

International student leadership and ambassador program 2024/25

Program information and guide for applicants



About the program

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

The program offers free training, 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 develop a sense of belonging while getting involved in the design of local events and activities.

The program is accessible, inclusive and flexible. Students can apply all year round, subject to program limits, with 3 different program length options to help students balance study and social life, catering to students with varying availabilities and capabilities. To apply, complete an online expression of interest.

The program gives students opportunities to:

- meet local people from across the world
- get involved in the community
- build a local support network
- grow and build on your learnings and experiences
- enhance your employability
- be a leader
- access volunteering experience
- explore Australian culture
- learn and connect with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures
- have fun and make new friends.

Experience and training

Students participating in the program will benefit from:

- Free membership, training and experience in various fields through social, culture, business and/or environment projects.
- Training in volunteering, strength and personality development, events and project management and other short courses.
- Lots of opportunities to volunteer for and participate in the community, based on your own interest and availability.
- Opportunities to plan, design and produce project(s) in the community.

All students participating in the program will receive:

- Volunteer experience to help you become part of a community and build your social skills.
- Support for your professional career through ongoing training and support.
- A program t-shirt to wear when volunteering.
- Opportunities to take on team leader roles to support and guide peers and manage the planning and implementation of events and projects.
- Certificates of participation to acknowledge your volunteer contributions in activities and contributions to events and projects throughout the year.

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- An invitation to the graduation ceremony at the annual Lord Mayor Welcome for International Students and a Lord Mayor certificate to celebrate your contributions and support of City of Sydney activities and events.
- A reference on request acknowledging your attributes and volunteering contributions to assist you when applying for jobs.
- A rewarding student experience outside your education environment filled with fun and excitement.

Volunteering opportunities

Students participating in the program will have the opportunity to volunteer with these programs and services:

- Sydney Airport Welcome Desk – provide a warm welcome to new international students arriving in Sydney.
- City of Sydney major events and festivals – some of Sydney’s biggest events such as, Sydney Lunar Festival, New Year’s Eve and Christmas in the City.
- Other City of Sydney event programs such as Youth Week, Refugee Week and International Day of People with Disability.
- Lord Mayor Welcome event – welcome new international students to Sydney.
- Sydney Ambassadors – lead a tour to welcome people and highlight locations around Sydney.
- Sydney City Farm – a place to learn new skills about urban agriculture and sustainable food production.
- Street Count – help the City of Sydney monitor progress and responses to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in the local area.
- Vivid get an exclusive behind-the-scenes peek into the inner workings of Australia’s largest event, connect with the local community and make friends with like-minded people.
- Sydney Festival – share your passion for the arts and fresh ideas, make new connections and explore Sydney.
- Sydney Fringe Festival – get involved in Sydney’s creative arts and cultural sector and gain experience in the entertainment industry.
- Other volunteering opportunities including Meals on Wheels, City Spaces/Community Centres and community outreach through Rough Edges, OzHarvest and Communitier.

You can also plan and implement projects based on your interest in social, cultural, business, and/or environment projects. Projects aim to bring people together, raise awareness, strengthen inclusion and continue the City of Sydney’s vision for a green, global and connected city. Example projects may include:

- employment forums
- connecting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures
- cultural diversity celebrations
- social cohesion initiatives
- human rights projects
- environmental sustainability projects such as waste reduction, recycling, food sustainability, climate change and energy savings.

Training

Participating students must attend a series of compulsory training courses that provide an overview of the City of Sydney, including decision-making process, services and programs, key policies and code of conduct. Students will also be offered several free training courses based on program goals and activities and on their length of engagement with the program. They will also learn about relevant support services and programs for international students in the community.

Training courses include:

- volunteering – online and interactive learning covering basic concepts and foundations
- strengths/personality development – improving individual potential and capacities
- event and project management – strengthening skills in planning, executing, and evaluating projects and events
- Aboriginal culture and protocols – increasing knowledge and engagement with Aboriginal people
- Leadership and cultural Intelligence – effectively working in cultural diversity situations and diversity in general.

Students will also have opportunities to attend a variety of optional training offers by the City of Sydney.

Program framework

The program is flexible and students can join for 3 months, 6 months or 12 months. Each time frame includes a combination of induction, training, mentoring, volunteering in the community, tours to City of Sydney spaces and facilities and community support centres, and events/project planning and implementation in the City of Sydney local area. Details are outlined below.

3-month program – Bronze (up to 35 hours)

The program includes:

- induction – introduction to the City of Sydney and local community services
- training – volunteering and strengths/personality development
- volunteering – selection from volunteer program list
- a bronze certificate upon program completion.

6-month program – Silver (up to 95 hours)

The program includes:

- induction – introduction to the City of Sydney and local community services
- training – volunteering, strengths/personality development and event and project management
- tours to City of Sydney community centres, Sydney City Farm and local community services
- volunteering – selection from volunteer program list
- event/project planning and design – up to 3 projects, implementation of a minimum of one project
- silver certificate upon program completion.

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12-month program – Gold (up to 160 hours)

The program includes:

- induction – introduction to the City of Sydney and local community services
- training – volunteering, strengths/personality development, event and project management, Aboriginal culture and protocols and cultural intelligence
- tours to City of Sydney community centres, Sydney City Farm and local community services
- volunteering – selection from volunteer program list
- event/project planning, design and implementation (up to 4 projects)
- gold certificate upon program completion.

If places are still available, students already in the program will have the opportunity to sign up for a further time frame after they complete their original commitment.

Program schedule and expressions of interest

The 2024/25 program key dates and student places are:

Program dates	Expressions of interest open	Student places available
3-month program – late April to July 2024	April 2024	30
3-month program – September to November 2024	August 2024	30
6-month program – September 2024 to February 2025	August 2024	30
12-month program – late April 2024 to March 2025	April 2024	40

Expressions of interest will be accepted until the available places are filled.

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

Eligibility

The program aims to attract students from diverse cultural backgrounds and abilities, and from a wide range of universities and educational institutions.

To be eligible for the program you must:

- Be an international student aged 18 years or over with an active enrolment in a tertiary education institution in Greater Sydney, such as a university, vocational education and training (VET) institute or other education provider.
- Live, study or work in or visit the City of Sydney's [local area](#).

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- Commit to participate for the duration of the 3, 6 or 12-month program selected. This includes attendance at induction sessions, training courses and events/projects in the City of Sydney's [local area](#), as well as volunteering opportunities across Greater Sydney . These may require a certain number of hours per week.
 - Complete the online expression of interest form.
 - Where required, acknowledge and adhere to the City of Sydney volunteer position statement of duties for the international student leadership and ambassador program.
 - Follow relevant City of Sydney policies, procedures and expectations including but not limited to the City of Sydney [Code of Conduct](#) and [Workplace Health and Safety \(WHS\) guidelines](#)
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How to apply

To apply, first check you are eligible for the program. If you are eligible, complete an online expression of interest form and select the program length that best suits you – 3, 6 or 12 months.

Other information

- There are no application or participation fees associated with joining the program.
- No payments will be offered to program participants.

