



**UTS  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION**

Our voice. Our way. Our SA.



**UTS**  
2024 Student Guide

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# Foreword

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.

For those unaware, the UTS Students' Association (UTSSA) acts as the largest representative body at uni, run by students for students. We host a range of activism and lobbying aimed at improving education, fighting inequality and engaging in larger protest movements. The UTSSA also offers student-run services you may already be familiar with; such as night owl noodles and blue bird brekkie- the latter of which we have successfully fought to revive last year after a brief hiatus and budget cuts.

This handbook generally aims to guide new and old students unfamiliar with the students' association with what we do around campus, how it affects you, and how you can get involved. This handbook also contains a full guide to collectives, and an overview on some of the issues which most affect them heading into 2024.

Our main goal this year is to continue to mitigate the cost of living crisis at uni through the services run through our welfare collective, and continue to offer free essentials such as meals, groceries, tech supplies, period products and covid tests. Another priority this year is to engage UTS students in Palestine activism. What is happening in Gaza and other occupied Palestinian territories right now is certainly one of the most pressing issues of our time where uni students can make an impact.

The UTSSA acknowledges the rights of the Palestinian people to live peacefully and condemns Israel's forceful occupation of Palestinian territories. The UTSSA condemns the ongoing genocide in Gaza and encourages students to engage with protests and boycotts against Netanyahu's government and the IDF. The UTSSA also acknowledges and condemns the recent rise in antisemitism and islamophobia and reaffirms that our uni is no place for bigotry. In solidarity-

Adam Levett: UTSSA General Secretary



## President's Address

I'm Mia, a fourth-year Law and Science student at UTS. I firmly believe in a focused, team-oriented approach to address the issues that impact students at UTS. Positive change, in my view, stems from a combination of strong communication, protest, and teamwork.

The main goals of the Students' Association this year revolve around expanding free student services, reforming SA/SH policies, fostering inclusive communities, creating a productive space in the UTSSA SRC, and enhancing the promotion of our services. By doing so, we aim to elevate the student experience at UTS and amplify the student voice to university management.

If you'd like to get involved in the UTS Students' Association please follow us on Instagram @uts\_students\_association, check out the different Collectives you might be a part of, or send an email to myself president@uttstudentsassociation.org

### Collectives Contact List

Education Action Group  
education@utsstudentsassociation.org

Welfare Collective  
welfare@utsstudentsassociation.org

Women's Collective  
womens@utsstudentsassociation.org

Indigenous Collective  
indigenous@utsstudentsassociation.org

Queer Collective  
queer@utsstudentsassociation.org

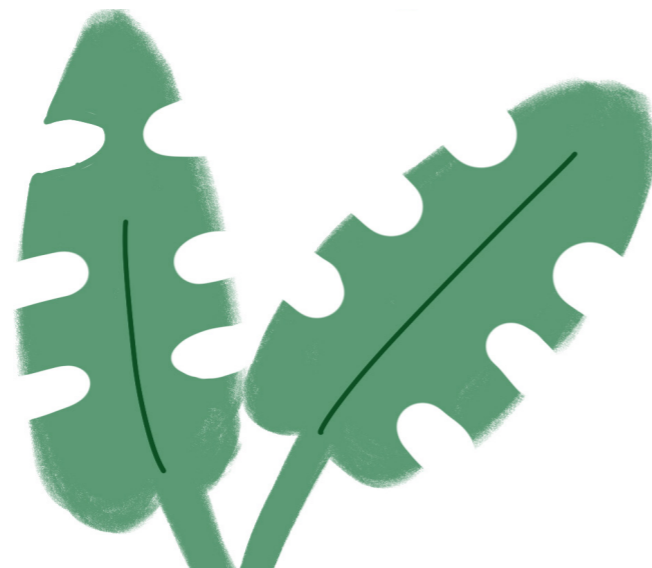
Disabilities Collective  
disabilities@utsstudentsassociation.org

Ethnocultural Collective  
ethnocultural@utsstudentsassociation.org

Enviro Collective  
Environment@utsstudentsassociation.org

International Students' Collective  
international@utsstudentsassociation.org

Postgrad Collective  
postgraduate@utsstudentsassociation.org



## I Want to Make Change at Uni - Where do I Start?

Collectives Collectives affiliated with the UTS students association grant students the opportunity to organise and meet likeminded people passionate about a particular issue. Collectives include; Education, Welfare, Environment, Wom\*ns', Queer, Indigenous, Ethnocultural, Disabilities, International collective and Postgrad collective. Collectives such as international and postgrad offer students under a particular kind of enrolment to raise issues which affect them at university. Autonomous collectives such as Indigenous, queer, ethnocultural, disabilities and womens' can only be attended by students who identify as part of said group, offering both a space to raise issues of discrimination and inequity at uni, and a safe space to meet and chat with other students. A detailed outline of each collective group is contained later in this handbook.

Political societies If you're interested in outright politics as well as activism; Activate UTS is also home to a range of political societies across the spectrum of politics. These give you the opportunity to engage with larger external political groups; as well as get engaged in activism, lobbying and other political organising outside the scope of UTS, and often with other students and young people from other places in the New South Wales area. Similarly to UTSSA collectives, activate UTS political clubs are also a great way to get your foot in the door if you ever intend to run for the UTSSA student council.

Lobbying Never forget there's no shame in lobbying or raising grievances with the university. If you experience discriminatory behaviour by a teacher or outdated terminology in a lesson, never feel ashamed to contact your subject coordinator. If you witness a systemic issue; or a cooked event or business operating at the university; and every single higher up you've tried to contact is leaving you on delivered - you have power in protest.

Always remember that university management are 1# obsessed with their own reputation and 2# shit-scared of not appearing to be modernly progressive. Protest is not just powerful because it raises awareness to other students and stuff on a particular issue. More importantly, campus activism is powerful because it embarrasses the university bosses and their stakeholders.



# Solidarity and Scabs: A guide to Unionism for Dummies

Unions have long offered workers, higher pay, better benefits, improved working conditions and solidarity through collective bargaining and organising. Even if your job is in the tiniest little business, with three or fourth people working at a time, merely just saying 'I am a union member' can garner yourself a fairer go when you experience unfair treatment in the workplace.

However, unionism is most effective when it is partaken through collective action. There are many existing unions which you can be apart of whilst you study and beyond, both in your workplace and at the university.



## What unions support me in my workplace?

Australia is home to various workers' unions which represent specific industries. There are also unions such as the United Workers Union (UWU) and the Australian Worker's Union (AWU) which represent workers across vast industries. If you work in retail or food.

The Retail and Fast Food Workers Union (RAFFWU) as well as the controversial SDA (Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association), both offer affordable membership options for workers.

## What unions supports me as a student at UTS?

As you may have already gathered, the UTS students association acts as the peak representative body for students at UTS, you can raise concerns with UTSSA councillors at any time and come to any of our monthly meetings.

You're also freely welcome to join any of the UTSSA collectives, which represent specific student issues. UTS is further part of the National Union of Students (NUS), which is a body comprised of student unions from every state across Australia, which acts as a platform to raise student issues that are systemic across Australia's universities at a national level.

## What union represents UTS Staff, PhD students, and postgraduate students?

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) is the workers' union which predominantly represents UTS Staff in the workplace. If you're a postgraduate or a PhD student; you may be entitled to free membership to the NTEU under the condition you're not working in tertiary education already.

Even if you're just an undergraduate student, its still important to support the NTEU in its industrial action- and never cross a picket line when strikes occur during class time.

