

*UMSU Southbank
Guide to Student Life*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

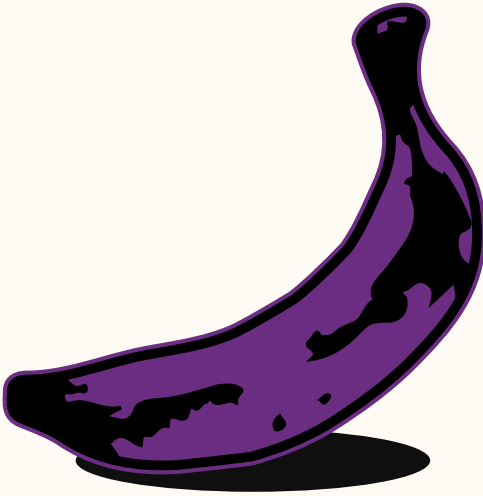
UMSU Southbank respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung People of the Kulin Nations, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we learn. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all First Nations Australians. Sovereignty was never ceded.

To learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and knowledge, feel free to contact:

- The UMSU Indigenous department:
umsu.unimelb.edu.au/indigenous
- The Murrup Barak Institute:
murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au

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INTRO TO UMSU SOUTHBANK

Welcome to our Guide to Student Life!

While we may not have the answer to life's deepest questions, we do have some handy tips on how to find free food on campus, access to free health services, awesome events to make friends and collaborate, and collectives and campaigns to take a stand and get involved.

In short, UMSU Southbank is here for you!

We're so excited to get to meet you throughout the year. 😊

Love,

Alex, Jack, Nina and Xiaole

WHAT IS UMSU (UMSEW? UMZOOOO?)

Well, I'm glad you asked! UMSU is the Student Union of the University of Melbourne. We're all about making uni more than just walking in and out of lecture halls. We're made up of students, for students. We organise fun social events throughout the year (you might have seen us around SummerFest in our signature purple), provide support, take a stand through collectives and activism, hold the University accountable to student needs, and fight for the issues that matter to you! Getting involved in UMSU means making friends, having a platform to speak up for what you care about, having a strong support network for when things are tough... and getting lots of free food.

UMSU Southbank (us!) is the department that represents our fab campus of Fine Arts and Music Students. The department is made up of four office bearers (OBs) including two Campus Coordinators, an Education Officer, and an Activities Officer, as well as a committee of seven.

We are here to support students in every way we can, but we are by no means all of UMSU! Our fellow departments; Clubs & Societies, Creative Arts, Disabilities, Education, Environment, Indigenous, Media, People of Colour (POC), Queer, UMSU International, Women's and Welfare are all looking out for you too! Getting involved in UMSU means you'll be hearing about all the fun events and opportunities from every one of these departments. Think of us as your big UMSU family. ❤️

If you haven't already, sign up to be a member! (It's free).

All you have to do is scribble your name and contact details on this cheeky online form:
umsu.unimelb.edu.au/about/umsu/become-a-member
(Google 'UMSU membership').

