finding a place to stay and I took time adjusting to the higher cost of living here but now I am well settled. I think what I like most about living here is that I get the opportunity to meet so many different people from various countries. I think studying abroad is a great experience because you don't just earn the qualification but also learn to look at things from different cultural perspective.



The Hospitality Department expeditions



The Langham Excursion

With an impeccable reputation and a longstanding tradition of providing high quality service, the Langham is among the top rated hotel in Australia. Located on the Southbank promenade, the hotel is always bustling with activity and if you are in luck, you might even spot a celebrity or two at the hotel.

Students from the Patisserie course along with their trainer Chris Ong, enjoyed a private guided tour of the hotel and learnt how the Langham operates on a day to day basis. The tour guide gave the students a sneak peek into the lives of all the people working hard behind the scenes to make Langham stand apart from the rest. After the tour, Chris and his class enjoyed a mouthwatering buffet at Langham's Melba restaurant.



Yarra Valley Wine Tours

Australia is proud of its locally produced wine. Yarra Valley has been recognised as one of the premium cool climate wine regions in Australia, producing top notch varieties of world renowned wine. Located an hour away from Melbourne's CBD, Yarra valley boasts of a pristine landscape, perfect for a weekend getaway.

Hospitality Trainer Ashwin and Audrey's students spent an entire day sampling different types of wine. Wine tasting was not the only highlight of the trip, students also got to taste different types of cheese and chocolate from the dairy and chocolataria located at the winery. All of this was topped off with a delicious lunch amidst the tranquil surrounding of the winery.

ECEC Department, activities galore!



Mothers Day

Although Mothers should be celebrated every-day, one special day is set aside every year to specially commemorate these super humans! Mother's day is celebrated all over the world on the second sunday of may. Children make their mothers feel special by giving them gifts, chocolates, flowers or taking them out.

The international students at RGIT are far away from home and also their mothers. Hence, they could not celebrate mother's day, spending time with their mothers, as they would have liked. In moments like these, it was technology to the rescue. Trainer Nildhara Gadhani organised a special celebration where students were asked to video call their mothers and wish them from their class. Excited students called up their mothers and introduced them to their friends sitting next to them.

They then enjoyed a hearty lunch together and even cut a cake with their trainer. Emotions were running high after the chat with their mothers.



Fed Square Excursion

Diversity is the spice of life. Without our differences the world would have been a very dull and boring place. It is our differences that make us strong and unique. Studying about different cultures and understanding the importance of preserving the traditional values of these cultures is crucial, especially for child care professionals as it is necessary for them to learn to work without being differential.

Students from the ECEC department are always bustling with activity and this time they visited the Federation Square in Melbourne. They learnt a few dance moves and also learnt a thing or two about aboriginal culture and heritage. Students were also given the opportunity of asking questions to staff regarding culture and aboriginal people.

Tips to become a SUCCESSFUL BARISTA

Melbourne is the coffee capital of the world. Proud of its rich coffee heritage and supreme quality beans, it is hard to avoid being lured in by the coffee magic. RGIT offers barista courses to students, training them to be the best in the industry. However, the industry (like any other) is highly competitive and you need to have something that gives you an edge over other baristas.

We caught up with Shelley Huggins, founder of exclusive barista job board *baristaseeker.com*, to learn a few tricks of the trade that makes a barista stand out and also understand the current trends in the industry.

What is trending in the coffee industry?

The industry is constantly evolving and new techniques and trends are a must know if you want to be successful

Cold brew!!!

Out with ice-coffee and in with cold brew. Cold brewing is a process that uses time instead of heat. You soak coffee beans in water for over 12 hours to turn the water in coffee. I prefer this on a hot day to get my coffee fix as it is less sugary.



Don't stop with learning a barista course, always upskill by learning other skills. For instance, try a roasting course or a latte art course

Healthier Alternatives

Consumers are becoming health conscious and are inclining towards healthier alternatives such as using almond milk instead of regular milk and having turmeric or beetroot lattes.

Roasting Your Own Coffee Beans

Many local cafes have begun to take the time to roast their own coffee, either in house or at a specialised roasting place like Maillard Atelier. Some of my favorites at the moment are Tinman Coffee Roasters and White Horse Coffee.

My Top Barista Tips

Learning Never Stops

Don't stop with learning a barista course, always upskill by learning other skills. For instance,

try a roasting course or a latte art course. RGIT Australia also offers a course in Latter Art in Melbourne. Also, *eventbrite.com.au* have lots of different courses and workshops as well.