So in other words; you literally have zero reason not to join your union! Unless of course you're a filthy little scab who hates workers, your colleagues, your mates, and yourself.

# EDUCATION

# INTRO TO COLLECTIVE

The Education Collective, otherwise known as the Education Action Group is a group of students who are dedicated to achieving better outcomes for your education at UTS. We firmly believe that education at UTS and nation-wide should be focused first and foremost on learning, not profit.

The Education Action Group has historically run a variety of campaigns, both on campus and in collaboration with various other bodies.

A few examples of our previous on campus campaigns are: making classes more accessible, such as providing slides online, having more appropriate class times and angling for lecture recordings, and improving the structure of our semesters.

With the Australian Universities Accord releasing this year, tertiary education standards will be in the spotlight. Now more than ever is the time to fight for improvements in your education.

This year, the Education Action Group will have a big focus on campaigning for the abolishment of Unpaid Placements, better e-request processing times, and fairer extension systems in every faculty.

The Education Action Group works closely with the NTEU – the National Tertiary Education Union, as we believe that achieving better results for staff will simultaneously improve results for students. We also work collaboratively with the National Union of Students (NUS) on various campaigns both on a campus and national level.



This year, the Education Action Group plans on doing everything it can to improve your education. By joining the Education Action Group, you have the opportunity to stand up for your own education.

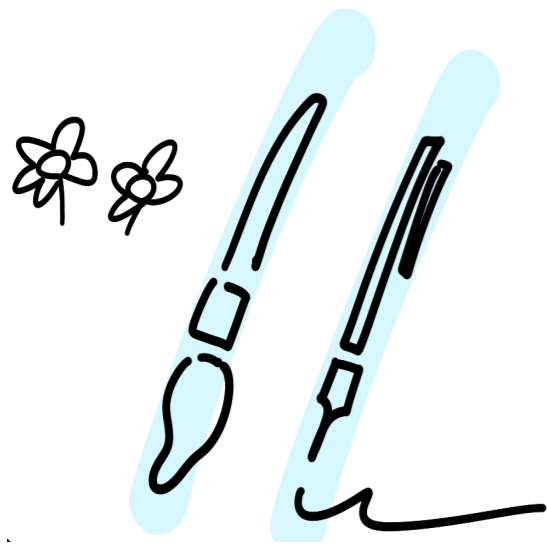
If there are any issues you are particularly passionate about, feel free to reach out at [education@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:education@utsstudentsassociation.org)!

Students can also get involved with the Education Action Group by signing up on the UTSSA website.

# Lawfully Unpaid Placements

Many degrees require students to go on placement for a certain period of time in order for them to receive their degree. There are many reasons as to why placements are necessary for students in various industries. First hand experience is invaluable to both students and future employers. However, why is it that their work is lawfully unpaid?

We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis. Already burdened with HECS debt, soaring rent and rising costs at supermarkets, a lot of students are already finding it hard to keep afloat in the current climate. Students are forgoing meals and taking up more shifts at work to survive.



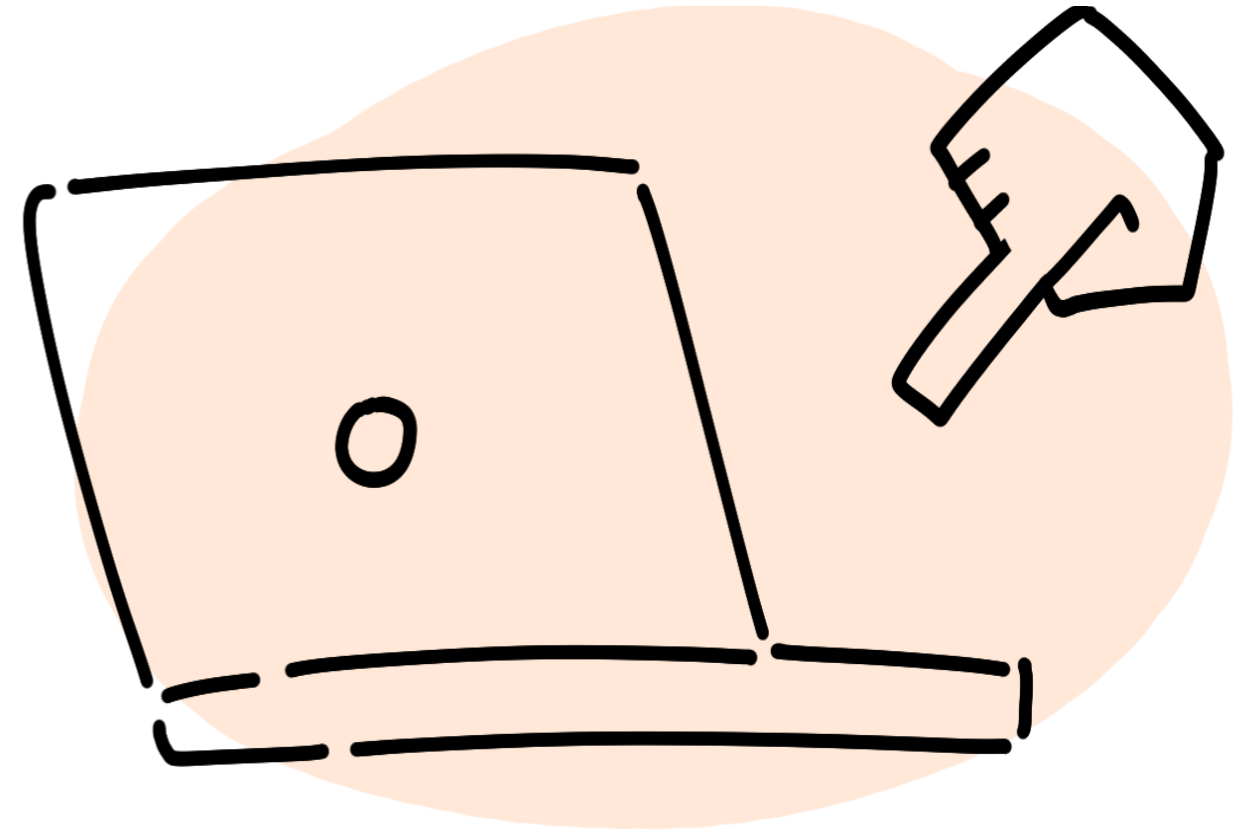
Recent ABS data shows a record number of young people are working multiple jobs at 194,000. Last year, the New South Wales Council of Social Services also reported that 74% of people aged 25 to 24 were facing housing stress, and almost half of that group was finding it hard to pay their bills.

A third of that group, and a similar amount of young people aged 18 to 24 also were unable to pay their rent or mortgage on time.

When students are then faced with unpaid placements with demanding hours, it makes it virtually impossible to live.

Students completing placements, as stated by the Fair Work Ombudsman, 'are not considered to be employees and therefore are not entitled to the minimum wage or other entitlements provided under the FW Act.' But why not?

A student placement may be a learning experience, but students are still offering their labour, willingly or not. This rings especially true for industries such as nursing where student placements require them to be on shift full-time. At this time, many students are forced to work late night or early morning hours just to put food on the table. As much as I wish it were true, many students just don't have somebody to support them financially when going on placements.



There is no debate that placements are essential for students. They are mandatory and they are for a reason. Placements provide students with hands-on knowledge of an industry related to their degree which they are likely to pursue. Yet, in our current state unpaid placements are increasingly unlivable for students.

Wanting to complete a degree and get experience in a desired field should not cause anybody to work unacceptable hours or to forgo necessities such as food or power.

