

UTS

Students'

Association

Handbook

2022



**UTS
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Our voice. Our way. Our SA.

MILLY 22



Acknowledgment

The UTS Students' Association acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands that UTS is built on, the Gadigal people of the Eora nations.

We pay respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend this respect to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders reading this.

The UTS Students' Association also acknowledges that no matter where we are, we are on stolen Aboriginal land where sovereignty was never ceded. This land was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Of Country

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Handbook Introduction

Sabrina Yassine
UTSSA General Secretary 2022

Welcome!

Thank you for picking up the 2022 UTSSA Handbook! My name is Sabrina Yassine, and I am the General Secretary of UTS Students' Association. Whether you're a bright-eyed first year student ready to learn the ins and outs of UTS, an old-timer ready to graduate or somewhere in-between, this handbook is for you. This UTSSA handbook is here as a one-stop shop in introducing what the UTS Students' Association offers!

UTS is a vibrant, dynamic space for us as university students to reach our potential in all areas of our lives from academia to activism to artistry. The opportunities for unique experiences are endless, however there are various challenges that come with being a university student, especially for those just starting their university journey. The Students' Association aims to make this transition easier by providing a range of invaluable services to students that'll you learn all about in this book, from our free food initiatives, legal service, academic advocacy and peer tutoring we've got something here to help. You'll also learn about all of our wonderful Collectives, what their purpose is and some of the things they hope to achieve this year in making our university a better place for us all.

I would like to personally thank all the contributors to this handbook, from Officer-bearers, Association members, UTSSA staff and Vertigo, you've made a Summer producing this book possible. Though, my

biggest thank you goes to the Handbooks' very own designer Amelia 'Milly' Guiffre, your effort and dedication has been unmatched!

To our UTS students, best of luck for 2022! I hope it is a great year for us all and please if you have any questions or inquire about our services, the UTSSA is here to help you at students'.association@uts.edu.au, or through our website.

A final thanks, to all the students that make being a part of UTS so meaningful.

Sabrina Yassine
General Secretary 2021/2022



President's Statement

Anna Thieben
UTSSA President 2022

Hello, welcome to the UTS and with that a big warm welcome to your Students' Association. Amongst all the information thrown at you as you start university, you may be wondering what your Student Association is. A very reasonable question considering the circumstances, and something I struggled to understand when I first entered the tower two years ago.

As you flick through this handbook you will get a sense of the campaigns we run and how you can get involved, but in case this is the last sentence you read before you chuck this in the bin (or return it to a stand for someone else to read xox), remember... Your student union is here to represent you! If you are ever dissatisfied with our university or struggling to keep yourself afloat, reach out. We are here to help.

With that out of the way, let me introduce myself. My name is Anna, I use she/her pronouns, I am an Enviro Science student and I was elected by UTS students as your union president for 2022! My job, along with the rest of the SRC is to amplify your voice, making sure that student needs are being platformed over the corporate, profit-centric ideas of our university management. I have a heap of goals for the year and believe in the power a strong, student union can have to stand up for our student community.

A goal for me and our council this year is prioritising efforts that ensure a safe and accessible university. Support systems offered by UTS are challenging to access, meaning vulnerable students fall through the cracks. We will work to cultivate effective student support services, autonomous safe spaces, and interfaith spaces. We need anti-racism training modules for everyone, concession Opal cards for international students, zoom captioning and greater accessibility consultation for disabled students.

COVID permitting, my door will always be open for a chat. Otherwise, shoot me an email! 

I want to keep all the work the SRC and I do as transparent and accessible as possible because we need your help and engagement to make any meaningful change. Our student Association genuinely seeks to fight for all students on this campus but to do that we need to hear your concerns.

I highly encourage you to follow the Student Association on Facebook or join one of our Collectives (you can hear all about them in the rest of this book), to help advocate for an autonomous group or issue you are passionate about. Can't wait to see all the great things we get up to in 2022.

What Is The UTSSA?

The UTS Students' Association is your student union, funded by a portion of your student fees. Run by students, for students, we run a number of completely free services to make sure that your time at uni is the most enjoyable and stress-free possible. Beginning your university journey is a daunting experience and with challenges that it presents it's imperative that students know of the services available to them. The UTSSA provides casework services for students that have academic misconduct allegations against them, with dedicated staff willing to help. We facilitate peer tutoring and provide free food with Bluebird Breakfast and Night Owl Noodles two times a week, to help nourish our UTS community and ensure nobody goes without. Additionally, UTSSA provides students with free student legal services.

The SRC is the peak governing body of the UTSSA. We are students elected to an SRC council annually to work for you to provide critical support, advocacy and services. The role of the SRC is also to represent student issues, run campaigns on student initiatives, participate in national education campaigns, support safer spaces on campus, lobby for the reduction of course fees, provide a strategic direction for the UTSSA and ensure that students are represented at all decision-making levels at UTS.

The UTSSA also is the publisher of the Vertigo student magazine which produces beautiful social commentary and graphics, showcasing ideas from across the university. Vertigo regularly looks for students' input and submissions for the content of their magazine, so read more about them at the end of this magazine and try your hand in getting your work published!

If you know where to look and get involved UTS is full of vibrant, diverse and smart students looking to complete their degree and make sure their time at university is fulfilling with many positive and fun-loving memories made. This aligns with the aim of the UTSSA to make sure that the time spent in UTS by students is as stress free as possible which can be achieved by having a fully resourced and assisted University journey.

To find out more, visit our website: utsstudentsassociation.org.au

We encourage all students to get involved. So if you wish to get in touch, email students.association@uts.edu.au, call 9514 1155 or visit our facebook page to stay updated and connected.

Your SRC



Anna Thieben
President



Sabrine Yassine
General Secretary



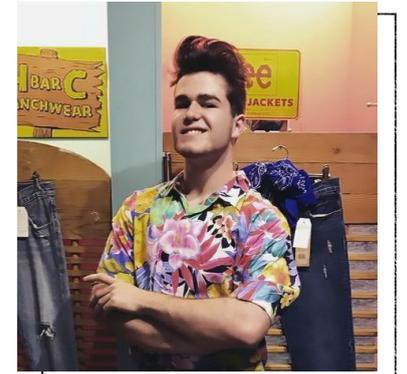
Melissa Sukkarieh
Assistant General Secretary



Cat Doherty
Education Officer



Nour Al Hammouri
Welfare Officer



Harry Ryan
Postgraduate Officer



Eshna Gupta
Women's Officer



Antona Bursa
International Students' Officer



Camille Smith
Indigenous Officer

14 Student Representatives



Elijah Hollero
General Councillor



Bailey Riley
General Councillor



Cal McKinley
General Councillor



Saihej Bhangu
General Councillor



Sara Chaturvedi
General Councillor



Rufus Dadd-Daigle
General Councillor



Gracie Abadee
General Councillor



Suzy Monzer
General Councillor



Mia Campbell
General Councillor



Simashee De Silva
General Councillor



Adrian Lozancic
General Councillor



Vanessa Lim
General Councillor



Zebadiah Cruickshank
General Councillor



Chloe Rafferty
General Councillor



Tips For Students

1. Join clubs and societies

The best way to get involved in student life and make friends is to seek out clubs and societies. Here you can find like minded people and make lifelong friends!!

2. Join Collectives

Collectives are also great ways to meet like minded people and make friends, as well as getting involved in activism on campus!

3. Talk to your lecturers and tutors

The best way to be introduced to internship opportunities is through making connections with your teachers. Making connections also makes asking questions and seeking out help easier.

