

UTS Students' Association Handbook 2021



**UTS
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Our voice. Our way. Our SA.

Acknowledgement of Country

The UTS City Campus is built on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. These lands were violently stolen and were never ceded. This land is, was, and always will be Aboriginal land. The UTS Students' Association would like to acknowledge elders past, present, and emerging, and pay respect to all First Nations students, staff, alumni, and community members.

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Handbook Intro

Erin Dalton
UTSSA General Secretary

Welcome to the 2021 UTSSA Handbook! My name is Erin Dalton, and I am the General Secretary of the UTS Students' Association. The Handbook is intended to serve as an introduction to the various services and Collectives that the UTSSA offers, as well as to provide useful information regarding supports and areas of interest for UTS students. In the Handbook, you will find information regarding the food services we provide, as well as our academic advocacy and legal services, equipment loans, and peer tutoring. You will also find information about each of our 10 Collectives, as well as an article from each Collective Officer about their area of expertise, and the campaigns they will be running across this year. Finally, we have a brief introduction to Vertigo, the UTSSA's student-run magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Aidan, Camille, and the other members of the UTSSA Executive for their hard work and support in producing this year's Handbook. I would like to thank all of the Collective Office-Bearers and Convenors for their articles, and Biljana and the other UTSSA staff for their contributions. I would also like to thank our designer Wilson 'Iris' Li for their time and effort. Finally, I would like to thank you, the reader, for picking this up and reading through it. The UTS Students' Association really helped support me during my time as a new student here, and I certainly hope it is able to support you too.

If you have any questions or issues, the UTSSA is here to help you. Feel free to contact us at students.association@uts.edu.au, or through our website. Thank you again, and let's make 2021 a great year!

Erin Dalton
General Secretary 2020/2021

President's Statement

Aidan O'Rourke
UTSSA President 2020-2021

The Association is the forefront of independent student representation at UTS, and it is a pleasure to take the reins and lead the Association this year. My name is Aidan, and I'm a third-year student studying Economics and Law. I am very honoured to fill the Presidency of the UTS Students' Association.

For many, starting at university is the next chapter in their education, a fresh start or a change in direction. Our job at UTS is to be the voice of students no matter their background, both new and continuing. We also offer services to secure students' welfare and provide academic advocacy. Ultimately, it is our job to hold the University accountable on the issues that matter.

Last year was a challenging year for higher education, however, those challenges continue. This year staff and students will have to recover and fight the three-pronged assault on higher education. Firstly, the "restructuring" of university fees across the country means many students pay more for university without gaining any extra value. The fee hikes target students with no broader benefit to the community or the economy. Students deserve a university that takes up the fight for students.

Secondly, the continued thinning of UTS staff and ongoing financial restructuring post-COVID is seriously threatening students' education and welfare. Less staff, both non-academic and

academic, inherently affects the overall operation of a university and the completeness of our experience at UTS.

Lastly, cutting courses, and limiting course availability and placements, threaten access to a well rounded, worldly education. Instead, students have to scramble for places while balancing the requirements of their course program.

If you would like to join in the fight, I encourage you to join the UTSSA Education Action Group!

I wish everyone a warm welcome to UTS and I hope that this year is an improvement on the last! I encourage students to reach out to student representatives if they have any concerns; after all, we're here to help.

Students may reach out to students.association@uts.edu.au.

Here's to a prosperous and happy 2021!

Aidan O'Rourke
UTSSA President 2020-2021

UTSSA Intro

Commencing your university experience is very exciting. UTS has a vibrant, smart, and social energy, with a diverse student body and the opportunities available to new and returning students to meet new people and explore fresh ideas are abundant. However, university can also be pretty daunting at times. Settling into new routines and navigating uncharted territory can present many challenges. For students needing support and direction, it is vital that they understand there are services in place to aid them in their journey. The UTS Students' Association is here to make the adjustment to university life as easy and fun as possible. Many students are not aware of the various key services provided by the UTSSA to help navigate life at UTS, and the UTS Students' Association Handbook is a great source of information for all students, whether you're in your final year of your degree or you've just arrived fresh from high school.

The UTSSA is an organization run by students elected every year by their peers to represent the interests of students on campus. The UTSSA campaigns throughout the year to provide and expand access to much needed services and support, such as peer tutoring, free Bluebird Brekky bags, and casework services for students dealing with academic issues.

The UTSSA also funds the publication of the free Vertigo student magazine which produces quality content from UTS students including art, poetry, interviews, and journalistic articles. Vertigo often welcomes submissions from students not on the current editorial team so please get in touch with the team if you would like to see your work published!

UTS is a great university, and we hope you take the opportunity to get involved with the various facilities and services available. We promise they will expand your worldview, enrich your university experience, and introduce you to lifelong friends. Please get in touch with the UTSSA for help, support, or advice anytime. We hope to make your time at UTS memorable and fulfilling!



Free Bluebird brekkie!

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If you would like a
free brekkie bag,
simply email
**students.association
@uts.edu.au**

- Follow us on Facebook for regular updates
www.facebook.com/BluebirdBrekkie

SERVICES

Peer Tutoring

Studying at university can be hard no matter how many times you read over the lecture slides or follow up with your tutor, sometimes you just need some one-on-one help to learn all the new information. That's why the UTS Students' Association provides the Peer Tutoring Service.

Peer Tutors are UTS students who have completed a subject at UTS, with a great result, who can help you learn through one-to-one tutoring.

Prices for Peer Tutors start at \$25 per hour which you pay directly to your tutor at the time of tutoring, and most tutors provide the service remotely via Zoom or other online learning platforms.

Need a Peer Tutor?

To request a Peer Tutor simply complete the 'Request Peer Tutor Form' on our website <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/services/peer-tutoring/request-a-peer-tutor>

Want to be a Peer Tutor?

If you have achieved a final grade of Credit, Distinction or High Distinction in any subject at UTS you can become a Peer Tutor. To Become a Peer Tutor simply complete the 'Become a Peer Tutor Form' on our website <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/services/peer-tutoring/become-a-peer-tutor>

You will need a copy of your student ID and evidence of your grades (your Academic Transcript can be found on your 'My Student Admin' account).

Once your application is processed you will be added to our system and will be contacted directly by students as requests for tutors in your subjects arise.

UTSSA Student Advocacy Service

As students we know how difficult uni life can be. We know that things can go wrong and there are times when students need assistance in addressing academic matters. The UTSSA Student Advocacy Service provides a free, independent and confidential service to UTS students needing academic advice and support.

What are Student Advocates?

The UTSSA employs professional and experienced Student Advocates (caseworkers) to provide advice, assistance and support to students with a range of academic concerns. Student Advocates are committed to providing a high quality service and are available to accompany students to Misconduct and Appeals hearings—providing step-by-step advice and support throughout the entire process.

Anything you speak to our Student Advocate caseworkers about is completely confidential and none of your information or the content of your sessions with a caseworker will ever be shared without your permission.

How can Student Advocates help you?

Student Advocates can help you with:

- appealing an exclusion notice
- appealing an allegation of misconduct
- querying an assessment or exam result
- applying for special consideration
- withdrawing after census date

How can I access the UTSSA Student Advocacy Service?

Please contact the Students' Association to make an appointment with a Student Advocacy Officer by:

- Calling us—(02) 9514 1155
- Attend a drop in session running from 10:00 am– 12:00 pm, Tuesdays and 12:00pm – 2pm, Thursdays
- Visiting the Students' Association office
- —we are located in the UTS Tower Building on Level 3 near the Food Court (CB01.03.22)
- The UTSSA Student Advocacy Service is open throughout the year, and can be accessed Monday to Friday, 9am–4.30pm.

Bluebird Brekkie Bar

Free brekkie for students

Everyone knows that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, especially when it comes to concentration and academic performance and between student budgets and super early starts to make those 9am lectures, sometimes brekkie can fall by the wayside. Which is why we created Bluebird Brekkie Bar. Made by students for students, the UTS Students' Association's sustainable pop-up cafe is the place to meet your friends for free muesli, fresh fruit, toast, and coffee—all in a chilled-out student- designed space, right in the heart of UTS. Experience the best cafe on campus—a free cafe.

Our operations this semester may be limited due to ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19.

Follow us on Facebook for regular updates
www.facebook.com/BluebirdBrekkie

Night Owl Noodle Bar

Free dinner for students

Following the success and popularity of Bluebird Brekkie Bar, our student representatives realised that there were still a lot of people missing out.

