



City of Newcastle International Student Ambassador Program (ISPA) Program Guidelines



Program Information

The International Student Ambassador Program is a collaborative initiative that brings together international students, recent graduates, education providers, and the local community to enhance the experience of international students living and studying in the Newcastle region.

The program engages current international students aged 18 years or over and recent international graduates (within the past two years) from the University of Newcastle, University of Newcastle College of International Education, and TAFE NSW Newcastle campuses as active partners and representatives within the community. These students and graduates serve as International Student Ambassadors, contributing their lived experience, cultural perspectives, and insights to support settlement, connection, and inclusion.

Through partnership between the City of Newcastle and Study NSW, participating education institutions, and community stakeholders, the program strengthens social cohesion, supports student wellbeing, and ensures international student voices help inform local programs, initiatives, and services. The program also promotes Newcastle as a welcoming, inclusive, and globally connected destination to study, live, and work.

Eligibility

The program aims to engage international students from diverse cultural backgrounds and abilities who are studying at the University of Newcastle, the University of Newcastle College of International Education, or TAFE NSW Newcastle campuses.

To be eligible for the program, you must:

1. Be a current international student studying at the University of Newcastle, University of Newcastle College of International Education or TAFE NSW Newcastle campuses, or a recent graduate (within the past two years) from either institution.
2. Be aged 18 or over.
3. Hold a valid student visa or post-study work visa for the duration of the program.
4. Be able to demonstrate compliance with all visa requirements

5. Be able to demonstrate strong academic standing and a lack of any academic misconduct.
6. Demonstrate an interest in community engagement, leadership or cultural exchange.
7. Be willing to work collaboratively as part of a team.
8. Be available to participate in occasional evening or weekend activities.
9. Be able to provide a reference letter from an employer, teacher, sports coach, mentor, volunteer coordinator, club president, or anyone who can attest to your skills, experience, and suitability for the program.

How to Apply

To apply, first check that you're eligible for the program. Complete an online expression of interest to proceed.

Role Description

The International Student Ambassador role is a voluntary, non-remunerated position that supports international students studying and living across the Newcastle region.

International Student Ambassadors will:

- Commit a minimum of 10 hours per month to the role
- Represent the interests, voices, and experiences of international students across a range of engagement activities and community settings
- Support and connect with international students by sharing knowledge, lived experiences, and culturally diverse perspectives
- Foster a strong sense of belonging, inclusion, and community for international students living and studying in Newcastle
- Assist the International Student Strategy Stakeholder Group to identify, support, and promote events, programs, and activities aligned with its mission
- Participate in events, workshops, activities, and engagement initiatives, including contributing to social media and promotional activities where appropriate

Benefits for Ambassadors

Becoming a Student Ambassador offers a variety of personal and professional development opportunities that can support your growth during and beyond your studies.

As a participant, you may gain the following benefits:

- **Leadership Development:** Build and strengthen your leadership capabilities through hands-on, real-world experience
- **Professional Networking:** Connect with industry professionals, alumni, and peers through dedicated networking and career events
- **Personal Growth:** Increase your confidence, particularly in public speaking, engagement, and networking settings
- **Strong Communication Skills:** Develop and refine communication skills through ambassador activities and community engagement
- **Enhanced Employability:** Add valuable leadership, volunteering, and engagement experience to your resume
- **Professional Photography Opportunity:** Take part in a professional photoshoot for use in promotional and professional materials
- **Event Planning Experience:** Plan and deliver a cultural or community event with guidance and support from an experienced events team
- **Access to Exclusive Events:** Receive complimentary access to selected events for networking, learning, and connection
- **Recognition and Certification:** Receive formal acknowledgement and a certificate of completion upon successfully finishing the Ambassador program