Advanced Diploma of Photography

International Student Information Guide

Photography Studies College (Melbourne)
www.psc.edu.au
CRICOS provider no. 00257G
About Photography Studies College (PSC)

Photography Studies College (PSC) is a leading specialised tertiary photographic college, focused on learning, innovation and contemporary industry practice. With forty years of experience, PSC is committed to excellence and enjoys an international reputation for its outstanding course and award-winning graduates and students.

The Advanced Diploma of Photography is unique to PSC and offers specialisation studies in Commercial Photography, Art Photography and Photojournalism. (For course information please see the Full Time Course Guide available at www.psc.edu.au/international)

Multi Award Winning College

PSC students and teachers are frequent winners of major national and state industry awards:

2011
Winner Australian Institution of Professional Photography (AIPP) National Tertiary Institution of the Year award for excellence in photographic education and training.
Runner up AIPP Australian Student Photographer of the year, Kimberley Munro
Winner Advertising Commercial Magazine Photographers (ACMP) Educational Institute of the Year
Winner ACMP Student of the Year Commercial category Kimberley Munro
Winner ACMP Student of the Year Advertising category Liane Hurvitz
Winner AIPP Victorian Photography Student of the Year, Kimberley Munro
Finalists in the National Photographic Portrait Prize, Rhett Hammerton, Jenny Hodge.

2010
Winner AIPP Victorian Photography Student of the Year, Deborah Mullins.
Winner Canon Photo 5Competition Student Entry, Graeme Passmore.
Winner, Portrait Category, New North Gallery Photography Prize, Jenny Hodge.

2009
Winner AIPP National Tertiary Institution of the Year
Winner AIPP Australian Student Photographer of the year.

PSC graduates now work as photographers and image managers around the world in cities as diverse as New York and Dubai, London and Tokyo.

Advanced Diploma of Photography Course

The Advanced Diploma of Photography takes three years of full time study to complete. The course commences in February each year and there are two semesters during the year; from February to June and July to November. See the Full Time Course Guide for more information.

Why study at PSC?

At PSC you will find a rewarding and unique educational experience with:

• Smaller classes giving a better teacher to student ratio
• A choice of specialisation— the Advanced Diploma offers the opportunity to choose one of the key areas of photography (art/commercial/photojournalism) as a major stream within the final year of the course
• Learning with Australian photographers through our extensive final year mentor program
• Reasonable fees and costs
Why Study Photography in Melbourne?

PSC’S Great City Location
PSC is located in Southbank, in the heart of Melbourne’s vibrant arts and recreation precinct; only 10 minutes walk to the city centre and 5 minutes from Flinders Street railway station. PSC is within easy walking distance of a number of important contemporary galleries such as the National Gallery of Victoria, Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

About Melbourne
Melbourne is the second largest city in Australia and the capital of the southern state of Victoria. It features amongst the world’s most liveable cities for its safe environment and well-developed infrastructure. It is an easy city to explore on foot or bicycle and has an accessible public transport system. Around 50,000 international students live in Melbourne, which has 3.5 million residents from over 140 nations and about 150 different languages are spoken in Victoria. Find more information about Victoria’s cities, events, travel destinations and studying in Australia at www.visithvictoria.com or www.studymelbourne.com.au or www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

Arts, Culture and Lifestyle
Melbourne has a worldwide reputation as an exciting centre for the arts and photographic education. There is always something to do or see – which makes for many photo opportunities. Festival goers, sports fans, foodies, lovers of fashion, theatregoers, art lovers (photographers!) will enjoy the wide variety of restaurants, cafes, laneways and great shops. PSC’s great location provides the opportunity to balance study with easy access to a vibrant arts and recreation precinct.

See our the PSC blog for regular updates www.psc.edu.au/blog on what’s happening in the photographic community.

Laneways, cafes and restaurants
Enjoy taking in the sights, eating and relaxing at the many vibrant cafes and bars scattered all around the inner city. Or just be inspired walking through the laneways and taking photographs.