Those who study part-time, post-grad or students with mostly afternoon and night classes were hungry and deserved to be fed too. So we established The Night Owl Noodle Bar, a place to come for free noodle soup topped off with fresh veggies and tofu. All our soups are prepared by recently settled asylum seekers and refugees through our social enterprise catering friends at Parliament on King.

Whether it's Vietnamese Pho or Burmese coconut chicken, you're in for a healthy, delicious and neuron-firing treat.

Our operations this semester may be limited due to ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19.

Follow us on Facebook for regular updates
www.facebook.com/BluebirdBrekkie

UTSSA Student Legal Service

All students currently enrolled at UTS have access to free legal advice. The UTSSA Student Legal Service is located at the UTS Tower Building 1, level 5, room 12.

Legal advice is provided on a range of matters including tenancy, employment, traffic and criminal offences, civil matters, consumer claims, debts, family issues, business, and many other areas. The Student Legal Service can also certify documents as true copies and witness statutory declarations and other formal documents. The service is run by a solicitor who is assisted by two trainee lawyers. All legal advice is provided by the solicitor and all matters are dealt with in strict confidence.

There are a very small number of cases wherein they will not give advice, such as matters being raised against or involving UTS, and matters relating to migration.

Overleaf, we've outlined some legal tips to help you know your legal rights in employment and renting.

(Please note: that the UTSSA Student Legal Service does not provide advice on visa or migration matters, or on any issues that you may have involving or against UTS.)



Need a lawyer?

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The UTSSA Student
Legal Service
provides free and
confidential legal
advice for students.

- ✔ Contact us to make an appointment.
(02) 9514 2484 | studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au
utsstudentsassociation.org.au/legal

Employment Tips for International Students

You have rights

International students have the same work rights as anyone else working in Australia. You have a right to be paid no less than the minimum wage and to have a safe place to work. You also should be paid superannuation and other benefits.

Minimum wage

You should be paid at no less than the minimum wage, which from 1 July 2020 is \$19.84/hour, and \$24.80 if you are a 'casual' employee. And you might be entitled to be paid more under a relevant Award. These wages must be paid to you, even if you had agreed to be paid less.

It is not illegal to be paid cash

You are not doing anything wrong if you are being paid in cash by your employer. But keep good records of when you are paid, and how much you are paid. If you can, send your employer a text / wechat / whatsapp message to confirm the amounts that you are paid, and when.

Find out who you work for

Make sure that you know or find out the full name and address of the person or company that you are working for. All employers should have an Australian Business Number – an ABN. Try to find this out.

Keep records

Try to keep records of the days and hours that you work, including meal breaks. This will make it far easier to check if you have been

paid the right amount, and, if not, to get your employer to pay you properly.

Cash back schemes are illegal

Your employer cannot ask you to pay any of your wages back to them in cash. This is illegal.

If I complain will I be sacked?

If an employer is not paying you the right amount, then you shouldn't be sacked if you complain— that would be illegal. But if you prefer, you can chase underpayments of wages after you stop working for an employer.

Worried about visa breaches?

Even if you are on a student visa and you have been working more than 40 hours per fortnight, you can complain about not being paid the right amount, and you should not be in trouble with your visa. The Department of Home Affairs says:

... we will generally not cancel your visa, detain or remove you from Australia if you have:

- *sought advice or assistance from the Fair Work Ombudsman and you are assisting them with their inquiries*
- *not complied with the work-related conditions only and there is no other basis for visa cancellation*
- *committed to abiding by visa conditions in the future.*

see

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/work-rights-and-exploitation>.

How long will it take to get paid properly?

Sometimes we can get you paid properly within a few weeks, but it can take up to 6 months. Talk to us to find out.

If you think you are being underpaid or you are not being treated properly at work, then we can help you. Email the UTSSA Student Legal Service at studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au to make an appointment, or call us on 02 9514 2484, or drop in to see us. Our service is totally free and confidential.

Tips for Renting

Before you pay any money, make sure that you:

Go and see the place in person

Make sure it exists, and it is what you want. DON'T pay money if you haven't gone and inspected the house or unit. Is it clean enough? Not too noisy? Working WiFi? Don't be rushed into paying. If you miss out on one place, others will come up.

Work out who else will live there

Are you sharing a room? If so, who with? What happens if you don't like them? How many people in total will live in the house or apartment? Find these things out.

Work out who you are dealing with

Get the full name and home address of your landlord. Ask to see current photographic ID (e.g. driver's licence or passport) and take a photo of that with your phone.

Ask for a written agreement

If they won't give you this then there might be a problem. If you get an agreement and you are not totally sure what it means, or think it unfair, come and see us for advice before you sign it.

Work out how long you must stay

Make sure you are happy with how long you agree to stay under the agreement. If you try to leave before the end of the agreement then the landlord will try to keep all of your bond.

When you move in:

Don't pay more than 2 weeks' rent in advance.

Don't pay more than 4 weeks' rent as bond—

pay less if you can—2 weeks. And try to pay the bond to the Rental Bond Board, not direct to your landlord.

Get written receipts for any money you pay. Make sure the receipts have details of the property, who you are paying to, your details, the date, the amount, and what it is for.

Complete any condition report, and take photos as a record of the condition of the property when you first move in. The more the better. If there are problems, tell the landlord about the problems straight away.

For more information see <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting/starting-a-tenancy>.

If you want to leave a place, or have problems or questions come see us at the UTSSA Student Legal Service for FREE LEGAL ADVICE. Telephone 9514 2484 or email studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au for an appointment. We are on level 5 of the UTS Tower Building, 15 Broadway, Ultimo.

All students currently enrolled at UTS have access to free legal advice. The UTSSA Student Legal Service is located at the UTS Tower Building 1, level 5, room 12.

UTS Student Legal Service is open on:

Tuesday	10am to 4pm
Wednesday	10am to 4pm
Thursday	11am to 8pm

To make an appointment call 02 9514 2484 or email studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au.

When emailing for an appointment, please provide:

Your name;

Your Student ID;

The nature of your legal problem (e.g. tenancy/employment/family law/ traffic charge etc);

3 different times when you could come and see us, when we are open

Free Wi-Fi and Equipment Loans for Students PLUS Free Stationery

Wi-Fi

Studying remotely and having trouble keeping up with the demand on your internet usage? To support students during this time of remote learning we now offer loans of Wi-Fi dongles for a month. That's a month of free Wi-Fi to help you keep up with your studies!

To borrow WIFI dongle, simply email us at students.association@uts.edu.au

Free Stationery?

We also offer free stationery on the Stationery Swap Shelves outside our office and emergency sanitary products in our office.

Visit the Students' Association Office in the UTS Tower Building - CB01.03.22.

Calculator and Lab Goggle Loans

Forgot your calculator or lab goggles for an exam, assessment, or practical? The UTS Students' Association supports UTS students with short-term loans of calculators and lab goggles which you can borrow for up to 7 days.

Available for loan:

Scientific Calculator – Casio Fx-82 AU Plus II
Scientific Calculator – Casio Fx-100 AU Plus
Business Calculator – HP20B
Lab Safety Goggles

Please refer to your subject outline or faculty guidelines about the calculators you are allowed to use for your exam or assessment.

To borrow a calculator or lab goggles, simply email us at students.association@uts.edu.au

COLLECTIVES

Collectives Intro

What are Collectives?

Collectives are social and activist groups open to students at UTS. They are run by students and offer a variety of events and opportunities in the areas of activism and advocacy, peer support, social connection, and resources. There are a total of 10 Collectives, and of those, 3 are open to any student, while the remaining 7 are open to students who identify with the autonomous identity group of the Collective in question.

The Collectives open to anyone are:

- The Education Action Group
- The Environment Collective
- The Welfare Collective

The Collectives open to anyone are:

- Disabilities Collective
- Ethnocultural Collective
- Indigenous Collective
- International Collective
- Postgraduate Collective
- Queer Collective
- Women's Collective

Information about the Collectives can be found throughout the next section of the Handbook. Each Collective is administered by a Collective Office-Bearer, who is a member of the SRC, and a Collective Convenor, elected from the members of the Collective itself. For more general information about Collectives, check out the Collectives page of the UTSSA website at <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/collectives>.

Disabilities Collective

The Disabilities Collective is an autonomous group for UTS students with a disability to organise educational events and activism surrounding disability. The UTSSA recognises many varying types of disability, including physical, learning, intellectual, developmental, or psychosocial disabilities, as well as mental health conditions and chronic illnesses.

