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International Students' Representative  
1st Quarter Report 2025  
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## **PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES**

### **12.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of cultural diversity.**

I was interviewed by Laura Hewson about the International Food Fest and what it means to our cultural clubs to promote the event, which has gone out in university communications.

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/news/newsroom/world-of-deliciousness-on-menu-at-food-fest>

### **12.2. Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to international Students.**

International Food Fest 2025 was a *resounding* success, and a great way to cap off O-week. It's one of the events in our ORI lineup that has a broad appeal extending to the wider Dunedin community, because who doesn't like good food!

I'm pleased to report that the clubs did amazing, with many selling out in the first 2 hours from the demand! The entire Museum Reserve was packed for most of the event, which is an amazing turnout. Reviews from both the community and the cultural clubs were absolutely stellar, with some clubs asking whether we can do it again in S2. One day, one day.

Big thank you to all the exec members that came to help out on the cooking (dishwashing) days, everyone really appreciated the help with that!

### **12.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association. Chair or co-chair weekly/bi-weekly meetings of the Otago International Students' Association (OISA), ensuring that all committee members are advised of meeting times, that the agenda is prepared and circulated beforehand and ensuring that the standing orders of the committee are adhered to.**

Done and in motion! OISA has a full exec, including two Events and Strategy officers to start the year which is huge.

### **12.4. Take direction from the Otago International Students' Association, on all matters relevant to international student members.**

Looking forward to a great year with Mr. Nishida, I hear he is trying to nail that balance between immediate impact community-building events and long-term advocacy efforts with OISA this year, which sounds spectacular.

**12.5. Work on issues specific to international students at the University of Otago, including, but not limited to:**

**12.5.1. Academic issues within the University; and;**

Not much yet here yet, all the internal OUSA committees are just starting out. But I am looking forward to being part of AcCom this year, as well as continuing our push on our lecture recordings campaign.

**12.5.2. Social and welfare related issues within the University and the wider Community.**

Going to propose an Imposter-hour type event (thank you SPS) for international students to the OISA exec in our next event-brainstorm meeting. I think there is currently a lack of casual, conversational events for international students where we can really listen to students on the ground and hear their issues, so I am hoping to bridge that gap.

**12.6. Maintain a good working relationship to the Association Student Support Centre Manager and Advocates so that the opportunity to share information about academic and welfare issues of relevance to international students is available.**

On my to-do list is a meet up with Dwaine to ask if there is potential for collaboration between Student Support Center and OISA regarding international students.

**12.7. Maintain a good working relationship with the International Office of the University, sharing information and ideas with them when appropriate.**

Sam is a delight to work with as always. Our third time running the International Welcome and Expo, and I think we have it down to a science. Dan, who took over Chelsea's role is also great, we got along immediately, and I'm currently organising the Welcome Event happening next week with him. Jason (Director International) and I started our monthly catch ups immediately, and he has already given me plenty of insights and resources into global education trends, and where Otago is positioned in them to guide my direction this year which is superb.

**12.8. Work in conjunction with the Finance and Strategy Officer and the Clubs Development Officer and the Clubs and Societies Representative to ensure the affiliation and support of international student groups.**

No new cultural club affiliations this quarter, but I will chase down some clubs that

**12.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice-President, proactively bringing issues relevant to international students to their attention, and meeting with them on a weekly basis.**

Amy is awesome, I always look forward to my catch ups with her.

**12.10. Maintain a good working relationship with the Dunedin City Council**

Yes! Santashree from the DCC is going to introduce me to a group of Japanese high school exchange students here on a scholarship funded by them, so I can help show them around campus and the city. It's very special to me since I was in their shoes 5 years ago. (New to the country and in high school, not on a DCC ambassador scholarship.) I'm looking forward to showing them around.

I also caught up with Cr Garey, the chair of Study Dunedin, to talk strategy and hear what the DCC is doing in the international space. Her term as chair is ending this year, so here's hoping the new chair of Study is as committed to international education as she is.

**12.11. Sit on the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) as a member and maintain and fulfil the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between Association and NZISA.**

Irfaan and I have yet to find a time to catch up this year, he is a busy man.

**12.12. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.**

I have performed the general duties of all Executive Officers, details of which will be under "Part 2: General Duties of All Executive Members.

**12.13. Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week.**

Where practical. (flashbacks)

## **PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

### **3. General Duties of all Executive Officers**

**3.1. The appointed term for all OUSA Executive Officers shall commence from the 1st of January and will terminate on the 31st of December of that same year.**

Thank you, good to know.

**3.2. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions, including, but not limited to:**

**3.2.1. Assisting at the OUSA Tent City and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;**

Tent city was great! Thank you Arnotts.

**3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.**

Was inappropriate!

