

## Description of the YTU International Student Community

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Yarra Theological Union (YTU) is very proud of its international flavour among the faculty and our student body. Since its foundation the great work of YTU has been to provide theological formation for seminarians from a variety of religious orders and also for laity. The YTU International Student Community reflects the best of the multi-cultural nature of Australia. Our hope would be that through the many ways our students carry their theological formation and education into their respective homes and ministries, our society might be renewed and transformed. The Student Representative Council (SRC) which is formed each year is a microcosm of the International Student Community at YTU, communicating a spirit of welcome, hospitality and theological reflection – all characteristics typical/ renowned of YTU

The YTU International student community of 2014 is currently made up of forty students from the following countries (in Alphabetical order): Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Singapore, Easter Timor, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, New Zealand, Korea, Burma, Nigeria, Solomon Islands and U.S.A.

The majority of our international students are studying on an Overseas Student visa <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/573.aspx> or Occupational Training Visa <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/442.aspx> Other visa types represented by our International student community include: Special Program Visa <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/416-sp.aspx> and Business Long Stay Visa <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/457.aspx> A handful of students have obtained permanent residency. The majority of our international students are sponsored by Religious Orders which have been part of YTU's history over forty years. These currently include the Divine Word Missionaries, Redemptorists, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Passionist Fathers and Carmelite Friars. There are some lay international students, diocesan clergy and a variety of religious sisters for example: the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, Congregation of the Sisters of the Nativity, and the Lovers of the Holy Cross Sisters.