

International student leadership and ambassador program 2023/2024

Questions and answers

What is the international student leadership and ambassador program?

The program aims to increase the positive experience of all international students through training international student ambassadors to actively participate in city life and build Sydney's reputation as a preferred destination to study.

The 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?

It 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 the opportunity to network and work with a range of local government employees, community organisations and other local and international student groups. Our previous international student ambassadors said participating in the program helped them find employment, improve their communication skills, and gave them a sense of belonging in Sydney.

Upon successful completion of the 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 in the program.

What training will I receive through the program?

The program offers participants free training on topics including:

- cultural intelligence
- Aboriginal 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 international student ambassador, you must be eligible for the program. Refer to the essential knowledge, skills and experience criteria in the volunteer position – statement of duties.

If your response to all of the criteria is 'yes', and you are able to commit to the program and the attendance requirements from Wednesday 1 February 2023 to Saturday 3 February 2024 as outlined in the program workload and time commitments document, you can proceed and complete application form online.

You must address all of the selection criteria in response to the selection questions in the application form and submit it 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 participate in 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 before 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 in the program?

There is no application or participation fee.

Will I be paid to be an international student ambassador?

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

What is the commitment required for the program?

Over the course of the program, you will be expected to attend training, key events and volunteer activities. Refer to the program workload and time commitments document for details.

What can I do if I am unable to attend some of the program orientation meetings and compulsory training due to work/study/family commitments?

We understand it is challenging to balance life commitments. However, to ensure the integrity of the program, you must be able to attend all program orientation meetings and compulsory training to remain in the program. For the rest of the program, the attendance requirement is 80% for each stage.

I will graduate from my studies before 1 February 2023. Am I still eligible for the program?

You must hold a valid Australian student visa for the duration of the program from Wednesday 1 February 2023 to Saturday 3 February 2024

How do I find out more?

You can find out more by talking to program alumni members and the program team.

There will be 3 program information sessions held on:

Wednesday 9 November, 7pm to 8:30pm

Saturday 12 November, 10am to 11:30am

Saturday 19 November, 1pm to 2:30pm.

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.