Did we mention the free food? 🍷

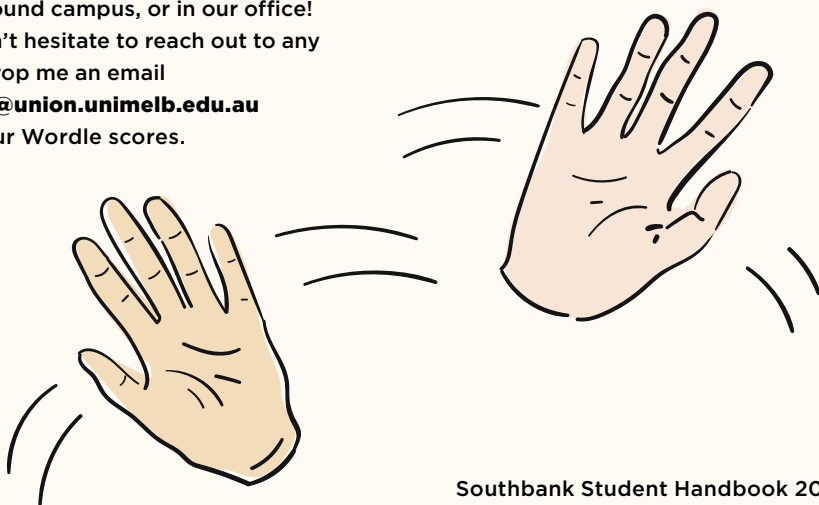
SOUTHBANK OFFICE BEARER INTROS

Hey hey! I'm Xiaole (she/her), a third year Composition major and the Southbank Education Officer. I'm so excited to get to know you all and see the amazing art that you make during your time at Southbank. Feel free to drop me a message at **zhan.x@union.unimelb.edu.au** if you have any questions/issues concerning your courses. I'm here to help you feel supported in your studies and point you in the right direction if you need extra help! You'll see me around at our many awesome UMSU Southbank events we have planned for the year. 😊

Hi! I'm Jack (He/Him), and I'm in my second year studying Jazz piano and am your Southbank Activities officer. I'm looking forward to see you at our social events, around campus, or in our office! Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us, or drop me an email **doughty.j@union.unimelb.edu.au** flexing your Wordle scores.

I'm Alex, a third year Jazz and Improv student studying guitar, and I am your Campus coordinator for UMSU Southbank. If you need to contact me my email is **alex.birch@union.unimelb.edu.au**

Hi! I'm Nina (she/they), a second year Theatre student and UMSU Southbank Campus co-coordinator! I'm so excited to meet and chat with you and help students to fight for what matters to them. Student unionism has such a rich history at UniMelb and it's so important to have a say in your education, so do reach out if you have any questions, issues, ideas or just want to get involved and aren't sure where to start! My email is **n.mountford@union.unimelb.edu.au**



COMMITTEE INTROS

We are also made up of an awesome committee who we work with to bring our events and ideas to life! Say hi 😊

Elliot Wood (he/they)

3rd Year Music Theatre

I joined the union because I'm passionate about student power and promoting equity for all students across the campus, and I'm super excited at the prospect of interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration! Jacinda Ardern is on my Instagram close friends story. She doesn't follow me or anything, but just in case she happens upon my Instagram, she'll get some great content. You never know.

Jenny Le (she/her)

3rd Year Design and Production

I am passionate about creating a strong sense of community and support for all students at Southbank. I'm always up for a chat about anything from my latest knitting project to your favourite lunch spot on campus!

Zodie Bolic (she/her)

2nd Year Dance

I'm excited for a truly fabulous return to campus in 2022, while making sure all students across all disciplines can access the support they need! I once won a year's supply of Tim Tams.

Taylor White (she/her)

2nd Year Dance

I'm part of the union because I believe the most effective change for students is created by the students themselves. I want to help everyone feel interconnected after the very disconnected years we've just had.

Purnima Padmanabhan (she/her)

Screenwriting

I'd love to see some more interdisciplinary collaboration between the varying art communities. I've recently gotten more into gardening because it gives me serotonin.

Sam Blunn (she/her)

2nd Year Theatre

I'm very excited to bring everyone back to campus in 2022. Let's connect the different cohorts and bring a sense of fun back into our study!

Ikshvak Sobti (he/him)