The Disabilities Collective's focus is on addressing the numerous barriers to access and participation in university life, as well as society more broadly. Disability justice is about more than just improving the accessibility of buildings and spaces. It is about eliminating ableism and infantilisation of disabled people more broadly, and about ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, has a place in society and the freedom to do what they want with their lives.

2020 has been a challenging year but across 2021 we are looking to reactivate the Disabilities Collective, as well as organise a number of events in collaboration with other Collectives, as well as on our own. Past events that have been run by the Collective include frequent meetings, welcome picnics and other social events, talks from activists in the disabled community, and attendance at rallies and protests centred on disability justice.

How can you get involved?

Currently, the position of Accessibility Officer is vacant. In order to express interest in starting up the Collective for 2021, please email Erin Dalton at generalsecretary@utsstudentsassociation.org. Alternatively, if you wish to be informed of our events, please sign up to our mailing list at <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/collectives/disabilities>.

Free Bluebird brekkie!

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If you would like a
free brekkie bag,
simply email
**students.association
@uts.edu.au**



- Follow us on Facebook for regular updates
www.facebook.com/BluebirdBrekkie

Education Action Group



What is the EAG?

The Education Action Group is a Collective within which students organise to fight for a free, quality and anti colonial education system. We work closely with staff to campaign at UTS for fair and quality work and education for all on our campus, and with Education Action Groups from other universities to form a strong and inclusive campaign for a truly good education system! Every UTS student is most welcome to come to meetings and join in our campaigns!

Why do we need an EAG?

The current public education system has come under serious and aggressive attack from the government and the corporate management of universities last year, with fees for many degrees increasing astronomically, countless courses (especially those examining race, sex and colonisation) being cut, and staff being gutted from universities under the guise of necessary COVID related economic adjustment.

However, while these attacks must be staunchly opposed, this education system, as it currently exists is not one we should uphold, but rather fight to radically change. Public university education as it stands in Australia is deeply colonial, and serves to perpetuate inequality and Western imperialism. Controlling knowledge, prioritising and reinforcing Western perspectives as the highest form of intellect, and locking the working class out of education. We need to fight for a different education system that is truly accessible, anti colonial, and provides education as a human right- not as a product to be bought, if you can afford it.

Yah but, why do we need an EAG at UTS?

UTS has already seen hundreds of staff lose their work, leaving those remaining to work absurdly long and hard to educate more students and produce more academic research- and this is planned to grow in UTS' Blueprint for 2027 economic plan. Many courses are being cut, as are student services.

This seriously threatens your education, with less face to face teaching time, teachers with less time and energy to teach you and form connections with, less courses to take and recycled content. You're paying more for a worse degree.

What is the EAG going to do about it, and how can I get involved?

In 2021 we plan to expand the EAG to get more students involved in meaningful activism for education and other progressive issues! From this we will work closely with staff and their union to campaign university management to stop firing staff and live up to their title of the "social justice university". All students can get involved by liking our facebook page, coming to meetings, rallies, forums etc.

... sounds boring

Au contraire! The EAG is a wonderful way to get involved with activism and fight with your fellow students, alongside staff, for good and accessible education- an incredibly important right of all people.

The Job Ready Graduates Bill and what it means for UTS students

The Liberal Government's 'Job-Ready Graduates' Bill that passed last year will radically speed up the already steady pace of efforts by the government to further lock all but the wealthy out of higher education.

The bill aims to push students into degrees that will make them more 'Job-Ready' by raising the cost of certain degrees up to 113% that are seen as less employable in an effort to make them less appealing to future students. This continues the rabid effort of the capitalist establishment to further concrete universities as factories aimed to produce obedient citizens who will toil away for the Australian economy.

This disregards the autonomy of students who should be able to study what they choose, for the sake of learning and thinking, and very purposefully decimates humanities and arts courses, which, while still upholding Western ideals of intellectualism, often provoke critical thinking about capitalism, colonisation, race etc.

Whilst many STEM students may feel excited by the prospect that their degrees will cost less, this is preemptive. The data clearly shows that the university sector (STEM included) will be radically defunded across the board. This means that class sizes will increase, staff will continue to be sacked (increasing the workload for those who stay on), content will be recycled, courses will be cut, and whole degrees cancelled with no one left to teach them. We are seeing this manifest

in the UTS Fit for 2027 Blueprint economic plan. The quality of Education at UTS will drop. We as students' activists fight back against these heartless austerity policies and demand quality, free and radically different public education.

Not only will it become tenfold more difficult for people to enter an increasingly sub-par tertiary education, but also once they are there, their ability to stay will be ever challenged by their financial resources and consistent good health and capacity to "perform" well. Students who fail 50% of their courses in a semester will be outright denied HECS-HELP, meaning they will have to pay up front. These changes are blatantly classist and ableist. Students from working class backgrounds may be forced out of university if they are unable to pay while students from wealthy backgrounds face no such consequences. While the Government claims that there would be exceptions for students with disabilities, when we consider the hard time students already have with the current university bureaucracy and barriers in 'proving their disabilities', it is naïve to think this will function in any meaningful way.

Universities have always been institutions with their gates firmly shut to those who do not stand to inherit the establishment, and these changes serve to contribute drastically to this. Good, free public education is not impossible, nor is it trivial- it is a human right and very achievable- it has been (while not anti-colonial and intersectional)

free before in this country. It is a purposeful effort of the capitalist establishment that universities exist the way they do- exclusionary, inaccessible, and increasingly poor quality as education is emancipatory when it is truly good, and it is completely imperative that this is what we fight to build.

To get involved in the Education Action Group at UTS like us on fb or contact Education Officer Ellie and Convenor Will at education@utsstudentsassociation.org.

Enviro Collective



Who are we?

The Enviro Collective is the UTSSA's student organisation for environmental activism, causes, and engagement. We focus and mobilise student efforts to take action on a wide range of environmental issues—all of which are becoming increasingly urgent and relevant in our daily lives.

Our Collective is a gathering place for all students who are passionate about creating change for the better. We're not just 'greenies', and we're not all vegans. You don't have to know all the chants at rallies, in fact, you don't have to have any experience campaigning. Whatever your experience, we would love to have you on board. And unlike societies, becoming a member is FREE!

While we do organise and take part in campaigns, protests, and fundraisers, we also function as a space where like-minded people can come together and empower each other. We're here to help students who want to develop their knowledge on current environmental issues and critical, independent thinking. We regularly hold skill-building workshops to train us in tackling these issues in our own lives and communities.

Being environmentally friendly should not be an "expensive" or "difficult" choice, and transitions to a sustainable future should be socially sustainable (e.g. ensuring the livelihoods of people currently employed in fossil fuel industries). All people should have the equal

right to a world where the environment is treated with respect and care, and where future generations can experience the same natural abundance that we have.

It's important to understand the context which underlies the world that we live in today. Our society is built upon the dispossessed lands of First Nations people—and thanks to their sustainable management, this country has harboured a natural abundance of life for tens of thousands of years.

Within the past few years, this country has been catastrophically ravaged by bushfires, with record temperatures straining our ecosystems and the regional communities whose livelihoods are linked with the land. While they are starved of water, our neighbouring Pacific communities are being inundated by increasingly powerful storms and rising sea levels. Millions of people in the Global South are already being displaced as unpredictable rainfall makes it harder to grow food.

There is absolutely no doubt that these shifts are due to human emissions and the changes in climate they have created—and yet, the Governments and “leaders” of the world remain complacent in taking decisive action. Our social and political systems continue to reward greed and the shortsighted illusion of economic growth over forward-thinking and collective good. Change, whether environmental or social, will not come unless we critically reconsider and then radically reconfigure the structures we live under.

For these reasons, we must be intersectional in responding to environmental issues and recognise that their effects are focused on

populations who are already disadvantaged and underprivileged. Righting these wrongs requires the application of climate justice—the people most responsible for climate change should be held accountable for solving it, and voice must be given to those who are often overlooked.

What do we do?

UTS Enviro's activism ranges from grassroots to national actions; from on-campus sustainability to government climate policy. Last year we organised multiple banner paints and participated in climate rallies in September to urge the government to 'Fund our future, not gas' and in December we rallied for an increase of climate jobs and justice.

Throughout the COVID crisis, we continued to grow our membership by kickstarting a seed planting initiative, where free seeds were mailed to UTS students. They were encouraged to spend their time at home growing their own herbs and veggies and shared tips and tricks during meetings.

