

Description of the YTU Overseas Student Community

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 Overseas 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 Overseas Student Community at YTU, communicating a spirit of welcome, hospitality and theological reflection – all characteristics typical/ renowned of YTU

The YTU Overseas student community for 2019 is currently made up of students from the following countries: Laos, Ghana, Madagascar, Mexico, Thailand, Samoa, China, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Singapore, East Timor, Malaysia, UK, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines and Korea.

The majority of our Overseas students are studying on an Overseas Student Visa <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>, or Training Visa <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/training-407>.

Other visa types represented by our International student community include: Special Program Visa [https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/416-/Special-Program-visa-\(subclass-416\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/416-/Special-Program-visa-(subclass-416)), and Temporary Activity Visa <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408>

A handful of students have obtained permanent residency. The majority of our overseas students are sponsored by Religious Orders which have been part of YTU's history over forty years. These currently include the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, Divine Word Missionaries, Redemptorists, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Passionist Fathers and Carmelite Friars. There are some lay overseas students, diocesan clergy and a Religious sister from the Lovers of the Holy Cross, Vietnam.