3rd Year Design and Production

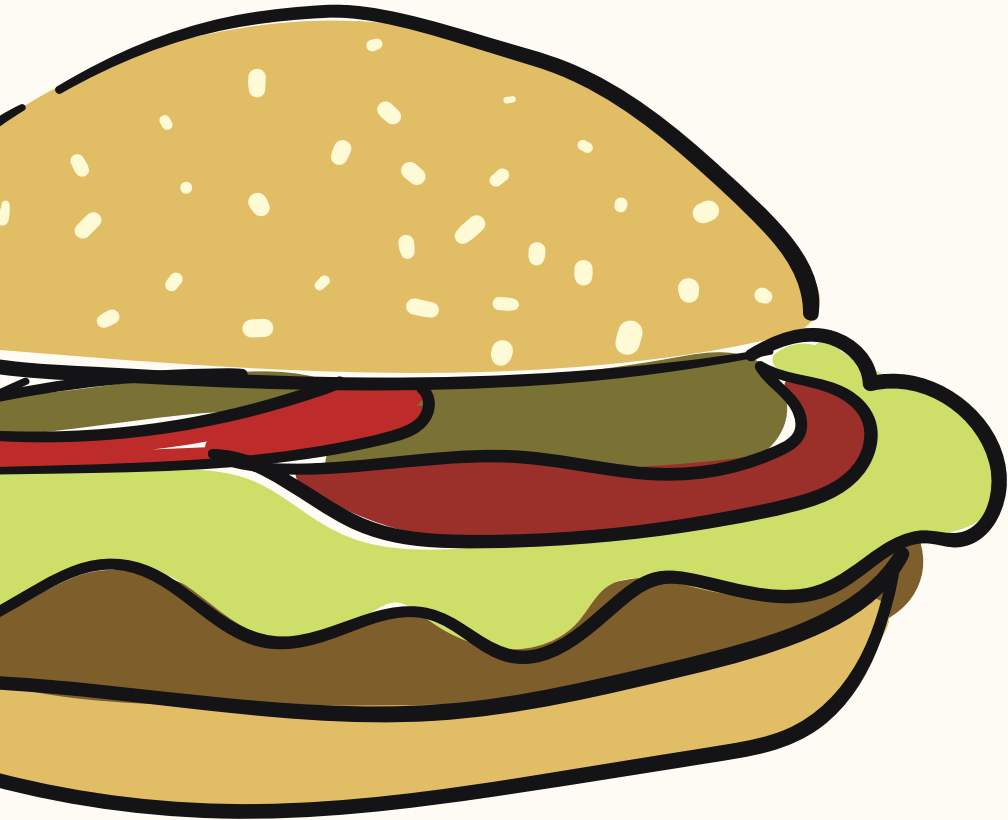
Feel free to chat to me about all things UMSU Southbank! I'm excited for a great year ahead. 😊

GUIDE TO FREE FOOD

There are few things in life more enjoyable than free food. If you know where and when to look on Southbank campus, there are many opportunities for a feed. The most obvious is our Bread Bin, located in the student lounge adjacent to the library. Available here are non-perishable food items and hygiene products for any and all students to take according to need. You can grab a snack, but also feel free to take things home in trying times! The Bread Bin will be periodically restocked throughout the year, so keep an eye out. The food is free; however, you may actually have to cook it yourself, truly an injustice.

For easier eats, we have a fortnightly BBQ in the Wilin Garden with vegan and vegetarian burgers open for all who are willing to wait in line. Additionally, there will be opportunities for 100 \$50 Coles and Woolworths gift vouchers given out to those who apply, keep an eye on our socials for more info! Collectives, our spaces for community action, will also be catered for the first few meetings. So if you are interested in joining the Queer, Women's, POC or Disabilities collectives, sign up!





EVENTS

BBQ

Continuing the tradition of previous years, there will be a fortnightly (vegan) BBQ in the Wilin Garden! This will typically be held on Tuesdays at lunchtime, however keep an eye on our socials and website for updates and reminders! This is a super fun, informal time to meet us, especially if coming into our office or sending an email/dm is a tad intimidating. It's also a great time to hang out with friends and enjoy some free food!

Evening Social Events

Once a month, on the Southbank campus, there'll be an evening social event with snacks, alcohol and entertainment. This will include jam nights/open mics, film screenings, art shows, etc. We all know how busy our weeks studying fine arts can be, with classes every day, it's almost like a full-time job. A nice, relaxed event in the evening every now and then is a super nice way to wind down and enjoy some campus culture, food, or even showcase your art!

Collaboration

With a campus filled with incredible artists, it's a shame we don't get as much opportunity to collaborate as we'd like. This year, UMSU Southbank will be facilitating more opportunities to collaborate with other artists, including live improv, a telephone-style call and response game and networking events where you can meet other artists who would love nothing more than to work on a project with you. If you have any ideas for collaborative, interdisciplinary events/works, please reach out to us and we'll see if we can help actualise it!

Grants

Throughout this year, there'll be many opportunities to apply for grants from UMSU Southbank. Whilst, no, you can't use these on your assignments, we'd really love to help you create more of your own art (that you have the opportunity to showcase at our events if you'd like). So, whether it's a soprano saxophone, a set of paints or some time in a recording studio, we'd love to help you create some awesome art!