Enviro Collective members headed up a 'Fossil Free Super Switch' stall on Alumni Green during October, having discussions with UTS students on the importance of switching to sustainable banks / super accounts and channelling money out of fossil fuels. (If this piques your interest, search MarketForces for more trustworthy information!)

Throughout 2020 we also held Zoom movie nights, streaming '2040', 'Something in the Water' and David Attenborough's film 'A Life on Our Planet'. There is something uniting

about watching films which exemplify our continued fight for environmental justice together. These films fuelled the fire of our Collective even when we could not gather in person or take to the streets in protest.

Together with other UTSSA Collectives, we ensure that we place disadvantaged and marginalised people at the forefront of our advocacy. In 2020 we worked with ASEN (Australian Student Environment Network) to organise a rally in solidarity with the Djab Wurrung people in Victoria against the decimation of sacred trees and ongoing cultural genocide faced by First Nations People across the country.

As a member of the Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), we also work with enviro collectives from other universities and organisations from the broader climate movement.

Get in touch!

UTS Enviro meets regularly (every two weeks or so) and we're always keen to get new members involved in our decision-making!

You can register to join the Enviro Collective and our mailing list via the UTSSA website [<https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/collectives/enviro>] — or contact us directly via email [environment@utsstudentsassociation.org]

If you are keen to get involved in the Enviro Collective in 2021 keep your eye on our Facebook [@UTSEnviro] or Instagram [@enviro.uts] for updates on meetings, banner paints, rallies or other events the collective is holding. Can't wait to see you around!



Passionate about change?

Get involved with your UTS Students' Association.

Photographer: FJ Gaylor

➤ utsstudentsassociation.org.au
facebook.com/UTSStudentsAssociation

Humans of Enviro



"I literally don't know anything about the environment. What am I doing inside the Enviro Collective?"

"Greenwashing is not that bad if it's raising awareness anyway, right?"

"How weird is it that the image of environmentalists is often caucasian?"

"How are politics and the environment even connected?"

— Humans of Enviro,
UTS Enviro Collective

Based on Brandon Stanton's famous photoblog Humans of New York, Humans of Enviro is a mini social media campaign aimed

at spotlighting the numerous environmental issues of the modern-day. These topics will be analysed from the perspective of students who have been a part of the enviro-activism space. The social media campaign will be readily available on the UTS Enviro Collective's Instagram page [@enviro.uts]. Operating under the UTS Students' Association, the Enviro Collective consists of UTS students stemming from various backgrounds demanding the same thing — environmental justice. In the past few years, the collective has taken part in many activism events ranging from organising banner paints and hosting climate strikes to kickstarting environmentally-conscious initiatives.

Our campaign, Humans of Enviro, hopes to unveil and provide a platform for you

to meet the working bees behind our activism campaigns, educational events and social media posts. From the point of view of students, we wish to shed light on increasingly urgent environmental issues and explore the significance that these problems hold and the potential solutions.

The campaign consists of topics ranging from well-known environmental concerns like recycling and greenwashing to progressive demands such as fossil fuel divestment and carbon neutrality. These seemingly indigestible issues will be broken down into bite-size media and published weekly for you to view. We've all heard about being "environmentally-conscious," but not from a university student working 20 hours a week handing out plastic packaging. We've all heard about eco-anxiety, but not from a full-time student juggling several responsibilities at once. The point is, people have discussed these problems many times before. However, we approach them with a more relevant context, one that can be understood by you.

As you follow our social media series, we hope you will gain a diverse perspective of the environmental issues our generation is currently facing and be inspired to get involved with the Enviro Collective.

*-> Humans of Enviro launches on Instagram [@enviro.uts] and on Facebook [@UTSEnviro] on February 1st — so keep an eye out!
To get involved with the UTS Enviro Collective message us directly on any of our social media platforms — we're quick to respond!*

Ethnocultural Collective



Welcome!

The UTS Ethnocultural Collective is an autonomous safe space for anyone who identifies as Indigenous, a Person of Colour, or as marginalised by mainstream Australian monoculture- to come together, discuss, and share experiences of identity and culture.

The UTS Ethnocultural Collective aims to advocate for marginalised student groups in its social and political organising, while simultaneously working with allies to create a safe and actively anti-racist community. The Collective expresses these sentiments through campaigns, rally contingents, and organising political actions. Furthermore, the UTS Ethnocultural Collective is staunchly against all forms of marginalisation, oppression, and prejudice.

We as a Collective provide our members with an autonomous safe space, separate from the white, colonial hegemonic norms of our society. In short, a space just for us! Bonding over shared experiences and ideas, we are also united in our passion for the promotion of anti-racism, social justice, and political action. After all, the personal is political. As People of Colour, we strive to stand up for ourselves and our communities and stand in solidarity with other groups who have been marginalised by society. UTSSA Collectives such as Wom*n's, Queer, Enviro, and Education are all groups that we strive to support and collaborate with. We know, we are stronger together, united in people power.

This year, we will continue to confront racism

in our communities, through campaigns addressing racism on campus and the broader society, at the same time also advocating for achievable structural and social change. We endeavour to learn, grow, and develop our understandings of oppression, racism, and colourism, presenting a united front with people from all cultures against these issues that impact many people in various and complex ways. Finally, we will continue to be allies with both the global and Australian Black Lives Matter movements, listening to Indigenous communities on how non-Bla(c)k People of Colour can best support them.

If you identify with the Collective's autonomy, you can get involved with us by entering your details at the bottom of the page at utsstudentsassociation.org.au/collectives/ethnocultural!

Otherwise, you can keep up to date and support us on Facebook or at our Instagram page @utsethnocultural- we are keen to have your support at future non-autonomous events and political actions!

For any questions or enquiries, you can email us at ethnocultural@utsstudentsassociation.org

Introduction to the Ethnocultural Collective: Our Response to Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs' message on Anti-Racism

Content warning: mentions of racial discrimination, death, police brutality, and genocide.

On Thursday the 6th of August, 2020, our university Vice-Chancellor Professor Attila Brungs sought to address the year's resurfaced racial tensions. Sent out to each member of the UTS community, the email titled "Racism asks for your silence. Anti-racism asks for your voice" launched Attila's anti-racism campaign of the same name. However, it has been several months since the statement's publication, and we at the UTS Ethnocultural Collective, have had the time to wonder: What does Attila's statement mean for students? And what has his campaign done towards anti-racism so far?

We acknowledge the efforts UTS has already taken in uniting equity with diversity. For example, we understand the influential and wide-ranging contributions of UTS, from policies and training, to anti-racism initiatives. Additionally, UTS celebrates cultural and religious days of significance and offers equity-related advice for both students and staff. Especially so, we regard and respect the UTS Jumbunna Institute as necessary in the empowerment of Indigenous Australians in academia. It is important to balance both the wins of progress at UTS with the questions of improvement we have for the institution, as equals in the UTS Community's strive for betterment. Our university Vice-Chancellor encourages us to

become pro-actively anti-racist, but when it comes to it, how can we "call out" racism without being given the skills to do so? How does the university, and society as a whole, intend to reconcile the colonial structures in which all tertiary institutions were founded on?

As students of colour, we, the UTS Ethnocultural Collective, have a lived experience of the complex ways in which racism and colonialism has impacted our daily lives. While we do commend the efforts of the University Executive to address racism in all its forms we, at the same time, pose open questions towards this anti-racism statement. Critical thinking is crucial to the development of ways forward, progress, and social change. As students and, therefore, consumers of the university, we have the right to care and concern ourselves with the directions our leaders take us. After all, racism asks for your silence; anti-racism asks for your voice.

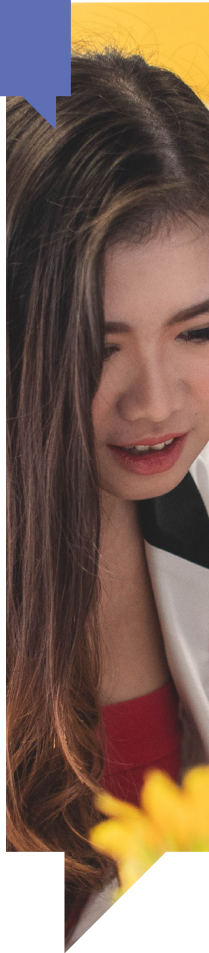
Melodie and Elijah on behalf of the UTS Ethnocultural Collective

Go to our Facebook at facebook.com/utsethnocultural to access the full, unabridged article of the Collective's response to Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs' anti-racism statement, and the joint UTSSA/Ethnocultural Collective open letter towards Attila Brungs.



