

VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION OFFSHORE PROGRAM

Your pathway to the world



www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

Message from our CEO

Thank you for your interest in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Offshore Program – Australia’s leading senior secondary qualification. Students who study the VCE gain the core skills and critical knowledge needed to succeed in today’s competitive employment market and maximise their opportunities for life beyond school.

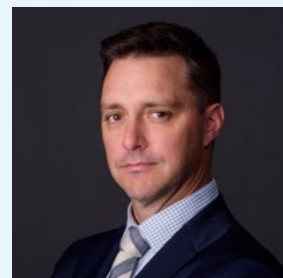
This year marks the 20th anniversary of the VCE Offshore Program, which now boasts over 7000 graduates from across the world including China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Timor-Leste and the Philippines. Each year, approximately 94 per cent of graduates continue their education at Australian universities, demonstrating the program’s high success rate for tertiary pathways to Australia.

A hallmark of our program is the school partnership model, in which an offshore school partners with a Victorian school to deliver the VCE. This model means offshore teachers are supported by practising Victorian

teachers who are tackling the same challenges and working towards the same goals. Working in close partnership throughout the program helps to develop expanded networks and cultural capability for your school, and enhanced expertise and professional practice for your teachers.

I invite you to explore the advantages of the VCE Offshore Program and welcome enquiries from all interested schools and individuals. We look forward to sharing Victoria’s world-class education with your students.

Stephen Gniel
CEO, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)



About the VCE

The VCE is an internationally recognised qualification that can be used to apply to study at universities around Australia and the world. It is the senior secondary qualification undertaken by most students in Years 11 and 12 in Victoria, Australia, and incorporates a range of subjects across the humanities and social sciences, languages, the arts, technology, science and mathematics.

The VCE provides pathways to tertiary education, advanced certificate courses, training opportunities and employment. Students who complete the VCE Offshore Program are eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), which can be used to apply for entrance into all Australian universities.

The school partnership model

The VCE Offshore Program is delivered through a unique partnership model in which offshore schools work directly with Victorian education providers. Your Victorian partner school will provide an induction program and provide ongoing support to your VCE teachers, including provision of support material, school-based assessments and professional development. This model promotes strong relationships, knowledge-sharing and professional development between teachers, ensuring high-quality teaching and learning to help your students achieve their academic goals.

How does it work?

Teachers at a Victorian partner school are appointed as mentors for teachers at your school and together establish a shared vision for success. These assigned mentors and teachers maintain regular contact throughout the program as they plan their learning and teaching program, develop and assess school-based learning, and collaborate on revision for external assessments.

What are the benefits?

The school partnership model gives your teachers the opportunity to develop their professional relationships, increase cultural capability and build their professional practice and expertise by working closely with our highly experienced Victorian VCE teachers.

Delivery of the VCE Offshore Program also contributes to your school's international networks and understanding, and can be complemented through activities such as teacher and student exchange programs and online collaborative learning with Victorian VCE students.



The VCE Offshore Program at Pudong Foreign Languages School (PFLS) has demonstrably enriched our school communities and we are both extremely proud of the academic achievements and university outcomes for our graduates. Transnational programs such as these can be challenging to establish, but the VCE Offshore Program at PFLS has truly blossomed due to the goodwill, collaboration and commitment of both schools.



Jian Guo Zhu (Principal, PFLS, Shanghai) and Stuart Johnston (Principal, Peninsula Grammar, Mount Eliza)

Program delivery options

There are three models of VCE Offshore Program delivery, providing flexible options to suit your school's needs.

1. Completion of Units 1 to 4 over two years in the equivalent of Years 11 and 12.
2. Completion of Units 3 and 4 only in the equivalent of Year 12, with students applying for credit toward Units 1 and 2 on the basis of previous study.
3. Completion of Units 1 and 2 in the equivalent of Year 11 at their local school, before transferring to the Victorian school to complete VCE Units 3 and 4.

You may choose to deliver the VCE alongside your local curriculum, giving your students the best of both worlds.