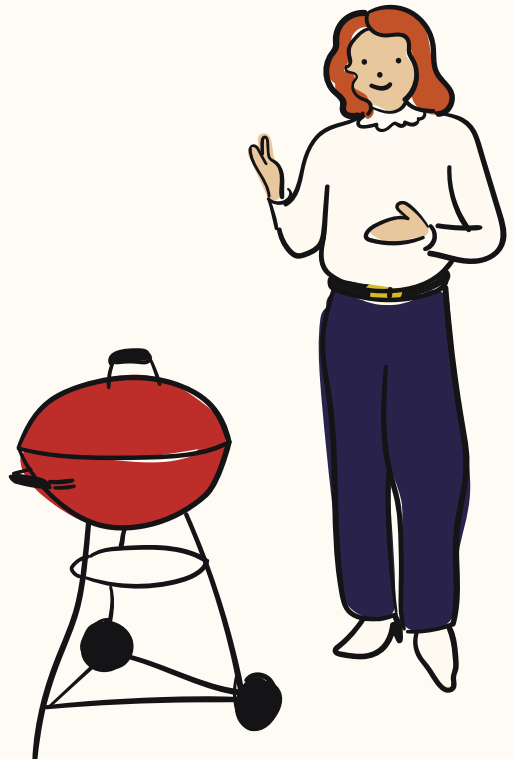


Ball

At the end of second semester, in collaboration with the Music Students Society (MSS) and other on campus clubs and societies, UMSU Southbank will be hosting a ball where you and your friends can finally boogie for the whole campus to see! Whilst dancing is encouraged all the time, this is a fun chance to get dressed up, grab a table with your friends and celebrate a wonderful year at VCA. And hey, you might even get a Unimelb Love Letter written about you. 😊

Industry Talks and Workshops

Keep an eye out for our Town Hall Talks — events which will invite speakers to discuss the big issues in the Arts Industry. Last year involved speakers from the Music Theatre Department, Mmoloki (Milo) Hartill-Batsietswe and Sherry Watson, who discussed POC representation in performance and artmaking. We will also hold workshops to equip you with the skills to get savvy about being a creative out and about in the big bad world, such as last year's 'Know Your Rights' Workshop.



SERVICES

Did you know that being a student at UniMelb means you have access to free services? From free or bulk-billed healthcare, to counselling and psychological support, to essay-writing. Whatever support you need, there are people whose job it is to look after you and make you feel supported during your journey through uni. Google: 'Student Services Directory UniMelb' to see the full range. Also check out the UMSU website (umsu.unimelb.edu.au) and click on 'Support' for access to their Advocacy & Legal services, Welfare, Mentoring, and more. If you are ever lost, visit us upstairs in the UMSU Southbank Office on Level 2 of the Southbank Hub/Library and we will point you in the right direction. 😊



CAPS COUNSELLING

If you are struggling, it's always a good idea to seek professional help — no problem is too small! We get that life can be messy. UniMelb students are entitled to free counselling sessions available via Zoom or both Southbank and Parkville campuses. Seeking help can be a difficult step for anyone, but we promise that it's worth it! Talking to a professional (for free!) who you are able to choose can help everything seem more manageable. CAPS Counsellors (as well as UMSU Advocacy — more on this below) will also be able to guide you through the Special Consideration/Academic Adjustment Plan processes to make sure that your studies aren't disadvantaged by what you are going through.

Appointments can be booked online, however, if the request is considered urgent you book over the phone. Call **(03) 8344 6927**. If you would like some help through the process, give the UMSU Southbank Office a visit! We'll be happy to give you an ear and a hand (and a heart if you need ❤️).

services.unimelb.edu.au/counsel/home

HEALTH SERVICES

Hey you, stop Googling your symptoms!