4. Try to turn your camera on during zoom classes

It makes teaching a lot easier when staff can see who they are speaking to, and forces you to be as absorbed in the lecture as you would irl.

5. Explore the Campus

UTS has so many buildings. Many of which students don't get to use during their time at uni. Take your time exploring and go try find your favourite secret study spot.

6. Get set up with accessibility if you need it

Too many students go through universities without the support they need, making uni much more difficult. If you have mental/ physical accessibility needs seek out the services!!

7. University is a time for self discovery, and you might discover you hate your degree

Don't get stressed though, most people will transfer degrees/ majors. Don't rush through your education just to get a degree, actually find what you're interested in.

8. Structure your timetable so you're not waiting hours between classes

Try to avoid starting your day at 9am and finishing with a 6pm class or you will spend a lot of your time waiting around.

9. Use university resources while you can

This includes counselling, career, library, resume editing services etc. As a student you have access to a lot of services, utilise them!

10. Have fun and don't stress!

Time is fake and covid is real, so be nice to yourself while studying!! (still try tho)



Passionate
about
change?

Get involved with
your UTS Students'
Association.



Photographer: FJ Gaylor

► utsstudentsassociation.org.au
facebook.com/UTSStudentsAssociation

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 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 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 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. oom or other online learning platforms.

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 Advocate 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

Drop in Times

- 12:00pm-2:00pm, Tuesdays <https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/484728509>
- 12:00pm-2:00pm, Thursdays <https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/120281737>

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 hangry 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 from the UTSSA Student Legal Service.

The UTSSA Student Legal Service is located at the UTS Tower, Building 1, level 5, room 12, and is open 3 days a week – on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

You can get legal advice and assistance on most legal issues, including tenancy problems, employment issues, traffic and criminal matters, stalking, cyber bullying, civil disputes, consumer claims, debts, divorce, family law, business matters, intellectual property, and most other issues. The Service can also certify documents, and witness statutory declarations and affidavits. The only areas where the legal service can't help is if you have legal problems with UTS, or visa or immigration issues.

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.

For an appointment for legal advice please email the UTSSA Student Legal Service at studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au, or phone +612 95142484, or drop in to their office on level 5 of the Tower Building.

Overleaf, we've provided some information on your rights as an employee when you are working in Australia, and some tips to help you when you are renting.



 A photograph of a woman in a professional suit smiling. A large speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing text about legal services.

Need a lawyer?

.....

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 Students

You Have Rights

All students, whether you grew up in Australia, or you are an international student who has come to Australia to study, have the same basic rights as an employee, including rights to be paid at least the minimum wages, to superannuation, and to be safe at work. Permanent employees also have rights to sick leave, and paid holidays.

Minimum Wage

You should be paid at no less than the minimum wage, which from January 2022 is \$20.33/hour, and \$25.41 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 your employer said you would be paid less, and you agreed.

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

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.

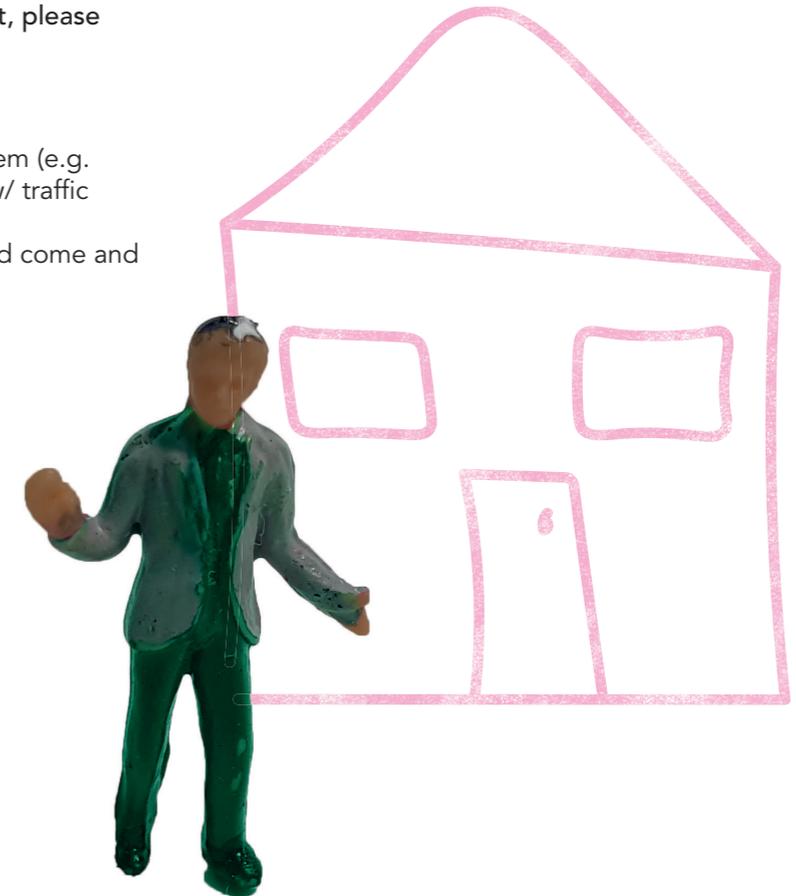
UTS Student Legal Service is open on:

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

Wifi

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

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

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.



COLLECTIVES

Introduction To Collectives

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 Autonomous Collectives 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>.



Accessibility Collective

Cal McKinley
Accessibilities Officer 2022

The Disability Collective is a group run through the UTS Students' association for disabled students at UTS. We are an autonomous Collective, meaning you must identify as having a disability, mental illness, chronic illness, auditory or visual impairment, neurodivergent condition, or other health condition in order to become a member. We aim to provide a space that simultaneously provides social connection and community for disabled students, as well as participating in activism and advocacy to improve the lives of disabled people both at university and in broader society.

We strive to operate on the principles of disability justice, a framework created by disabled comrades in the US that takes a fundamentally anti-capitalist, anti-racist and abolitionist view, centring people most impacted by violence and oppression in order to achieve true disabled liberation for us all. Prior to 2022 the Disability Collective has been inactive for a number of years, and it will require some time and hard work to build it up to be the place we envision it to be. As your Disability Officer I will lead where necessary, but will put most of my effort into learning from and building community with my fellow disabled students, so we can together create a space built upon solidarity, connection and liberation.

As a Collective we will hold regular meetings that all disabled students are invited to

attend, where we can discuss our goals and plans for the year ahead. We will also hold social events throughout the year, to provide an opportunity for disabled people to connect with each other. Throughout the year we have a number of campaigns we will be working on to make life easier for disabled students at UTS. These include improving the outreach and ease-of-access of the UTS Accessibility service, revitalising and improving the services offered by the UTS mental health service, and looking into connecting the UTS Psychology clinic with the student union to provide a more easily accessible and unified service.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Disability Collective, please email accessibility@utsstudentsassociation.org or follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/utsdcCollective



Free Bluebird brekkie!

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

utsstudentsassociation.org.au



Why Mainstream Disability Activism Sucks

Most disability activism sucks. I don't say this lightly, especially since there is so little of it around, but it's true; disability activism in mainstream society sucks. Let me tell you why.

Most disability activism comes from an older, more medicalised framework of disability. It comes from the view that to have a disability is to have a medical 'wrongness' that needs to be corrected or tolerated in order to allow a disabled person to integrate into mainstream society. These disability movements are often led by the family members of disabled people, and fight for disabled 'inclusion' and accessibility as the end goals of their advocacy, when in actuality these things are the bare minimum rights we require in order to fight to be recognised as full autonomous human beings, and should merely be the first step to allow us a seat at the table in the first place.