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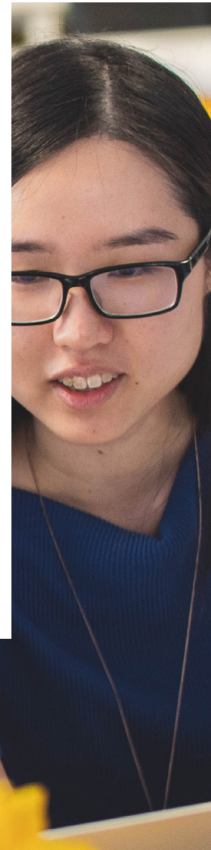
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Having academic issues?

.....

Speak to our
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Officers for
independent
and confidential
advice.



▾ Drop in

10:00am-12:00pm, Tuesdays
utsmeet.zoom.us/j/484728509

12:00pm-2:00pm, Thursdays
utsmeet.zoom.us/j/120281737

▾ Appointments

To make an appointment email
students.association@uts.edu.au

Indigenous Collective

Zebadiah Donald Cruickshank
Indigenous Officer 2021

Who are we?

The UTS Indigenous Collective is an autonomous group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, it is an autonomous Collective of the UTS Students' Association. The Collective is run by Indigenous students for Indigenous students. We come from diverse backgrounds and from different Traditional Countries.

What do we do?

The Indigenous Collective provides a space for regular meetings to discuss Indigenous issues on campus and off campus. Whether it be addressing racist or Cultural insensitive attitudes within the university system; organising for Black Lives Matter and Invasion Day protests in conjunction with other Indigenous groups; providing community for Indigenous students that may have had to move away from home or who would just like to find other Indigenous students on campus.

Who am I?

Hello, I'm Zebadiah Donald Cruickshank but I usually go by Zeb. My traditional Country is Wodi Wodi of the Yuin Nation down in Nowra. I grew up in Broken Hill then moved to Sydney to study a Bachelor of Law and Economics. In 2020 I was elected Indigenous Officer for the UTSSA and will be performing this duty for the duration of 2021.

Our plans for 2021.

2021 will be a time of renewal for the Indigenous Collective. Due to neglect in

resent years membership is down, but with a new Indigenous Officer, supportive UTSSA and in collaboration with Jumbanna we expect this year to be more constructive than previous.

How to get involved.

If you are an Indigenous student interested in the Collective look for our stall or please contact us at: indigenous@utsstudentsassociation.org.

The pathway to tertiary education for Indigenous students is riddled with barriers. Financial pressures, and the difficulty of leaving country to study, as well as institutionalised racism and prejudice within tertiary education institutes create seemingly insurmountable obstacles to further learning. Most Australian universities require very high entry scores, and all applicants have to have completed Year 12. According to the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, only 60% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teens complete Year 12, compared to 85% of non-Indigenous students. Alarming, only 11% of Indigenous students that had completed Year 12 were eligible for university entry, in comparison to their non-Indigenous counterparts, 47% of which were eligible to apply to university. With so few Indigenous students completing Year 12 & being offered university placement, how can Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be expected to aspire to university education, and for the few that manage to attend, how can they be expected to thrive in such a hostile environment?

As a response to the increasing university entry scores and offensively low rates of university offers to Indigenous people, incredible university pathway programs like those offered through our own wonderful Jumbunna Institute, at the Murrup Barak Institute at the University of Melbourne, and the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre at the Australian National University,

many more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have the opportunity to study at institutions which may not ordinarily offer them entry. The programs offer application support, ongoing counselling, and academic advice, and frequently offer financial and resource assistance - very important and necessary services as many Indigenous students have to leave their hometowns to study and lose the financial and emotional safety net of home.

The expansion of these programs should be a priority for all state and federal governments, as well as addressing the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and university offers. Bridging this gap to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have equitable access to tertiary education is vital to guarantee the prosperity of First Nation peoples of Australia.

International Collective

Luna Manandhar
International Officer 2021

Introduction

My name is Luna Manandhar. I am the International Officer for the year 2021. I am from Nepal. I am pursuing my Bachelor degree in Nursing at UTS. Being the International Officer for me is all about being a representative for international students and to be able to provide the right level of support for their social, academic and cultural success during their journey at UTS. I have volunteered on the Council of International Student Australia (CISA) as Welfare Campaign Manager (2018-2019) and Women's Forum Event Coordinator (2019-2020) prior to being elected as the UTS International Officer.

Collective introduction

The International Collective is a Collective run by international students for international students at UTS from diverse cultural backgrounds that advocates and supports them in every aspect to make their university journey a worthy experience whilst pursuing their career journey at UTS.

What do we do?

Many international students from all around the world have dreams to come to Australia as their study destination because of its world-class education and multicultural community. It is a delightful opportunity to study, explore and experience the international environment and develop personal and professional skills. Many international students have never lived far away from their home and family and travelled abroad for their education. International students often have difficulty

adjusting to Australian life and culture, facing some personal challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences and financial hardship. Moreover, they face mental health issues and are at risk of psychological problems that lead to depression, anxiety and frustration.

Coming to a new country and university it can be challenging to balance your studies and work together with your health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is crucial to forming a network of friends around you and a support system. The International Collective do its best to provide support and fill the gap between the students and university. The International Collective suggests and encourages the student to engage and network with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and make new friends. Moreover, the International Collective will provide the platform to network through various events and to campaign and talk about the issues you care about. The Collective has meetings on a monthly basis where we discuss the issues and enact solutions to them.

Lastly, the International Collective acknowledges that the year 2020 has been a challenging year for international students due to COVID-19. Many international students are still overseas due to the travel ban. International students who are in Australia have lost their job, are in financial stress with the result being that their mental health is affected. The International Collective

will help and support international students to maintain their mental health and wellbeing.

To know more about what is in the bag for 2021, you can attend monthly meetings get involved with the International Collective.

How you can be involved?

You can connect with the International Collective through Facebook Page:
UTS International Collectives

Email the International Students Officer at:
International@utsstudentsassociation.org

Impact of COVID-19 on International students' mental health

Mental health refers to cognitive, behavioural, and emotional well-being. It is all about how individuals think, feel, and act. The term 'mental health' is often used by people to mean the absence of a mental illness. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 'Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realises his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and can make a contribution to his or her community.' Mental health can affect everyday life, relationships and physical health. Looking after mental health can maintain the capacity of a person to enjoy life. Doing this means finding a balance between life events, commitments, and psychological resilience efforts.

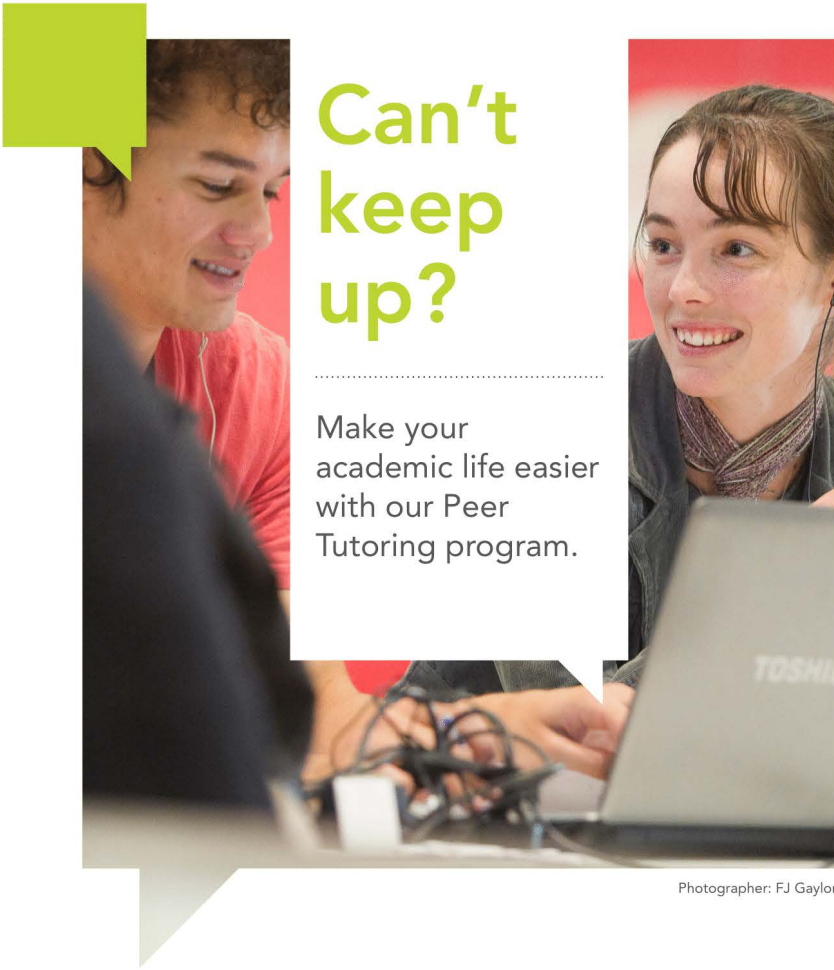
Covid-19 has dramatically changed the educational environment for universities around the globe. International students are facing challenges related to travel restrictions, study implications, graduation status and visa concerns. Besides, they are far from their home and family support, job loss, financial stress, study pressures and loneliness. These challenges along with the chronic stress of the pandemic can result in mental health challenges. It can impact severely to the students who are suffering from pre-existing mental health problems. The conditions that affect mental health and disturb a person's daily life routine are stress, anxiety and depression.