Feeling woozy? Make an appointment with the free health services offered by the University. The many services offered include vaccinations, general check-ups, dentistry, sexual health checks as well as women's and men's specific health checks. Book an appointment online with a GP to get back to bein' a doozy.

services.unimelb.edu.au/health

The Sexual Health Clinic (**mshc.org.au**) is also an option for more specific health requirements. The clinic accepts walk-ins and is free! They're also queer-friendly and provide free condoms! Sadly, they don't provide pap smears, but will be able to point you in the right direction. As always, give us a visit upstairs if you don't know where to start. We're always here for you.

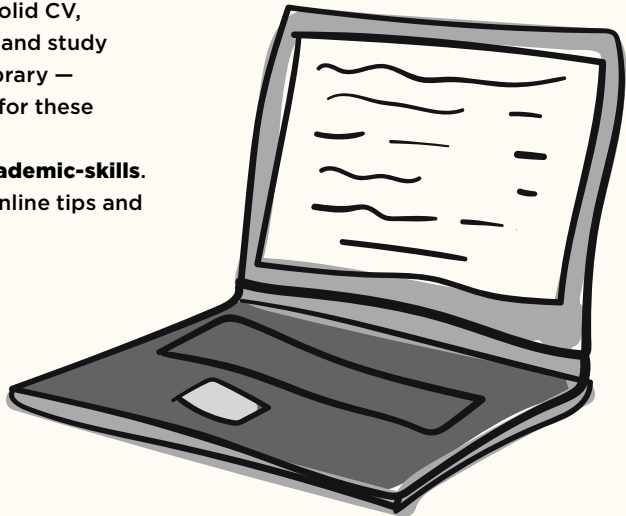


ACADEMIC SUPPORT

If you've been staring at a blinking cursor on a blank page for two hours, give Academic Skills a call and they will help you get that essay up and running! They are there to help you with all the nitty-gritty learning stuff that is scary for anyone when first starting uni (and remains scary for even those who have been at uni for a long time!). As with anything, practice makes perfect.

Maybe all you need is a bit of help to go out there and reach your academic goals!

Academic Skills can also help with grant applications, how to build a solid CV, and hosts regular workshops and study sessions at the Southbank Library — keep an eye on their website for these opportunities:
students.unimelb.edu.au/academic-skills.
You'll also find some handy online tips and modules there!



ADVOCACY AND LEGAL

UMSU Legal is here to advocate for students or equip students with the tools and support to advocate for themselves. You can seek legal advice and advocacy for a range of issues, from trying to get your bond back, to financial counseling, to sexual misconduct. Legal professionals will support you every step of the way and a consultation is completely free and always confidential.

UMSU Advocacy is here to guide you through any issues you have with your studies and the University. If you are too sick to complete your assessments, or completely lost in a complex UniMelb process, get in touch with Umsu Advocacy — they are here to support you.

Find them on the Umsu website

Legal:

umsu.unimelb.edu.au/support/legal

Advocacy:

umsu.unimelb.edu.au/support/advocacy



IGNITELAB

The Faculty of Fine Arts and Music offers free Industry mentoring through IgniteLab. Book a casual meeting to discuss any and all ideas you have for the future and ask all your questions about cracking the arts industry! IgniteLab also offers student grants each year through the Creativity Fund. Submit an application to receive the money you need to make your idea — whether it be a concert, collaborative album, musical education programme or whatever else you dream up — a reality!

mcm.unimelb.edu.au/study/career-development

STOP 1

If you are unsure of the services or support that you will need, Stop 1 is the place to go! They will be able to connect you with the full breadth of university support services. Drop in at **234 St Kilda Rd** (The Hub), Southbank or **757 Swanston Street**, Parkville, or give them a call on **13 MELB (13 6352)**.

students.unimelb.edu.au/student-support/advice-and-help/stop-1

COLLECTIVES & ACTIVISM

Do you want a safe space to discuss your week with a group of like-minded students who really get it? Join a collective! We will be holding autonomous Queer, POC, Disabilities and Women's collectives on Southbank Campus. These are a great way to make friends and feel supported in a group.

We will also be organising campaigns for student issues, as well as wider issues that we encourage students to participate in. UMSU believes uni is a space where students are able to make big changes!



CLUBS ON CAMPUS

Southbank is also the home of two exciting clubs that offer a broad range of social events and activities for members.