Events
There are a wide range of events and festivals to whet your artistic appetite including, a large food and wine festival; sports festivals; Melbourne International Comedy Festival; Melbourne Fringe Festival; Melbourne International Film Festival and Melbourne International Arts Festival. Find out more at www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

Melbourne – a UNESCO City of Literature
Melbourne joins Edinburgh as the second City of Literature in the network of 12 creative cities. The title recognizes this city’s rich literary culture, history and creative talent.

What does it cost to live in Melbourne?
An international student is required to have access to $18,000AUD per year to meet the living cost requirements for Australia. For more detailed information, refer to the Living Costs section of this Guide.

*The costs quoted here are only an indication of everyday expenses and do not include accommodation, return airfares, overseas student health cover (OSHC) or course fees and costs. Don’t forget to take these into consideration before lodging your application.
Applying to PSC
International students are required to complete the International Application Form (available for download at www.psc.edu.au/international) and satisfy all the following course entrance requirements:

- Evidence of completion of Secondary School Year 12 or equivalent, this is the minimum educational requirement (you must include certified transcripts of your results and any post secondary qualifications)
- A photographic folio of minimum 10 to 15 images*
- Details of any previous experience in the photographic industry and evidence of this experience
- Evidence of English language proficiency**
- Evidence of ability to pay the international tuition fees, overseas student health cover cost, equipment requirement costs, other course material costs and living expenses

*Your folio of images together with a visual diary or ideas journal must represent your ideas, concepts, processes, inspirations and abilities. The work should demonstrate creative potential and an aptitude for photography.

**English Language Proficiency
International students require a sound level of English. Applicants from non-English speaking countries need to undertake a special test. The type of test required is the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The overall Band Score required by PSC is level 6.0. This is a pre requisite for course entry. Information about IELTS can be obtained at www.ielts.org/

Selection Criteria
Selection into the Advanced Diploma of Photography course is based on successfully meeting the course entrance requirements, presentation of a photographic folio and an interview. (If you are not in Australia a telephone or email interview can be arranged, please contact the Communications & Student Officer on info@psc.edu.au. For those students already living in Australia attendance at an interview is required.)

RPL
PSC offers a recognition of prior learning (RPL) process. Further information is available from the Communications & Students Officer.
Enrolment at PSC

Applicants who have successfully met the course entrance requirements and the selection criteria will be advised in writing with a Letter of Offer from PSC. Successful applicants will then be required to complete the PSC International Enrolment Form and pay the relevant annual Tuition Fees and the Overseas Student Health Cover payment. Once these payments are received and confirmed an electronic confirmation of enrolment (eCoE) will be issued.

Annual Tuition Fees

The Advanced Diploma of Photography is a three year course with annual (yearly) tuition fees. Enrolment into the course is on an annual basis and tuition fees are payable for each year of enrolment. A payment plan or an upfront discount is available for the relevant enrolment period. The international tuition fees are available from the Communications & Students Officer email: info@psc.edu.au

Please note that the PSC Refund Policy is clearly stated on the PSC International Application Form and International Enrolment Form; please ensure you read this carefully.

Additional Expenses

In addition to the tuition fees, there are essential equipment and material costs (refer to the PSC Full Time Course Guide for further details.) There are also visa application fees - more information on these fees available by following the links on www.immi.gov.au/students – and an annual fee for Overseas Student Health Cover.

Applying for a Student Visa

Information about applying for a Student Visa for Australia is available from the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) – at www.immi.gov.au/students

The Australian Education International websites are also very informative: www.dest.gov.au and www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

The Advanced Diploma course at PSC is registered in the Vocational Education and Training Sector. This means the visa you will be applying for is Subclass 572- Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Your will need:

- A current letter of offer into the Advanced Diploma of Photography course
- An electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)
- Proof of financial support for your period of study
- A valid passport

You may be required to undergo certain health checks as part of your visa application.

Tinkara Tcrek
From Slovenia
Final year: commercial major

I started photography at High School in Slovenia and then decided that I wanted to pursue photography as a career. I searched the internet and found PSC. The PSC team and course provides you with the knowledge, experience and support; it’s a package that involves everything.

