

Kurnai College

Kurnai College is located in the centre of the picturesque Gippsland region of Victoria. It is a Victorian government school with 1,250 students across 3 campuses. Travelling to Melbourne CBD by car takes about 90 minutes. You can also take V/Line trains to reach Flinders Street Station of Melbourne directly.

Kurnai College offers Year 7–12 courses to students. The school is well-known for its high-level teaching quality, outstanding student management and state-of-art facilities. As the key invested school in Victoria, Kurnai College received a government funding of 21 million Australia dollars to renovate school buildings and facilities. Kurnai College is now one of the most modern schools in Victoria. Currently our Morwell campus is under an 8-million-dollar revamp project, which is due to finish in 2018.

Gippsland is a famous tourist attraction in Australia, with pleasant climate, beautiful and varied landscapes. It offers tourists vast golden beaches and scattered lakes for people to enjoy the sunshine and conduct water sports in the summer. In the winter, the Snow Mountains in Gippsland also provide people with skiing fields and resorts.

The school's senior campus (Year 11&12) is located within Australian Federation University. Kurnai College has established close collaborations with the university in teaching, research and facility sharing, which makes it possible for Kurnai students to interact with university students on a daily basis, and use the library, gym, cafeteria and other facilities offered by Federation University.

Kurnai College is an ideal school for international students to avoid the distractions in big cities and take advantage of the authentic English-speaking environment. In the meantime, the convenient transport to and from Melbourne makes it possible for our international students to explore this multicultural metropolitan city, visit relatives and friends, or interact with other students during the holidays and weekends,

Headed by College Principal Mr Anthony Rodaughan and Senior Campus Principal Mr Geoff Block, the international student support team at Kurnai College includes the International Student Coordinators, Multicultural Aids, and Academic Tutors. They work closely to ensure that the international students are provided with all-around support, including their life and study, interaction with Australian students, and involvement in the local community. The number of international students at Kurnai College is to be kept between 30 and 40 so that we could provide the best possible support for all and each one of them. In recent years, we have welcomed international students from USA, UK, China, Germany, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Malta, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. All these international students have had pleasant and unforgettable experiences during their stay at Kurnai College.

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Principal' s Welcome

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Anthony Rodaughan and I am the College Principal at Kurnai College. I have been the principal here for 10 years and our college is a welcoming place for you to come and learn. I am married to Jenna, my wife and have three children: Alexandra who is at university, Louis who is training to be a builder and Anna my youngest daughter who is 15 years old at Secondary School. We live in Yarram which is about 30 minutes' drive from Kurnai near the coast with our dog Hugo and our cat Lavender. If you come to Kurnai College you will travel to my house for lunch and I will show you and our other new students my home and surrounding area! We live in a beautiful part of the world and I would love to meet you, show you our countryside and help you achieve success in your chosen pathway. Many international students have attended our college and there are many wonderful success stories. I hope your story becomes one of them!

Intensive English Language Course

Kurnai College is one the 10 Victorian government secondary schools which operate their own English language centres. This means that international students can enter high school directly after they finish the Intensive English Language Course, without needing to change schools and homestay families. It helps students to establish stable and harmonious relationships with homestay and local Australian students, to reduce the impact of "culture shock", and to adapt to Australian lifestyles more easily.

The Intensive English Language Course is taught by professional and experienced EAL (English as an Additional Language) teachers. It is designed to enhance international students' English language skills after their initial arrival in Australia. The teachers understand the difficulties faced by international student when learning English as an additional language, as well as the impact of culture differences on them in a new language environment. Through participation in lively and interesting classroom teaching, various extra-curricular activities, and purposefully arranged excursions, international students are expected to achieve the level of English required to study in high school course, and attain understanding of Australia' s culture and environment.

Meanwhile, Kurnai College' s English Language Centre runs an "English Follow-up Program" which establishes close communication between language centre teachers and students' high school subject teachers, to follow up their study progress. If a student' s English is still the weak, further support will be arranged by the English Language Centre, including extra EAL lessons and one-on-one tutoring.

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Support and Care for International Students

It is proved that the success of our international students not only relies on the high-quality education they receive at school, but more importantly the all-around support and assistance provided by Kurnai College. It includes:

- Melbourne Airport reception by College Campus Principal and/or International Student Coordinators upon students' first arrival in Australia;
- Carefully selected homestay families (no more than 2 students per homestay, and each student has his/her own bedroom);
- Introduction and tours of surrounding areas by International Student Coordinators and/or homestay families;
- Kurnai College and/or homestay families help international with arrangements of bank accounts, public transport, mobile phones, school enrolment and textbooks etc.;
- Kurnai College provides international students with free school uniforms;
- Kurnai College pays VCAA administration fee for international students (\$200-400 per student depending on their subjects);
- Appointment of peers and buddies for international students when they start school, to help international students adapt to new school environment;
- Kurnai College international students' welfare, including homestay, study, daily life and socialising;
- Subject teachers provide extra support and tutoring to international students after school and during school holidays;
- Kurnai College employs multicultural teachers to help international students improve study skills;
- Arrangement of "homework and study groups" during lunch time and after school for international students
- Small English class size for international students (no more than 10 students)
- Close school-parent connections through overseas visit, telephone communication and emails;
- Translation of international students' semester reports to be sent to parents overseas;
- Kurnai College provides support to international students on university application, course selection and part-time jobs, and represents students to communicate with government departments or organisations when it is appropriate to do so;
- Organising and guiding international students to take part in sports activities, excursions, entertainment and social events etc.
- The mobile phones of the Principal and International Student Coordinators are turned on 24x7, in case of emergencies.

At Kurnai College, we understand the joy and stress experienced by international students, as well as the expectations and concerns by their parents. The support team at school, as well as all the teachers and staff members, are willing to accompany, help and support our

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international students to make their stay at Kurnai College an unforgettable experience in their lives.

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Homestay

At Kurnai College, we understand the importance to provide international students with a “home-away-from-home”. Home staying with Australian local families helps international students to explore Australian culture, make new friends, and improve their English. Homestay families also carry the responsibility of monitoring students’ study and welfare out of school hours. They keep close contact with school and report any concerns they may have. For a fee of \$240 per week (2017–2018), homestay families provide all meals, accommodation and other daily necessities. Many international students establish long-lasting friendship and family bond with their homestay, and become lifelong friends even after they finish their study at Kurnai College.

Kurnai College endeavours to select homestay families according to international students and their parents’ preferences in terms of size, background and location. Meanwhile, the college strictly follows the procedures and regulations set by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, including application screening, check of criminal records, and house inspections. To create a more suitable living environment, the school arranges no more than two students per family and most of the times they come from different language backgrounds.

After the international students are settled in the homestay families, the International Student Coordinators keep regular contact with the families, to make sure students are well looked after and closely monitored.

Subject Selection

Kurnai College Senior Campus offers a wide range of subjects for VCE students to choose from, covering areas of maths, languages, humanities, economics, science, health, art and technologies. Students are able to select the subjects they are interested in or good at, to prepare for their further studies and career development in the future.

VCE subjects available from 2017 to 2018:

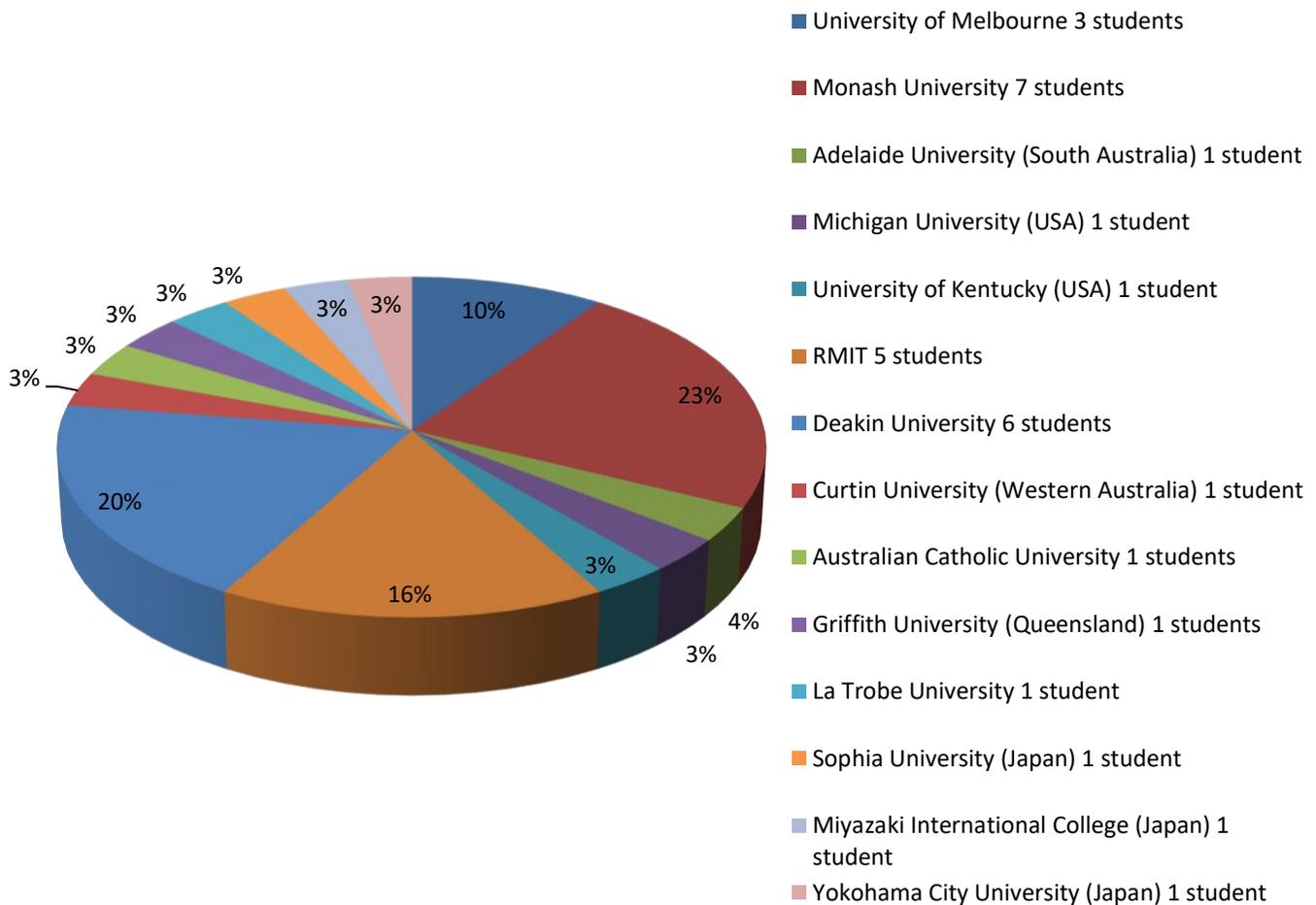
<i>Study Areas</i>	<i>Subjects Available</i>		
Art	Art	Theatre Studies	Media
	Visual Communication	Music Performance	Studio Art
	Music Styles		
Languages	English (First Language)	English Literature	English (Additional Language)
	German	Chinese (Mandarin)	
Humanities	Accounting	Economics	Business Management
	History	Legal Studies	Geography
	Sociology	Politics	
Maths	General Maths	Further Maths	Specialist Maths
	Maths Methods		
Health	Health & Human Development	Physical Education	Outdoor Environmental Studies
Science	Biology	Physics	Chemistry
	Environmental Science	Psychology	
Technology	Food Technology	Design & Technology	Information Technology

