ISRC

CONFERENCE 2026

International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AS PARTNERS IN AUSTRALIA'S EDUCATION

ISRC 2026 CONFERENCE FULL PROGRAM PACK

Date:

25–26 October 2026

Location:

The University of Sydney, Sydney

ISRC 2026 Conference

Acknowledgement of Country

The International Students Representative Council of Australia (ISRC Australia) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we gather, learn, live and work.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present, and recognise their enduring connection to Country, culture, community and knowledge.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the ISRC Conference 2026 is held at the University of Sydney.

We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded, and acknowledge the ongoing contributions, resilience and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As a national organisation representing international students, we are committed to fostering respect, understanding and solidarity with First Nations peoples, and to supporting a more inclusive and equitable education community.



Conference Overview

The ISRC 2026 Conference is a proposed national, student-led gathering that will bring together international student representatives from universities, VET, English language colleges, and other education providers across Australia. The Conference will provide a structured forum for dialogue, leadership development, and practical exchange on the major systemic issues affecting international students, while strengthening the basis for constructive engagement with government, institutions, regulators, and other sector stakeholders.

Lead and Host

Led by:

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Hosted by:

SUPRA Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Scholarship support:

Pearson

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Delegates and Guests,

On behalf of ISRC, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the ISRC 2026 Conference at the University of Sydney.

In 2019, international student representatives from across Australia gathered in Perth to discuss their shared challenges and aspirations. Seven years later, we meet in Sydney at another important moment for Australian international education.

International students are central to national debates on migration, housing and the future of education. Yet their role in shaping these discussions remains limited. We believe students should be recognised not simply as participants in education, but as partners in the decisions that shape it.

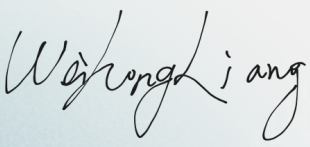
This conviction has guided our own journey. NSW ISRC was established in July 2024 to strengthen cooperation among international student representatives. In October 2025, that initiative grew into ISRC of Australia, a national platform dedicated to independent student representation, collective advocacy and meaningful engagement with government, education providers and the wider community.

This October marks our first anniversary as a national organisation. We gather to connect student leaders across Australia, learn from one another's experiences and identify shared priorities for action. More importantly, we seek to build the relationships and representative capacity needed to sustain this work beyond the conference.

I extend my sincere thanks to SUPRA and SRC at USYD for hosting this conference, and to our member organisations, speakers, partners and volunteers for their contributions. I also thank Pearson for supporting 17 international student representatives to attend through the Pearson Leadership Scholarship.

I look forward to the discussions ahead and to working together to advance our shared priorities.

Yours sincerely,



Weihong Liang
President
ISRC of Australia

Programme themes

01

Fair access and public responsibility

Housing, transport, safety, essential services, and infrastructure.

02

Integrity, transparency, governance and representation

Fee clarity, information quality, complaint pathways, and student voice in decision-making.

03

Student experience and wellbeing as public value

Learning conditions, support services, belonging, and participation.

04

Pathways, contribution and community impact

Transitions to work, skills, research contribution, and broader community participation.

ISRC
CONFERENCE 2026
International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

SUNDAY
25
OCTOBER
2026

ISRC CONFERENCE 2026- DAY 1 SCHEDULE

Seminar Room 203, RD Watt Building (A04), The University of Sydney, Sydney

11:00 - 11:30	**Registration & Welcome** Check-in, pick up your nametags, and enjoy light refreshments
11:30 - 11:45	**Bringing International Student Voice into the National Conversation** Weihong Liang, Education Officer, SUPRA; President, ISRC of Australia
11:45 - 12:00	**Student Research Presentations** Niruban Chakkaravarthy Dhanasekaran, Western Sydney University Siwen Liu, University of Sydney
12:00 - 13:15	**National Student Representatives Workshop** Mapping Priorities and Challenges **Moderator:** Haolong Liao, Treasurer, SUPRA, University of Sydney
13:15 - 13:30	**Assistant Minister Address** The Hon Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs; Assistant Minister for International Education
13:30 - 14:15	**Networking Lunch**
14:15 - 17:25	**Student Action in Practice** Sharing practical cases and lessons from student services, campaigns, community initiatives and research across Australia
	14:15–15:00 Campaigns & Advocacy: From Issues to Change Shamita Sail, Monash University; Vu Ai Vy La, La Trobe University; Ananya Verma, Monash University; Adrian De Luca, We Are Australia Foundation **Moderator:** Yuhao Wei, SUPRA, University of Sydney
	15:00–15:45 Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion Tuhar Nusha Yeasmin, Monash University; Madoka Fujii, Queensland University of Technology; Azala Shah, University of Technology Sydney **Moderator:** Anumanth Ram, Vice President, ISRC Australia
	15:45–15:55 Afternoon Break
	15:55–16:40 Community & Belonging: Student-Led Initiatives Guoqing (Bruce) Pan, Australian National University; Harika Potnuru, RMIT University; Mohammed (Nas) Anas, Victoria University; Baishakhi Shib, Charles Darwin University **Moderator:** Huriye Koclar, Deputy Women's Officer, SUPRA, University of Sydney
	16:40–17:25 Learning, Research & Career Pathways Nadia Jelani, University of New England; Tanya Maithani, Monash University; Alexa Rose, Griffith University **Moderator:** Anqi Wen, Co-HDR Officer, SUPRA, University of Sydney
17:25 - 17:30	**Day 1 Reflection** Reflections, key insights and takeaways
18:30 - 20:30	**Networking Dinner** Join us at Royal Hotel Darlington

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

SUPRA Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

ISRC
CONFERENCE 2026
International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