They will focus on getting disabled people into the workforce, reinforcing the idea that a person's worth only exists insofar as they are able to be economically productive, and that if you aren't able to produce labour that is exploitable by capitalism then you are a burden on society. This brand of advocacy is often targeted to wealthy, white, cisgender heterosexual disabled people, ignoring the effects of intersecting axes of oppression and leaving everyone behind. It asks that disabled people fit in to, keep up with and reinforce the current status quo of society,

a status quo that perpetuates oppression, marginalisation, and will never allow for the true liberation of disabled people.

An alternative to this is Disability Justice. Let me preface this by saying that I am not an expert or teacher on disability justice, and it isn't a miracle label that you can apply to bad activism to make it better. I am constantly learning from the writings and teachings of crips who have come before me, and this is just a sharing of what I know at the present moment. Disability Justice comes out of the work of the original Disability Justice Collective founded in Oakland in 2005, by primarily queer, trans, indigenous, black and brown disabled people. Disability Justice asserts that the oppression faced by disabled people is inherent to the system, and this oppression is compounded by racism, sexism, colonialism, queerphobia and a multitude of other oppressive forces to alienate the most vulnerable in our community.

It denies the capitalist assertion that a person's worth is defined by their capacity for economic productivity, and works on providing a space for people to come together and recognise their wholeness and completeness as disabled people, as Cripples, as Mad people. Disability Justice examines the ways settler-colonialism exists as a violent and disabling force, an ongoing structure that enacts the most grievous

acts of ableism upon Indigenous people, and works towards prison abolition and sovereignty for Indigenous people in order to achieve true justice.

This is the framework with which I would like to see the Disability Collective, and all disability activism at UTS lead by. It will be an ongoing process of challenging hierarchies and societal norms that allows us to come together in solidarity and love to dream and struggle together for a future that liberates us all.



Education Action Group

Cat Doherty
Education Officer 2022

2022, what will you do?!

2022 will certainly be a big year for education. We have the upcoming federal election, potential industrial action from the NTEU, and the continuing unpredictability of COVID. More than ever, we need students on the frontlines fighting to protect our education – a perfect time to join the EAG!

Get to know us!

The UTS EAG (Education Action Group) are a student body who fight together for an education that is high quality, accessible, decolonial, and free. We welcome all students in the Collective, and also work alongside UTS staff members. Our activities centre around causes for education, and include meetings, banner paints, and hosting forums and rallies, among social events.

Why is the EAG important?

Have you ever felt frustrated by mandatory unpaid internships/placements? Classes being forced online, even when there aren't COVID restrictions, OR, no online classes being available when you need them? The death of the in-person lecture for many subjects? The overworking and mistreatment of staff? Education that enforces colonial rhetoric and excludes Indigenous students and students of colour? The inaccessibility of university for working class students? The exploitation of international students? The

price of fees for certain courses doubling? Or even just paying such high fees for university, which were set by those in government who received free education, banner paints, and hosting forums and rallies, among social events?

If you said yes to any of these issues, and have further frustrations at the university, standards of education, and the government, then the EAG highly encourages you to join us in fighting against them.

Our plans for 2022:

In the event of industrial action by the NTEU, who are fighting for better working conditions, the EAG will stand in solidarity, and organise student lead support for staff. The EAG will campaign for paid internships/placements for students, to bring back in-person lectures and classes where they have disappeared, while maintaining online options. We will also pressure the government for better funding of universities and free education, and protest against any further cost cutting measures by the university.

How do I get involved?

Keep updated on our socials for upcoming meetings, campaigns, and events!

Facebook: UTS Education Action Group
(<https://www.facebook.com/UTSEAG>)
Instagram: @uts.ed.action.group



You can also sign up to join the EAG at this link: <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/Collectives/education>

And keep a lookout for us at O-Day and around the UTS campus! We are very keen to see new involvement in 2022 and to build student momentum!

Student Exploitation As A 'Learning Opportunity'

The Inequities Of Unpaid Internships And Placements

Have you ever had an internship?
How was your experience?

Internships can provide students with valuable opportunities to get experience in the industries they want to work in - when managed properly that is. Unfortunately, the model of internships as they exist currently in Australia, sets many students up for exploitation.

Have you ever had an unpaid internship?

Forced to fold boxes, fetch coffees, hand out fliers, or do any work that should be done by a paid employee? This is the reality for many students, both those completing internships as part of their course requirements, and those taking them on as extracurricular activities.

Have you ever been on placement?
How was your experience?

Mandatory course placements, such as those undertaken by nursing students or education students, are other examples of career experience where student work is exploited. During placement, many students work full time hours for a number of weeks, yet receive absolutely no payment. Instead, they are the ones paying for their own labour. Despite being in these workplaces to get valuable experience for their future jobs, students are often used to fill in staffing gaps, and thus end up engaging in routine tasks, rather than learning new skills.

As defined by Fair Work, student placements can be lawfully unpaid if the placement is a mandatory part of a course. But just because it is legal, doesn't make it right. The culture of unpaid internships and placements as an expected part of gaining work experience, reveals structural inequities that exist for students.

Unpaid work advantages students with safety nets, who do not have to support themselves financially, or worry about losing hours at their paid employment.

The culture of internships is also problematic in how they provide an unfair benefit to students who already have connections to industries through family or friend networks. It is far easier to find an internship, especially one that is paid, if you already have an 'in' to the industry.

Student exploitation is an issue that extends across universities. UTS, with its image as a 'social justice' university, needs to ensure that students undertaking internships are adequately paid and provided with a genuine educational and work experience opportunity.

Those on placements, especially who work in government institutions including schools and hospitals, must be paid for the work they do. The laws that enable students to be exploited need to change, and the university should pressure governments to make such changes, whilst themselves providing the

proper stipends for students on placement. The paid apprenticeship models already exist, highlighting that this is a fixable problem.

Capitalism thrives on the exploitation of workers, and unpaid student interns and those on placements are another cog in that wheel.

As students, we have the ability to fight this issue together, to end these unfair practices.



Environment Collective

Bailey Riley
Enviro Officer 2022

The Enviro Collective is the UTSSA's peak body for passionate environmentalists who wish to discuss, organise around and advocate for environmental issues.

We act as a space where any student at UTS can come together to speak up against the environmental catastrophes that we are rushing more towards by the day. Anyone who feels strongly about our planet and wants to have some impact, big or small, will find a place within the Collective.

The Collective also aims to be a social space where you can find like-minded people who work together to have a positive impact on the environment. We host & take part in educational forums, attend protests and take part in cross-Collective activities.

As we come into 2022 and a very important federal election year, our Collective will be operating in all its capacity to spread the message of environmentalism and hopefully change a few minds while we're at it. Our first big event of the year will be attending the National Day of Action.

Get in touch

UTS Enviro meets regularly and we're always looking 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

[\[https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/Collectives/enviro\]](https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/Collectives/enviro) — or contact us via email [\[environment@utsstudentsassociation.org\]](mailto:environment@utsstudentsassociation.org)

If you are keen to get involved in the Enviro Collective as we come back on campus in 2022, make sure you keep updated by following our Facebook [[@UTSEnviro](#)] or Instagram [[@enviro.uts](#)]. We use these platforms to post about meetings, protests or any other events that the Collective is holding.



