

Melbourne a great university city

Melbourne is ranked the fifth best university city in the world, a new global university city index produced by RMIT has found.

The Index excludes cities with a population less than two million. Other important factors are city livability, the number of global universities and their degree of internationalisation, as well as educational and research criteria.

London ranked number one, followed by Boston, Paris and Tokyo. Sydney was sixth, ahead of a string of cities in the United States. Hong Kong is number 14, Singapore number 17, followed by Seoul, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai.

Drawing on internationally recognised data, the index seeks to define and measure the qualities which make up a great university city. These include livability, scale, the quality of its universities, investment in research and education infrastructure, the

mobility and connectedness of its population. Melbourne scores highly for livability.

RMIT vice-chancellor Professor Margaret Gardner said global university cities are located in countries which also have a high degree of investment in education and research, and a high level of technological literacy and internet use within the population

"It is these factors which combine to make global university cities rich, diverse and intellectually interesting places to live. This is not to say there are not other university cities with similar qualities – but it is this confluence of urban infrastructure, quality of life and education and research which we have sought to capture here – a virtuous circle between people, place and the academy.

"Global university cities are good places to live: they combine factors such as affordability, safety,

access to public transport, and cultural amenity with world class educational facilities," she said.

"This also makes them attractors for knowledge workers – the most globally mobile workforce we've ever seen. Increasingly, human capital is seen as a driver for economic and social wealth – and in a knowledge economy, the quality of our people and their capabilities are increasingly what gives a society a competitive edge.

"Not surprisingly, the top 10 are mostly in the developed world. But what is it that puts Melbourne and Sydney in this august company? Most obviously, it's their liveability, and the quality of their universities. It's also a reflection of the internationalisation of our universities – because Australia was an early entrant into international education, we often forget that we are world leaders in this regard."



Melbourne Model attracts a crowd

An estimated 75,000 people – up from 50,000 last year – attended The University of Melbourne's Open Day last month, reflecting the level of interest in the new Melbourne Model.

"Prospective students, their parents and families, and members of the public all interested in the Melbourne Model began arriving as early as 8.30am and continued in large numbers throughout the day," public relations manager, Shane Cahill, said.

"Information sessions on the

Melbourne Model were filled to capacity while marquees and booths providing information on the New Generation Melbourne Model degrees, career pathways, scholarships, faculties and advice on student life were all well attended throughout the day.

"The large attendance demonstrates the strong interest in the Melbourne Model with visitors coming from across Melbourne and regional Victoria."

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