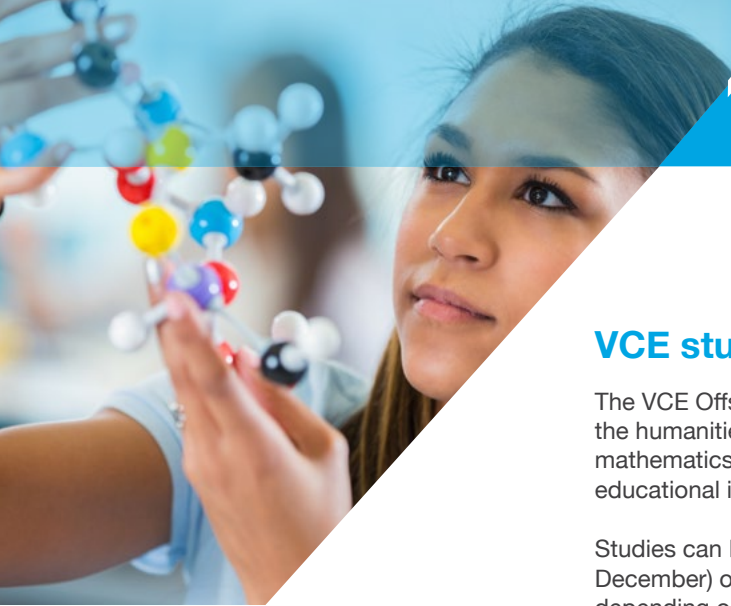
92%

of offshore VCE teachers say that teaching the VCE and working with a Victorian partner school has **developed their teaching practice and expertise.**



94%

say that working with a Victorian mentor has been a valuable experience and **developed their professional practice.**



VCE studies

The VCE Offshore Program includes a selection of core studies from across the humanities and social sciences, languages, the arts, science and mathematics to provide your students a range of choices for their different educational interests and aspirations.

Studies can be delivered on the Victorian academic timetable (February to December) or on the northern hemisphere timetable (September to July), depending on what works best for you and your students.

VCE studies currently offered on the Victorian academic timetable, February–December:

Business and Economics

- Accounting
- Business Management
- Economics

Digital Technologies

- Applied Computing

English

- Bridging English as an Additional Language
- English Language
- English and English as an Additional Language

Health and Physical Education

- Health and Human Development

Humanities

- History

Languages

- Chinese First Language
- French
- Indonesian Second Language
- Japanese Second Language
- Portuguese

Mathematics

- General Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics

Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Psychology

Visual Arts

- Media
- Art Making and Exhibiting
- Visual Communication Design

VCE studies currently offered on the northern hemisphere timetable, September–July:

Business and Economics

- Accounting

English

- Bridging English as an Additional Language
- English and English as an Additional Language

Languages

- Chinese First Language

Mathematics

- General Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics

Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics



Teaching the VCE has expanded my skill set, introduced me to new forms of pedagogy and has challenged me to help my students achieve the best possible outcomes.



Offshore VCE teacher, China (2021)



Assessment

VCE Units 1 and 2 are marked by the participating teachers at your school, with students receiving either S (Satisfactory) or N (Non-Satisfactory).

Units 3 and 4 have three graded assessments. Depending on the study, these may be school-based assessments and/or external assessments.

School-based assessments are set by the teacher and are completed at school. These are marked by the teachers at your school. The VCAA reviews school-based assessments to ensure that all schools are marking to the same standard.

External assessments are set and marked by the VCAA. They are the same for all students taking the same VCE study. External assessments are marked to the same standard by independent assessors who are experts in their area of study. Assessments are checked to make sure that marking is fair.

Exams are held each year in June (northern hemisphere timetable) or October and November (Victorian academic timetable).

Completion of the program

The VCE is awarded to students who successfully complete 16 units of study. The VCE Baccalaureate is an additional form of advanced certification available to high-performing students who choose to undertake both a languages study and a higher level mathematics study as part of their program, and have scores for at least five VCE studies.