Fast Fashion At The Expense Of The Environment

Fast fashion is secretly destructive. It enables poverty and sets an unachievable standard that dictates how we look, while devastating the environment at the same time.

Fast fashion produces high volumes of clothing very rapidly by replicating fashion trends, using cheap labor and low quality materials. Personally, I hate how fast fashion made sustainable fashion seem really fucking expensive in comparison. When I buy a \$3 no-brand shirt, I know that there's a sweatshop behind it, but the price is often too good to pass on a tight budget.

While fast fashion may have cheap price tags, it's at the expense of everyone. Many workers in these industries are being paid less than 50 cents per hour while working overtime in severely unsafe working conditions. Slowly, but surely, we have moved towards unsustainable fashion becoming the norm. Within 8 years the market growth of the apparel industry has doubled from 3.5% to 6.16%², which means the demand of fast fashion has only continued to increase. Both high-end and affordable fashion brands continue to choose the unsustainable route despite being called out by consumers.

So, why not slow fashion? Because it's so expensive. Beware, an item's cost does not reflect how sustainable it is. Brands such as Gucci and Prada still potentially use sweatshop labour, waste the majority of their textiles, and promote a quick fashion

cycle.⁸ It's a struggle between being unable to afford certain garments, and not knowing how to shop ethically when you can. Also, like many, I was raised in a household where I couldn't afford many luxuries, so choosing the cheapest option was often the only option. But a good way to mitigate your impact is to just buy less clothes.

Finally, the contribution of fast fashion to climate change is shocking. Fast fashion alone produces 10% of all global carbon emissions and uses 1.5 trillion litres of water annually, while also polluting existing rivers and streams. Most textile materials in the industry aren't even used. 85% of all textiles in the fashion industry are being thrown into dumps every year, further polluting the planet.

Ethnocultural Collective

Suzy Monzer
Ethnocultural Officer 2022

Who are we?

The Ethnocultural Collective is a place for any UTS students who identifies as black, Indigenous or as a person of colour (BIPOC) to connect and organise together. It's a safe space for BIPOC students to forge friendships and be surrounded by a sense of community. There is a high population of students from a variety of ethnic and migrant backgrounds who deserve a safe space to feel supported and validated during their time on campus. In 2020, UTS had 46,382 students enrolled and of those students, 13,963 were international students, 47% of students spoke languages other than English at home and 48% were born outside of Australia.

We want to see the centring of BIPOC issues and voices when it comes to activism concerning BIPOC communities. We are working to ensure that BIPOC voices are at the forefront of campus activism with full efforts in terms of anti-racism campaigns and perspectives. We also offer a space for students to escape whiteness and the structures that often exclude them. We also want to fight alongside UTS management to ensure that all students feel safe and heard both on and off campus. Furthermore, the UTS Ethnocultural Collective is staunchly against all forms of marginalisation, oppression, and prejudice.

What we do?

We aim to offer a space for students to feel safe to discuss their experiences with racism and advocate for issues that concern BIPOC students by raising awareness on campus and bringing said issues to the attention of university management. 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 nuances issues.

We offer:

- Regular meetings and catch ups through the year that all members are invited to. These meetings are a good space to bring up any concerns or thoughts you have that would better the BIPOC experience during their time at university.
- Events that range from being social in nature, such as picnics and dinners, to being educational or engaging, such as seminars, panels, training sessions or even rallies or strikes.

Amount many others these are the things we want to focus on this year:

- Offering a mentorship program for BIPOC students this year and connecting our Collective to the wider community.
- Attaining a permanent space on campus for our Collective
- Ensuring the implementation of a more

efficient and accessible complaints system that has an effective resolution process for students facing any form of racial discrimination.

How to get involved?

It's important that the ethnocultural Collective is active and accessible, and we can't be either without you! We will be working on a range of campaigns this year and will need your help! If you are passionate about the plight of BIPOC students against racial discrimination and prejudice, join our Collective. We will be at O'day stalls and would love to meet you and have more of a chat. Otherwise, come to one of our regular meetings or contact the email below and register your expression of interest. Otherwise, you can follow our progress on our Instagram @utsethnocultural or like our Facebook page: 'UTS Ethnocultural Collective'. We will also be creating a Facebook group, more details on that soon!

If you have any queries, or for more information about the Collective, feel free to reach out to the 2022 Ethnocultural officer, Suzy Monzer, at:

ethnocultural@utsstudentsassociation.org



'Reverse Racism' Isn't Real

One thing I think is important to address, before we jump into 2022, is the common myth that reverse racism is real, and consequently, that having an autonomous space for BIPOC is divisive and exclusive.

Defeating the myth of reverse racism starts by recognising the definition of racism from an institutional perspective: Racism is a historically rooted system of power hierarchies based on race — upheld by institutions, society, and culture — established to benefit white people and oppress BIPOC. It's not just about skin colour. It's not just about racial differences. It's about hierarchical systems of oppression. Effects of racism on marginalised groups include systemic exclusion, police brutality, gaps in health, wealth and education, microaggressions, slavery, and colonialism. Black or coloured prejudice towards whites does NOT lead to these same consequences. To destroy the hierarchical structures that centre whiteness and marginalise coloured people, and attempt to achieve substantial equality, you need non-hierarchical spaces to organise against the hegemonic structures that exclude and oppress BIPOC in the first place.

Further, due to this distorted understanding of racism, some people conclude that autonomous spaces that exclude white people are divisive and impractical. To this, I would like to say that I NEED safe spaces

like the one offered by the Ethnocultural Collective – not to 'hide from ideas and perspectives at odds with my own,' but to heal from relentless hate and ignorance and be heard. My ideas were always challenged in Ethno meetings, but never my humanity. I matter. Sometimes speaking to white people about racism is like speaking to men about abortion; exhausting and invalidating.

Autonomous spaces are full of robust and constructive dialogue. Safe spaces are not bubbled-wrapped echo chambers, but rather, places where "civility and mutual respect" are valued. I imagine a permanent ethno-cultural office would be spacious and full of students sharing their struggles and grappling with oppression.

It wasn't until I started university that I was offered readings by BIPOC academics such as Ghassan Hage, Ruby Hamad and Aileen Moreton-Robinson. These readings changed my life because they taught me the language of discrimination and oppression. Experiences of racism are not rare on and off campus, but knowing how they manifest, and really understanding how to combat racism, is only something that can be explored freely amongst other students facing the same struggles.

The thought that critical race theory isn't a mandatory component of all courses, and that there are some BIPOC students walking around campus and in broader Australia

with minimal support, and in some instances, minimal understanding of how to talk about and combat racism effectively, makes me sad. I'm hoping the space that the Ethnocultural Collective offers to these students is one step further towards an effective means of anti-racism for these students.



Indigenous Collective

Camille Smith
Indigenous Officer 2022

I'd like to acknowledge the land on which I live and from which I write this, the traditional land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and remind non-Aboriginal people reading this that the education system we are part of has been used to systematically destroy the language and culture of Indigenous Australians and impose Western culture and ideals on us. As a colonial structure, it upholds systems of oppression and knowledge gate-keeping from the West that excludes Indigenous Australians on our own land, which needs to be acknowledged and addressed. Treat our land and our culture with the deep reverence it deserves.

Yaama! My name is Camille, and I'm a proud Gamilaroi woman with the honour of being Indigenous Officer for 2022. I am in my 2nd year of studying a Bachelor of Midwifery, with the goal of working in continuity-based Indigenous women's health. I've been an active member of the Indigenous Collective since it's revival last year and will continue to be part of the Collective after my term ends.

