



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE STUDENT HOUSING ADVICE

Now that you have applied to study at the University of Melbourne, you should start thinking about your housing options. As a Study Abroad or Exchange (SAEX) student at the University of Melbourne you will have a variety of housing options:

- Residential Colleges
- RMIT Village
- UniLodges
- Private Housing

## IMPORTANT DATES (SEMESTER ONE 2012)

Housing type	Applications open	Applications close
Residential Colleges	26 September 2011	15 November 2011
	<i>Students informed of outcome from first preference college: end of November</i>	
RMIT Village	26 September 2011	When allocation has been reached
UniLodges	26 September 2011	When allocation has been reached
Private Housing	There are no deadlines for private housing: Students are encouraged to arrive at least one month before Orientation to allow enough time to find suitable accommodation	



RMIT Village: Student Lounge

## RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

There are 12 Residential Colleges at the University of Melbourne. The Residential Colleges offer students a unique experience during their time at the University. Residential Colleges offer and offer a strong community environment. You are provided with meals, academic tutorials, access to intercollegiate sporting, social and cultural events all within a supportive and fun environment. Each College will offer something different and you are encouraged to research your options. Places at Residential Colleges are limited.

For further information on the Residential Colleges visit:

[www.services.unimelb.edu.au/international/saex/longterm.html](http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/international/saex/longterm.html)



Graduate House



St Hilda's College



International House



Janet Clarke Hall



Medley Hall



Newman College



Ormond College



Queen's College



St Mary's College



Trinity College



University College



Whitley College

[www.colleges.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.colleges.unimelb.edu.au)

## RMIT VILLAGE



RMIT Village offers accommodation to students from the University of Melbourne and RMIT University. RMIT Village is only a 5 minute walk from the University of Melbourne and is about the same distance from campus as many of the Residential Colleges.

RMIT Village offers students shared rooms for two students. Each room has a small bathroom and kitchenette. Each side of the room can be partitioned off to give students privacy. Meal plans are not provided and students can either cook for themselves or go out and enjoy some of the enticing food Melbourne has to offer. RMIT Village provides accommodation for 456 students.

RMIT Village provides a unique community environment for residents with excellent facilities and pleasant outdoor areas for dining, relaxation and socialising with friends.

RMIT Village has Student Study and Tutorial Rooms to cater for your study needs, an outdoor heated swimming pool and BBQ area. RMIT Village also offers a large student lounge where you can gather to socialise and exchange ideas. You will also have access to the onsite gymnasium.

RMIT Village offers a Residential Life program involving sporting competitions, movie nights, theme parties, cooking classes, exam technique seminars, community volunteering opportunities and more.

RMIT Village provides a substantial living environment for both local and international students within walking distance of Melbourne's Victoria Markets, the University of Melbourne and the café society of North Carlton and Lygon Street. If you don't want to walk, take a Melbourne tram and enjoy the convenience of being dropped back on your doorstep.

There are staff onsite 24 hours a day with security patrols and Resident Assistants on at night.

## UNILODGES

**UniLodge**

Meridien  
STUDENT LIVING

There are eight different UniLodge properties that offer specialised accommodation packages to Study Abroad and Exchange students. Each property varies, from hostel-type accommodation with shared kitchen and bathrooms to boutique accommodation where students have their own room with a small kitchenette and bathroom. Properties are managed individually. The UniLodges do not offer meal plans. You can cook or sample the varied eating options around Melbourne.

Some of the UniLodges offer communal areas to gather and socialise whilst some of the properties are more suited to students who are looking for somewhere quiet to live. The UniLodges run a combined program called the Community Spirit Program which offers students the chance to join in on excursions around Melbourne with other students from the UniLodges.

Over night the UniLodges have Resident Advisors on and entry to each property is via swipe card access.

## PRIVATE HOUSING



*Enjoying a shared meal with housemates and new friends*

Private housing refers to all of the housing options that are not a Residential College, RMIT Village or one of the UniLodges. These options include homestays, shared apartments and houses, private apartments and other student apartments and hostels. A majority of all domestic students at the University of Melbourne live within the private housing sector.

