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International Students' Representative
3rd 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.

Not exactly a publication, but I have been able to meet and give an interactive campus tour of members of the Japan Ambassadors Programme run by the DCC! It was a very fun day, and always fantastic to work with Akari and Santashree. It is always wonderful giving a campus tour to people who have never seen campus before, it makes you see everything with new fresh eyes. I have to concede that even the Richardson Building has its merits (despite everything). We do have a gorgeous campus, and we are lucky.

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

Yes! I am running the International Cultural Expo, this semester, and I successfully saw through the Multicultural ball, but not without the entire amazing committee. Those people put in serious hard yards to make that event as lively as it was, and deserve all the credit. I think 2 times is definitely a pattern, so I am hoping this event becomes a staple of the international student experience, as it is definitely a highlight of the year. I think I will mention it as a third event the international rep should look after, or at least ensure it gets looked into, on top of Food Fest and Cultural Expo.

The Cultural Expo is also happening soon, I am currently seeking club sign-ups and planning the event with Dane and his documents he left.

Second half OISA events are also well underway, so we have decided to re-run the karaoke event as it was a massive hit the first time around. We are also going to be doing exam welfare packs again, as well as a movie night very soon, and an AGM on top of that! Busy weeks ahead for the OISA executive. Thankfully, Kavya, who I have handed off half of the administrative duties at the middle of the year, has been fantastic at organising these for us, and we are all excited for this last hurrah.

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.

OISA meetings have now become biweekly for the second semester, at the discretion of my Co-President. No issues here at all, OISA has been running smoothly. The committee is excited for the AGM, to see what new people will step up.

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

My working relationship with Mr. Nishida only trends upwards. OISA seems to be doing very well. He recently broke my finger on the new basketball court though, which I am not upset, just disappointed at. I might ask him for compensation.

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;

Very happy to report lecture recordings progress! Stella and I have run a series of student consultations on the policy, with me focusing on the international student perspective. They were incredibly useful in figuring out what exactly students are seeking, what they believe is a good policy, and how much it would directly impact their Quality of Life. The chalking evenings were great at this as well, where students got together to write about what how Lecture Recordings would benefit them all over campus. Again and again, big ups Stella Lynch. We are both incredibly excited, nail-bitingly, about the upcoming discussion of the policy in Senate. I remain optimistic. But I also have a tendency to do that, so we will see.

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

Absolutely. I have done work on the Local Body Magazine this quarter, ranking the candidates by how pro-student they are. I am excited to see this come out soon. Hopefully this creates some buzz around local body elections as much as there has been about exec elections.

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.

Yes, done! Luckily nothing I've had to refer to them this semester yet, which means the International Office must be doing a fantastic job.

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

Speaking of! Yes, I am in good comms with Dan and Sam from the International Office. The welcome event at the beginning of the semester was a massive success, and I am slightly emotional that that is going to be the last official welcome I am going to give to International Students at Otago. I am definitely going to miss that. I'm very excited to sneak into them to make some new friends next year, though.

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 international student clubs this quarter, and no issues have been raised regarding the current ones.

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 has been fantastic and supportive, like she always is. There have not been any specific international student issues I've had to bring to her, but I see her more than weekly, and I always love catching up with her.

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

Yes! As mentioned previously, the Japan Ambassador Programme has been handed off to Akari, and we did an excellent job along with OJSA to make the tour as fun and engaging as possible for these students. Hopefully we are a tour-size number of students closer to our Pae Tata goals for recruitment. I am planning to work with them further to discuss international student retention, which the conversation seems to be shifting to recently. We need to do both much better as a city, and as a university.

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.

Done.

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.

Although the hours have slowed down slightly over midsem break and whatnot, once these OISA events and the obligatory University committee week comes, I will definitely reach the 10+ hours. And I am still around a 12 hour average for the year! I will also start working on my handover document next Quarter.

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.

Understood. That is much closer than it appears. Good motivation.

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;

Not applicable this quarter.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

Amy and Donna are doing great with handling these elections. Also shoutout Abby the returning officer! She has been fantastic for us this year. I think Deborah would get along with her, I should introduce those two.

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

Done. Thank you everyone for shifting to Tuesday 10am, I have been saved from a brutal clash and can continue to see your faces every week.

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.

My help with the LBE Mag covers this I think?

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;

Done. There have been very important, constructive discussions in FESC regarding our BDS posture. I am committed to steering us to find a simultaneously financially responsible, meaningful solution that allows OUSA to continue to represent the interest of our students in the best way we can, and continue to be an institution our students can rely on in all aspects of the student experience.

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;

Done. One of the reasons I love being the International rep.

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

I aim to uphold 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 said this last quarter and nothing has changed. If you have a free afternoon, I can personally recommend the podcast Treaty Talks on RNZ, which is a fantastic primer. And if you have a free paper slot, 319 Treaty Politics by Janine Hayward has been one of my favorite papers at Otago.

I was also told by Josh to write that me helping with the TRM Barbeque for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori fits in this category, so this is me doing that.

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

Yup! I love this job.

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

Absolutely, I have been reading lots about monetary policy and its interactions with climate policy recently, which has reignited my inner climate nerd once again. Fascinating stuff.

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

Yes! Took my own advice from last semester and ran a volunteering day in collaboration with Unicrew and the Social Impact Studio to run a beach cleanup with a tour bus full of international students. We somehow chose the worst day possible on it, getting rained, winded, and hailed

on, but the clean beach and the fish and chips that were incredibly generously donated to us by the local fish and chips place more than made up for it. And yes, we cleaned up after ourselves after lunch.

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 (on pause)

External:

- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

Lecture Recording Policy

As mentioned previously, it's been a great quarter for this! Consultations went great. Now it's a dreadful waiting game, but making sure to talk to as many lectures and staff as possible about this policy to garner public support and dispel misconceptions, as there are many!

OISA

OISA has been doing well!

PART FIVE: GENERAL

A very eventful quarter for us, huh? I think what Deborah mentioned in the Clubs Council the other day rings very true. She gave a fantastic closing speech about how wonderful it's been for her to serve as the Clubs and Socs rep, and about how lucky she was to be able to do that, after being involved in clubs execs for years (sorry if I've paraphrased poorly Deborah). I couldn't agree more. At the end of the day, being on OUSA exec is about giving back to our communities that have made our university experience so wonderful so far, and serving the students. Let's not forget that as we head into Q4! Much love to you all.