There needs to be a change.

# WELFARE

Hi! I'm Aylin Cihan, the Welfare Officer for 2024 and a fifth year Bachelor of Laws student. I was previously the Welfare Collectives Convenor in 2022 and the Women's Officer in 2023 and have been fortunate enough to be involved in the SRC to build and introduce initiatives that aim to improve the student experience at UTS. The Welfare Collective operates to ensure the well-being of students on campus through initiatives that assist mental and physical health, socio-economic disadvantage, academic support, safety on campus, affordable and accessible house and legal aid.

The Welfare Collective is committed to increasing these support services to all students and creating a social network that allows students to stay connected to help improve their time at UTS. We do this by holding regularly meetings that discuss the key issues affecting students and how we can assist in remedying the problem at UTS. These meetings are open to all current students and is vital to ensure that we know what concerns students are directly facing.

While most of us have seemed to forgotten about Covid-19, its after effects has not, by contributing to the current cost of living crisis in Australia. This has resulted in a disproportionate disadvantage to current students as many face rental rises and an increase in basic necessities, which often mean that students forgo essential items.

How you can get involved!  
Instagram: [uts.welfare.collective](https://www.instagram.com/uts.welfare.collective)  
Facebook: UTS Welfare Collective  
Email: [welfare@studentsassociation.org](mailto:welfare@studentsassociation.org)

With this in mind the Welfare Collective has key goals for 2024 by re-introducing Bluebird Brekkie and expanding Night Owl Noodle and Bluebird Pantry to ensure that basic student needs are met.

The current climate has also meant that many students mental health has been negatively impacted and as the Welfare Officer I aim to expand our counselling services as the well-being of students should be prioritised by the university.

In addition the 2024 Welfare Collective will continue to focus on and push for:

Streamlining processes when applying for extensions or special consideration across all faculties  
Continuing to expand the free period products initiative at UTS

- Ensuring the commitments of the UTS 2022 Student Partnership Agreement have been met
- STEM students getting access to paid internships throughout their studies
- Easier access to Accessibility and Counselling that are trauma-informed, have SASH training and are ethnically diverse
- Expanding the availability of classes to accommodate working students
- Creating a one-point contact for reporting sexual assault and harassment at UTS
- Compulsory lecture recordings and universal 11:59 submission times for all faculties

Anything missing? Join our meetings!

Our Collective works best when collaborating with and listening to all students so please feel free to come and talk and inform us on what you'd like to see us work towards!



# INTRO

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# THE GREAT DIVIDE

Without a doubt, the Israeli occupation and subsequent apartheid and genocide of innocent Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank have impacted people in one way or another. The effect of this issue has also brought to light the greater divide between university management and the welfare of their students.

Universities seem to prioritise their relationships with the State of Israel through scholarships with military organisations that provide weaponry to Israel, allowing for exchange opportunities on occupied land and censoring students from criticising the Israeli government under the IHRA definition of anti-semitism.



In contrast, many student-led organisations across multiple universities in Australia have been arranging pro-Palestinian protests amounting to thousands of attendees, releasing letters of support for Palestinians and calling for a boycott of the partnerships that their universities hold in contributing to the innocent killing of Palestinians.

Effectively, this rift between university management and its students exposes the underlying issue of how they continuously play a role in students' feelings of frustration, helplessness and loss of community.

This issue is one of many which highlights how universities seem to fall short when it comes to student voices and their welfare. With the cost-of-living crisis hitting an all-time high, students are struggling to keep up with rent rises and increases in the cost of basic necessities, such as food and hygiene products. In turn, they ask that universities provide support and greater leniency during these times but are often re-directed to student-run associations, which are under-staffed and without enough resources to assist the thousands of students on campus.

While these student organisations and campaigns from the National Union of Students, such as the Change the Age Campaign, are beneficial, they cannot keep up with demand in the same way that university management can. For years, students have requested lower barriers to entry for accessibility and academic support by seeking to ban the expiry of accessibility provisions that would save time and money and asking for an expansion of classes and resource availability to support working students whilst also aiming to streamline the process for extensions and special consideration across all faculties to ensure fairness.

These requests from students have been overlooked for years and highlights the patterns in which universities refuse to listen to their students and remedy their issues whilst relying on them financially and academically to ensure that they outperform their competitors. Whilst it is crucial that universities implement student suggestions to uphold a sense of community, safety and protection, the conflict with Israel, lack of economic and academic support and financial aid continues to worsen the great divide. It underscores how these issues are not the first and will not be the last in aim to achieve a cohesive university experience. The UTS welfare collective recognises this disconnection and will aim to resolve the differing stances to ensure the wellbeing of all students on campus.



# INTRO

The UTS environment collective is a community that represents students' concerns about the climate crisis, pollution and broader environmental woes to the University to strive for a more sustainable campus and world.

The collective is led by second year environmental science student, Jeremy Higgins.

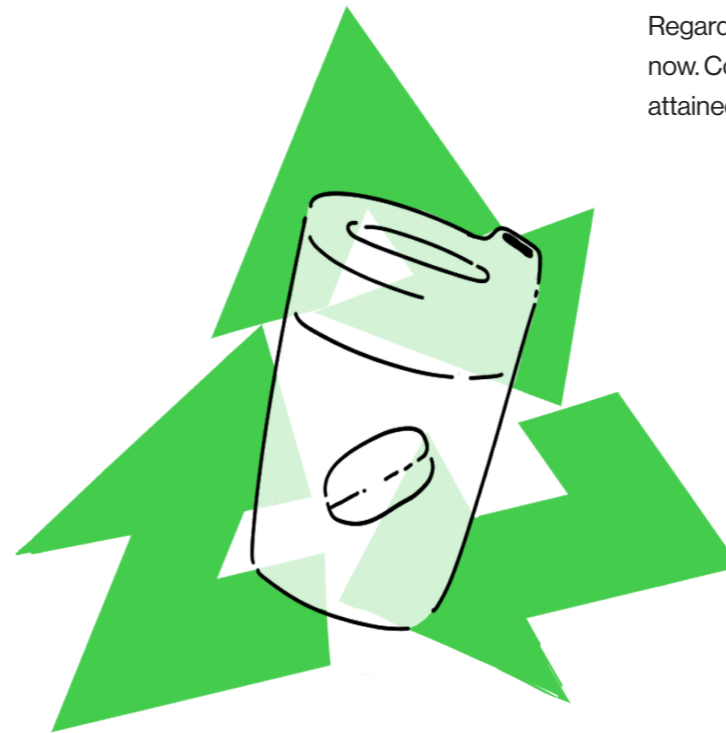
The collective runs monthly meetings to discuss and develop new sustainability projects and policy for UTS and the Students' Association. All are welcome to attend, it is not limited to environment or other science students, bring your friends!

General activities include participating in and assisting student protests and other activism on and off campus, this will often mean casual banner painting and placard making.

These are also fun social activities to meet new people and get involved with the Student's Association.

Contact:  
[environment@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:environment@utsstudentsassociation.org)

## *Environment Collective is for everyone.*



The second of seventeen UN Sustainable Development goal addresses the need for “Zero Hunger”, this goal was addressed in the 2022 UTS Sustainability Report noting a surge in popularity in the Students' Association's Bluebird Pantry. Comparable popularity in the program is also reflected in the Night Owl noodles where long queues of students waiting for a bowl of noodles forms.