Read Read Read

Immerse yourself in all things coffee by doing lots of reading. Blogs like Barista Hustle and coffee forums like coffee snobs are a great way to get all the coffee news you need. Facebook barista groups are also a great way to create a network with other Baristas in the industry.

Taste Lots of Coffee

Attend cupping events and taste lots of different coffee. Events like the Melbourne international coffee expo (MICE) can help you connect with others in the coffee industry.





International Student Guide

- Scholarships
- Local culture
- Money and budgeting
- Employment
- Guides
- Events

[insiderguides.com.au](https://www.insiderguides.com.au)

“Work Rights Stop Work Wrongs”

Work Rights Campaign by Meld Magazine

International students find themselves caught in a web of confusion when they arrive at a new country for the first time! While juggling between settling in, learning a new style of education and dealing with homesickness, international students also often have to deal with unpleasant situations like work place exploitation.

Often most students find themselves to be victims of workplace exploitation. And more often than not, international students don't even know they are being exploited. Meld Magazine in collaboration with Study Melbourne conducted a series of workshops for the International students from the ELICOS department to teach them their work rights and what to do incase they feel they are being exploited.

Most international students feel vulnerable because of language barriers and therefore, don't say

anything against exploitative employers. Student ambassadors from Meld Magazine conducted a game of cards which educated students on their rights and what they are entitled to. Students were put into workplace scenarios and did a role play finding ways to

and students definitely benefited from the experience.

Students have also been invited by Meld magazine to apply for ambassador positions. Ambassadors assist Meld by conducting the workshop and helping their counterparts realise their work rights. Students also received certificates of participation from Study Melbourne and a cash voucher.



would deal with certain situations. The session was very informative and eye opening for students. Overall the campaign activity was both interactive and fun



What's On Melbourne

The Economist Intelligence Unit declared Melbourne the most livable city in the world! Besides an amazing coffee culture, a vibrant nightlife and a multicultural and diverse environment, the city boasts of some of the most happening food and shopping markets in Australia. The winter night market and the finders keepers market are two events you cannot miss.



The Winter Night Market

The Winter night market is an annual extravaganza celebrating the food, cultural diversity and the weather of Melbourne. You can cuddle up by one of the many fires with a plate of hot food and enjoy live music and other entertainment.

When: Every Wednesday between 07/06/2017 to 30/08/2017

Where: Queen Victoria Market

Entry Fee: Free!



The Finders Keepers Market

Finders Keepers is a shopping bonanza that is organized every year in Melbourne. It is a celebration of art and design with over 250 stalls set up each year. This year the event will be held between the 14th to 15th of July. The market has something special for everyone, with live entertainment, yummy food and alcohol.

When:

Friday 14th July 5pm - 10pm
 Saturday 15th July 10am - 6pm
 Sunday 16th July 10am - 5pm

Where:

The Royal Exhibition Building
 9 Nicholson Street, Carlton, VIC
 Plus additional entry at Rathdowne Street

Entry Fee: \$2



Whacky Quotient

We asked our ELICOS students, if they were allowed to have one super power, which would they choose and why?



Jongjun Jang

I would like to be a time traveler and the super power I will have is the ability to control time. I could go back in the past to check if history is real or not and I could go to the future to check the next lottery number.

Miguel Angel Rios

If I could choose one super power I would choose the ability to fly. Why? I won't need to pay for public transport and I could travel to any country without having to worry about anything. All I will need is some food and good music. The best part is that I can evade traffic and be on time every time.



Francisco Herrera

I would actually like two super powers, firstly I would like to be able to fly as then I could go wherever I wanted and second, I would like self-healing powers so that I can heal myself or anyone else who has met with an accident or is sick.

Hua Tu

If I could have one super power, I would choose to be invisible as others cannot control me if they cannot see me and I could do whatever I wanted. I would also be able to follow anyone and they will not know.



Yu Hsuan

I would like to be able to stop time because people say "time is money" and if I stop time then it would imply that I would get more money. Honestly I just want to be able to sleep a little longer in the Morning.



Maria Teresa Dorantes Mendez

I would like to have the ability to teleport because then I could instantly visit my family and friends in Mexico and eat my favorite food.

Social Corner



👍 Say Cheese!

👍 Palm Reading: express course to practice Future Simple



👍 Hurray!! We got First Aid certified.



👍 Bbq at Batman Park



👍 Dressed to Impress



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