International students and the organisations representing them on campuses should

shine a light on the best ways to respond appropriately to their needs for mental health. In different problems, not just during the COVID, governments and organizations along with international students can find measures to maintain their mental health and well-being. One of the measures can be the partnership between on-campus mental health support services and local government and private health services as they have the potential to provide security for international students. And, international students can have easy access to services not only on campus but also outside of campus. Another measure can be providing mental health education and training through workshops by education institutions.

Therefore, international students are encouraged to take an active role in managing their mental health by reaching out to their social support systems either on campus or back home as the support can be helpful. And if things start to feel too overwhelming, they should reach out to their campus counselling services or other sources of professional help.

If you have any thoughts and are keen to get involved. You can contact the collective via email: international@utsstudentsassociation.org



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utsstudentsassociation.org.au/peertutoring

Postgrad Collective

Peter Munford
Postgrad Officer 2021

Who are we?

My name is Peter Munford and I am the Postgrad Officer of UTSSA for 2021. I am in my second year of a Juris Doctor, and my 6th overall year of study. With previous experience in student leadership and advocacy from my undergrad, I will strive to be a strong voice for postgrad students at UTS in 2021.

The UTS Postgrad Collective is a group of postgrads committed to ensuring UTS students have the best possible education experience and is chaired by the UTSSA Postgrad Officer.

Plans for 2021

One of the biggest challenges that postgrads face is striking up a work/study/life balance. For students who work and study part time, the typical weekday daytime class schedule just isn't possible. In 2021, the Postgrad Collective will campaign to enhance the postgrad experience at UTS, through pushing for an increase in flexibility of classes (e.g. more evening classes, all lectures recorded), and for more online content to help study outside of normal hours.

The UTS Postgrad Collective will also campaign alongside UTSSA on issues that are important to students. Covid 19 has had a dramatic effect on the higher education sector, and the Federal Government may use it as an opportunity to attempt to radically reshape

the sector. We will fight alongside UTSSA and other Collectives to ensure that the quality of education is not stripped away from students, and that higher education remains equitable and accessible for all.

Only with your help can we hope to achieve this.

With campus life hopefully returning to a more 'normal' setting in 2021, the Postgrad Collective will be looking to be more active. We will organise meetings of the Collective subject to interest and availability of members. For students who cannot find the time to come to meetings, we are always happy to have contributions sent via email. We will also look at setting up a facebook group in the near future.

If you are interested in being involved in the postgrad, please email your interest to postgraduate@utsstudentsassociation.org

Enhancing the Postgrad Experience - The need for flexibility

One year ago I stepped into the world of postgrad study completely unaware of what lay ahead of me. I had always known I wanted to further my studies, and decided to take the plunge and enrol at UTS. I knew that studying part time while working full time would bring challenges, and that finding a balance would be key to ensuring my studies were successful.

Fortunately, thanks to the Law Faculty providing evening classes and a range of online content, I was able to find some flexibility which allowed for a healthy work/study/life balance, and managed to find a rhythm. Unfortunately as I discovered, this experience is not always available across UTS. Whilst the university has done an admirable job in attempting to provide flexibility, many students struggle in finding this balance.

For students working full time, the need for the evening class and online lecture recordings is paramount, without these they cannot hope to succeed. Many subjects however either do not have evening classes, or only have a limited number available, leaving these students at the mercy of the often-dreaded timetable enrolment. Postgrad students are also more likely to want to take on summer school subjects to assist with accelerating their degree, and while many courses offer this, there is a need for more to be provided at UTS.

One of the further challenges for Postgrad

students is that we are also more likely to have carer responsibilities than our undergrad counterparts. The current special consideration process at UTS currently fails to take this properly into account. Students with carer responsibilities often experience changing circumstances and the occasional emergency, and cannot always comply with the current requirements for special consideration should this occur.

These examples I have outlined demonstrate the need for UTS to enhance its approach to the postgrad experience. I have so far found UTS a wonderful place to study, as have the vast majority of postgrads I have heard from, however more can always be done to improve this experience.

In 2021, the UTS Postgrad Collective will lobby the university to increase the number of evening classes in all faculties, make all lectures compulsorily recorded, increase the amount of summer school subjects, and push the university to overhaul the special consideration process for students with carer responsibilities.

I recognise the ambitious nature of these tasks, however I am confident that in working with student leaders across UTS, we can deliver real and positive progress for postgrad students.

If you are interested in being involved in the postgrad collective, please email your interest to postgraduate@utsstudentsassociation.org

Queer Collective

The UTS Queer Collective is a place where all UTS students, staff members and alumni who identify as being a part of the LGBTQ+ community can find friendship, safety and a place to belong. Anyone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, asexual, aromantic, queer, or is questioning whether their sexuality or gender identity falls outside of the cisgender, heterosexual norm is welcome to join us!

The Queer Collective has its own autonomous space on campus, which is a cozy room where you are able to relax, hang out between classes and meet other queer students. We hold regular meetings to discuss what's going on in the Collective, and this year we will be holding a mix of online and in person meetings. We have a private Facebook group so that anonymity and autonomy can be ensured and that people can participate in Collective activities even if they are closeted. We also have a Collective Discord server where we chat, socialise, and hold our online meetings in the voice chat.

This year we will be hosting a number of events both in person and online so that you will be able to engage with the Collective and make friends in whatever medium works for you. We will host our annual You Can't Ask That panel, games nights and movie nights, social picnics in a park, and various educational workshops and events. The Queer Collective can also be a place to get involved with activism if you choose, as we form contingents to attend various rallies

to protect queer rights and stand in solidarity with all groups of people who face oppression in our community. We also provide support and resources for queer people facing discrimination. We intend to foster the Queer Collective as a space for radical queer liberation that does not seek to assimilate into the oppressive norm. We acknowledge that the land in which we experience our queerness is stolen land and always was, always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the intersections that queer oppression shares with oppression based on race, class, gender and disability, and we aim to uplift the voices of all queer people and provide a place where we can grow, heal and support each other.

You can contact the Queer Collective at queer@utsstudentsassociation.org.

The Importance of Autonomous Queer Spaces

Clodagh Maclean-Milne and Cal McKinley

Spaces.

We all have a space that we feel comfortable in, whether it be our home, a park, the local coffee shop or the UTS Loft. But something you may not be aware of is the existence of autonomous spaces, specifically queer autonomous spaces.

But what is a queer autonomous space you may ask? And why are they important to us?

A queer autonomous space is a room, group or club that only grants access or membership to people who identify as being a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. Anyone who identifies as a lesbian, as gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, aromantic, nonbinary or any other non-cisgender, heterosexual identity is welcome into an autonomous queer space if they choose. Spaces such as this are incredibly important to queer people, as there are numerous wonderful things that come as a result of being able to form a community with people who have a shared group identity, that shared identity being one's queerness.

Queerness as an identity label can be viewed through two different lenses - queer as a personal identity and queer as a political positioning. These understandings of what queerness means are not mutually exclusive, and often someone can be indicating both things by labelling themselves as queer.

Queer as a personal identity is a general term used to describe one's identity as either not straight, not cisgender or both. Originally meaning 'strange' or 'peculiar', the word

queer was used as a slur towards members of the LGBTQIA+ community, but it has been reclaimed since then and serves as a useful label to indicate one's deviation from the cisgender, heterosexual norm without going into too much detail about the specificities of one's identity. However, some members of the community do not feel comfortable using queer as an identity label for various reasons and this should be respected.