MONDAY
26
OCTOBER
2026

ISRC CONFERENCE 2026- DAY 2 MORNING SCHEDULE

Refectory, Holme Building, The University of Sydney, Sydney

08:00 - 08:30	**Registration & Welcome** Check-in, pick up your badge, and enjoy light refreshments
08:30 - 08:35	**Opening and Acknowledgement of Country** Weihong Liang, Education Officer, SUPRA; President, ISRC of Australia
08:35 - 08:40	**Conference Opening & Welcome Address** Professor Joanne Wright, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students), University of Sydney
08:40 - 08:45	**Group Photo** Join us for a group photo with delegates and guests
08:45 - 08:55	**SUPRA and SRC Welcome** Yiman Wu, President, SUPRA, University of Sydney Grace Street, President, SRC, University of Sydney
08:55 - 09:00	**Sponsor address – Pearson** Jon Dixon, Business Development Manager, Pearson
09:00 - 10:00	**KEYNOTE 1- Speaking up: Being heard, barriers and belonging** Sarah Bendall, First Assistant Ombudsman, National Student Ombudsman
10:00 - 10:15	**Morning Tea** Morning refreshments and networking
10:15 - 11:15	**KEYNOTE 2- International student voices: Representation, partnership and cultural capital** Professor Kelly Matthews, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning), University of Wollongong Following the keynote, Professor Matthews will join a panel discussion with: Aashish Neupane, Board Director, WSUSU, Western Sydney University Malakai King, General Secretary, ANUSA, Australian National University
11:15 - 12:15	**PANEL 1- Student Voices: How Policy Change Shapes the International Student Experience** Gilbertofer Tanoto, Vice President, CDU Student Council, Charles Darwin University Cheryl Johanna Meeran, International Students' Senate Convenor, UNSA, University of Newcastle Ojaswi Shrestha, President, International Students' Department, UWA Student Guild, University of Western Australia Aryendu Singh, Co-Chair, La Trobe University Student Council, La Trobe University **Moderator**: Qixiu (Jack) Li, General Executive, SRC, University of Sydney

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

SUPRA Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

ISRC CONFERENCE 2026

International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2026

ISRC CONFERENCE 2026- DAY 2 AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

Refectory, Holme Building, The University of Sydney, Sydney

12:15 -13:15	**Networking Lunch** Connect and network with fellow attendees
13:15 - 14:15	**PANEL 2- International Student Policy in Australia: Current Directions and Student Priorities** Professor Gaby Ramia, Professor of Policy and Society, University of Sydney Diana Cozadinos, Acting Assistant Secretary, Australian Government Department of Education Danielle Hartridge, Co-Founder & Principal, IEP Advisory; Member, ISRC of Australia Expert Panel **Moderator**: Seungbin Kang, Education Officer, ISRC of Australia
14:15 - 15:15	**PANEL 3- What if the community was the campus?** Gary Lee OAM, Manager, International Education, City of Melbourne Susana Ng, Senior Social Programs Officer, City of Sydney Türkan Aksoy, Welcoming Cities Coordinator (NSW), Welcoming Australia Abuduhailili Xiamuxinuer, International Student, University of Technology Sydney **Moderator:** Trisnasari Fraser, Welcoming Universities Coordinator, Welcoming Australia
15:15 - 15:30	**Afternoon Tea**
15:30 - 16:30	**Closing Plenary: From Voice to Action: What Needs to Change for International Students?** Ada Choi, President, PGC, University of New South Wales Yiman Wu, President, SUPRA, University of Sydney Anumanth Ram, Vice President, ISRC Australia Fitri Ani, Board Member, GSA, University of Melbourne Jixuan Xia, Board Member, AUSA, Adelaide University Ziyi Zhou, International Student Officer, UQU, University of Queensland Daehyeok Lee, International Student Ambassador, Study Tasmania **Moderator:** Weihong Liang, Education Officer, SUPRA; President, ISRC of Australia

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

SUPRA Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

ISRC
CONFERENCE 2026
International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

Conference Venue

DAY 1 — SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2026

Seminar Room 203, RD Watt Building (A04), Science Road, Camperdown NSW 2050



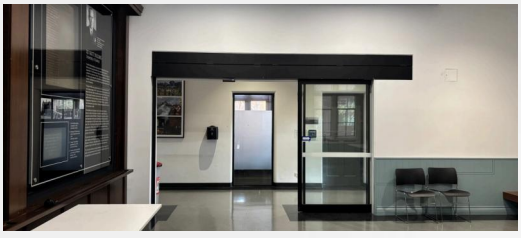
When you see the RD Watt Building, continue walking along the path to the right of the building.



At the intersection, go straight past this sign, then turn left.



This is the entrance to the building. Please enter through the doors shown in the photo.



Please check in at the registration desk here.



This is the Seminar Room 203.

ISRC
CONFERENCE 2026
International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

Conference Venue

DAY 2 — MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2026

Refectory, Holme Building (A09)Science Road, Camperdown NSW 2006, Australia

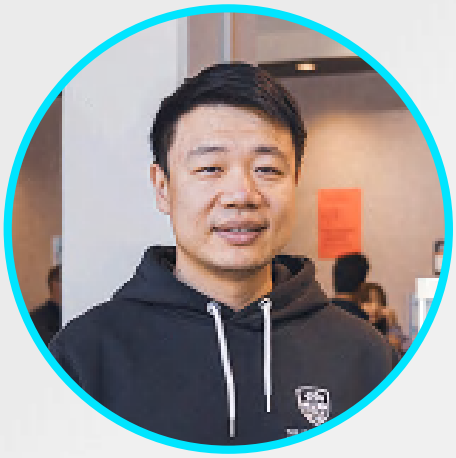
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DAY1

Bringing International Student Voice into the National Conversation



Weihong Liang

Education Officer, SUPRA;
President, ISRC of Australia

Weihong Liang is the National President of the International Students Representative Council of Australia (ISRC), the national peak body for international students. He also serves as the elected Postgraduate Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate and Education Officer of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA). His work focuses on education policy, student advocacy and university governance. He led a campaign for public transport concessions in New South Wales, backed by a petition with more than 21,000 signatures, and played a key role in establishing the University of Sydney's $5 student canteen. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Sydney, researching state–society relations.