In an era of ever-increasing cost of living pressures, the strain on young students to study and stay nourished is a difficult balance to maintain. Despite the popularity in previously mentioned relief programs, the now axed Blue Bird Brekkie has remained a struggle to reinstate. Sustainability is often perceived as a matter about the environment and Earth, but a more holistic view to sustainability and exercising it should take in to view the sustainability of students' lifestyles at UTS. Reinstating the Blue Bird Brekkie program has been and will continue to be the Student's Association's paramount objective, and that it is a shared aspiration between the other collectives of UTS, especially Welfare.

An additional sustainability concern of UTS is the consumption of takeaway coffee cups. The cup is deceptively unrecyclable, the plastic inside being the limiting factor. With more cafes on campus than what would a small suburb/town, coffee cup wastage on campus is a real concern. A precise and recent figure for how many are disposed of over time is yet to be ascertained and could be answered by future work and study. Regardless, tangible steps for reducing coffee cup consumption on campus is achievable and can happen now. Cooperation with and between campus cafes to incentivize the use of reusable cups can and should be attained.

# ETHNOCULTURAL

# INTRO

My name is Salma Elmubasher, and I am honoured to be representing UTS students and staff as an Ethnocultural Officer for the 2024 academic year. As a Kuwaiti-born, Palestinian-Australian Muslim woman, I am particularly mindful of the issues that ethnic minorities may confront in today's society. With a strong ambition to promote inclusion, I hope to establish a comfortable and welcoming environment for all students at UTS, notably through the UTS Ethnocultural Collective.

This collective serves as an autonomous and safe place for those who are indigenous Australians, part of an ethnic minority, or otherwise marginalised by mainstream Australian monoculture to gather amongst each other, share their experiences, and find a sense of unity. This collective also encourages other students and serves as an educational initiative for all students at UTS to be more culturally aware in the diverse country that is Australia.

By developing understanding, making connections, and pushing for inclusive policies, I hope to contribute to a campus atmosphere where diversity is recognised and every student is welcomed and supported. By actively interacting with the UTS community, encouraging cooperation, and executing focused activities, I hope to establish the UTS Ethnocultural Collective as a light of support for people of colour here at UTS.

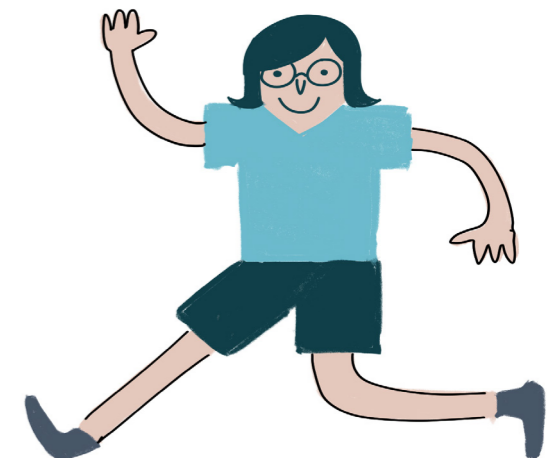
The following links lead to our social media platforms, where we'll post updates and announcements. We warmly welcome anyone interested in connecting with and joining our collective!

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/utsethnocultural/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/utsethnocultural/>





## Addressing Mental Health Challenges Among Ethnic Communities in University Settings

In the maze that is university life, students' mental well-being is of vital importance. However, it is critical to recognise that mental health issues can be perceived somewhat differently among ethnic communities. The combination of cultural origins, societal expectations, and academic stress can have a significant influence on the mental health of students of various ethnic backgrounds.

The purpose of this article is to explore the varied nature of mental health problems among ethnic minorities in university environments, shed light on the obstacles they experience, and reflect on a more positive and inclusive campus climate for POC with mental health concerns.

### Cultural Stigma

One of the most significant barriers that ethnic students experience when addressing mental health concerns is the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions in many cultural contexts.

Mental health is sometimes veiled in obscurity and seen as a taboo subject, resulting in a reluctance to seek help for their current situation. The fear of being stigmatised by one's community could drive students to internalise their challenges, further exasperating mental health issues.

Furthermore, language barriers and cultural differences might limit efficient communication between students and mental health experts.

Universities must recognise and diligently address these barriers to establish an atmosphere where students feel comfortable seeking help without fear of being judged or perceived as "weak" or "dramatic".

### Isolation and Lack of Representation

Since minorities are underrepresented in academic and social settings, students from ethnic backgrounds may feel isolated despite the fact that a sense of belonging is essential to mental health. It is crucial to have representation in both academic leadership and mental health resources.

It is essential to provide mental health treatments that are culturally competent and cognisant of the particular difficulties that people from various cultural backgrounds encounter. This entails having resources available as well as counsellors who are aware of how cultural variations, interpersonal conflicts, and social expectations might affect a student's psychological well-being.

### Academic Pressure and Cultural Expectations

The pursuit of academic success is a common objective among students, but the pressure for academic achievement can be higher within specific ethnic communities. Families and cultural backgrounds can place external expectations on students to meet high academic requirements. Despite their motivation to succeed, these expectations can raise stress and anxiety levels and, in severe situations, even result in adverse long-term effects on one's mental health.

### Conclusion

Ethnic populations in university settings experience complicated and multidimensional mental health concerns. University environments may be made more inclusive and supportive for all students by proactively recognising the distinct intersections of culture, identity, and academic pressures that affect many people of colour.

Encouraging a culture that values mental health, celebrates diversity, and actively attends to cultural variations will help all students succeed and grow holistically, regardless of their ethnic origin. Universities can transform into places where mental health is valued, de-stigmatised, and supported for everyone.

# QUEER

# INTRO

Hello people my name is Daewah Thein (They/Them) and I will be your queer officers for 2024. With the upcoming election in America the need for a safe space is important now then ever.

With anti-trans and anti-queer legislation at the forefront in the current political zeitgeist and with the rise of homophobic and transphobic attacks in our society, the need to provide a space for our LGBTQ+ students is paramount in ensuring safety and mental stability. The UTS Queer Collective is an autonomous collective for all LGBTQ+ students to both connect and foster a sense of community.

Our Queer Space is the space for Queer folk to hang around and meet other Queer folk. It is also our main activist space where we plan events, and rallies throughout the year as well as hold meeting and discuss issues pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community. Queer students should not have an extra amount of stress when pressuring higher education and as such I will work hard to increase visibility for our collective.

Come pay us a visit, This is Daewah signing out. P.s Homophobes and Transphobes can go burn in hell :3



Queer activism is activism that calls for the liberation for all oppressed people and as a community we need to advocate for ALL oppressed peoples. Our community has a proud history of solitary with the oppressed. From the civil rights movements to the miners strikes and the anti-apartheid movement, we have always extended our support and solidarity for movements advocating freedom, equality and liberation.

We must extend that hand to the Palestinian people and encourage more people within our ranks to stand in solidarity for the people of Gaza and the West Bank. Recently both conservative news organisations and the right leaning side of tik tok have mocked the idea of a queer solidarity movement with the Palestine people.



### The importance of the 'Queers for Palestine' movement

These people say that 'queers for Palestine' is the equivalent of saying 'chickens for KFC' and that if the queer community stepped foot in Gaza they would be thrown off a rooftop. Not only is this a gross generalisation that excludes Palestinian allies, whether they live under Israeli occupation, in Australia or anywhere else in the world. It also neglects the fact that the queer community shares an inherent solidarity with the Palestinian people and beyond that all other oppressed peoples globally.

We also mustn't let the IDF and their pundits try to pinkwash the atrocities happening in Gaza.