The Indigenous Collective is an autonomous group made up of deadly First Nations students at UTS and is run by Indigenous students. Each of us come from different traditional Countries, but together we have created a close-knit community on campus. For Indigenous students, leaving Country and community to study and entering into a colonial structure like university can be jarring so it's important for us to come together to support one another on our learning journey. We meet regularly to discuss issues on and off campus, including organizing contingents to rallies such as Invasion Day, and come together for fun whenever we can, whether

it's holding a BBQ or meeting for lunch in the Jumbunna Institute.

Please get in touch at indigenous@utsstudentsassociation.org to meet some incredible students and have fun!



Culture, Connection And Health

I've spent a lot of time over the last two years thinking about health. I've been studying health in my degree, but 2 years of a pandemic will really bring it to the forefront of your mind. For Indigenous Australians, we face a higher burden of disease than the rest of Australia. We face higher rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, renal disorders, and increased rates of psychological distress. Part of this is genetic. After being untouched by many diseases for tens of thousands of years, colonisation brought unfamiliar illnesses and diets to our doorstep. Part of this is social – the medical institutions of Australia are colonial structures, with very few Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders working in healthcare.

As a result, Aboriginals are less likely to seek medical help due to the racist attitudes of this workforce as a whole system. Medical institutions practice from a Western perspective and with a Western understanding of health. This does not serve Aboriginals well, as countless studies and our own testimonies have shown that the most crucial determinant of health for us is CULTURE. Culture informs our individual choices, the choices of our communities, and how we relate to our environment.

With the onslaught of COVID-19, forcing us into constant lockdowns and isolation from our communities, a lot of us have been really struggling to connect. Please don't

think I'm suggesting that non-Aboriginal people haven't been struggling, or that the separation from their own communities that has come with COVID-19 hasn't been as damaging. I'm speaking about this because the most essential factor in our health, our connection to culture and our cultural identity – something that colonial Australia has been trying to tear away from us for over 200 years – has been greatly threatened over our last two years at university, which is already a place riddled with barriers to our wellbeing.

This year and beyond, I'm hoping to reestablish that connection with my fellow Indigenous students, not just by holding events like barbecues, nights out, movie nights etc, but by us coming together to celebrate ourselves and our culture. With COVID-19, the ongoing threats to our lives as Aboriginals, and even the social, financial, and cultural difficulties of being at university, it's so vital that we come together where we can to support each other, honour ourselves, our Elders, and our communities, and take steps to keep ourselves healthy in every way. I hope you know you can reach out to me, or any other member of the Collective at any time for help and support.

Culture and connection have never been more important. We've been isolated from each other and from Country for nearly 2 years. In 2022, we need to be with each other and there for each other. Our health depends on it.

International Collective

Antona Bursa
International Officer 2022

The International Collective is an autonomous^[1] group that works to make the university experience easier for international students. The Collective is run for and by international students, advocating for international student issues. The Collective aims to make the transition into Australian society and university systems less stressful. Many international students have never lived so far away from their home and families, it can become difficult to adjust to Australia especially when facing difficulties such as language barriers^[2], cultural differences, financial, personal, and mental hardships.

Coming into a new country it can be challenging to navigate the education system, make friends, find job opportunities, and overall maintain health and well-being in an unfamiliar environment. Our Collective aims to provide a space to bond over these joint difficulties, while making connections, and accessing any necessary resources. The International Collective hopes to fill in the gaps between students and the university, it's a place to make friends, access information, and create a support system in an unfamiliar environment.

The international Collective also acknowledges^[3] struggles outside of transitioning into a new environment, international students face high rates of racism^[4] and discrimination, financial hardships with high course fees, fewer job opportunities, and

no access to concessions, as well as mental health struggles unique to their experience. The Collective exists to provide a platform through which students can talk and bond over these issues, while also attempting to actively make conditions for international students better through various campaigns run by the Collective. Through the Collective, we advocate for better treatment of international students, and overall hope to facilitate^[5] a safe and familiar space on campus for any students who need it.

So how do you get involved? Getting involved in the Collective is easy! We have regular meetings that all international students can attend and engage in. Come along to see what the Collective is up to, pitch ideas for campaigns and events, and meet the Collective. The Collective is also active over many online spaces, follow us on social media to keep up with the Collective and our campaigns, stay social and find out when our meetings are happening. Also, feel free to reach out to the Collective online to ask any questions about the Collective and how to get involved. You can also sign up to the Collective through the students' association website and will receive our emails with updates on the latest events.

Email: International@utsstudentsassociation.org
Facebook: UTS International Collective
Instagram: @utsinternationalstudents



Sign Up!

[1] Freedom to self govern

[2] Issues in understanding between people speaking different languages

[3] Recognises the importance of

[4] Discrimination based of race

[5] To make a process easier

To International Students

We know the next year will be extremely busy and chaotic for you, and diving into such an unpredictable university environment is certainly difficult. To help prepare you for the upcoming year, here is a quick rundown on the most useful information we think you should know!

1. Local Community

Housing

If you're living in UTS student housing, try to get to know the people in your building. There will often be social events run through housing where you can meet people and make friends. Additionally, by joining housing group chats, you can keep up with the parties, hangouts, and events happening. Creating a community within your housing unit is super beneficial to your student experience!

Indigenous Justice

Australia is a settler colonial state ^[1], UTS operates on the stolen land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation ^[2] and Australia as a country operates on stolen land of our Aboriginal peoples ^[3]. Living in a new country it's necessary to recognise the traditional owners of the land. It's important to educate yourself on Indigenous ^[4] justice and the past and ongoing struggles of first nations people, as well as looking up whose country you reside in.

Collectives and societies

UTS has a range of societies and Collectives, which are great opportunities to get involved

socially at uni and build up a support network. Societies allow you to meet others with shared interests, while through Collectives you can meet people with similar identities and get involved in on-campus activism.

2. Know your resources

Health (Physical, mental, sexual)

If you're living in UTS student housing, try to get to know the people in your building. There will often be social events run through housing where you can meet people and make friends. Additionally, by joining housing group chats, you can keep up with the parties, hangouts, and events happening. Creating a community within your housing unit is super beneficial to your student experience!

Legal

Offers professional and confidential legal advice and referrals, as well as financial advice services. UTS also offers online legal information (LawAccess Online), in simple and digestible language. These services can be useful for advice around citizenship processes, looking over contracts, and understanding your rights in a new country.

Queer

It can be hard to find queer resources in a new country so here is a quick rundown. Twenty10 is an organisation for queer young people aged 12-25, they provide a range of housing, mental health, counselling and social support. ACON is a queer health service, specialising

in HIV and sexual health (including testing facilities). The Gender Centre is run for trans people to help with gender and transition related issues, they provide education, support, training and referrals. On campus checkout The Queer Collective (queer activism, education, and social events + more queer resources) and Out2party (queer social society).

Accessibility

Accessibility services exist for any students with physical or mental accessibility issues that need extra support services. These range from extensions on assignments to assigned note takers for your lectures. The main processes to get registered involve booking an appointment and providing supporting documents. Check UTS accessibility services online for detailed steps. Don't hesitate to access accessibility services, registering early makes uni a lot easier.