In collaboration with Victorian Education Department and Australian Federation University, Kurnai College is accredited to run “University Acceleration Programs”, to allow academically strong students to take a University First Year subject. This program potentially boosts these students’ ATAR scores, and allows for credit transfer when they study related courses at university.

Academic Achievements

In recently year, international students at Kurnai College achieved outstanding results in their VCE exams, with an average ATAR of over 85 (highest possible score is 99.95). From 2009 to 2015, a total of 31 international students graduated from Kurnai College. All of them received university offers (100% enrolment rate), with most admitted by prestigious universities in Australia and other countries (refer to the chart below).

2009-2015 Kurnai College International Students Tertiary Enrolment Rate



What the International Students Say

“I have studied in Kurnai College for nearly 2 years. My hobbies are dancing and playing the piano. The school offers many opportunities for us to display ourselves. In the past two years, I took part in many activities, through which I learnt a lot. Students and teachers in Kurnai College are responsible, friendly and easy-going. We can build up a close relationship with each other. ” (Viola Xu, from China, Year 12)

“This school is so different from all my previous schools. Study here is challenging, but luckily the teachers are very nice - they trust us and try their best to make sure we succeed. Local students are friendly, and I like to mingle with them. There is only one word to describe Kurnai College - Excellent!” (Lydaina Parykali, from Papua New Guinea, graduated in 2015, now doing nursing at Monash University)

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“Kurnai College is more like a family for me. The environment, students and teachers are all very supportive. The courses offered here are also flexible, and very different from China’s school system. Therefore, I am able to choose the subjects I am really interested in, such as legal studies, to boost my future career choices. I’d like to welcome you to be one of us. (Yuxin Li, from China, Year 12, currently applying to study Law at Oxford University in 2016)

“I have been in Kurnai College for 9 months. Every Wednesday I play soccer with international students, through which I have made quite a lot of interesting friends. The teachers here care about our progress. They sometimes sacrifice their lunch time to help us with our work. I love Kurnai College, as it offers indefinite opportunities for my future.” (Francois Zerafa, from Malta, graduated in 2015, now a student in RMIT)

“All teachers and students at Kurnai College are super friendly, unlike students in Japan who are mostly shy. We can study in a great environment with great teachers and students. There is even a free after-school tutoring system to provide international students with extra. (Yuto Sanada, from Japan, Year 12)

“At Kurnai College, students are passionate to fight for their dreams here. It’s lucky we are located within Federation University, and I often study in the university library, with university students. I feel like I’m one of them. International students are well looked after here. We celebrate traditional festivals of different countries, and school even pays to have Chinese food delivered to us every Thursday. I’ll cherish the rest of my time studying at Kurnai College. (Pengzuo Jiang, from China, Year 11)

More Information

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