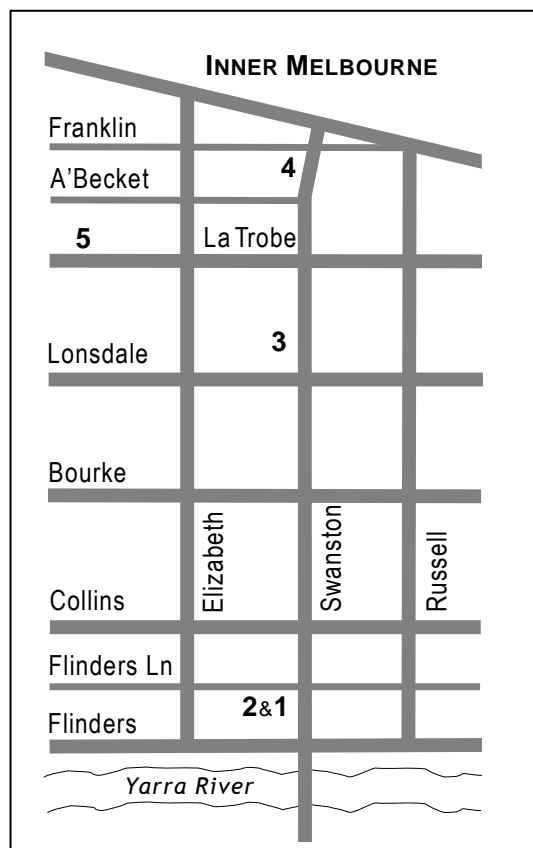


Our office and venues

The U3A City office is in Room 2.19 on Level 2, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne (between Swanston and Elizabeth Streets, next to City Library and CAE). Most of our courses are held in Ross House meeting rooms. A few take place in other venues in the CBD, as shown.



1. Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane
2. City Library/CAE, 253 Flinders Lane
3. Legacy House, 293 Swanston Street
4. RMIT Building 48, 449 Swanston Street
5. Welsh Church Hall, 320 La Trobe Street

Becoming a member

New members are welcome. Membership application forms can be picked up from our office, or printed out from our website (see below). Alternatively, email or ring the office and ask for one to be sent to you, along with a list of courses.

If you're interested in tutoring, phone or email the office with your contact details and our Course Coordinator will respond.

All you need to contact us

Address:

U3A City of Melbourne Inc.
Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Enter Ross House at the street level doorway (next to City Library) and take lift to level 2. The office is Room 2.19 on the left near end of corridor.

Office hours are 10am to 3pm, weekdays.

Telephone: (03) 9639 5209

Email: citymelb@u3a.org.au

Website: www.u3a.org.au.

Find out about other U3As . . .

. . . by visiting the U3A Network-Victoria website at www.vicnet.net.au/~u3avic. U3A Network is the coordinating body for Victorian U3As. For U3As in other states or countries, see www.u3aonline.org.au – where you can also enrol to join courses online.



U3A City of Melbourne Inc. — May 2008

U3A City



U3A City of Melbourne Inc.

What U3A stands for

U3A stands for University of the Third Age. U3A is a worldwide network of learning communities for older, generally retired people. The concept began in France in the 1970s, but now it is worldwide and there are U3A groups (campuses) in many countries.

'Third Age' refers to the later years of life, after work and family responsibilities have lessened. 'University' is an old use of the word, from a time when it meant 'a community of seekers after knowledge'. U3As are built on a common philosophy of older people getting together to teach and learn and share their wisdom, just for the satisfaction that it brings – no qualifications are needed for joining and no certificates or accreditations are awarded.

U3As are created and run entirely by the members and financed mostly by membership fees. Each U3A is independent and autonomous. They choose and run their own courses and activities as decided by a committee elected annually by the members. Membership fees are always low because nobody gets paid.

U3A also stands for volunteering, lifelong learning and social interaction – a very good recipe for positive ageing.

U3A City of Melbourne

U3A City is the oldest in Australia, established in 1985. We are located in Ross House, Flinders Lane, right in Melbourne's CBD, although many members travel in from the suburbs. We are an incorporated association with between 700 and 800 members.

Our members come from many backgrounds, with varied life experiences and a wide range of interests – which are reflected in the choice of courses and other activities available.

Our courses

More than 40 ongoing courses or activity groups run weekly throughout the year, including:

- Languages – French, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, German
- insights into other cultures
- literature, writing, book discussion
- economics, current affairs, philosophy
- music ensemble, choir
- painting, craft, floristry
- chess, mahjong, cryptic crosswords
- wine appreciation
- exercise, relaxation and yoga
- computer use, software applications.

Classes generally last from one to two hours. Some break in school holidays, most do not.

We also provide a program of short courses (of one to 12 sessions) at various times during the year, on diverse subjects.

New courses are added as new tutors appear.

Other activities

Four times a year we hold a luncheon forum– a chance to meet up with fellow members over a sandwich lunch and hear a short talk by an interesting guest speaker.

Organised social activities include visits to famous gardens, National Trust properties, museums, galleries and theatres, and coach trips or river cruises.

City News newsletter

City News is the newsletter of U3A City of Melbourne, published six times a year with information about courses and other activities.

The February-March issue is a key publication with full details of ongoing courses, times and venues.

Subsequent issues advertise short courses and also let you know about vacancies in the ongoing courses.

Applying for course places

Some ongoing courses have devoted students who continue from year to year. To join one of these usually involves some time on a waiting list. Other ongoing courses are easy to join at the beginning of the year, or later as vacancies occur. Members are supplied with a special form on which to apply for ongoing course places. We try to be fair in allocating places between old and new members.

Short courses, on the other hand, are simple to join. Just telephone the office when you see the course advertised in the newsletter. Short courses are filled on a first-come first-served basis. If you miss out, there will often be a repeat of a popular course later in the year.

Volunteering in U3A City

All U3As exist solely through the effort of volunteers, whether as tutors, administrators or committee members.

Many of our tutors are members who have practised or taught their subject professionally for some years before retirement. Others are enthusiasts who are keen to share knowledge gained through their favourite hobby or pastime. Tutors qualify for Honorary Membership of U3A City. However, many of them join as full members, so they can become students in other U3A City courses.

Other volunteers are engaged in organising and staffing the office, to serve the needs of the tutors and members.

Financial, legal and policy matters are handled by a management committee elected annually. The committee meets monthly. Various committee members undertake additional responsibilities such as coordinating courses and tutors, booking classrooms, organising social activities, and producing the newsletter.

Cost of membership*

For 2008, full annual membership costs \$30. Couples at the same address and sharing mail-outs pay \$50 for two. If you are a full member of another U3A, you can be an associate member of U3A City for \$20. But our own full members have priority in class enrolment.

There is no extra charge for joining courses – however, you will be asked to pay costs for attending luncheon forums or social activities.

* *Note that our fees may rise by a small amount from year to year.*
