



ISLA 2021-22 Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the International Student Leadership and Ambassador (ISLA) Program?

The International Student Leadership and Ambassador (ISLA) 2021-22 Program aims to increase the positive experience of all international students through training international student ambassadors to actively participate in the city life and build Sydney's reputation as a preferred destination to study.

The ISLA program offers free training, work integrated learning and volunteering opportunities to enhance international student leadership skills and experience, which become transferable to their future careers. Participants also have an opportunity to make new friends, build a local support network and develop a sense of belonging while getting involved in local events and activities.

Why should I join?

ISLA is an award-winning program – it received the NSW Government International Student Community Engagement Award – Business/Government category in 2014 and NSW Youth Work Award in 2018.

You will have an opportunity to participate in a range of free training and work with other international students, government and non-government organisations to make a difference to the community. The program offers you opportunity to network and work with a range of local government staff, community organisations and other local and international student groups.

Our previous ISLA Ambassadors say that participating in the ISLA program helped them find employment, improve their communication skills, and a sense of belonging in Sydney.

Upon successful completion of the ISLA program, you will receive a Certificate of Completion from the City of Sydney, and a reference letter outlining your training history, volunteering records and achievements within the program.

What training will I receive through the ISLA program?

ISLA offers program participants free training on topics including:

- Cultural intelligence
- Indigenous cultural respect
- Event management
- Public speaking
- Leadership skills
- Mental Health Awareness
- City of Sydney and international student services overview

How do I apply?

To become an ISLA Ambassador, you must be eligible for the program. Please refer to the eligibility criteria in the *ISLA 2021-22 Ambassador Position Description*.

If your response to all of the selection criteria is 'yes', and you are able to commit to the program and the attendance requirements from 30 Jan 2021 to 30 June 2022 as outlined in the *ISLA 2021-22 Program Workload and Time Commitments* document, you can proceed to completing the ISLA Application form online.

You must address all of the selection criteria in response to the selection questions in the application form and submit by the due date.

You must submit an up-to-date resume of no more than 2 pages with your application.

How are participants selected?

It will be a competitive process and it will focus on how you address the selection criteria in the online application process, the group project, and the individual interview. Up to 40 participants will be selected to the program.

Eligible applicants will be invited to volunteer on an international student related project. Your tasks will include helping to promote the event through your personal/professional networks and social media prior to the event dates, as well as volunteering with project implementation at the events. You will be assessed on your professionalism, teamwork, communication, leadership skills throughout the event and the effort and effectiveness during promotion.

Commitment is a key factor in selection – the desire and determination to commit to the program, to your own learning and development, to other participants, to making a difference and to the broader community.

The selection process will consider a broad and diverse range of students representing different cultures, education institutions and life experiences.

Is there a fee associated with the application/participation in ISLA?

There is no application or participation fee for the ISLA Program.

Will I be paid to be ISLA Ambassador?

The International Student Ambassador is an honorary and voluntary position and no pay will be offered to ISLA program participants. However, you will receive a variety of free training and networking opportunities.

What is the commitment to the ISLA program?

Over the course of the program you will be expected to attend training, key events and voluntary activities. Please refer to the *ISLA Program Workload and Time Commitments* document for details.

I am not able to attend some of the program orientation meetings and compulsory trainings due to work/study/family commitments. What can I do?

We understand that it is challenging to balance between life commitments. However, to ensure the integrity of the program, you must be able to attend all of the program orientation meetings and compulsory trainings in order to stay in the program as the City's International Student Ambassador. For the rest of the program, the attendance requirement is 80% per stage.

I will graduate from my studies before 30 June 2022. Am I still eligible for the ISLA Program?

You must hold a valid Australian student visa for the duration of the ISLA program from 30 Jan 2021 to 30 June 2022.

How do I find out more?

You can find out more by talking to ISLA Alumni members and the ISLA Program team. There will be two ISLA 2021-22 Program Information Sessions held on Thursday 10 December 2020 (7-8:30pm), Saturday 12 December (10am-11:30am) and Saturday 19 December 2020 (10-11:30am).

You can contact us at isla@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or on 02 9246 7874.

We are more than happy to answer any questions on the phone or by email.