The fact that the IDF allows its LGBTQIA+ veterans to express their sexual and gender identities when serving in their military is often a talking point by political centrists in the west as to why the IDF is somehow an 'ethical' army. The IDF is suddenly NOT "the world's most ethical army" as many say just because they are tolerant to LGBTQIA+ foot-soldiers whilst they openly commit war crimes genocide. Instead we must unequivocally stand in solidarity with our queer Palestinian brothers and sisters and send a message that we are allies for the liberation of Palestine.

WOMEN

# INTRO

My name is Mariam Yassine, and I am a third-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Law and Communications (Social and Political Sciences) and I am thrilled to share with you the incredible opportunities offered by the Women's Collective, a dynamic community dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of women on our university campus.

Our collective strives to create a supportive and empowering environment for all women at UTS. As the 2024 Women's Officer, my goal is to ensure that every student, whether new or existing, is aware of the enriching experiences and opportunities offered by the Women's Collective. Throughout the year, we organize a variety of activities, including fun and casual ones like book clubs and movie nights, as well as more significant events such as panels, networking events and a mentoring program. These initiatives are designed to cultivate a feeling of connectivity and upliftment among women, offering a platform for personal, academic, and professional development.

We are proud to run the free period product scheme, ensuring that every woman has access to necessary hygiene products. Moreover, our safe space initiative offers an amazing environment where women can engage in a vibrant community. In addition to these initiatives, the Women's Collective is committed to advocating for the protection of women on campus.

We address issues such as casual sexism, sexual harassment, and sexual assault through awareness campaigns, university policy, and collaborations with other relevant organizations such as Respect Now Always. Our mission is to contribute to the creation of a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment for all. If you are a new or existing student yet to discover the Women's Collective, we invite you to join us. Whether you're interested in participating in our events, sharing your ideas, or simply connecting with a supportive network, we welcome you with open arms. To get in touch or join our community, reach out via email at [womens@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:womens@utsstudentsassociation.org) or connect with us on Instagram @utswoco.

We believe that by coming together, we can build a stronger community where every woman feels empowered, protected, and equipped to achieve her goals. In 2024, our goal for the Women's Collective is to grow, thrive, and have a positive impact on the lives of women at our university. Join us in shaping a future where each woman's university experience is uniquely meaningful.

## Embracing Women's Autonomy: Navigating the Complexity of Feminist Choices

In the ever-evolving landscape of feminism, the discussion around women's autonomy has become a central theme. It is crucial to address the nuances surrounding women's choices, particularly those aligned with patriarchal standards. To understand the complexity of this topic the concepts of adaptive preferences, feminist intuitions, and the flaws of upholding a singular standard of liberation must be explored. To navigate the delicate balance between respecting individual choices and promoting genuine autonomy for women.

The concept of adaptive preferences introduced by Martha Nussbaum challenges the idea of women's preferences that comply with patriarchal standards. It questions whether choices made within the parameters of a patriarchal structure are genuine expressions of personal desire or mere conformity. Feminist intuition theorists argue that internalized gender roles may lead women to make choices that align with societal expectations, rather than being true reflections of their authentic selves. However, these theories are flawed as they suggest the existence of an authentic self unaffected by societal influences, which many believe to be impossible, as human behaviour is inevitably shaped by individuals' surroundings and the ideologies they adhere to. Additionally, this creates somewhat of a dilemma as by judging women's choices and questioning their autonomy, the very thing feminism fought so hard to establish, it can inadvertently deny women their autonomy. So, while it might be tempting to criticize women whose preferences seemingly conform to patriarchal norms, it is essential to respect their choices. It is crucial to recognise that not all choices made by women are inherently feminist, but that doesn't diminish the importance of respecting diverse paths women may choose.

If we were to criticize women's choices that align with patriarchal standards such as being a stay-at-home mum or even being a TikTok trendy trad wife this exposes the flaw of only upholding one standard of liberation. A common misconception in pop feminist discourse is the idea that liberation equates to adopting the same lifestyle and career paths as men. The expectation for women to work like men and achieve financial success perpetuates a narrow definition of freedom. The emergence of "girl boss" culture has further fueled this narrative, implying that success and empowerment are measured by traditional masculine standards. This perspective can oversimplify the complex reality of women's lives, reinforcing a binary and restrictive understanding of what it means to be liberated, and failing to acknowledge the value in a range of choices and expressions of empowerment that may not conform to conventional norms. Embracing a more inclusive and intersectional approach to feminism allows for the acknowledgment and celebration of the diverse array of women's choices, dismantling the limitations imposed by a singular standard of liberation.



Now more than ever it is important that feminism is reshaped to embrace women's autonomy and to carefully navigate the complexity of feminist choices. A growing number of young individuals perceive feminism as having done more harm than good, with critiques of modern feminism often centering on concerns like misandry, identity politics, insufficient dialogue with men, and a focus on performative aspects rather than tangible progress. While the current negative and cringe-worthy connotations of feminism may overshadow the movement's core principles, it is crucial to refocus on the fundamental question of the movement: Are women materially and politically disadvantaged, and if so, how can we correct that?

In navigating the complex terrain of feminist choices, it is essential to strike a balance between recognizing the impact of societal influences and respecting individual autonomy.

The fluidity of feminism allows for a diversity of paths and choices without compromising the overarching goal of addressing and rectifying systemic inequalities. Ultimately, the legacy of the feminist movement lies not in sanctimonious attitudes and pop feminism but in advocating for tangible progress towards gender equality.



INDIGENOUS

# INTRO

I'm Jermaine Petterson-Heard, currently in my third year at UTS pursuing a Bachelor's in Construction Project Management. My mob is Wardaman (South-West of Katherine) and Wagadagam (Torres Strait Islands), and I hail from Darwin, Northern Territory.

When not drowning in studies and work, you'll find me hunting or fishing, though unfortunately not in Sydney.

My aim is to support and engage in the rich cultural diversity at UTS, particularly by assisting indigenous students transitioning from their hometowns to the big city life of Sydney, a journey I've undertaken myself.

## Loss of Cultural Identity in the City

Sydney's rapid urbanization and ongoing development have had profound impacts on Aboriginal communities, leading to a loss of cultural identity, connection to traditional lands, and social structure.

The process of cultural disconnection for Aboriginal people in Sydney began with colonisation and the forced displacement from their traditional lands.

The arrival of British settlers in the late 18th century resulted in widespread violence, dispossession, and the imposition of European values and institutions. Aboriginal people were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands and pushed to the border of society, disrupting their cultural practices and mob ties.

As Sydney has developed into a rushing metropolis, Aboriginal communities faced further displacement due to urbanisation and the expansion of infrastructure projects. Many Aboriginal families were relocated to government housing estates on the outskirts of the city, away from their traditional lands and cultural networks. This physical separation from their cultural roots contributed to a sense of dislocation and isolation among Aboriginal residents.

The loss of language and cultural practices is a significant aspect of cultural disconnection among the Aboriginal population which has stemmed from the stolen generation. With each generation, fewer Aboriginal people are fluent in their traditional languages, leading to a loss of linguistic diversity and ultimately, cultural knowledge. Similarly, traditional customs, ceremonies, and storytelling practices have been increasingly marginalized in city environments, as urban lifestyles and Western influences take priority.

This presents a significant cultural challenge for UTS, situated in the city centre where Aboriginal people are often distant from their communities, leading to a loss of cultural knowledge during upbringing and childhood.

Despite the challenges, Sydney's Aboriginal community demonstrates remarkable resilience and a commitment to preserving and revitalizing their cultural heritage. Grassroots initiatives, such as cultural revitalization programs, language classes, and community-led events, play a vital role in strengthening cultural connections and fostering a sense of pride and belonging among Aboriginal residents.