DAY1

Student Research Presentations



Niruban Chakkaravarthy Dhanasekaran

PhD Candidate,
Western Sydney University (Hawkesbury Campus)

Niruban Chakkaravarthy Dhanasekaran is a PhD candidate at Western Sydney University, researching water sustainability and governance across the Sydney Basin. He serves as an elected Board Director of the Western Sydney University Student Union and a member of the Graduate Research School Research Studies Committee, advocating for HDR and international students. He is also involved with the International Water Association Young Water Professionals NSW, the Australian Freshwater Science Society, and the Hawkesbury Environmental Network. Over the past two years, he has represented students at the Hawkesbury Campus and contributed to research policy discussions.



Siwen Liu

PhD Candidate in Sociology,
Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies,
University of Sydney

Siwen Liu is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Sydney's Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies. Her PhD is part of Dr Leah Williams Veazey's ARC-funded DECRA project, Future-proofing Australia's Care Economy: A Relational Mobilities Approach. Her research explores the experiences of international healthcare students in Australia, with a particular focus on how education, professional pathways, migration, and broader life aspirations intersect.

DAY1

National Student Representatives Workshop: Mapping Priorities and Challenges

MODERATOR



Haolong Liao

Treasurer,
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Haolong Liao is the Treasurer of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA), with a focus on international student advocacy, welfare, and representation. He has been involved in campaigns for public transport concessions, housing and rental rights, and affordable campus services. His work also includes organising the International Student Career Expo, facilitating dialogue between international students and university leadership, and participating in discussions on international student policies and university governance.

DAY1

Assistant Minister Address



Hon. Julian Hill MP

Assistant Minister for Citizenship,
Customs and Multicultural Affairs;
Assistant Minister for International Education

Julian Hill is the Member for Bruce and the Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs, and the Assistant Minister for International Education. Previously, he was Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, the Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services and the Defence Subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Julian has been involved with international education for more than ten years. In Parliament he started and chaired the Parliamentary Friendship Group for International Education, on a bipartisan basis.

DAY1

Panel 1- Campaigns & Advocacy: From Issues to Change



Shamita Sail

Doctor of Pharmacy graduate,
Master of Public Health student, Monash University

Shamita Sail is a Doctor of Pharmacy graduate and Master of Public Health student at Monash University, specialising in epidemiology. An international student from India, she is passionate about research and public health initiatives that turn evidence into practical solutions for communities. Her interests span epidemiology, health equity, harm reduction, healthcare access and navigation, and the design and evaluation of innovative public health interventions. Alongside her studies, she is actively involved in research, volunteering and international student advocacy. Outside public health, Shamita loves cooking, exploring new places and has a slightly unreasonable love for collecting plushies.



Vu Ai Vy (Ivy) La

Bachelor of Nursing student,
La Trobe University

Ivy La is a second-year Nursing student at La Trobe University and an international student from Vietnam. Having seen schools place the burden on students to get support themselves while being in a vulnerable state, she aims to advocate for more incentives from institutions to care for international students as a Student Representative with La Trobe's Nursing and Midwifery Association. Her volunteering with the Salvation Army and Blue Dragon reflects a long-standing commitment to human rights and young people's wellbeing. Ivy brings her placement experience and clinical training to conversations about how health systems can better support international students. Ivy's life philosophy is to combine compassion and competence in everything that she does.

ISRC 2026 Conference - Speakers Info



Adrian De Luca

Founder and Director,
We Are Australia Foundation

Adrian De Luca is a Melbourne secondary music teacher and Founder and Director of We Are Australia Foundation, an organisation supporting international student victims of crime. His advocacy began in 2013 when he became a mentor to Minh Tuan Duong following a near-fatal assault, later leading a campaign for Minh's return to Australia that attracted almost 90,000 petition signatures. Through mentoring, advocacy and community initiatives, Adrian promotes student safety, recovery and belonging. His collaborative project, Safe & Sound: The Minh Story – Healing Through Music, brings together music and storytelling to highlight resilience and the importance of trusted support.



Ananya Verma

Monash University

Ananya Verma serves as an MGA Campus Representative and MADA OH&S Committee Graduate Representative in 2026. She is also a UX Advisor at FocusBear and a Brand and Interaction Designer at Humans of Australia.

PANEL MODERATOR



Yuhao Wei

Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Yuhao Wei is a PhD student and Research Assistant at the University of Sydney. As an international student, he actively supports student engagement and community initiatives through his volunteer work with the SUPRA. He has contributed to a range of student-led activities and is passionate about fostering connections among students from diverse backgrounds and promoting meaningful student participation and representation.

DAY1

Panel 2- Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion



Tuhar Nusha Yeasmin

MPH student,
Monash University

Tuhar Nusha Yeasmin is an MPH student at Monash University and former Project Team Lead at AusWISE, where she co-designed a health platform with an international student advisory group. Her evidence-based advocacy helped overturn OSHC exclusions on maternity and abortion care for international students.



Madoka Fujii

Master of Education (Inclusive Education) student,
Queensland University of Technology

Madoka Fujii is a Master of Education (Inclusive Education) student at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She serves as a QUT Peer Leader and has contributed to the establishment of a student club, reflecting her interest in creating welcoming spaces where students can connect and feel a sense of belonging. Her broader interests lie in student experience and the potential of universities to create meaningful opportunities for learning, participation, and personal growth. She is particularly interested in how higher education institutions can better respond to students' diverse needs and help them realise their potential, both within and beyond the classroom.