[1] Process of colonisation where traditional landowners are 'replaced' and land is stolen

[2] Eora nation: Aboriginal land on which UTS stands

[3] Aboriginal peoples: Traditional landowners of so-called Australia

[4] Refers to first and original peoples of a nation

Postgrad Collective

Harry Ryan
Postgrad Officer 2022

Hello, my name is Harry Ryan and I'm the Postgraduate Officer for 2022, like the majority of yourselves as postgraduate students you work. I myself work 30 hour weeks as well as study as a Juris Doctor at UTS. Believe me when I say I understand having to balance work and study commitments as well as all other things.

The Postgraduate Collective is a group of Postgraduate students who aim to change and fine-tune the student educational experience at UTS. Essentially we want to ensure that we all have the most beneficial and positive study situation.

What we aim to achieve this year.

If nothing else we aim to make studying more flexible and accessible to not only the Postgraduate student body but students as a whole.

I'm not going to beat around the bush, we as the UTS Students' Association do not have the power to change the fees situation nor do we have the powers of the Federal Government in regards to education (Of course we will be campaigning for better conditions), but of the things that we do have absolute power over we will be fine-tuning to make sure that you as the students get the best outcome.

What do we mean by that?, I'm set on giving people options in their study arrangements, whether UTS plans on doing online study or face-to-face study (preferably both), Covid has messed around everyone's schedules and lives, while we re-open and get back

to normal the important thing is that the OPTIONS are available to every student to fit their schedule. Nobody wants to have to choose between study and family commitments, and ideally you wouldn't have to, but on the off chance you do there should be adequate arrangements in place to make sure you get your worth out of the degree.

If you have any issues with anything specific to postgraduate study, or just want to raise something with me feel free to send an email to postgraduate@utsstudentsassociation.org

Cheers, and stay safe.



The Need For Flexibility In The Postgrad Experience

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.

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

Gracie Abadee
Queer Officer 2022

What is the Queer Collective

The Queer Collective is a safe space for LGBTQIA+ and questioning students to make friends, attend events and discuss their experiences with other LGBTQIA+ students.

The Queer Collective has its own space on campus where you are able to hang out between classes and meet other queer people. It has a kitchen, couches, games and resources for LGBTQIA+ students. You will gain access to the space via your ID card once you join the Collective.

We hold regular meetings to socialise, plan events and discuss LGBTQIA+ issues. Privacy is paramount within our Collective so that closeted and questioning students can feel safe. We have a private Facebook group and Discord server where students can chat with other members of the Collective, and share advice with one another.

What the Collective does for students

The Queer Collective is a kind and supportive group of people. We are passionate about the LGBTQIA+ community, activism and making the most out of our university experience. We provide support to LGBTQIA+ students, help members to make friends and find their community. We aim to uplift the voices of all queer people and to create an inclusive environment for all.

How you can get involved

- Sign up for the Queer Collective at: <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/Collectives/queer>
- Join our secret Facebook group and Discord server
- Email the Queer Officer, Gracie Abadee, at queer@utsstudentsassociation.org if you want any help with joining the Collective or to discuss any LGBTQIA+ issues!



The Impact Of The Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020

You may have heard about One Nation's Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020, which would hurt LGBTQIA+ people if it became law. However what is the Bill and what does it mean for both religious and non-religious people?

A summary of the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020

The Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 is One Nation's proposed amendment to the Education Act 1990.

The Bill states that parents are primarily responsible for the development of their children, specifically in relation to their identity, gender and sexuality. If passed, the Bill would prevent schools from teaching about the LGBTQIA+ community and stops educators from validating trans and gender diverse children.

The impacts of the bill on LGBTQ+ individuals The Bill erases the existence of LGBTQIA+ people, and in particular discriminates against anyone who doesn't identify as cisgender. It takes the power away from schools to promote a culture of inclusivity, this includes banning "gender fluidity" from being taught to students in government schools, a term they wish to add to the definitions of the Education Act 1990.

Equality Australia outlined that the Bill would discriminate against LGBTQIA+ students, risk staff being fired if they supported trans and gender diverse students and allow parents to refuse that their children be taught about the LGBTQIA+ community.

Mark Latham and the Parental Rights Bill

Mark Latham is infamously associated with the Bill after introducing the amendments to NSW Parliament. He is the leader of One Nation in NSW and also introduced potential amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977, which would also harm LGBTQIA+ people.

His Bills target LGBTQIA+ people under the pretense of protecting parents and religious people, whereas in reality they are doing the opposite.

The importance of activism for LGBTQIA+ people

Activism is the cornerstone of the LGBTQIA+ community. LGBTQIA+ people have had to fight for their rights such as at Stonewall, the 2017 Marriage Equality Plebiscite and during the AIDS crisis.

In the queer Collective, we combine fun and friendships with essential activism and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ and non-LGBTQIA+ social justice issues. t

Welfare Collective

Nour Al-Hammouri
Welfare Officer 2022

Hello! I'm Nour Al Hammouri, your 2022 Welfare Collective Officer, a final year Bachelor of Advanced Science (Pre-Medicine Major) student. I've been fortunate enough to be involved in the Welfare Collective all throughout 2021 as the Convener and have been fortunate enough to be elected as the Office Bearer for 2022.

Throughout my time as Convener, I have been exposed to a myriad of issues, initiatives, and problems that students face at UTS, on and off campus. It is the responsibility of the Student Association and the Welfare Collective to respond to these items and work towards better conditions.

The Welfare Collective was founded and operates to improve student betterment on campus, and this can be achieved through different avenues. The Welfare Collective has regular meetings in which we discuss exactly how to approach different items – and through these collaborative meetings we're able to directly respond and hopefully assist students to have a better experience at UTS. We aim to organise around encouraging mental health and academic support, accessibility awareness, anti-racism, social justice activism and whatever the Collective decides to have on its agenda!

For 2022 The Welfare Collective will push and focus on:

- More Wellbeing services; including trauma-informed, SASH and ethnically

diverse counsellors. Opening them up to International and linguistically diverse students.

- More dialogue and opportunities to support marginalised communities.
- STEM Students gaining access to paid internships to further support throughout their studies.
- Easier access to Accessibility, Counselling, and Special Consideration processes.
- Compulsory Lecture Recordings and universal 11:59 submission times.
- Anything missing? Join our meetings!

Collectives work most effectively when workshopping, collaborating and with coffee(s). Another way we increase efficiency is relying on you – the students – to come to us, talk and inform us what they'd like to see us work towards.

Without your introspection and perspective, we are slower to respond to the important issues which affect our daily student lives. The changes made to E-Requests were fast tracked only because students came forth and shared their story.

We'd love to see you drop by at our meetings, keep an eye out on our socials for when they're happening!

Instagram: [uts.welfare.Collective](https://www.instagram.com/uts.welfare.Collective)
FaceBook: UTS Welfare Collective
Email: welfare@utsstudentsassociation.org



Know Your Rights

Most university students are employed or are looking for employment whether it's because we need the money to be able to buy our It is unfortunately common knowledge that students are exploited – wage theft, and inaccessible accommodation are the 2 main drivers – and it is important that the Welfare Collective in tandem with other UTSSA Collectives, unions and the NUS work towards highlighting student poverty to influence public opinion and government policy.

Living in recluse throughout the majority of 2021, the importance of social contact and interaction has definitely shown itself. Balancing the pressures of study, work and coping with the extended lockdown student welfare is a top priority for the Welfare Collective!

How will we respond?

