# International Student Leadership & Ambassador Program

## Summary

The International Student Leadership and Ambassador program was developed by the City of Sydney to engage with the large number of international students living in the City. It encourages international students to participate in the local communities and co-design projects to meet the needs of wider international student communities.

## Opportunity

The City of Sydney currently hosts more than 35,000 international students who study, live, work and visit the City regularly. Through consultation with international students, the City of Sydney identified a range of issues and challenges including a lack of access and awareness of information and services, isolation, workplace exploitation, housing and mental health impacting their wellbeing and integration into the community.

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## Action

In response, the International Student Leadership and Ambassador program was developed. The program seeks to build the leadership and capacity of international students so they can raise these issues, and work in partnership with the City of Sydney and other organisations to develop solutions to improve the health, wellbeing and participation of international students. The program offers free training, work integrated learning and volunteering opportunities to enhance international student leadership skills and experience. Activities over the 18 months include:

- Orientation tours for newly-arrived international students
- International student networking events
- Employment and career panels
- Youth leadership conferences
- A youth music competition and concert

## Achievement

The 2016-18 program saw 32 students from 12 countries complete the program with more than 7,000 hours of volunteer work at local legal and community centres, events and educational institutions. The program was the award winner of the Youth Work Award 2018 in Outstanding Work with Diverse Young people and the International Student Awards 2014- Community Engagement Category.