Azala Shah

Interior Architecture student,
University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Azala is an international Interior Architecture student at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), with design deeply rooted in her upbringing through Garnet Interiors. With interiors quite literally in her blood, she brings together this inherited passion with experiences in leadership, Model United Nations and international student advocacy. Her work explores how design can extend beyond spaces to create identity, connection and a genuine sense of belonging.

PANEL MODERATOR



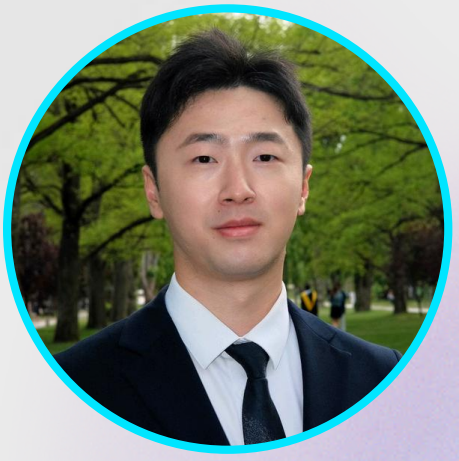
Anumanthram Senthilkumar

National Vice-President,
ISRC Australia

Anumanthram Senthilkumar is a student advocate and community leader serving as National Vice-President of the International Students Representative Council of Australia (ISRC) and Founder of the Association of Indian Students Australia (AISA). Through his leadership, he works to strengthen international student representation, advance student welfare, and build meaningful partnerships between student communities, universities, and government stakeholders. At Monash University, he served as Chairperson of the Monash Intercampus International Students Outreach Network, International Students Officer with the Monash Graduate Association and a member of three Academic Progress Committees. His work is driven by a commitment to ensuring student voices inform decision-making and translate into meaningful, lasting challenges.

DAY1

Panel 3- Community & Belonging: Student-Led Initiatives



Guoqing (Bruce) Pan

Australian National University

Guoqing (Bruce) Pan is the elected Postgraduate Student Member of the Australian National University Council and a Master of Business Information Systems student in the ANU College of Business and Economics. He is also a member of the ANU Honorary Committee and the founding President of the ANU Chinese Network Association, supporting international and Chinese postgraduate students and fostering cross-cultural engagement in student affairs and governance. Bruce previously served as Vice-President of Ursula Hall, where he contributed to governance and cultural initiatives within the residential community.



Harika Potnuru

CEO and HR Lead, Future Forte;
Master of Human Resource Management graduate, RMIT University

Harika Potnuru is a Master of Human Resource Management graduate of RMIT University and the CEO and HR Lead of Future Forte, a not-for-profit supporting international students in Melbourne through professional development, confidence building and community. She believes community is what drives better circumstances for international students, and that everyone deserves a community to lean on in tough times. While she's great at steering people towards the community, steering a car away from the curb is still a work in progress. As she likes to put it, you win some, you lose some.

ISRC 2026 Conference - Speakers Info



Mohammed (Nas) Anas

Master of Education student,
Victoria University

Mohammed (Nas) Anas is a Master of Education student at Victoria University dedicated to empowering students and multicultural communities. He served as an International Student Ambassador for the City of Melbourne and as the Cultural Diversity Officer for the Victoria University Student Union (VUSU). Deeply committed to youth advocacy and community engagement, Nas actively volunteers at The Couch International Student Centre and contributes as a Youth Advisory Panel Member at Polaron Connect. Through his leadership, he focuses on cultivating inclusive spaces, enhancing student well-being, and bridging community connections.



Baishakhi Shib

Master of Engineering student,
Charles Darwin University

Baishakhi Shib is a Master of Engineering student at Charles Darwin University who found her voice and purpose in Darwin. Rising from a general member to the first female President of the Bangladeshi Student Association of CDU, she champions student representation and engagement. She also serves as an Engineers Australia Student Ambassador, STEM Outreach Assistant, and Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee student representative, while volunteering across Northern Territory communities. A Study NT International Student Awards nominee, she believes in empowering others to belong, lead, inspire future STEM leaders and make a difference.

PANEL MODERATOR



Huriye Koclar

Deputy Women's Officer,
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Huriye Koclar is a Master of Social Justice student specialising in Human Rights at the University of Sydney, with a background in law. As Deputy Women's Officer at SUPRA, she is passionate about amplifying student voices, supporting student-led initiatives and building welcoming, inclusive communities. Through her student representative work, she aims to empower students, promote gender equity and foster a stronger sense of belonging on campus.

DAY1

Panel 4- Learning, Research & Career Pathways



Nadia Jelani

PhD researcher,
University of New England

Nadia Jelani is a PhD researcher at the University of New England, Australia, where she applies artificial intelligence and computer vision to animal science. Before moving to Australia, she studied artificial intelligence at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK and gained experience in teaching, mentoring and applied AI research. Her international academic journey has shaped her interest in student experiences, educational opportunities and cross-cultural collaboration. She enjoys sharing her research, encouraging students to get involved, and exploring ways universities can better support students from different backgrounds.



Alexa Rose

Bachelor of Business student,
Griffith University

Alexa Rose is an international Bachelor of Business student at Griffith University, a 2026 Mayor's Student Ambassador for the Gold Coast, and a former senior membership and community strategist at a private members' club in Singapore. Her work explores how organisations turn access into meaningful participation, connection and contribution. At Griffith, she created Belonging by Design, a workshop pilot examining visibility, inclusion, access and belonging. Drawing on commercial, civic and lived experience, Alexa examines how institutions and communities can create environments people don't simply enter, but genuinely shape.