Their doors are open to absolutely everyone, so don't feel shy about getting involved. If you have an idea for another Southbank club, please contact UMSU Southbank directly and we can have a chat. The more the merrier! Visit the UMSU website to keep an eye on more clubs that join the Southbank fray.

Production Society

Calling all Production crew, performers, audience... and everyone else: this is a safe space for venting, drinking (or not) and socialising (we like to think that's always yes). So, whether you work backstage, perform onstage, watch the stage or just hang out with people who do, here's your family.

Music Students Society

The Music Students Society runs social events, concerts and networking opportunities for music (and musical) students. We love all music-lovers and music-makers, no matter what you study! Want to join in? Sign up at our next event, contact us at mss.unimelb@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

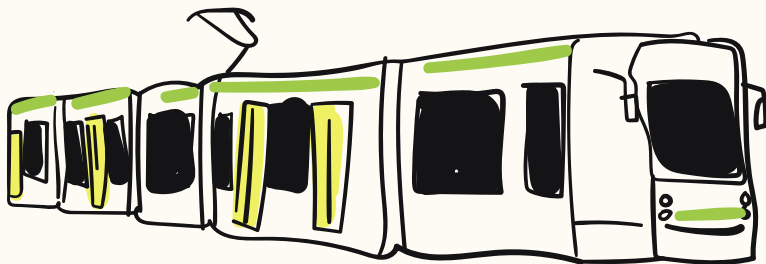
PTV

Public Transport can seem a little complex if you are new to the system. Whether you're from out of town or you haven't applied for a concession card with PTV before, it's good to get on top of the process before the semester starts.

You start by checking your eligibility and filling out an application form from:
ptv.vic.gov.au > How To Apply >

A separate PTV Tertiary ID is required to authorise your concession Myki, but if you have another type of concession card (e.g. Victorian Health Care card), you can just supply that. You must submit your application in person at any of the locations listed on the application form.

International students are eligible for a 50% discount on an annual iUSEPass. If you're having trouble as an international student, you can always contact UMSU International through their website:
umsu.unimelb.edu.au/international.



AFFORDABLE COFFEE

Most students who start their courses at the University of Melbourne find the coffee around campus too delicious to resist, but on a student budget, sometimes the barista-made honeymoon can be over soon.

Café Godot, located in the Artists' Guild Precinct on Sturt Street, offer a \$4.00 coffee for VCA/MCM Students. Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) has a reasonably priced coffee cart beyond its ominous triangular door (Monday to Friday 8.30am–2.00pm). When you are scraping the barrel, nothing beats a \$2.50 bean juice from the Sturt Street IGA — just a few doors down from the Malthouse Theatre.



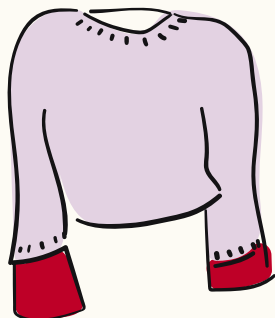
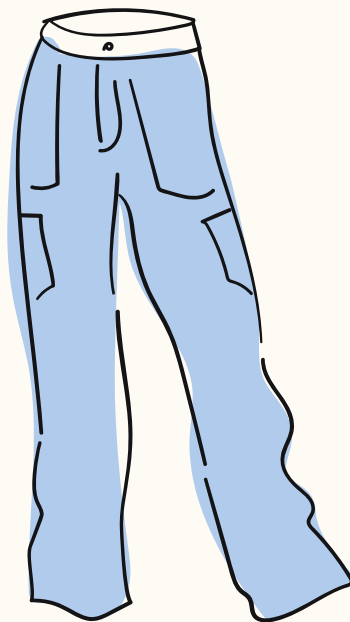
CHEAP CLOTHES

For second-hand clothes, Southbank's options are sadly few and far between.

There are a few op shops on Clarendon Street in South Melbourne, but they tend to be quite pricey.

Most students will send you to the thrifty department store called Savers, located in Brunswick (a trek) and Footscray (another trek). Periodically, both RetroStar and Yesteryear Vintage stores will host Warehouse Sales in Brunswick which are well worth the early rise. They also have stores throughout the inner city that offer a curated Fine Art student's look with a premium.