## CHOOSING YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Different styles of accommodation will suit different types of students.

- If you are looking for somewhere that will provide complete support, pre planned meals and meal times with domestic and international students then one of the Residential Colleges may suit you.
- If you are the type of student who is looking for somewhere that will provide more independence but still provide you with a social domestic and international student community, then RMIT Village may be for you.
- If you are looking for somewhere that you will have independence and a quiet place to live with other International students, then one of the UniLodges may suit you.
- If you are looking to live more in the style of domestic students, then looking into the private housing market for a house to share with other students may be the way to go.

Consider all of your options and the type of experience you are looking for during your time at the University of Melbourne to work out which accommodation style you think will be most suitable. Once you have worked out the best option for you, the next step is applying for your accommodation.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR HOUSING

### Applying to Residential Colleges

Choosing and applying to a Residential College can be a time consuming process. Residential Colleges select students based on a number of different criteria. These criteria may include academic results, awards and prizes received, community involvement including any community volunteering, sporting involvement and cultural involvements. Each Residential College will also select students from a variety of backgrounds to fulfill their diversity requirements. The Residential Colleges *do not* select students on a first come first served basis. Some Colleges have fewer beds allocated to SAEX students and are thus more competitive to gain entrance to.

When choosing which of the Colleges to apply for, read through each Residential College's website carefully and find a College which you feel would be the best fit for you. The Residential Colleges welcome religious diversity. For example, a College may have foundations in Catholicism, but you do not need to be Catholic (or of any religion) to apply to live there. You will not be required to partake in any of the religious services unless you wish to do so.

You are asked to list three Colleges of your preference. Please be aware that many of the Colleges will fill their places with students who have listed them as a first preference. Some Colleges will still have vacancies after the first round of applications and will then look at applications that have listed them as a second or third preference.

When applying for a Residential College, write your application from the point of view of what you can offer the College. Make sure you read the College's mission, vision and values and address what you will do to support these. Colleges may not have these listed directly, so make sure you read the whole website to gain a feel for what values are important to the College. You are encouraged to write individual statements specific to each of the Colleges you list as a preference.

If you have specific questions about a Residential College, feel free to contact them before submitting your application.

**Note:** *Study Abroad and Exchange students cannot apply directly to the Colleges and must apply through International Student Services.*

There is a separate application process specifically for Study Abroad and Exchange students which bypasses the general application process. As a Study Abroad or Exchange student you will not have to apply to the Colleges alongside all of the other students. There are no Residential College application fees for Study Abroad and Exchange students. You will have access to a University of Melbourne staff member who will be able to advise you throughout the application process. Email them at: [saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au)

What to include in your application:

- Your academic transcript
- Your academic references (students from Universitas 21 universities must also submit an academic reference)
- Your statement of purpose that you wrote when applying to the University of Melbourne

- A copy of your passport
- Study plan of proposed subjects
- A cover letter — an introduction of yourself. Include personal and academic interests, why you want to stay in the College and what you can offer (approximately 400 words)
- Optional extra documentation that you wish to submit, such as college specific statements, a resume, personal written references and recommendations or other documentation to support your application

While you will have already submitted some documents to Melbourne Global Mobility when you applied to the University of Melbourne, you should also submit a copy of these documents when you apply for the Residential Colleges. This ensures that your application will be processed as soon as possible. Please attach documents to your application or email documents to: [saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au)

If you submitted original documents when you applied to the University of Melbourne and do not have copies, please inform the University as soon as possible by emailing: [saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au)

You may submit further documents to support your application or change your college preferences up until the Residential College applications close on **15 November 2011** by email: [saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au)

**Note:** *If you wish to apply for a Residential College, apply as soon as you have applied to study at the University of Melbourne. College applications may close before you have received your offer of acceptance to the University of Melbourne.*

Apply online at:

[www.services.unimelb.edu.au/international/saex/longterm.html](http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/international/saex/longterm.html)

*Your student number will be the same as your application number and User ID.*

#### What happens once I submit my application?

You will receive a confirmation notification once you have submitted your application. If any documents are missing, you will receive an email requesting the extra documentation.