When I moved from Slovenia I came to Melbourne 10 days before the course started. For the first week I stayed in a hostel while I found permanent accommodation. For me, Melbourne is an artistic city where you can see and feel art everywhere, on the streets or at galleries. Melbourne gives me challenges every day especially because I come from a small country and a different background. These challenges make me love being here and being part of this “crazy” city.
Working While You Study
Please note that after 26 April 2008, applicants granted a student visa will automatically receive permission to work with their visa. You will be entitled to work once you commence your course of study.

Overseas Student Health Cover
To be covered for health insurance, you will have to pay the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for yourself and any family members travelling with you at the time of enrolment. The OSHC provides medical and hospital insurance. PSC’s OSHC provider is Medibank Private. For further information go to www.medibankprivate.com.au then go to Overseas Students tab.

The ESOS Framework for International Students
The ESOS framework provides quality education and protects the rights of international students in Australia. The framework can be read at: http://aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/QuickInfo/ESOS_Framework.pdf or go to the link a link on the PSC website under International Information.

Orientation and Getting Settled
At PSC we work to ensure that all international students have a productive and fulfilling educational experience. Our Communications & Student Officer is available to provide assistance with airport pick up, accommodation and settling in.

Orientation Program is provided to ensure that all International Students are familiarised with PSC, the course and with studying and living in Australia.

Your detailed timetable will be issued on the first day of classes. You will spend 20-22 contact hours at PSC in classes each week. You should also allow for another 10-15 hours per week outside the classroom for taking photographs and completing your folios and range of assessments tasks. Classes in the first year are held between Monday to Thursday and run between 10:00am and 5:00pm. (This may vary depending on timetabling requirements).

The PSC International Student Handbook provides details of assistance, lists of policies and rules and rights that are applicable to International Students at PSC and is available from the Communications & Students Officer and to view online at www.psc.edu.au/international

Need More Information?
Communications & Students Officer
Photography Studies College (Melb)
65 City Road, Southbank, VICTORIA 3006
ph: + 61 3 9682 3191  fax: + 61 3 9686 1601
e-mail: info@psc.edu.au  website: www.psc.edu.au

Accommodation
A variety of high standard student accommodation is available to suit different budgets and needs. Students can opt to live in student accommodation, rental accommodation or with an Australian family. Shared accommodation with other students is common and popular.

The Communications & Students Officer at PSC provides students with assistance in finding accommodation and understanding lease and tenancy conditions.
**Living Costs**

From 1 January 2010, the basic rate of living costs under the Migration Regulations increased. Under these regulations prospective student visa applicants and their family members must have access to the following funds to meet the living costs requirements:

- AU$18,000 a year for the main student
- AU$6,300 a year for the student’s partner
- AU$3,600 a year for the student’s first child
- AU$2,700 a year for every other child and where required

**Australian currency**

Australian currency is denominated as follows:

- Notes: $5, $10, $20, $50, $100
- Coins: 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, $1, $2

There are no 1c or 2c coins.

Items in Australia are priced down to single cents (for example $2.99) but when you pay, the total will be rounded up or down to the nearest five cents. Thus $2.99 becomes $3.00, and $12.42 becomes $12.40.

As with all currencies, the Australian dollar exchange rate can vary over short periods of time. You can find the current exchange rate at www.xe.com

**Accommodation & Estimated Costs**

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<th>Temporary Accommodation</th>
<th>AU$100 – 200/night</th>
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<td>Temporary hotel or hostel accommodation.</td>
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**Homestay**

- AU$180 – 300/week
- This involves living with a family. The cost generally includes some meals.

**Hostels and Guest Houses**

- AU$140 – 200/week
- Students share bathroom and kitchen facilities.

**Share Accommodation**

- AU$100 – 200/week
- Accommodation where one or more people share a house or flat.

**Rental Accommodation**

- AU$250 – 500/week
- As with share accommodation, units, flats, single bed sitters and even houses, are available through real estate agents. These are normally unfurnished. One month’s rent in advance may be charged plus a security bond (equal to one month’s rent) prior to signing a lease agreement.