Queer also serves as a political identity and as a framework for queer politics. Queer politics allows people to acknowledge the oppressive structures that are held up by the cisheteropatriarchy and places an emphasis on liberation from this system rather than assimilation into it. Queer as a political label is a complete rejection of what society deems acceptable and instead encourages people to stand in solidarity with all people who are marginalised under a capitalist and colonialist society. Queer politics acknowledges that we exist on the margins of society and uses this knowledge to fight against this system, working towards empowering marginalised groups and tearing down oppressive power structures.

So now that we've explained the word queer, why is a queer autonomous space important?

For people who identify as queer, having a space where you are free to exist as yourself, liberated from the judgements and expectations of wider society can be life changing. Existing as queer in a world that is largely hostile to you

can mean forever having to justify your identity to loved ones and strangers alike, worrying about harassment or violence due to your queerness, and experiencing greater likelihood of housing and job instability and mental health issues. While all of those problems don't go away when you're in a queer space, it can be a lot easier to deal with them when you don't need to worry about being able to be your true authentic self. Simply being able to exist around people without worry for being judged or harassed imparts a wonderful sense of safety and reassurance of our identities.

There is also incredible power in being able to truly connect with people who understand your life experiences. Forming friendships with other queer people helps us to feel comfortable in our identities and provides a place for us to talk about the ways that our queerness influences our lives knowing that people will be able to relate. Queer friendship networks can also be invaluable resources for passing along information about queer friendly medical professionals, navigating the legal system as a queer person, tips about coming out or transitioning and information about where we can find further support resources. It can also just be nice to complain about straight people sometimes and know that people will listen and understand.

It's also worth noting the importance of queer spaces that are separate from mainstream queer spaces such as gay bars and nightclubs. These types of spaces are often 'underground' due to years of marginalisation and oppression, but it also means that they are not wheelchair accessible, and are crowded and noisy, which excludes disabled and neurodivergent people from participating. They are often predominantly focused on sex and hooking up, which can make asexual and aromantic people feel left out,

and can be very alcohol driven which excludes the disproportionately high numbers of queer people who have drinking problems, as well as people who simply choose not to drink. Having a space that is separate from these aspects of queer culture is important as bars and nightclubs are not welcoming or ideal for all members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Some of us just want to make friends and get advice.

Overall, queer autonomous spaces are important because they provide us with freedom to express ourselves and talk openly about our queerness without harassment and the ability to make friends who automatically understand our experiences. In a cishetero world, we are constantly reminded of our status as outsiders. From advertising on buses and in train stations to unwanted stares to violence, having an autonomous space to breathe and express ourselves is revelatory. These types of spaces should be respected by our allies and be recognised as an important part of queer people's lives.



Passionate about change?

Get involved with your UTS Students' Association.

Photographer: FJ Gaylor

▶ utsstudentsassociation.org.au
facebook.com/UTSStudentsAssociation

Welfare Collective

The UTS Welfare Collective is a community of diverse students who seek to speak up and act on many of the obstacles that students face at university such as textbook access; housing affordability; legal assistance or finding affordable food. It is a group run by students for students aimed at creating a supportive community that can ease some of the difficulties that university students are faced with.

The Welfare Collective's focus is on organising projects and initiatives that encourage access to affordable food; transport and housing; mental health support; academic support; financial assistance and free legal services to UTS students both on and off university campus.

We have meetings on a regular basis where we discuss the most pressing issues facing students and determine our course of action in response to these as a Collective. We are always open to ideas on how to empower students and are ready to support matters that UTS students believe in.

As a Collective, our key focus in 2021 will be to expand our Collective from last year and further communicate our wide range of services that are available for students by improving their availability and accessibility. There're a few key matters that we hope to tackle this year with the help of students and the UTSSA.

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on us all so it's time to pay attention to our mental health. A great support system is the best way to reduce the negative effects of isolation and uncertainty

2020 has brought upon us, so the Welfare Collective aims to develop our mental health initiatives by providing practical resources such as student counselling services and mental health hotlines. Covid-19 has also had a sizable financial impact on students due to lower employability rates and less access to affordable housing and food. By bringing these issues to light and letting our voice be heard we can provide you with the services you need to succeed as a student.

We hope to see you at future meetings so you can speak up about the matters that you care about and the initiatives that you want introduced. For students who want to use our services or learn more about the ones available reaching out is always a great start!

So, how can you get involved?

- By joining our Facebook page: UTS Welfare Collective
- Attend our regular Collective meetings throughout the semester
- Stay up to date by being added to our email list:
<https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/collectives/welfare>
- You can contact me, the Welfare Officer, Sabine Yassine at welfare@utsstudentsassociation.org even if you just want to have a chat about all things UTS.
- Finally, come see us at our Clubs Expo stall and see how else you can get involved!

What the Welfare services can do for you

Knowing your rights - Legal services

Most university students are employed or are looking for employment whether it's because we need the money to be able to buy our next meal or the experience to get into our dream job we're all bound to experience the pros and cons of being an employee.

Our goal as a Collective is for all students to know their working rights better than they know their go-to coffee order. Students having the fundamental knowledge of their rights at work is vital in having the ability to bring awareness to any injustices that they may face under their employers. Accordingly, if you face any issues such as underpayment, non-payment, or harassment at work you can visit the UTSSA legal service for free legal advice where all matters are dealt with in strict confidence.

It can often feel like you're powerless or have no one to turn to in this situation which is why having the UTSSA legal service is key is maintaining students' welfare and by bringing awareness to the services available and continually supporting students' rights through initiatives, events and service we can create a supportive community for all students.

Raising the rate

As a result of Covid-19 the Australian Government has increased the government Youth Allowance payment rate significantly which has supported many unemployed young Australians including many students

who are currently looking for employment. However, this is threatened as the number of Covid-19 cases begin to decrease in Australia, so the Government sees the potential for the youth allowance to be reduced back to the unlivable \$300 per week (with the exception of students who have children) which is considered to be below the poverty line in Australia.

If this is the case, and the Government moves to reduce the financial support they provide students, the Welfare Collective will passionately join wider campaigns to protect students' rights to ensure that students have a livable income to work with as they navigate university life.

Counselling @ UTS

Counselling services at UTS are free for students and appointments can be arranged by contacting the counselling unit on 9514 1177 to ask to speak with a counsellor or email at student.services@uts.edu.au.

Although we have a professional and credible counselling service at UTS, the Welfare Collective hopes to work with the university to improve student wait times for counselling sessions and make them more accessible to all students by increasing the number of counsellors and encouraging students to reap the full benefits of the services available to them.

Whether it's being able to manage your time and deal with stress or more serious psychological matters, UTS counselling services are available. If you don't wish to see a counsellor there are many online self-help resources that are available at your disposal and if you don't suit the more personal one-on-one methods that counselling provides there are also many groups and workshops for you to attend that cater to your mental-health needs. For example, the managing assessment and exam anxiety workshop or, my personal favourite, the procrastinate less group which is held as a zoom meeting where you get the opportunity to meet with a group of students and learn invaluable methods to help you manage your procrastination habit, a trait which many a university student, including myself, have acquired after a long year of zoom-university!

LIFELINE AUSTRALIA

<https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

13 11 14

BEYOND BLUE

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

300 22 4636

EMERGENCY NUMBER

000



Having academic issues?

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Speak to our Student Advocacy Officers for independent and confidential advice.

Drop in

10:00am-12:00pm, Tuesdays
utsmeet.zoom.us/j/484728509

12:00pm-2:00pm, Thursdays
utsmeet.zoom.us/j/120281737

Appointments

To make an appointment email
students.association@uts.edu.au

Women's Collective

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

-Arundhati Roy

Who are we?

We are a Collective that exists to help usher in the equal world that Roy predicts. UTS Women's Collective (WoCo) is a network of female, non-binary and TISGD (trans, intersex, gender diverse) students that strive to incite social change. As any Collective we rally under commonalities, of being oppressed by a white male power structure and seeking to dismantle that. WoCo provides what our members ask, whether that's a safe space to unwind and watch a feminist movie with your peers; a social-political forum to discuss gender equality; or an organisation that mobilises against the patriarchy, we're there!

What do we do?

As a Collective we organise on Indigenous land, specifically the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. The violent occupation of this land is a daily reminder that our feminism must be intersectional. WoCo is an activist group whose pursuit of gender equality is unapologetically anti-colonial, queer, anti-capitalist and environmentally friendly.