**Note:** *It is not possible to submit your application to multiple Colleges at once.*

You will be notified of the outcome of your application from your first preference College within two weeks of the application closing date. If you do not get a place at your first preference College and there are still vacancies at your other preferences, your application will be forwarded to those Colleges in succession. You will be notified of the progress of your application throughout the various stages.

If you are unsuccessful at gaining a place at a Residential College, you will then be notified on how to apply to the off-campus option that you have listed.

Remember that places in Residential Colleges are limited and that entrance is a competitive and selective process. Only about one third of applicants are successful at gaining a place, therefore make your application count. Good luck.

### Applying to RMIT Village

Unlike the Residential Colleges, gaining a place at RMIT Village is not a selective process and operates on a first-come first-served basis. There are a certain number of beds allocated to Melbourne University Study Abroad and Exchange students. Students need to apply directly to RMIT Village via the RMIT Village website: [www.rmitvillage.com.au/the-village/Study-Abroad-and-Exchange.html](http://www.rmitvillage.com.au/the-village/Study-Abroad-and-Exchange.html)

Once your application has been received by RMIT Village, an RMIT Village staff member will contact you with an offer of a place (as long as beds remain) and the process for paying the fees.

Once the designated number of SAEX beds have been allocated, students can request to be placed on a waiting list in case more beds become available.

### Applying to the UniLodges

Similar to RMIT Village, gaining a place at one of the UniLodges is on a first-come first-served basis. There are a certain number of beds allocated to University of Melbourne Study Abroad and Exchange students. Students will need to apply directly to the UniLodge of their choice by emailing the UniLodge and stating that you are a University of Melbourne Study Abroad or Exchange student. Email addresses for each of the UniLodges can be found on the SAEX housing page:

[www.services.unimelb.edu.au/international/saex/longterm.html](http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/international/saex/longterm.html)

If you want to know more about a specific UniLodge or are wondering which one may best suit you, then please email [saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:saex-housing@unimelb.edu.au).

### Applying for Private Housing

If you wish to look into the private housing market, then a good place to begin researching your housing options is on our Student Housing Services website:

<http://cms.unimelb.edu.au/student-services/housing>

The website also provides information about factors you should consider before choosing your housing, maps and suburbs, plus a range of tenancy topics to assist you in understanding your legal rights and duties when signing tenancy/lease agreements.

Please be aware that there is a great demand for affordable housing in Melbourne, especially at the beginning of each semester. If you do not arrange your accommodation before arriving in Melbourne then we recommend that you arrive at least one month before Orientation to allow enough time to house-hunt and settle in. If you do this, you will need to book temporary accommodation for when you first arrive. To help you with this, you will find a list of Temporary Accommodation providers under the publications section on our website:

<http://cms.unimelb.edu.au/student-services/housing/publications>

AccomNet is an online housing advertisement service which allows University of Melbourne (or soon to be) students to search for available housing options that suit them. You will need your student identification number to log on to AccomNet. If you have not yet received your student identification number you can enter your reference number from your offer letter. AccomNet can be found at the following page:

<http://cms.unimelb.edu.au/student-services/housing/accomnet>

Please note that the type of housing you are able to secure will depend on how much money you can afford to spend on rent each week. More information about managing your finances and cost of living in Melbourne is available from the University's Student Financial Aid Service: <http://cms.unimelb.edu.au/student-services/financial-aid/home>

Finding suitable accommodation can be a lengthy process. Please make sure you thoroughly examine any lease agreements before committing to it as making amendments can be a difficult process. It is also highly recommended to view any properties and meet potential housemates before signing any leases.

It is always good to arrive early and to research your options to the best of your abilities.

For further information on Private Housing only please email: [housing-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:housing-info@unimelb.edu.au)



*Looking for vacancies at the Housing Service noticeboard*