**3.3. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers attend Executive meetings.**

Done!

**3.4. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are to be available for national conferences, national and local campaigns, Executive training sessions and Executive planning sessions.**

Lots of training and planning this year! Loving the long-term, structural thinking we are doing as an exec, on top of the day-to-day. I genuinely loved all of it, I'm such a nerd.

**3.5. All Executive officers shall:**

**3.5.1. Keep up to date with the Finance and Strategy Officer's Executive budget, bringing to the Finance and Strategy Officer any spending proposals, keeping track of their spending and ensuring they do not exceed budgeted expenditure;**

FESC is FESCing! Daniel is so darn good at his job.

**3.5.2. Educate themselves on needs and experiences relevant to historically marginalised demographic groups including intersectionality and promote and encourage all demographics to participate, where relevant, in clubs, societies, committees and OUSA events;**

Yep. Trying to do the best I can in this space every day, and I always encourage people to attend student-led movements where relevant.

**3.5.3. Act in accordance with and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi while exercising their duties;**

I aim to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all of my work at OUSA because it is one of our core guiding principles in our strategic plan, but also because I am tangata Tiriti in this country and so of course my actions should reflect that!

I'm also taking POLS319 Treaty Politics this semester, and it has been a valuable paper in building my understanding of the Tiriti and its historical context, even just 3 weeks in. Would strongly recommend anyone at Otago to take it if they can.

I think it's also important to keep this in mind with us expecting an influx in international students in the near future. No matter if they're here for a semester, or a year, or their whole degree, I want international students engaging with these conversations as part of their learning, not getting a "free pass" to not engage which I fear happens too often.

**3.5.4. Where reasonable, attend events hosted by clubs related to historically marginalised demographic groups;**

Yup!

**3.5.5. Prioritise sustainability and minimization of environmental impacts in all aspects of their role and keep up to date with environmental issues;**

Yup. Would recommend Bernard Hickey's substack The Kākā to everyone (Liam has heard me plug this a million times) he always has up-to-date data insights and analysis on climate from a New Zealand perspective, and the subscription is free with a student email :)

**3.5.6. Every quarter undertake five hours of voluntary service which contributes to the local community.**

Not yet this quarter, I'm afraid. If we're counting OISA then yes!

**3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.**

Done!

**PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

OUSA:

- Exec Branding and Marketing Working Group
- Finance and Expenditure Committee
- Political Action Committee

University:

- Vice Chancellor's Staff and Student Advisory Group
- Web Content Steering Committee

- Distance Learning Advisory Committee
- Internationalisation Committee
- Health Science Internationalisation Committee
- Commerce Internationalisation Committee

External:

- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

## **PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS**

### **Lecture Recording Policy**

Right back at it! Still as important as ever for all the reasons you have heard me babble on about already, I'll spare you the details. I desperately want to see it through Senate this year, everyone's been asking for it!

### **Exec Database**

Looking at OUSA structurally, one thing that keeps getting emphasized (internally and externally, through people we've been working closely with for many exec terms) as a major issue for us is continuity, and the inevitable loss of institutional knowledge every handover.

We do have a handover process, and we try our best to emphasize that every year, but the reality is that the nature of our roles is really difficult to convey in one document and a couple of conversations, and there is, inevitably, invaluable knowledge lost. It also really relies on every single exec in this game of telephone doing it well, which I unfortunately think is not the reality, as much as we all wish it could be!

One thing I really want to do this year is to lay the groundwork for an exec database that can be added to and maintained every year to be used for analysis and record-keeping. If successful, it would be one more avenue where continuity could be maintained across generations of execs, so we can tell stories of what is happening to the student body in a typical student cycle of 3 years, or even in 5~10 year periods. It would make us data-informed on top of the word-of-mouth we hear by being on the ground, and better inform every decision OUSA makes for students.

The world is only going to get more data-driven, and AI is getting better at basic data analysis every year. Why don't we collect some numbers to prepare? I have a feeling future execs will thank us. It's definitely gonna be an investment to set up, and it's definitely forward-looking, and we will have to get a lot of settings right. But since we're taking big swings this year!

## **OISA**

In recent years, OISA has become an event-running organisation that provides a couple of big events in the year that take months of planning, as well as playing a crucial support role for facilitating the university or OUSA to do the same. While I think it is a very valuable role on campus, (especially given how loneliness is unfortunately such a prevalent and persistent issue) I think a changing of the formula to cater to a broader group of international students is needed this year.

I want to shift us towards running smaller and more regular events that students can depend on, and create as many opportunities as we can to hear what the current day-to-day struggles are for internationals on the ground. Hopefully, it allows us to connect people to existing resources around the university, and make us more responsive to the ever-changing concerns of the community.

## **PART FIVE: GENERAL**

Shoutout Bailey