**The Student Village**

- AU$168 – 210/week
- Located in Maribyrnong, 9km from the centre of Melbourne and provides accommodation for over 500 tertiary students. www.vu.edu.au/facilities-and-services/housing-services/student-village

**Alternative Evidence of English Proficiency**

Students who have completed an Australian EAP course may qualify for admission to PSC without sitting an international English language test.

PSC has a key partnership with the well-known Holmes English Language Centres.

Features of this pathway include:

- Streamlined application process: students only need to apply once;
- No need to re-sit the IELTS test after completing English studies;
- Holmes has centres in: Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Brisbane and Cairns

**About Holmes English Language Centres**

The Holmes Institute story began in 1963 with the establishment of a commercial college in Melbourne Australia. In 1986 Holmes established one of Victoria’s first accredited private English Language centres and has since expanded its national campus network to include Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Cairns. For over forty years, Holmes has had an enviable reputation as a quality education provider, being 100% Australian owned and maintaining since 1988 an unchanged senior management team.

Visit www.holmes.edu.au (CRICOS 00067C)

Info@holmes.edu.au

Phone: +61 03 96622055

Please contact PSC for more information.
Checklist for International Students

Once you have received an Offer of a Place for the Advanced Diploma of Photography course at PSC and you have completed your enrolment and received your eCoE you will apply for a student visa at your nearest diplomatic mission – as noted on your eCoE. In preparation for coming to Australia, here are some important things to consider:

Before leaving home:
- Apply for a passport
- Arrange a student visa
- Arrange for any immunisations and medications from my doctor
- Apply for a credit card and or arrange sufficient funds
- Confirm overseas access to your fund with your bank
- Make travel arrangements and advise the PSC Communications & Students Officer
- Arrange travel insurance
- Get information on accommodation and discuss with the PSC Communications & Students Officer
- Arrange transport from Melbourne airport to accommodation
- Ensure sufficient funds for taxi, bus or phone in case of emergency

Important documents to pack
- Passport
- Letter of offer and electronic confirmation of enrolment (eCoE)
- Travel insurance policy
- ID cards, drivers’ license, birth certificate (or copy)
*Make sure you leave the originals or copies of these documents in a safe place in your home country in case of loss.

Arranging Travel
You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Australia. It is advisable that you arrive in Melbourne at least 1-2 weeks before classes commence so that you have time to settle in and find suitable accommodation. Remember to check with your airline on the baggage allowance that your ticket allows.

Some suggestions of what to bring with you
To make sure you are fully aware of what you can and cannot bring into Australia, visit www.customs.gov.au and follow the “travellers” link from the main menu. Also be aware of the strict quarantine rules that apply when entering Australia. If you have any doubt about whether your goods are prohibited, then you should declare it on your Incoming Passenger Card. This will be provided to you on the plane. For more information visit www.aqis.gov.au

Melbourne and Australia may have a different climate to what you have experienced so be sure to pack clothing for all weather conditions and seasons. You will be arriving in February which is our final month of summer. Autumn is from March to May, winter June to August, spring from September to November and summer December to February. For more information: www.bom.gov.au.

Other items you may want to bring from home or purchase in Melbourne
- Refer to PSC Expenses other than tuition fees information sheet
- Linen
- Bath towels
- Toiletries
- Photos of friends and family back home
- ipod
- Lap top
- Umbrella
- Australian standard electrical plug or adaptor

On arrival
- Call home and let them know you have arrived safely
- Contact Communications & Students Officer 03 9682 3191 for any assistance with airport pick up and/or accommodation
- Settle into accommodation and purchase required household items and food
- Contact Communications & Students Officer 03 9682 3191 to arrange a time to come into PSC
- At PSC you will be issued with your Student ID Card, your OSHC card, another copy of the PSC International Student Handbook and PSC Student Diary
- Open a bank account
- Arrange a mobile phone account or purchase an Australian sim card
- Attend your international student orientation session

For information about joining groups in your area associated with your home community go to www.multicultural.vic.gov.au
Follow Your Creativity to one of the World’s Most Liveable Cities

Photography Studies College (Melbourne)
65 City Road, Southbank
Vic 3006, Australia
tel +61 3 9682 3191
fax +61 3 9686 1601
info@psc.edu.au
www.psc.edu.au

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