Tertiary pathways

The VCE is an internationally recognised qualification with approximately 94 per cent of graduates going on to tertiary studies in Australia each year.

Victoria is one of Australia's top destinations for international students, attracting over 200,000 students each year. Many VCE Offshore Program graduates choose to undertake their tertiary studies in Victoria, drawn by our state's exceptional educational offering, high employment rates, high standards of living and one of the most culturally diverse populations in the world.

Known nationally as the Education State, Victoria has:

- six out of ten Victorian universities appearing in QS World University Rankings
- broad research expertise including two Group of Eight universities and 109 disciplines rated as 'above world standard' in the Excellence in Research Australia rankings
- a capital city, Melbourne, rated as the best student city in Australia and one of the best student cities globally by QS Best Student Cities 2022.

Source: [Study Melbourne](#)



Frequently asked questions

How do I participate?

To participate, an offshore school enters into a partnership agreement with a Victorian school that is licensed by the VCAA to deliver the VCE Offshore Program. You can liaise directly with your chosen Victorian school or contact the VCAA for further information about participating Victorian schools.

Is my school eligible?

Schools that can demonstrate sufficient student demand, appropriate staffing levels, adequate facilities and clearance of any local government permissions are eligible to participate in the VCE Offshore Program. Your school will need to provide facilities including information technology for staff and students, fully equipped science and language classrooms, and a library of English-language reading materials. Your Victorian partner school can assist you in marketing and promotion, as well as in the establishment and administration of the program, and will provide ongoing support through mentors and program staff.

How much does it cost?

Fee structures are negotiated between the participating offshore school and Victorian partner school. Charges to students must be set at a competitive and sustainable level.

How are the curriculum and assessments designed?

The VCE curriculum structure and assessment arrangements are provided by the VCAA. Classroom delivery is the responsibility of the offshore school, with ongoing support from your Victorian partner school mentors and program staff. School-based assessment tasks will be provided by your Victorian partner school, including design and oversight of pre-VCE preparatory English language program (where appropriate).

Can any student enrol in the program?

You will need to assess the suitability of prospective students before they enrol in the VCE Offshore Program. Academic ability and a strong command of the English language are the two key selection criteria.

Who maintains student records?

Responsibility for student records is shared by your school, your Victorian partner school and the VCAA. Your school will be required to maintain information on all VCE Offshore Program students, including tracking student pathways after their graduation.

Who advises on tertiary pathways for students?

Both partner schools are responsible for ensuring ongoing support for VCE Offshore Program graduates, including providing advice on international tertiary pathways.

Quality assurance

Annual audits of the VCE Offshore Program are conducted by the VCAA to ensure high-quality delivery of the program, and to provide feedback and help build the capability of our international partners.

VCAA staff will travel to participating offshore schools to conduct audits. These visits involve meeting with school staff, inspecting school facilities and observing examinations. The visits also help the VCAA understand how to better support these programs.

A full audit of the VCE Offshore Program takes place every three years, with desktop audits undertaken in interim years.

Find out more

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is a statutory body reporting to the Victorian Minister for Education and responsible for developing and implementing curriculum and assessment for all Victorian schools. Our mission is to provide high-quality curriculum, assessment and reporting to enable world-class learning for life.

We welcome enquiries from educators, schools and education authorities interested in the VCE Offshore Program.

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Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) International delivery






The VCE is delivered to:

 **26** schools internationally and interstate in Australia

In **partnership** with:

 **5** Victorian schools

Benefits to schools:

-  Internationalises schools
-  Develops **cultural capability** and personal relationships
-  Builds **professional practice** and expertise in VCE studies



International Education Association of Australia 2020 
Excellence Award winner for Best Practice in International Education



7843

graduates* with pathways to:

87%

Australian universities**

72% to Group of Eight universities***



30+

universities internationally



Including universities ranked in the **Top 50 QS World University Rankings**



* Since 2000

** Based on 2022 Data

*** Australia's leading research-intensive universities

