Advanced Diploma of Photography

International Student Information Guide 2015

Photography Studies College
(Melbourne)
www.psc.edu.au
CRICOS provider no. 00257G
CRICOS course no. 076332G
Welcome to Photography Studies College
Australia’s leading multi award winning photography college!
Study with us and experience excellence......

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.

Advanced Diploma of Photography Course
The Advanced Diploma of Photography is unique to PSC and offers specialisation studies in Commercial Photography, Art Photography and Photojournalism.

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

Multi award winning college – excellence in photography education and training

2014
Winner AIPP National Tertiary Institution of the Year for excellence in photographic education and training
Winner AIPP Victorian Student Photographer of the Year – Marion Abada
Winner Australia’s Top Emerging Advertising Photographer (Capture Magazine) – Graeme Passmore
Winner Australia National Award Sony World Photography Awards – Neville Jones

2013
Winner AIPP National Tertiary Institution of the Year for excellence in photographic education and training
Winner AIPP & ACMP Australian Student Photographer of the Year – Emma McEvoy
Winner AIPP Top Emerging Photographer of the Year – Kimberley Munro

2012
Winner AIPP National Tertiary Institution of the Year for excellence in photographic education and training
Winner ACMP Educational Institution of the Year

2011
Winner AIPP National Tertiary Institution of the Year for excellence in photographic education and training
Winner ACMP Educational Institution of the Year
Runner up AIPP Australian Student Photographer of the year – Kimberley Munro
Winner AIPP Victorian Photography Student of the Year – Kimberley Munro

2010
Winner AIPP Victorian Photography Student of the Year – Deborah Mullins

2009
Winner AIPP National Tertiary Institution of the Year
Winner AIPP Australian Student Photographer of the year
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. A large number of international students live in Melbourne, which has close to 4 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.visitvictoria.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, news and events www.psc.edu.au/blog

Find out more at www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

What does it cost to live in Melbourne?
An international student is required to have access to AU$18,610 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 every day 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.html) 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 8 to 10 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. At PSC we accept a range of English language examination methods.

International students are required to provide evidence that they have achieved ONE of the following levels of English language proficiency:

IELTS (Academic Module): Overall score 5.5 (no band less than 5.0)
TOEFL Internet: Test score 55
Pearson Test of English (PTE): Overall score 42-49 (no section score less than 40)
University of Cambridge – Advanced (CAE): Total score of 47

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.)

Recognition of Prior Learning

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.

Expenses Other than Tuition Fees

In addition to the annual international tuition fees, there are additional essential equipment and material costs – refer to the PSC Expenses Other than Tuition Fees Sheet for details.

Visa application

There are also visa application fees – more information http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/applying-student.pdf

Overseas Student Health Cover

A payment for this cover is required – more information http://www.immi.gov.au/studenthealthcover.

Applying for a Student Visa

Information about applying for a Student Visa for Australia is available from the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection at www.immi.gov.au/students

The Australian Trade Commission website is also very informative at 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.

Working While You Study

Please note that when granted a student visa you will automatically receive permission to work with your visa. You will be entitled to work no more than 20 hours per week once you commence your course of study.

Tinkara Tcrek

From Slovenia
Commercial graduate

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.

International student Tinkara Tcrek awarded the Australian Institute of Professional Photography graduation award for conceptual excellence and photographic innovation.
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. Photography Studies College’s OSHC provider is Medibank Private. For further information go to www.medibankprivate.com.au

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: https://aei.gov.au/Regulatory-Information/Pages/Regulatoryinformation.aspx 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.

In the first week of the course, a comprehensive 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
email: 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
The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has financial requirements that prospective students and their family must meet in order to receive a student visa as follows:
- AU$18,610 a year for the main student
- AU$6,515 a year for the student’s partner
- AU$3,720 a year for the student’s first child
- AU$2,790 a year for every other child
All costs are per year in Australian dollars.

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
The Australian Government provides information and guidance on managing your finances. You can read more at www.moneysmart.gov.au

Accommodation & Estimated Costs
Temporary Accommodation   AU$100 – 200/night
Temporary hotel or hostel accommodation.

Homestay   AU$200 – 300/week
This involves living with a family. The cost generally includes some meals.

Hostels and Guest Houses   AU$150 – 250/week
Students share bathroom and kitchen facilities.

Share Accommodation   AU$100 – 300/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$170 – 250/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

For further information regarding living in Australia costs

Other living expenses
- Groceries and eating out – $80 to $200 per week
- Public transport – $10 to $50 per week
- Gas, electricity – $60 to $100 per week
- Car (after purchase) – $150 to $250 per week
- Phone and Internet – $20 to $50 per week
- Entertainment – $50 to $100 per week

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 an English Language Proficiency 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.
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

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) is a division of
Photography Holdings Pty Ltd
ACN 005 525 306 ABN 98860041097 CRICOS Provider No: 00257G
Version: September 2014

Front cover images clockwise from top left: Steph Doran, Rakuto Makino, Steph Doran, Rakuto Makino
All rights reserved. The content of the guide is copyright material and cannot be reproduced without
the authors, photographers or owners written permission.