- Running regular calls with our Welfare Collective, welcoming all to come along to chat and ask for assistance.
- Pushing for UTS to expand its support to everyone.
- Demanding increased flexibilities with the choice of classes. We want students to prioritise their welfare and not sacrifice it for studying.
- Improving Counselling services to include Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment and trauma-informed counsellors from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

Change The Age Campaign

Australia has a crisis of student poverty, with the Centrelink Age of Independence for Youth Allowance set at 22, this doesn't help – and only worsens issues for students. Students as young as 18 are already moving out home and can drink, smoke and drive and live independent lives, but can't gain full access to Youth Allowance because of the arbitrary Age of Independence that Centrelink has set out – not allowing them to be considered as independents.

When you consider the global pandemic, students have become more vulnerable and poorer than ever before. Students have been exposed to the casualisation of the workforce, penalty rate cuts, industry shutdowns, and the economic crisis we are in. Lowering the Age of Independence can mean that students have more time to study, and be effective members of future society.

Counseling Accessibility

All of us students understand the devastating effect COVID-19 and lockdowns have had on our mental health. We're making mental health one of our top priorities. We will be setting up a consultative committee with your Welfare Reps to provide more channels for you to reach out for support. We commit to fighting for UTS to provide more counsellors, including Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment and trauma-informed counsellors from ethnically diverse backgrounds at UTS. With too-long wait

times reaching the support students need, this Collective will be pushing and lobbying to reduce waiting times - we want to ensure every student has the ability to access the help they need, when they need it.

The Welfare Collective recognises that all students should be able to see university counsellors, however we also realise the wait times are excessive and are inaccessible to certain student groups. Which is why the Collective will work towards raising the inclusivity of Counsellors (Counsellors who can speak other languages and understand cultural norms) and to accommodate for Crisis counselling by hiring SASH/Trauma Informed Counsellors too.



Women's Collective

Eshna Gupta
Womens Officer 2022

Who are we?

The Women's Collective (WoCo) is the UTSSA's organisation for feminist activism. We are a network of misogyny-affected students (open to all students who are not cisgender men) who seek to incite social change.

As a Collective we gather on Indigenous land, specifically land belonging to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The violent occupation of this land and the unique relationship that Indigenous women have with the patriarchy are reminders that our feminism must be intersectional. WoCo's pursuit of gender equality is staunchly anti-colonial, anti-capitalist and seeks to dismantle cisheteropatriarchy through political action. We are committed to educating the community as a judgement-free forum for misogyny-affected people to participate in conversations about these issues.

What we do?

We not only participate in outward political action such as rallies, petitions and strikes but also educate amongst ourselves through reading groups and forums. Along with our weekly organising meetings, in 2021 WoCo regularly ran reading groups for Angela Davis' womanist history book 'Women, Race and Class' and 'Radical Rants' which was a forum for radically leftist ideas. WoCo also provides a social space for activists. The Women's Space in Building 3 (CB3.4.32) is open 24/7 for all misogyny-

affected students to hang out in. WoCo also has regular picnics and games nights, we are aiming to have many more social events this year, if the pandemic permits, especially inter-university events and drinks nights!

What's in store for 2022?

Despite the global health situation drastically affecting everyone's plans we can't put political action aside. WoCo will continue to operate as an active Collective in 2022 while making sure to protect our members and the community at large. Our goals are to:

- Arrange speakers and forums regarding:
 - Sex work
 - Prison abolition
 - Feminism in the global south
 - Diverse gender identities and patriarchy
 - Patriarchy and capitalism
 - + come to us with more ideas of what you want to learn about!
- Continue our current campaign to create more consistent and accessible consent education at UTS and improve Respect. Now.Always.
- Continue our #PayOurNursesAndMidwives campaign and expand it to address the conditions of healthcare students on placement
- Start up our reading group again!
- Continue being a visible activist group at actions such as rallies
- Create a WoCo magazine! We'll be looking for art and writing from misogyny-



affected students from all over UTS as well as editors, designers and publishers!

- Plan inter-university Women's Collective events
- Have more social events if COVID permits! (e.g. mixers, inter-Collective parties, movie screenings, picnics, games nights)
- Grow and strengthen our network! action such as rallies, petitions and strikes but also educate amongst ourselves through reading groups and forums.

How you can get involved!

UTS Women's Collective meets every two weeks, and we are always excited to see new faces! If you are keen to get involved, you can:

- Sign up to our mailing list by visiting <https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/Collectives/womens> and filling in your details at the bottom of the page
- Join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/utswoco2021/>
- Follow our Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/utswoco/>
- Come say hi to us at O'Day!
- Run for our elections (info sent after O'Day) and help with organising, social media, or events!

We can't wait to see you around!

An Epidemic of Sexual Assault: How Mistreated Students Become Mistreated Healthcare Workers

Content warning: sexual assault, sexual harassment

The global pandemic has highlighted the severe exploitation of healthcare workers through structural failures such as understaffing, dangerously low nurse-to-patient ratios, new isolation exemptions and pay cuts. Essential union organisations such as the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association are fighting for better working conditions along with the support of student Collectives' #PayOurNursesAndMidwives campaign. The worker's struggle is incredibly important and UTS Women's Collective (WoCo) will continue fighting alongside healthcare workers. However, certain aspects of the healthcare system have been largely overlooked - specifically the gendered exploitation and gender-based violence enacted against workers and unpaid students on placement.

In 2020, for every male nurse registered with the Nurses and Midwives Association, there were 7 female nurses. Nursing and midwifery carry the stereotypes of being female work due to the amount of emotional labour required to perform them, as such they are undervalued, both socially and financially compared to other healthcare positions. Nursing and midwifery are inherently extremely laborious professions and are only made harder by the insufficient wage and added risk of sexual assault.

Of 3612 nurses and midwives sampled by UTS one quarter of them reported being sexually harassed by patients and two-thirds of participants reported that "that they had not been provided with adequate information, support and follow-up following an episode of violence."

These issues are further exacerbated in relation to students on unpaid placement. The aforementioned study highlighted that younger and less experienced nurses and midwives are at greater risk of violence. The problem is that universities are priming students for such mistreatment. Universities conclude that healthcare students, even those that are immunocompromised, low income, or living with vulnerable people, must work without a wage during a global pandemic 'due to their duty as healthcare workers.'

This moral guilt trip, however, does not end with justifying unpaid labour or placements over three hours away. It leaks into how universities handle sexual harassment and assault on placement. Emilie Heath, a nursing student at the University of Sydney, pushed a staunch campaign to be heard as a survivor of assault on clinical placement throughout 2021. She identified how the university attempted to deny the reality of this epidemic: "another thing that the university is really pushing back on, is that they haven't heard about [sexual harassment and assault] from any other student. But when you look

at the national conversation, why would any woman come forward?"

She talks about how "the sexual harassment, maltreatment, three-hour commute, the lack of support, unsafe and unpaid working conditions" have all been characterised as a feature of the nursing profession that students must endure.

Sexual harassment is not something you should have to 'get used to' in any profession. Rather, universities have a duty of care to actively support students and change the culture of gender-based violence in these professions. The first steps being to create effective pathways for reporting and pressuring the government to create legal protections for unpaid workers.

The Women's Collective will be expanding our #PayOurNursesAndMidwives campaign to focus on students on clinical placement. If you are a nursing or midwifery student who has experienced abuse on placement, please know that you are not alone and you deserve a safe workplace. WoCo will always be here to ensure your story is heard and that the university responds appropriately. Please get in touch with us at womens@utsstudentsassociation.org if you require any help at all.



SRC SSAF Campaign

We are studying in an unprecedented time where our university management has complete control over the allocation of our student fees. Not the money you pay to study your degree, but the SSAF fees you pay each term to support your student services.

At UTS they allocate only 11% of SSAF to the Students' association, a figure we have to bargain for annually.