Tanya Maithani

General Representative,
Monash Graduate Association (MGA)

Tanya Maithani is a Master of Laws (LLM) student at Monash University and an Indian-qualified lawyer currently working in the Australian legal profession. She serves as a General Representative of the Monash Graduate Association (MGA), balancing her studies and professional work with volunteering and community engagement. Passionate about bringing people together, she is particularly committed to strengthening connections between international and domestic students and fostering an inclusive university community.

PANEL MODERATOR



Angel (Anqi) Wen

Co-HDR Officer,
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Angel (Anqi) Wen is the Co-HDR Officer at SUPRA and a PhD candidate in Theatre and Performance Studies (TaPS) at the University of Sydney. Her research explores the intersection of generative AI and 'flexible' comedy, focusing on human–AI co-creation, audience reception, and the ethical implications of live human–AI performance. Alongside her academic work, she is also a comedian, film curator, and reality show director, integrating creative practice with academic research.

DAY2

Conference Opening & Welcome Address



Professor Joanne Wright

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students),
The University of Sydney

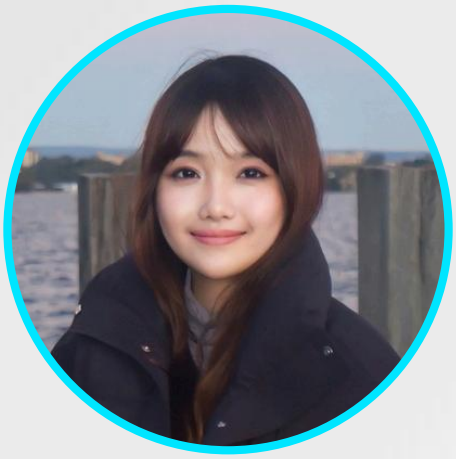
Professor Joanne Wright is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students) at the University of Sydney, where she leads the University's strategy for teaching, learning, and student experience. Her responsibilities include curriculum renewal, teaching innovation, digital learning, academic quality and standards, student services, and student wellbeing.

Prior to joining the University of Sydney, Professor Wright served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Queensland, where she led major initiatives in blended learning, curriculum reform, and the University's teaching response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She previously held senior academic leadership positions at Royal Holloway, University of London, the University of Sussex, and the University of South Australia, where she also served as Acting Vice-Chancellor.

With over two decades of senior leadership experience, Professor Wright has contributed extensively to Australian higher education policy and governance through national advisory bodies and working groups, including Universities Australia and the Group of Eight (Go8).

DAY2

SUPRA and SRC Welcome



Yiman Wu

President,
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Yiman Wu is the 2026–27 President and 2025–26 Co-President of SUPRA, and General Secretary of ISRC Australia. She represents postgraduate students in university governance and national international student advocacy, with extensive experience in student representation and public communication. She has driven campus lighting improvements, securing repairs across multiple locations, while supporting affordable dining and international student employment, translating student concerns into tangible institutional improvements. As an international HDR student with experience across China, the UK and Australia, she brings a global perspective to her Media and Communications research on mediated trust in higher education at the University of Sydney.



Grace Street

President,
Students' Representative Council (SRC)

Grace Street is the 2026-27 President of the Students' Representative Council of the University of Sydney, and an activist living and working across unceded Garigal and Gadigal lands.

DAY2

Sponsor address – Pearson



Jon Dixon

Business Development Manager,
Pearson

Jon is the Business Development Manager at Pearson, responsible for PTE Academic across Australia and New Zealand. Prior to joining Pearson, Jon was in charge of international student recruitment for the University of Melbourne across Africa, Europe, Middle East and the UK, where he managed relationships within stakeholder groups and networks – prospective, current, alumni, school networks, Australian and International Government departments including scholarship and sponsor bodies.

The Pearson Leadership Scholarship has provided travel grants to support 17 international student representatives attending the ISRC 2026 Conference from across Australia, including the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria and regional New South Wales.

ISRC sincerely thanks Pearson for its generous support and commitment to empowering student leaders, removing geographical barriers to participation and ensuring that diverse international student voices from across Australia are represented in national conversations about international education.

DAY2

Keynote 1 – Speaking up: Being heard, barriers and belonging



Sarah Bendall

First Assistant Ombudsman,
National Student Ombudsman

Over the last 25 years, Sarah Bendall has seen first-hand how powerful it can be for people to participate in processes to resolve their conflict. In 2025 as the First Assistant Ombudsman, Sarah, along with the Commonwealth Ombudsman Iain Anderson, launched the National Student Ombudsman. Australia's first dedicated dispute resolution function for Australian higher education students. 'We are committed to facilitating trauma informed dispute resolution services and amplifying students' voices to encourage continual improvement in the student experience across the higher education sector. Dispute resolution is a powerful way to change systems and processes for the better. When one person has the courage to complain about something, it can result in improvements that prevent others from experiencing the same issue'.

DAY2

Keynote 2 - International student voices: Representation, partnership and cultural capital



Professor Kelly Matthews

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning),
University of Wollongong

Professor Kelly Matthews is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning) at the University of Wollongong, Australia, and an internationally recognised higher education researcher and leader. Her research on student voice, student–staff partnership and educational practice has shaped thinking and practice globally. She has led major national initiatives, including a multi-institutional Australian study of students' perspectives on AI. An Australian Teaching Fellow and Principal Fellow of Advance HE, Kelly has published extensively and co-founded the International Journal for Students as Partners.

