

Media Release

The Hon Philip Dalidakis MLC

Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy
Minister for Small Business



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RECOGNISING VICTORIA'S BEST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Andrews Labor Government has celebrated Victoria's best and brightest international students at the annual Victorian International Education Awards in Melbourne.

Seven students from seven different countries were presented with awards including the prestigious Premier's Award which is worth \$10,000.

Now in its fifth year, the awards recognise the outstanding accomplishments of the people and institutions that make up Victoria's thriving international education sector.

Minister for Trade and Investment Philip Dalidakis presented the awards to the student award winners – all of whom have demonstrated potential to become leaders in their fields.

The International Student of the Year Award – Regional and the Premier's Award both went to Chi Le from Vietnam who is currently studying at La Trobe University's Albury Wodonga campus.

Chi was recognised for her involvement in the community, ability to demonstrate the value of studying in regional Victoria and using her skills to respond positively to challenges.

Award winners received a scholarship of \$10,000 to put towards their studies at a Victorian educational institution – the recipient of the Premier's Award received an additional \$10,000 towards their studies.

Award recipients go on to become ambassadors for the Government's Study Melbourne initiative, which promotes Victoria as a leading study destination.

Record numbers of international students are choosing to study in Victoria and education is now the state's largest services export. There are currently more than 175,000 international students studying in the state.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Trade and Investment Philip Dalidakis

"Congratulations to this year's recipients on their accomplishments. They are a great example of the talent and diversity within our local & international student ranks."

"These awards acknowledge and focus on the invaluable contribution our international students make to our state, educational institutions and local communities."

2017 Victorian International Education Award winners

International Student of the Year – English Language Training

Natalia Eugenia Palacio Vásquez – Columbia

Impact English

International Student of the Year – Vocation Education and Training

Samuel Shedrack Chukwuweonu – Nigeria

Chisholm Institute of TAFE

International Student of the Year – Higher Education

Su Htet Zaw – Myanmar

La Trobe University

International Student of the Year – Research

Wing Yang Chan - China

University of Melbourne

International Student of the Year – Regional

Chi Le – Vietnam

La Trobe University

International Alumnus of the Year

Bartłomiej Kolodziejczyk – Poland

Monash University

Victorian Student of the Year – Internationalisation

Courtney Webster - Australia

Victoria University

Premier's Award – International Student of the Year

Chi Le – Vietnam

La Trobe University