Union House at Parkville also has a clothes exchange that works much like a street library, situated near the UMSU Enviro Office in Union House, Parkville campus.



OUTDOOR AREAS

Fight the standing vertical norms and stretch out, lay down and chill outside. This campus has a wealth of outdoor spots to connect with people and some sunlight. The quadrangle is the centre for all business when it comes to food trucks and our notorious UMSU BBQ. There is plenty of seating and grass for reclining.

The Royal Botanic Gardens are but a stone's throw from the Elisabeth Murdoch Building on St Kilda Road, and more recently an area simply known as “the grassy knoll” has appeared between the Theatre and Visual Arts buildings on Dodd Street. There is a small reserve and playground along Grant Street and, for the reflective sunset overlooking the Yarra, the rooftop gardens above Hamer Hall are matched only by the less metropolitan view from Birrarung Marr, east of Federation Square.



ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

As students at the Southbank campus, we are very well situated to visit lots of theatres, galleries and swingin' Melbourne bars.

A stone's throw away from the Visual Arts building, Malthouse Theatre offers an impressive season of thought-provoking and entertaining theatre at reasonable prices for students. Melbourne Theatre Company offers a student membership for free shows throughout their season. That massive 'V for Vendetta' concrete prison on St Kilda Road, aka The National Gallery of Victoria, offers an enormous collection of classical and contemporary art; there are free and discounted exhibitions for students. Cinema Nova in Carlton sells \$10 tickets for UniMelb students on Wednesday, and for everyone

on Mondays. The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) often hosts interesting cinema related events and is located in Federation Square with exciting exhibitions, and for the more serious cinephile there is the Melbourne Cinematheque, a weekly showing of interesting films hosted at the Capitol Theatre on Swanston Street.

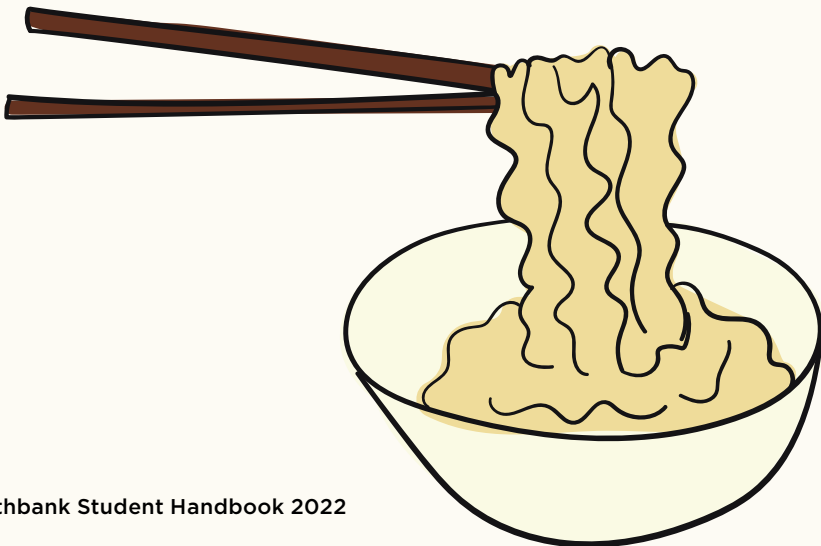
There are so many other avenues to explore arts in the city of Melbourne, so please get in contact with UMSU Southbank so we can share our pooled knowledge with you!



FOOD

Close to campus: Café Godot, Lionel's, and Blondie all offer quick and relatively affordable options. Every fortnight, of course, we have the UMSU Free BBQ. A small adventure into the city presents an outstanding array of options.

Cheap student feeds are the topic of virtuous gossip around the Southbank campus: Ohm's Vegetarian, Gopal's, and Crossways offer vegan/vegetarian banquets for less than ten dollars. Empress of China is a hideaway dumpling spot along Little Collins Street, Chinatown; cheap and tasty.







CONTACT

If you ever feel the need to reach out, don't hesitate! Our offices are located on the top floor of the library and you can find our office hours on the UMSU website, swing by!

IG: [umsu_Southbank](#)

F: [UMSU Southbank](#)

W: umsu.unimelb.edu.au/southbank



southbank