Additionally, partnerships between Aboriginal organizations, government agencies, and non-profit groups are essential for supporting Aboriginal-led initiatives and addressing systemic barriers to cultural resurgence.

In conclusion, cultural disconnection among Aboriginal people living in Sydney city is a multifaceted issue rooted in historical injustices, urbanisation, and ongoing socio-economic challenges. Addressing this issue requires all-inclusive approaches that prioritise cultural revival, community empowerment, and collaborative efforts to create inclusive spaces where Aboriginal identity and heritage can thrive. By acknowledging and addressing the impacts of cultural disconnection, UTS can work towards building a more equitable and culturally rich society for all its residents.



# DISABILITIES

As the Disability Officer at the UTSSA, my primary goal is to foster a campus environment that champions inclusivity and supports the diverse needs of students with disabilities.

My mission is to ensure that every student, regardless of their abilities, feels empowered and fully included in the academic journey. As a student studying Comms and BCII, I bring a unique perspective to the role. Combining my passion for technology and innovation with a dedication to creating an accessible educational experience, I am committed to creating impact within the UTS disability collective.

One of my key objectives is to enhance communication channels between students with disabilities and the support services available at UTS. I want to establish an open and approachable atmosphere, making it easier for students to seek assistance and resources. To achieve this, I encourage students, faculty, and staff to reach out to me via email at [disabilities@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:disabilities@utsstudentsassociation.org). Whether it's sharing concerns, providing feedback - I am here to facilitate a supportive dialogue.

In my role, I aim to collaborate closely with various stakeholders, including academic staff, administrators, and student groups, to raise awareness about our collective. This involves advocating for reasonable accommodations, such as extended deadlines, ableism on campus, and a conducive learning environment.

Furthermore, as the Disability Officer, I am committed to fostering a sense of community among students with disabilities. By organising events, forums, and social gatherings, I aim to create spaces where students can share experiences, build connections, and access a network of support. Looking forward to this year!



## How simple extensions can support UTS students?

Traditional learning environments can prove challenging for individuals with ADHD. Many students find the journey to seek help for mental health concerns daunting, with lecture halls filled with distractions, fast-paced classes, and a lack of accommodations contributing to a sense of isolation.

As the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) strives to foster an inclusive atmosphere, it becomes imperative to reassess and adapt learning spaces to better suit the needs of students dealing with ADHD.

Creating environments that promote focus and reduce external stimuli can significantly enhance the academic experience for these students. Stigma, fear of judgement, and a lack of awareness about available resources often act as barriers, preventing students from reaching out for support.

A crucial step towards addressing these challenges involves implementing simple extensions for assessments across all faculties at UTS.

By recognising the diverse needs of its student body and acknowledging that mental health concerns may impact a student's ability to meet strict deadlines, the university can provide students with the flexibility they need to manage their workload during challenging times without the added stress of formalising extensions through extensive documentation.

This approach aligns with a proactive, preventative stance, recognising that early intervention and support can mitigate the impact of mental health issues on academic performance.

By normalising the provision of simple extensions, UTS could take a significant step in breaking down the stigma associated with mental health challenges, fostering an environment where students may feel more comfortable seeking help without the fear of judgement.

This not only reduces the barriers to access support but also encourages a culture of openness and understanding.

For students grappling with mental health issues without a formal diagnosis, the struggle to access accommodations can be particularly daunting. Simple extensions could act as a crucial buffer for those in the process of seeking a diagnosis, ensuring they receive the necessary support during challenging times.

The advent of virtual classes has been a transformative force for students with disabilities, fostering inclusivity and expanding educational opportunities.

These platforms have enabled many to pursue their studies from the comfort of their homes, overcoming physical barriers and enhancing accessibility. However, concerns arise as some UTS subjects shift away from online options, potentially restricting the educational access that benefited students with disabilities. This transition prompts a crucial examination of the balance between technological advancements and maintaining inclusive learning environments, ensuring that the needs of all students, including those with disabilities, continue to be met effectively.

It is crucial to consider and implement initiatives that support disabilities across all learning environments. Initiatives relevant to simple extensions across all faculties represent a progressive step towards creating a supportive and accessible environment. This approach can play a crucial role in normalising help-seeking behaviour, supporting undiagnosed students, and ultimately fostering a campus culture that prioritises the well-being and success of every student.

# INTERNATIONAL

# INTRO

I'm Raghav Motani, a final-year UTS Business School Master of Marketing student and your 2024 International Students' Officer. It gives me great pleasure to greet all international students here and to acquaint you with the dynamic and encouraging UTS Student Association - International Collective. For every international student at UTS, the International Collective is more than simply an organization—it's a family, a voice, and a source of guidance.

Within the UTS Student Association, we are a self-governing body of students dedicated to advocating on your behalf and improving your overall academic experience.

Our main goal is to uplift and support international students by offering them resources and support during their academic journey. The International Collective is here to help with any difficulties related to living far from home, overcoming linguistic and cultural hurdles, facing financial difficulties, or going through personal struggles. Our goal is to ease your transition into Australian society and university life, considering international students' challenges. As a participant in several extracurricular activities at UTS, I have firsthand experience with the value of promoting inclusivity between the local community and international students. The International Collective seeks to foster mutual understanding between international students and Australians and support and assist with welfare, social, educational, and cultural initiatives.

Becoming a member of the International Collective means more than just fitting in; it means having a genuine influence. Our voices matter as international students; when we contribute together, we can voice our rights and general welfare more effectively. The Collective ensures that UTS is a place where our abilities are fully utilised by acting as "a voice" for each of you. To be a member, fill out the form; it is Free! You will get an email with a link to our WhatsApp community as soon as you register. Please participate in our regular meetings, network with other students, submit ideas for campaigns and events, and follow us on Instagram to receive updates on our ongoing activities.



International students enrich our campus life with unique perspectives and experiences as vibrant and diverse UTS Students. But despite the excitement of learning in a foreign nation, international students frequently face difficulties that could impact their mental health and future employment opportunities. Making genuine friends and connections is one of the biggest problems international students face. It can be challenging to adjust to a new culture and environment, leaving one feeling alone and isolated. The UTS International Collective understands the value of creating a community supporting members' interests outside the classroom. By providing opportunities for international students to interact, exchange stories, and form enduring friendships, we hope to address the social side of student life.

Academic performance and general well-being can be negatively impacted by mental health issues resulting from social isolation and loneliness. The International Collective works to establish a friendly environment where students from other countries are made to feel at home. We aim to create a supportive community by bridging the gap between international and local students through various events, cultural activities, and online platforms. Finding work in their field of study and navigating Australia's employment market are two more significant challenges international students face. Many students have trouble understanding the job application process, creating a well-structured resume, and conducting themselves professionally during interviews. A significant obstacle to joining the workforce and achieving their career goals may be the absence of guidance in these areas.

The International Collective is dedicated to offering resources and support in this area because it recognises the significance of career development for international students. We know that Australia's employment landscape might not be the same as what students are used to in their home nations. We are actively developing programs to provide advice on preparing for interviews, creating resumes, and networking within the Australian professional community to address this. We aim to equip international students with the know-how and abilities necessary to succeed in the labour market. We seek to ease the job application process using workshops, seminars, and online resources to adequately equip students to demonstrate their abilities and obtain worthwhile employment opportunities.