Following the keynote, Professor Matthews will join a panel discussion with:



Aashish Neupane

Board Director,
Western Sydney University Student Union (WSUSU)

Aashish Neupane is an award-winning international student leader pursuing a Master of Social Work, with a strong commitment to student advocacy and community engagement. He has received the NSW International Student of the Year Award, Western Sydney University Chancellor's Unsung Hero Award at the ZEST Awards, and Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards for Community Engagement. He serves as an elected Board Director of Western Sydney University Student Union (WSUSU), Founding Member of Pearson International Student Advisory Board (ISAB), Postgraduate Representative of ISRC Australia, and Director and Treasurer of Mates From Himalayas (MFH). Through these roles, he promotes student representation, community engagement, and inclusive student experiences across Australia.



Malakai King

General Secretary,
Australian National University Students' Association (ANUSA)

Malakai King is the Domestic Student Liaison Officer for the International Students' Representative Council of Australia (ISRC) and General Secretary of the ANU Students' Association. He works to bridge the concerns of international and domestic students, building advocacy that serves both. He is studying a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Asian Studies at the Australian National University. Having grown up in Vietnam and Singapore before moving to Australia to finish high school, he brings a cross-cultural perspective to student representation.

DAY2

Panel 1 - Student Voices: How Policy Change Shapes the International Student Experience



Cheryl Johanna

International Students' Senate Convenor,
University of Newcastle Students' Association

Cheryl Johanna serves as the International Students' Senate Convenor for UNSA at UON, and as a postgraduate representative on the academic senate. She is passionate about international student advocacy and equal rights.



Ojaswi Shrestha

President,
International Students' Department
UWA Student Guild

Ojaswi Shrestha is the 2026 President of the UWA Student Guild's International Students' Department (ISD) and a final-year Architecture student at The University of Western Australia. She is passionate about international student representation, welfare, cultural connection and creating a more inclusive university community. Alongside her role with ISD, Ojaswi serves on the Pearson International Student Advisory Board (ISAB), contributing to discussions on the experiences and needs of international students. Through her leadership and student advocacy work, she has led initiatives supporting international students and strengthening their engagement across the university.



Gilbertofer Tanoto

Vice President,
CDU Student Council, Charles Darwin University

Gilbertofer (Gilbert) Tanoto is an international student from Indonesia, completing a Bachelor of Information Technology at Charles Darwin University(CDU). He works with the Northern Territory Government in digital transformation and is actively involved in STEM engagement, student leadership and advocacy. He is also a member of Pearson's International Student Advisory Board, Vice president of CDU Student Council, and was named the Study NT International Student of the Year 2025.



Aryendu Singh

Co-Chair,
La Trobe University Student Council

Aryendu Singh is an international student from India completing a Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University, where he serves as Co-Chair of the La Trobe University Student Council. His experience spans student governance, institutional leadership, social enterprise and grassroots leadership. He is particularly interested in how universities can move beyond treating students primarily as consultees and instead recognise them as active partners in shaping policy, governance and institutional decision-making. He believes students should play a fundamental role in designing the systems and decisions that shape their education and communities.

PANEL MODERATOR



Qixiu (Jack) Li

General Executive,
University of Sydney Students' Representative Council

Qixiu (Jack) Li is an international student completing a Bachelor of Engineering Honours in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Sydney, specialising in Bionics and Bioelectronics. He serves as an international student ambassador for NSW Government Schools and Study NSW, General Executive of the USYD SRC and Co-Publications Director at ISRC. Having studied both high school and university in Australia, his experience spans student advocacy, community engagement, peer mentoring and student-led initiatives. Through his involvement in the Beyond the Run documentary and advocacy for international student and migrant rights, he champions the role of students' lived experiences in shaping the policies, services and communities that support them.

DAY2

Panel 2 – International Student Policy in Australia: Current Directions and Student Priorities



Professor Gaby Ramia

Professor of Policy and Society,
The University of Sydney

Gaby Ramia is Professor of Policy and Society and Interim Head of the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney. His research is in public and social policy and governance, particularly in relation to work, employment, education and welfare. He has a long-term research interest in international student wellbeing, in both sole and collaborative projects. His books in the area include International Student Policy in Australia: The Welfare Dimension (Sydney University Press), and Regulating International Students' Wellbeing (Policy Press, with Simon Marginson and Erlenawati Sawir).



Diana Cozadinos

Acting Assistant Secretary,
Australian Government Department of Education

Diana is the acting Assistant Secretary, International Students, Legislation and Integrity at the Department of Education. She leads policy, legislative and integrity initiatives that support a high-quality, sustainable and globally competitive international education sector in Australia. Diana has delivered a range of border management, migration and international education policy, programs and reforms during almost two decades as a public servant.



Danielle Hartridge

Co-Founder & Principal,
IEP Advisory | Member, ISRC Expert Panel

Danielle is a leading expert in international education with extensive experience working in the university sector. Danielle's career spans more than 35 years where she has held senior roles and was ISANA National President from 2010-2013. Danielle has a deep understanding of the international education landscape and works closely with international education providers, offering consultation and advice on international education matters related to the international student experience and ESOS compliance. A regular contributor to professional development activities, through the development of online resources and face- to-face workshops. Danielle is the recipient of the prestigious IEAA Distinguished Contribution to International Education Award, the Victorian Multicultural Award for Service Delivery to a Multicultural Victoria and is an ISANA Life Member. Danielle has previously served on the IEAA Board, the IEAA Admissions and Compliance Network, the IEAA Student Life Network and numerous positions with ISANA: International Education Association.

PANEL MODERATOR



Seungbin Kang

Education officer,
ISRC Australia

Seungbin Kang is a final year Bachelor of Asian Studies/Environment and Sustainability international student at the Australian National University. He is the current Education Officer of the International Students' Representative Council of Australia, responsible for the policy and advocacy of the body. Previously he served as the International Students' Officer, and Executive Clubs Officer at the ANU Students' Association (ANUSA), and is currently working in the public policy and trade union space.

DAY2

Panel 3 – What if the community was the campus?



