

Top ranking prestige for University of Melbourne

A new international ranking of universities has shed some light for Indian students on Australia's position on the world stage – ranking the University of Melbourne at number 22 on an international scale.

The Times Higher Education Supplement world wide ranking of the top 200 universities placed the University of Melbourne at number 22.

Thangabharathi Murgesan is studying a Masters in Business Information Technology (MBIT) through the Economics and Commerce Faculty. He said he chose to study at the University because of its reputation.

"The University of Melbourne is one of the most prestigious universities in the world. I am doing my MBIT which will provide me with great exposure to business and IT skills," he said.

Radha Krishnam Raju Mantena is enrolled in a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology with the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, looking



New students: Swaroop Kumar, Gajanan Behere, Thangabharathi Murgesan and Radha Krishnam Raju Mantena will complete their postgraduate degrees at the University of Melbourne. Photo: Michael Silver

'one of the most prestigious universities'

at *Salmonella typhi* bacteria, which causes typhoid and gastroenteritis. According to Raju, "These are also severe diseases in India. I selected this lab where I can contribute towards finding molecular targets against this organism." For the past three years he has been working at India's Shantha Biotechnics Pty Ltd.

Gajanan Behere arrived in Melbourne to begin a PhD in Genetics through the

University's Faculty of Science. "I am studying one of the most notorious insect pests of the cotton industry in India. I have found this University to be very good in terms of research facilities and employment prospects after the completion of the course," he said.

Swaroop Kumar is in Melbourne for one year, to complete his Masters in Telecommunications in the Faculty of Engineering.

"I had some contacts in Australia who recommended the University of Melbourne as the best place to study," he said.

Indian-Australian researcher creating a virtual world

A University of Melbourne researcher is leading an international effort to create a virtual computer world where universities, hospitals and businesses can share and exchange resources despite being many kilometres apart.

Dr Rajkumar Buyya, who completed his Bachelor of Engineering and Masters at Mysore and Bangalore Universities, is director of the University of Melbourne's Grid Computing Distributed Systems laboratory and lead researcher in the development of the Gridbus project.

Gridbus has already been involved in a

range of applications from reading brainwaves and early detection of breast cancer to searching for cosmic particles and developing finance portfolio analysis.

"The technology works because different groups can use the Grid to access resources and technologies that would otherwise not be available to them. There is even a Gridbus bank which manages the users account," Dr Buyya said.

Dr Buyya recently visited Anna University's Madras Institute of Technology where the first Indian language interface for Gridbus technology has been developed.

Indian students embrace University of Melbourne Summer School

Senior secondary students from five respected Indian schools visited the University of Melbourne to be part of its December Summer Schools' program.

Students from Cathedral and John Connon School (Mumbai), Vasant Valley School (New Delhi), Shri Ram School (New Delhi), St Mary's School (New Delhi) and the Sishya School (Chennai), attended either the University of Melbourne's Science Summer School or the Creative Thinking Summer School at Trinity College.

Academic challenges

The Indian students joined students from many countries for the annual Summer Schools and enjoyed a busy two weeks, packed with social and cultural activities, and a host of stimulating and carefully planned academic challenges.

Director of the Summer Schools Tom Derham said the two-week school was warmly embraced by all students involved.

"Perhaps the most memorable aspect of the program for many students was the way they all embraced the opportunity to make new friendships with like-minded people from different cultures and backgrounds. It was amazing to see the way 122 students from both the Creative Thinking and Science Summer Schools bonded together as one large family ... it was so difficult for them to part from each other after they had become so close," Tom said.

During their stay, the students were challenged and inspired by the academic programs of both Summer Schools and enjoyed the opportunity to experience many 'off-campus' learning experiences.

"This is probably the world's first Grid technology with a non-English language interface and is a major step forward for taking Grid technology to the common man," Dr Buyya said.

"All over the world, governments and industries are recognising the potential of Grid technology. The Australian Government has allocated millions of dollars for a special Grid research initiative, while in India the government has funded a project to develop National Grid Infrastructure that connects several supercomputers installed in industries and universities," Dr Buyya said.