To sum up, the International Collective at UTS is committed to tackling the various issues international students encounter. We work to establish an atmosphere where each student can succeed academically, socially, and professionally by encouraging a sense of community. Our goal as a collective is to create a welcoming and inclusive community that supports and empowers every international student at UTS.

# POSTGRADUATES

# INTRO

Hello everyone! My name is Laura Currie and I have been the UTS postgraduate officer for 2023 and now 2024. I'm currently in my second year of Doctor of Philosophy here at UTS and have completed all my undergraduate and honours studies here too! I have recently been elected to be a part of the academic board for the faculty of science, and vice president of academics with the UTS Science Alliance. I'm also currently a UTS staff doing casual academic roles as a teaching associate and it's my 5th year doing this role.

Having said all that, I believe I have experienced a lot of ins and outs here at UTS and would love to make some positive changes this coming year! I know how difficult it is to be studying and working at the same time too, it's tough. Back in undergrad, I used to think it was almost impossible to juggle both. But as you are adulting, it's unavoidable to have to do both things simultaneously!

The postgraduate collective is a group of postgraduate students who wants to achieve the same goal, which is to enhance student experience here at UTS and making sure we have a positive study environment. We want to drive the message that studying doesn't need to be a huge obstacle whilst trying to live your own life, and that it can be a fantastic experience.



## Who on earth am I?

Being a postgrad student makes it a little bit harder when it comes to being sure of what you really want to do and if it's feasible to do so with all the adulting going on. Questions come in mind like "can I juggle uni and work?", "how do I stand out in a crowd of amazing postgrads so I can get a good job?", "how do I make my portfolio better?", "am I in the right degree? Is it too late to change my mind?" I feel like it's been so difficult to answer these questions myself, especially when you are struggling to make an income whilst studying, standing out in a crowd of talented people and trying to find a decent job after your degree. This is a common problem across all postgrads especially, and I aim to find some solutions for these in the upcoming year.

A priority for this year would be class flexibility. It should be more than possible for students to juggle life, work and study too! This opens up a lot of doors for those who are unsure if studying is feasible later on in life. Another one is to potentially open up doors for more summer and winter studies outside of autumn and spring semesters for those who want to downscale their commitments during main teaching semesters.

An idea that's been brewing in the past year is to also establish a newsletter to showcase the talents and work of our postgrads here at UTS, whether it be some amazing artwork, research achievements, or achievements gained in work placements! Everyone deserves recognition that can also boost their CVs for future job prospects. Alongside this, I will aim to continuously increase stipends for masters and PhD students as inflation persists. Studying is already tough, bare minimum living makes it even more difficult! I also aim to host more events like networking talks, or some small events each semester to give postgrads a chance to meet connections and like-minded people in their degrees/share perspectives with others from different career paths. I think having a sense of community is very important here in university, and us postgrads can often feel pretty alienated.

The examples above are just some of my main objectives this year, but our collective alongside UTSSA will work tirelessly to make sure every student here at university gets the help and support that they need. If you are interested in being part of the collective or if you have any enquiries and questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [postgraduate@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:postgraduate@utsstudentsassociation.org).

Some of the things we aim to achieve this year are:

Honestly, things in our power to make positive changes happen! We won't be able to make huge federal government type of changes, but everything in our capacity to hear you guys out when there are specific concerns, suggestions and ideas.

We can work on things like increasing flexibility of study hours, looking for paid internship opportunities, more support for postgraduate students with their studies, and even increasing the days where night owl kindly offers free food! I'm also always envisioning to open up more scholarship opportunities, stipend increases for our PhD and masters students, and showcasing talents and achievements of our postgrads.

Some of the other things we aim to do is to have better reach with students, so that we are able to know what everyone's concerned about, and that there is hope for change and that we will be working tirelessly throughout the year to make sure everyone's having a good study experience. A lot of people didn't know we existed, so I aim to change that!

I feel like having this collective is a great way to have a voice, and to let students know that things CAN improve. We CAN have a say, and studying at university can also be an fab experience!

My email is always open to any suggestions and if you want to chat about anything, raise any awareness on what could be changed for the better! Please send it through to [postgraduate@utsstudentassociation.org](mailto:postgraduate@utsstudentassociation.org)

UTS

## UTSSA SERVICES & RNA

### Our Services

The Students' Association operates a Casework Service, Bluebird Brekkie, Night Owl Noodles, Bluebird Pantry, Peer Tutoring and other student support services to UTS students.

To access our services you can phone, email or drop into our office, which is open Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm.

### Bluebird Pantry - A UTSSA Initiative

The cost-of-living crisis has dramatically increased food insecurity, creating a significant barrier to student success. That's why we launched an extension of our food welfare services in the form of a Pantry.

The Bluebird Pantry provides fair distribution of perishable and non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, and general household supplies.

### Operating Hours

Wednesday and Thursday 12 - 2pm  
Building 2, Level 3 (near the food court)

### How to Donate

We are sustained by the generosity of our donors. We seek donations of perishable and non-perishable food items as well as personal care items and small household items. For more information, contact us at [students.association@uts.edu.au](mailto:students.association@uts.edu.au)



## Night Owl Noodles

We all know that academic performance and overall wellbeing is directly linked to proper nutrition. Night Owl Noodles is a welfare initiative run by the Students' Association.

We provide free, nutritious meals for students during semester. Whether it's Vietnamese Pho or Burmese Coconut Chicken, Night Owl Noodles is the place to enjoy a warm healthy meal.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:00pm-7:00pm

Tower Building Foyer

Only during semester.

## Peer Tutoring Service

The Peer Tutor service connects UTS students who need help with a subject with students who have achieved a credit, distinction or high distinction final result in the same subject and are willing to help other students. Peer Tutoring offers affordable private tutoring to UTS students.

To become a peer tutor or request a peer tutor head to our website.  
<https://utsstudentsassociation.org.au/services/peer-tutoring>

## 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 Advocates 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.

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

Calling us – (02) 9514 1155

## Student Media Vertigo

Our student media publication, Vertigo, is UTS' student publication curated by a hearty team of student editors. Print editions of Vertigo are FREE to pick up on stands all over campus. Our website [utsvertigo.com.au](https://utsvertigo.com.au) is accessible from anywhere!

We stand for fresh perspectives and new ideas. Every student voice is valuable and encouraged to contribute, regardless of faculty or expertise. Our content lives with a social conscience, both online and offline, as we bring you an experimental, edgy, and innovative take on your student life.

Funded by SSAF, Vertigo shines a spotlight on talent and aims to stimulate the curiosity of all its readers.

Stay up to date on our website: [utsvertigo.com.au](https://utsvertigo.com.au)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/utsvertigo>

Follow us on Instagram: @utsvertigo



## Volunteering Opportunities

Join the Bluebird Pantry family. Help reduce food waste and assist students experiencing food insecurity. Please email [students.association@uts.edu.au](mailto:students.association@uts.edu.au) with your:

First name (given name)

Last name (surname)

Student ID number

Phone number

Volunteers can choose their own shifts based on the days and times that suit their study schedule.

Each shift is a minimum of 1 hour to a maximum of 4 hours a day on:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during semester, from 11am-3pm

We also take volunteers to help promote the Bluebird Pantry on social media.

We are incredibly grateful to our team of volunteers!

## We're here to help

UTS want to make your university a safe place to live, learn and work. It takes courage to reach out, but if you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment or assault or are experiencing distress, UTS offers a number of services that can help and support you.