We organise weekly meetings to discuss these complex ideas and provide a supportive space where members can educate and empower one another! We are also planning a number of social events this year (if the pandemic is forgiving) such as mixers, picnics, reading clubs and inter-university events. WoCo also has our very own Women's Room in Building 3 if you need a break and a place for sisterly love.

What's in store for 2021?

As a Collective we are going to try our utmost to provide the best experience we can and be as active as possible despite the current global health situation! Our goals are to:

- arrange forums with speakers regarding:
 - sex work
 - the experiences of black and indigenous women
 - diverse gender identities and misogyny
- be a visible activist group at rallies and protests
- organise fundraisers
- start a monthly reading club
- have social events such as:
 - movie screenings
 - picnics
 - mixers
- plan inter-university Women's Collective events
- grow and strengthen our network of support!

How to get involved!

Women's Collective can be whatever you need it to be! If that's a group which gives you the tools to destroy the masters house and boldly empowers your activism; a judgement-free educational forum to help your feminist journey; or simply a support system of like-minded individuals you can meet for a movie and a picnic- WoCo is what you're looking for. WoCo can be whatever you make of it through your involvement by:

- coming to our weekly meetings in Building 3! (more info will be sent soon)
- joining our Facebook groups! "2021 Wom*n's Collective" and "UTSSA Women's Collective"
- signing up to our mailing list by visiting <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/collectives/womens>
- and, most importantly, saying hi at O'Day on the 16th of February!

Over the last decade there has been a rise of #GirlBoss feminism in the gender equality movement. At its essence #GirlBoss feminism tells women to reject traditionally feminine economic roles such as a secretary or an assistant and instead 'lean into' C-Suite roles. As a young, emerging activist I lauded this feminist narrative, not only could I make money and achieve prestigious positions in male-dominated fields I could also liberate all women from oppressive corporate gender roles. Except, this subset of feminism leads women to believe that it is their individual responsibility to dismantle a patriarchal system and encourages them to compete with their peers (including women). It also became increasingly clear, as someone who lies on the intersections of oppression, that #GirlBoss feminism was not for me. It was for the ambitious middle-class, cishet, white woman whose only problem would be destroying the glass ceiling, failing to recognise the many ceilings below them.

UTS Women's Collective is leaving this feminist ideology in the 2010's and is ushering in a system of intersectional support. We believe that to achieve tangible change we have to have discussions about problems such as #GirlBoss feminism and devise alternatives. As a group we are intersectional, realising that while we all experience struggles because of our gender identities however, other aspects such as race, sexuality and ability exacerbate and change these struggles. Throughout 2021 we will be holding a number of forums, ranging from the interaction of diverse gender identities with feminism, to the experiences of black and indigenous women in the feminist movement.

The Women's Collective will also be involved in organising and attending a variety of protests around issues (feminist focused and others) such

as the Black Lives Matter protest on Invasion Day. Most importantly we want to foster a community of support, where instead of facing gender inequality alone and competing against each other in a patriarchal system we hold each other up, recognise each other's differences, heal together and fight together.

VERTIGO

Vertigo

What is Vertigo?

Vertigo is the flagship magazine run for, made by, and in the spirit of, UTS students and the UTS Students' Association. It was named after the dizzying, vertiginous height of the infamous UTS Tower building, which used to host the original magazine offices at its summit. The Vertigo brand encompasses a print volume published throughout the year, digital media streams such as the YouTube channel VertigoTV, Vertigo Podcast and various online content published through its website and social media streams.

What does Vertigo stand for?

Remarkable is often a nebulous marker of achievement, and in a world that pressures students to achieve this ideal, Vertigo offers them the means to do so. Every year, the editorial team behind Vertigo drafts a unique mission statement for what the magazine means to them, and in 2021, Vertigo is all about inclusivity, accessibility and representation, propelled with a strong social justice drive. By connecting students to art, music and culture, we want to amplify the raw authenticity of young voices, and ensure that curiosity, creativity and authenticity are being supported and empowered.

What does Vertigo do for students?

The professional realm often discriminates against and invalidates student work as 'in progress', 'immature', or 'inauthentic'; Vertigo instead pushes the envelope and creates an environment that elevates, inspires, interrogates, and showcases student work, opinions, life, culture, creativity, and experimentation. Many students get their first publishing opportunity in Vertigo, or their

lucky photography break, or otherwise have a platform that celebrates and encourages student achievement. Vertigo is perhaps the most visible intellectual and creative space in UTS that exists for and because of students; it is their voice, and it belongs to them. That feeling you get when you hold your idea as a physical thing for the first time? Vertigo lives for that feeling.

What lies ahead for the year?

The year ahead will see Vertigo put out magazines, numerous online videos and articles, brand new podcast episodes, and host a variety of student events such as an exhibition, open mic night, and launch/wrap parties. Vertigo hopes to foster student connection and inspiration with its brand.

How to get involved?

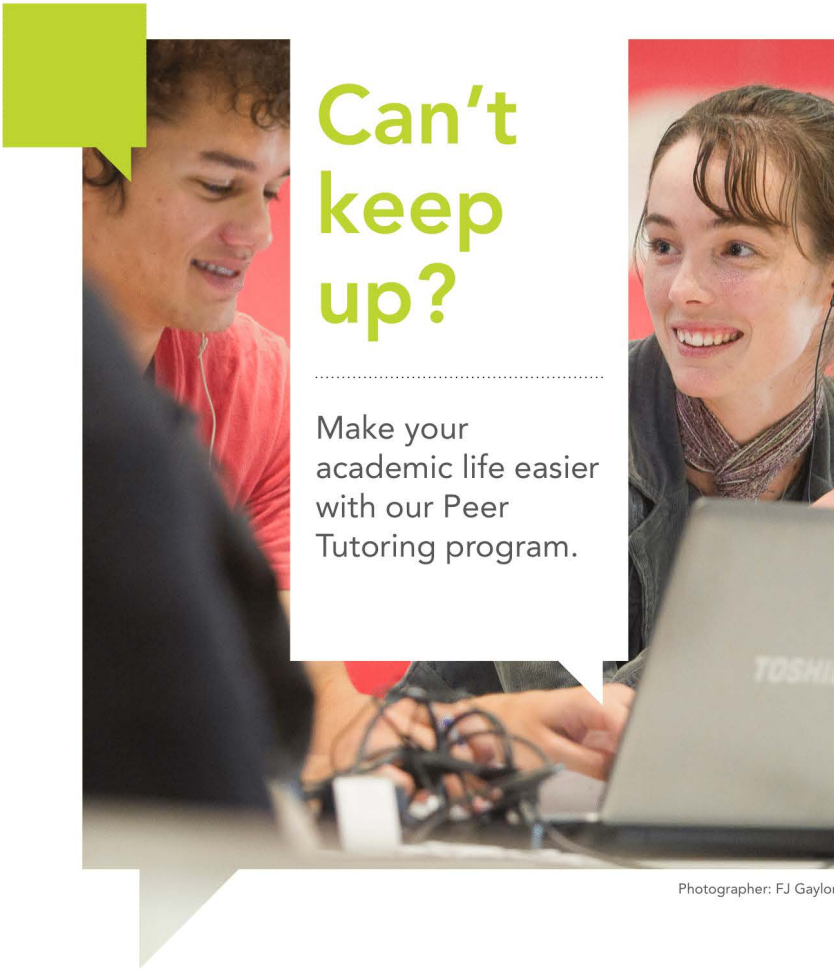
Callouts for submissions and pitches will be open periodically throughout the year, as announced on our social media platforms; all submissions and pitches can be sent to submissions@utsvertigo.com.au. Feel free to reach out to us on our social media platforms with questions, thoughts, concerns, witticisms; we'd love to hear from you!

How to stay up to date?

Keep up to date with Vertigo by liking the Facebook page, following our Instagram, or subscribing to our YouTube channel VertigoTV and podcast on Spotify. Check out our website weekly (<https://utsvertigo.com.au>) for articles, reviews, and other creative student pieces of all kinds.

How to contact?

Official submissions should be sent to submissions@utsvertigo.com.au. For all other concerns, please contact us directly at editorial@utsvertigo.com.au.



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Make your
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with our Peer
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Photographer: FJ Gaylor

Enquire Now

UTS Tower Building, Level 3, Room 22 | (02) 9514 1155
utsstudentsassociation.org.au/peertutoring