Universities, where student unions have no SSAF funding, have little power. Clubs and societies struggle to get space on campus, or funding to run events. It is a uni where mental health and accessibility support is understaffed and inadequate. A weak underfunded union means students struggle to organise and put up a fight against staff and course cuts. It means we are limited in our ability to represent students, and democratically decide how to support everyone on this campus.

Understanding your SSAF fee allocation can seem a bit pointless and dry, but I'll explain why this is important for you to be across. The allocation of your SSAF fees is actually decided by national, state and university legislation, which means all these levels of governance have the power to hand back 100% of SSAF to students, for us to decide how we support each other. In Western Australia in 2016 students lobbied and won 50% of SSAF for student unions. When

students have access to this proportion of SSAF funding without the threat of it being taken away, we have so much potential.

The services SSAF funding currently goes towards including mental health, legal, childcare, and welfare support would remain in place, however, they would be run democratically by students, properly funded and tailored directly to our needs. Mental health support would be more than a glorified medical certificate service, providing free, accessible support to all students. The funding for clubs and societies could be increased, helping to reduce membership rates and bring back bar tabs in the underground. We could expand BlueBird Brekkie and Night Owl noodles to provide more free food on campus, and to ensure no student goes hungry.

As we head into an election year, now is the time to put SSAF legislation on the table and demand federal politicians support 100% SSAF for student unions.

This is a winnable campaign. You can get involved by attending SRC meetings, joining our Collectives and helping to educate your friend on what SSAF actually is! Together we can fight the liberals and ensure that the spending of student money is decided by us; students.

2022 The Year To Strike!

In 2019 the liberal government passed their 'Job Ready Graduate', reducing the government's budget dedicated to universities. Since its inception course fees have surged up to 113%, and staff and students have carried the burden of this bill. With major staff cuts, course cuts, bigger class sizes, less time with tutors, and student fees increasing up to 113%.

Staff are seen as dispensable, and the quality of education is being stripped away from us. There however is a disconnect between staff and student issues, 2022 should be the year staff and students unite in solidarity and demand better learning and teaching conditions.

With staff being in a period of bargaining, they are now in the rare position to actually do this; to bargain for better pay, more stable contracts, and better working conditions. Realistically staff should be able to take industrial action at any point! However, since industrial legislation changes brought in by the Hawke and Keating governments, in line with the Accords, bringing in enterprise bargaining and some of the first anti strike laws in Australia. The deal weakened workers rights, supposedly in exchange for social welfare i.e. better education, medicare and superannuation. In 2022 the only thing coming from this deal is declining union power, with medicare slowly being stripped back, university degrees costing upwards

of 50K, and people pulling funds from their superannuation to survive a pandemic.

This makes enterprise bargaining periods crucial for workers. Although at a university where casual staff make up 70% of workers, do staff really have any power? Casual staff have no job stability, and very little bargaining power. High casualisation rates keep the authority in management's hands. When workers have to worry about job stability and pay, the idea of striking becomes daunting, effectively taking its power away.

This makes staff and student solidarity crucial within these bargaining periods, when staff and students strike together our movement becomes stronger. As students we have mobilised and struck before, the 2019, and 2021 climate strikes being notable examples. The support and involvement of students in the fight is essential! The only real way casual staff can participate in a strike, not get reprimanded, is for students to show 100% support and also strike! If there are no students to teach, staff are free to strike.

This article is essentially a call to action to students coming into UTS in 2022, join the UTS Education Action Group, attend monthly student council meetings, talk to staff about the job and pay cuts, join the NTEU if you get a UTS job, and when it comes time for it, strike with us!!

VERTIGO

Vertigo

Vertigo Team 2022

In 2022, the Vertigo Magazine aims to capture the Collective imaginative output of the student body. The only place where you can read about pressing issues affecting students, music reviews, rants, podcasts and to look at the psychedelic visions and creations of design students. Vertigo publishes a variety of content in print, and digital mediums. Primarily distributing the magazine through the various stands across campus, while digital content can be enjoyed to read and stream on the official Vertigo Youtube channel, Spotify, Vertigo website and Podcast.

What does Vertigo stand for?

Vertigo has become the catalyst for many students beginning their path of voicing their interests, concerns, works and ideas.

Brimming with originality, imagination and passion, Vertigo is an emblem of UTS that celebrates the remarkable talent of our diverse student body.

Vertigo is a platform that prides itself on being a mouthpiece for the triumphs, desires, troubles and demands of our student body.

What does Vertigo do for students?

Through the amplification of the magazine, students can showcase their voice on certain topics. An early platform for them to garner the same spotlight as more experienced writers. No idea will seem too farfetched, or not significant enough to be worked

through or included in same form through the magazine that is ran and is for the student body.

What lies ahead for the year?

The Vertigo Editorial team aims to foster opportunities for more active engagement between students and their campus. We will celebrate the new year and the first issue at our annual launch party. That will begin our rollout of our magazine, online videos and articles, podcast episodes and hosting of student events.nt body.

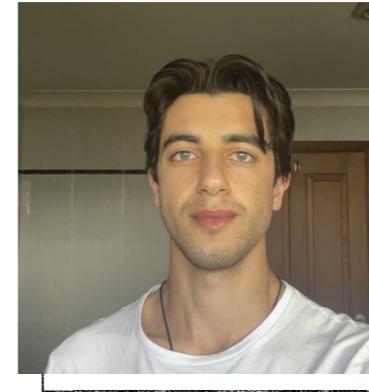
How to get Involved?

For interests in being published through Vertigo, make sure to be following @utsvertgo on Instagram and Facebook. The magazine publishes 6 main issues across the autumn and spring semesters, with other articles constantly being uploaded on the Vertigo website.

How to keep up to date with Vertigo?

Stay up to date with Vertigo by following our Instagram, liking the Facebook page, subscribing to our YouTube channel Vertigo TV and podcast on Spotify. Check out our website (<https://utsvertigo.com.au>) for articles, reviews, rants, designs and more.

2022 Vertigo Team



Joseph Chalita



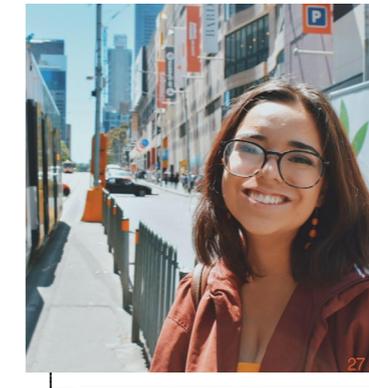
Andy Lee



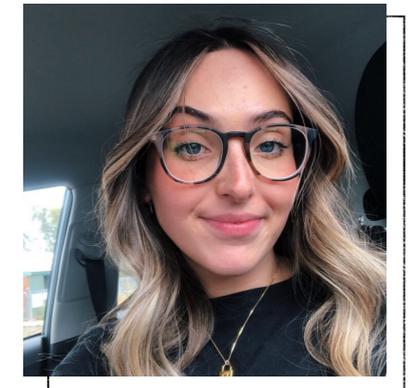
Sophia Ramos



Ashley Sullivan



Clara Atkin



Jessica Prowse



Joseph Hathaway-Wilson



Alexander Mortensen



Siena Zadro

UTS Faculties



Arts and Social Sciences



Business School



Design Architecture
and Building



Engineering and
Information Technology



Health



Law



Science



Graduate School
of Health



Transdisciplinary School



UTS
STUDENTS'
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Our voice. Our way. Our SA.