### Emergency contacts

If you are in immediate danger or need urgent medical attention call:

Emergency services: 000

UTS Security: 1800 249 559

### Seeking support

UTS Counselling Service: 9514 1177

UTS Sexual Harm Support Line: 1800 531 626

Confidential support Employee Assistance Program: 1300 307 912

Reporting an incident

UTS Security: 1800 249 559

UTS Counselling Service: 9514 1177

Online: [uts.ac/reportingportal](https://uts.ac/reportingportal)

Making a complaint

Complaints can be made about issues related to your experience at UTS.

Online: [uts.ac/studentcomplaints](https://uts.ac/studentcomplaints)

### Community support services

Full Stop Australia (National Violence and Abuse Trauma Counselling and Recovery Service): 1800 385 578

1800RESPECT (National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Counselling, Information and Support Service): 1800 737 732

NSW Sexual Violence Helpline: 1800 424 017

NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline: 1800 497 212

Aboriginal Contact Line: 1800 019 123

## Who are we?

Respect.Now.Always., or RNA, is a national campaign by Universities Australia that tackles sexual harm and assault on campus. We work to ensure a culture of respectful behaviour by talking about issues like the role of ethical and active bystanders and the importance of clear communication and consent. UTS's iteration of this campaign won the 2020 Australian Good Design Award and was a finalist in the 2023 Australian Financial Review's Higher Education Awards (Community Engagement category) for its community design and engagement approach, and we're really proud of all we've done to make sure RNA involves the community at every opportunity!

Some of our achievements of 2023 include:

- Launching our Community Voice Report and Theory of Change, which provides a clear blueprint on how UTS can collectively address sexual harm within our community.
- Completing our sixth year of using ice-cream to talk about consent to around 6,000 students annually.
- Organising university-wide fundraising campaigns for Polished Man and Walk for WAGEC.
- Contributing to the academic paper Violence Against Women, together with the University of Newcastle, Monash University, and the University of Otago, outlining our whole-of-university approach to preventing gender-based violence.

The RNA team works with a fantastic group of staff and student volunteers on a variety of initiatives focused on shifting attitudes and changing behaviours. In recent years, we've introduced mandatory Consent Matters training for all staff and students, a 24/7 female security presence with first responder training, and a 24/7 sexual harm support line staffed by the UTS Counselling team and UTS Security outside business hours. We run our signature activation event 'Wanna Spoon? Ask First!' at our O'Days each semester and our Uncensored Talks series, which offers a comfortable and safe space for people to ask questions to panellists on topics including pleasure, STIs and diverse lived experiences of sex and sex education.

## Why does RNA do what we do?

In 2016, the Australian Human Rights Commission conducted a national survey of more than 30,000 students to understand the nature, prevalence and reporting of sexual violence and harassment across Australian universities. The survey results, outlined in the Change the Course report, revealed concerning findings about the issue of sexual harm on Australian university campuses.

For UTS to feel like home, you need to feel safe whenever and wherever you are on campus. This means a campus with zero tolerance of sexual violence, sexual harassment or sexual assault. Through our RNA program, we want to better understand how to create the sustainable cultural changes necessary to prevent sexual harm from occurring in the first place, in addition to improving response mechanisms at UTS. We are committed to achieving this through collaboration with our community of students and staff – listening to their experiences, needs and ideas. RNA is unequivocally focused on shifting attitudes and changing behaviours and ensuring that everybody is committed to respectful behaviour, now and always.

Sexual harm/sexual harassment/sexual violence – what's the distinction?

Whichever term you prefer to use when talking about unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, it all refers to conduct that is simply unacceptable. Behaviour that makes people feel uncomfortable or unsafe is not condoned in our UTS community, whether verbal, physical or online. So whatever word you use, know that UTS has your back!

## What's with the ice-cream and fruit?

We know that having conversations about sexual assault and sexual harm can be difficult, sensitive, and sometimes triggering. In our community design phase, we spoke to a range of people to find the best way to open dialogue around this topic. We learned that food is something people are willing and comfortable to connect over across culture, language, and experience. That's why we use food to introduce the concepts of the RNA program at UTS.

Through our approachable campaign 'Wanna Spoon? Ask First!' we wanted to engage the entire community in an unprecedented, frank, and open conversation about consent and respect.

By handing out free ice-cream, we're referencing the importance of consent in everyday interactions, as well as intimate ones (spooning being a metaphor for cuddling). Ice-cream helps us to open up dialogue in a playful way so that the entire UTS community can feel more comfortable talking about these topics, and know when and where to seek help. So, wanna spoon? Ask first!

## What can I look out for this year?

We have lots of exciting events, training and volunteer opportunities coming up in 2024 and we'd love for you to get involved with as many of these as possible! Visit our O'Day stalls at the start of each semester to score free ice-cream and merch, and to learn more about our work at UTS.

# RESPECT WEEK

Join us in March for RESPECT Week, where we will be holding Uncensored Talks, Breaking the Binary, Unconscious Bias and Sex, Safety and Respect training plus a couple of fun social events to stretch your legs and maybe work up a sweat – all aimed at demystifying and addressing the stigma around sex and building our safe and respectful community.

Don't worry about cramming everything into the start of semester, there will be plenty of training opportunities available for students and staff across the year. Make sure to sign up to our mailing list to hear about upcoming events and training opportunities ([uts.ac/RNAmailinglist](https://uts.ac/RNAmailinglist)).

### How can I be involved?

If you'd like to learn more about us, you can head to our website ([rna.uts.edu.au](https://rna.uts.edu.au)). To find out more about volunteering for RNA, head to page [insert page no. of 'Volunteering with RNA']. You can also contact us via email if you have any questions ([respect.now.always@uts.edu.au](mailto:respect.now.always@uts.edu.au)).

### This has brought up stuff for me – what should I do?

It takes courage to reach out, but if you or someone you know have experienced sexual harm or need support, help is available. For more details about the services and supports that UTS offers visit ([uts.ac/support](https://uts.ac/support)).

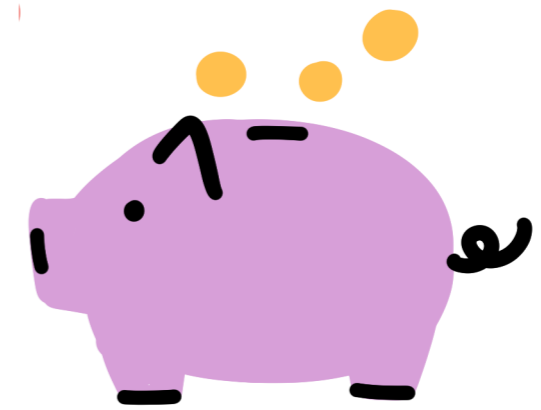
We are so delighted you're now a student at UTS and a part of the Respect.Now.Always. conversation. Enjoy your ice cream and enjoy your UTS experience!

# Volunteering with RNA

Help us create a safer UTS community!  
Sign up to volunteer for Respect.Now.Always., our program aimed at eliminating sexual harm at UTS and beyond. Our passionate RNA volunteers (or as they like to be called the 'RNA Crew') are one of the most important parts of Respect.Now.Always. – we could not be doing the work we do at UTS without them.

Being part of the RNA Crew means being part of the bigger culture change at UTS towards a world without sexual violence. And doing that through making friends, meeting new students, serving ice-cream, merch, info, and looks (in our volunteer shirts). Volunteers start conversations around respect and consent and help set expectations for the UTS community.

Remember that any volunteer hours with RNA count towards your SOUL Award or Brennan Program hours, and of course, you get free ice-cream and merch!





# UTS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our voice. Our way. Our SA.