Victoria, Australia, is a great place to live and study. Every year, international students graduate successfully from Victorian government schools and progress to significant academic achievements and careers. We are very proud of the experiences that our alumni have in our schools and the success that they now enjoy. We would like to introduce you to some of our alumni and their stories.

**SHERRY XIE**
**VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL GRADUATE - 2008**

**BORN:** Shanghai, China

**CURRENTLY LIVES IN:** Melbourne, Australia

**VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ENTER SCORE:** 98

**UNIVERSITY:** University of Melbourne – Bachelor of Commerce

**CAREER:** Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

The reason I choose Melbourne as my study destination was because it is a city with wonderful weather and nice friendly people. My school supported me in a variety of ways, including subject selection to ensure they matched university requirements and providing extra tutorial for my weak subjects during the Victorian Certificate of Education. Victorian government schools offer a variety of subjects to choose from, so each student can attend classes according to their interests. My homestay family took great care of me throughout my high school. They were carefully selected by the school and were responsible for my food, living and all other things. They helped me develop independence and taught me how to communicate with other people. It was a wonderful experience living in a homestay. If you are a person with great dreams, Victoria is a place that will help you realise them.

**ANDREW AN**
**VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL GRADUATE - 2003**

**BORN:** Beijing, China

**CURRENTLY LIVES IN:** Melbourne, Australia

**VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ENTER SCORE:** 97

**UNIVERSITY:** University of Melbourne – Bachelor of Commerce

**CAREER:** Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

During the three years of university study, I worked part time at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria. Once I finished my course, I worked at the Melbourne office of Pricewaterhouse Coopers for three years, mainly focused on IT consulting and Project Management. I was involved in many different areas, such as government, banking and telecommunication. I recently established my own company, iPass Consulting Pty Ltd, specialising in system and software testing, website design and maintenance, overseas study and migration and project management. I am really enjoying running my own business at the moment. This is a great opportunity to do what I really want to do, based on my knowledge and experiences gathered in the last eight years in Australia.
The English language school that I went to before attending my school was an unforgettable experience. We had set goals for the program and the teachers provided amusing activities every day that helped us to think and speak like native English speakers. As universities in Australia have different requirements according to the course, your high school experience plays a very important role. Victorian government schools do an excellent job of guiding international students to find the right place for them in Australia and overseas. University life is incredible, joyful and tough. I have met plenty of friends and mentors in my classes and lectures. University in Victoria has provided many opportunities for me – scientific research assistance, laboratory assistance, social event organiser/manager and school project committee. My goal of becoming a pathologist becomes more likely every day as I extend my life experience and educational skills in Melbourne.

I chose to study in Melbourne due to its good global reputation for quality education. The most memorable period of time for me when I studied at my school was the Victorian Certificate of Education exam period. Our international student coordinator supervised us every day to ensure we studied hard and achieved a good score. After I graduated from Melbourne University, I worked for Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Melbourne for approximately two years. During that period, I really felt that I was an important person in Australian society, and the lifestyle and work experience made me really enjoy staying in Melbourne. I came back to China last year for a job transfer. I think the skills that I learned in Australia and the experience gained, in both work and life, have made me more confident to now live and work in China. I thank the Victorian Government for providing me with this high-quality education enabling me to ensure the success of my future career.
JESSICA YAN
VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL GRADUATE - 2005

BORN: Xinjiang, China
CURRENTLY LIVES IN: Sydney, Australia
VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ENTER SCORE: 99.55
UNIVERSITY: University of Melbourne – Bachelor of Economics and Commerce (Actuarial Studies)
CAREER: Allianz Insurance - Sydney

The reason I chose to study in Melbourne was because of its great environment and excellent education system. Studying at my school gave me the opportunity to choose my favourite subjects, which triggered my incentive to study harder. My school also provided extra English classes and tutorial sessions for me to improve my English and to absorb the knowledge I learned in class. My international coordinator provided me with great care and guidance when it came to the time of choosing universities and courses. My experience of living in Melbourne was unforgettable. The air is clean and the sky is almost always blue. The people are so nice and friendly that even when strangers fall on the streets people will stop and help. I found my job as an analyst in a world-leading insurance company after I graduated from the University of Melbourne. All thanks to the excellent education I received from Victorian government schools. Although I moved to another city for my career, I still miss the great times I had studying and living in Melbourne.

KRISTY YANG
VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL GRADUATE - 2005

BORN: Beijing, China
CURRENTLY LIVES IN: Beijing, China
VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ENTER SCORE: 90
UNIVERSITY: University of Melbourne – Bachelor of Business
Monash University – Master of Risk Management

The most memorable period of time for me was the first few days when I came to Australia. Everyone was so helpful and really cared about my feelings. All my teachers at school and the international student coordinator helped me to quickly settle into this strange study environment and assisted me to find the best homestay to give me a ‘family feeling’. With their care and support, I became familiar with my study and living environment and I began to love Melbourne. My English was not that good when I first came to Australia, but the language learning program helped me to achieve better communication and presentation skills. All the teachers were very patient and responsible for students, therefore, my English improved extremely quickly. Now that I am back in Beijing I feel that my proficient English skills give me a competitive advantage when I apply for jobs. The overseas study experience was really helpful for my future, and I believe everything I learnt from Australia will help me secure a better job.