Susana Ng

Senior Social Programs Officer,
City of Sydney

Susana Ng has more than 25 years of experience in community development, policy and leadership across Australia and Hong Kong, working in local government, the not-for-profit sector and private industry. She is passionate about multicultural policy, anti-racism, social inclusion, diversity, equity and belonging. She has held senior leadership roles, including Social Planning, Access and Community Development Manager, and Program Manager for the City of Sydney's award-winning leadership development program. Susana currently convenes the NSW Anti-Racism Working Group, bringing together government and community professionals to address racism through collaboration, advocacy and knowledge sharing. She was recognised with the 2021 Women's Agenda Emerging Leader Award.



Abuduhailili Xiamuxinuer

International Student,
University of Technology Sydney

Abuduhailili Xiamuxinuer is an international student completing her Master of Teaching (Secondary) at the University of Technology Sydney, specialising in Science and Chemistry. Currently in the final stage of her degree, she is completing her final secondary school teaching placement while actively engaging in student leadership and community volunteering. Abuduhailili is a member of the ISLA Gold Program and serves as a Team Leader for the Welcome – Munch and Meet project. Through ISLA, she has also contributed to community initiatives including the Hidden Sydney Tour, taking on logistics, safety and MC responsibilities. Beyond ISLA, she has volunteered across university, student and community events in Sydney.



Türkan Aksoy

Welcoming Cities Coordinator (NSW), Welcoming Australia

As a proud Türkic person and neurodivergent advocate, Türkan has extensive experience across government and community sectors, with a focus on strengthening the capacity of small and emerging communities. Their work advances social cohesion, employment, gender equity, mental health, and cultural and psychological safety, while addressing the ongoing impacts of colonialism. Türkan convenes the NSW Public Sector Support Network and serves as NSW Coordinator for Welcoming Cities, supporting local governments and partner organisations to build more inclusive and connected communities. Through this role, they collaborate with councils and community stakeholders to promote civic engagement, celebrate diversity, and foster social and economic development.



Gary Lee OAM

Manager, International Education, City of Melbourne

Gary Lee OAM is a passionate leader in international education sector, whose career has been shaped by his own experience as an international student. Originally from Malaysia, Gary came to Melbourne and studied at RMIT. As President of the RMIT Association of International Students (RAIS), he advocated for the interests, welfare and inclusion of international students. This formative leadership role sparked a lifelong commitment to supporting students from around the world and laid the foundation for a distinguished career in international education. He is currently the Manager of International Education at the City of Melbourne, where he leads initiatives that strengthen Melbourne's position as a world-class education destination. Gary Lee OAM is a leader in international education whose career was shaped by his own experience as an international student from Malaysia at RMIT. As President of the RMIT Association of International Students (RAIS), he advocated for international students' interests, welfare and inclusion, sparking a lifelong commitment to supporting students from around the world. He is currently Manager of International Education at the City of Melbourne, leading initiatives that strengthen Melbourne's position as a world-class education destination.

PANEL MODERATOR



Trisnasari Fraser

Welcoming Universities Coordinator,
Welcoming Australia

Trisnasari Fraser is a registered psychologist with endorsement in Community Psychology, an orientation concerned with wellbeing in social, cultural, and political contexts. She has a decade of university sector experience in research, teaching and coordinating roles. She has published widely about social cohesion and community resilience through intercultural music engagement, the wellbeing of culturally diverse artists and lived experience research. Her work in mental health services has spanned clinical, educational and community program settings.

DAY2

Closing panel - From Voice to Action: What Needs to Change for International Students?



Ada Choi

President,
Postgraduate Council (PGC),
University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Ada Choi is a PhD candidate in Marketing at UNSW Sydney, President of the UNSW Postgraduate Council (PGC) and UNSW Chinese Students Association (CSA), and a Board Director of Arc @ UNSW Student Life. As an experienced student leader and international student advocate, she has served on the UNSW Academic Board and collaborated with the City of Sydney, government and community organisations. She is also the Founder and Chair of the International Student Career Expo, which attracted over 3,000 students and nearly 50 employers, professional associations and government organisations. Drawing on her experience in student representation, university governance and industry engagement, Ada is committed to strengthening student voices, fostering cross-cultural connections and expanding educational and career opportunities for international students in Australia.



Yiman Wu

President,
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

Yiman Wu is the 2026–27 President and 2025–26 Co-President of SUPRA, and General Secretary of ISRC Australia. She represents postgraduate students in university governance and national international student advocacy, with extensive experience in student representation and public communication. She has driven campus lighting improvements, securing repairs across multiple locations, while supporting affordable dining and international student employment, translating student concerns into tangible institutional improvements. As an international HDR student with experience across China, the UK and Australia, she brings a global perspective to her Media and Communications research on mediated trust in higher education at the University of Sydney.



Anumanthram Senthilkumar

National Vice-President,
ISRC Australia

Anumanthram Senthilkumar is a student advocate and community leader serving as National Vice-President of the International Students Representative Council of Australia (ISRC) and Founder of the Association of Indian Students Australia (AISA). Through his leadership, he works to strengthen international student representation, advance student welfare, and build meaningful partnerships between student communities, universities, and government stakeholders. At Monash University, he served as Chairperson of the Monash Intercampus International Students Outreach Network, International Students Officer with the Monash Graduate Association and a member of three Academic Progress Committees. His work is driven by a commitment to ensuring student voices inform decision-making and translate into meaningful, lasting challenges.



Fitri Ani

Board Member,
Graduate Student Association (GSA),
University of Melbourne

Fitri Ani is a GSA Board Member and a Master of Global Media Communication student at the University of Melbourne. With a background in communication, public diplomacy, and cultural engagement, she has experience working with international students and diaspora communities in Australia. Through her role at GSA, her advocacy focuses on addressing racism and gender-based violence, as well as advocating for the needs, rights, and wellbeing of international students in higher education.



Jixuan Xia

Board Member,
Adelaide University Student Association (AUSA)

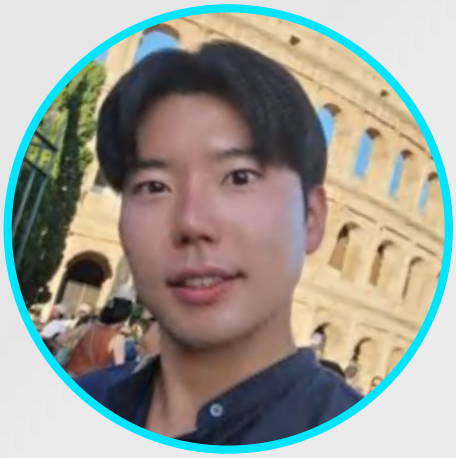
Jixuan Xia is an Australian student at Adelaide University with a Chinese background and currently serves as a Director on the Adelaide University Student Association (AUSA) Board. Having lived in Australia for eight years, he brings a cross-cultural perspective and a strong commitment to student representation and engagement. He represents Adelaide University at ISRC, contributing to broader student discussions and advocating for the interests and experiences of students. Through his roles, he is passionate about amplifying student voices, promoting cultural diversity, and fostering a more inclusive university community.



Ziyi Zhou

International Student Officer,
University of Queensland Union (UQU)

Ziyi Zhou is the International Students Officer at the University of Queensland Union (UQU) and a postgraduate student in International Relations at The University of Queensland. His work focuses on two key areas: building inclusive multicultural communities and strengthening international student advocacy. Through UQU, he supports multicultural events that bring students from different backgrounds together, while also working on practical issues affecting international students, including financial support, cost-of-living pressures and access to university services. He is particularly interested in strengthening student voice and ensuring international students are meaningfully represented in decisions that affect their university experience.



Daehyeok Lee

International Student Ambassador,
Study Tasmania;
University of Tasmania

Daehyeok Lee is a postgraduate student at the University of Tasmania, studying a Master of IT and Systems with a specialisation in cybersecurity. As a Study Tasmania Ambassador and member of the UTAS Student Event Crew, he actively contributes to student engagement and community initiatives. Through these roles, he has developed experience in cross-cultural communication, teamwork and student advocacy. As an international student from South Korea, he is passionate about creating inclusive environments where students from diverse backgrounds feel supported and heard. He looks forward to sharing his experiences and contributing to discussions on international student representation and the student experience in Australia.

PANEL MODERATOR



Weihong Liang

Education Officer, SUPRA;
President, ISRC of Australia

Weihong Liang is the National President of the International Students Representative Council of Australia (ISRC), the national peak body for international students. He also serves as the elected Postgraduate Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate and Education Officer of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA). His work focuses on education policy, student advocacy and university governance. He led a campaign for public transport concessions in New South Wales, backed by a petition with more than 21,000 signatures, and played a key role in establishing the University of Sydney's $5 student canteen. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Sydney, researching state–society relations.

ISRC
CONFERENCE 2026
International Students as Partners in Australia's Education

Connecting Voices Across Australia

ISRC brings together international student leaders and organisations from across Australia, providing a national platform for collaboration, advocacy and student representation. ISRC works with education providers, governments and the wider international education sector to ensure that international students' perspectives are heard and reflected in decisions that affect them.

We sincerely thank all our members for their continued support, commitment and contributions to ISRC.

2026 ISRC National Conference — Participating Student Leaders and Representatives from the Following Institutions and Organisations:

ACAP University College
Adelaide University
Australian Government Department of Education
Australian National University
Cairns College of English and Business
Charles Darwin University
City of Melbourne
City of Sydney
CQUniversity
Curtin University
Deakin University
Griffith University
IEP Advisory
James Cook University
La Trobe University
Monash University
National Student Ombudsman
NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee
Pearson
Queensland University of Technology
RMIT University
Student Voice Australasia
The University of Melbourne
The University of New South Wales
The University of Newcastle
The University of Queensland
The University of Sydney
The University of Western Australia
Torrens University
University of Canberra
University of New England
University of Southern Queensland
University of Tasmania
University of Technology Sydney
University of Wollongong
UTS College
Victoria University
We Are Australia Foundation
Welcoming Australia
Western Sydney University

Our Conference Team

The ISRC Conference 2026 would not have been possible without the dedication, collaboration and hard work of our organising team.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the **Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)**, whose commitment, creativity and countless hours of work have been instrumental in bringing this conference to life.

We are especially grateful to the following team members for their invaluable contributions:

Weihong Liang, Yiman Wu, Runheng Zheng, Yuhao Wei, Qiuming Zhang, Ziyao Wang, Haolong Liao, Wenjin Zhu, Anqi Wen, Lu Feng, Gefei Liang, Qixiu Li, Changyu Liao, Haomeng Du, Dihao Zhu, Hangxi Liu, Huriye Koclar



Your collective efforts reflect the power of international students not only to have their voices heard, but to lead, collaborate and create meaningful changes.

2025–26 ISRC Australia

National Leadership Team



Yiman Wu
Secretary

Anumanthram Senthilkumar
Co-Vice President

Weihong Liang
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WA Representative

Archit Menon
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Aashish Neupane
Co-Postgraduate Coursework Officer

Deli Zhou
Co-Postgraduate Coursework Officer

Supraja Sayee Srinivasan
Community Engagement Officer

Expert Panel

Strategic Advice on Independent Student Representationin Australian International Education



Professor Patricia M. Davidson



Danielle Hartridge



Professor Gaby Ramia

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