

Ibuki Nishida
International Students' Representative
4th 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.

No publications this Quarter.

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

OISA ended up having a pretty quiet quarter. We organised the packing and handing out of exam packs this quarter. We were supposed to have a Karaoke night, but could not find a suitable venue for it due to it being AGM season and all free venues being booked out weeks in advance.

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 ensures that the standing orders of the committee are adhered to.

Done. The entire OISA exec will be getting a refresh next year, which will be very exciting! I wish them all the best, and I'm looking forward to what they do with the association. Last I talked to them, they seemed very enthusiastic, and had some fresh ideas for OISA. Exciting!

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

My working relationship with Mr. Nishida has unfortunately come to an end after 2 years. It's been a good run. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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;

Our lecture recording policy is now at the final hurdle, Senate. In October Senate I had a nerve-wracking day preparing for and sitting in Senate for the first time to advocate for and

speak for the policy in a very impassioned session. We will see what happens in November Senate at the final vote. I am cautiously optimistic. I'm very proud of how far we've come with this!

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

The most direct thing I've done in this space is our semesterly tradition of exam wellness packs for international students through OISA. Indirectly, I've been raising the welfare and academic issues with the International Office during committees, focusing on positioning our systems well for an increase in international students. Now that we have a dedicated group that meets to discuss issues with student retention/welfare (ISRMG), it's easier to raise these issues, and get them incorporated.

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.

Done!

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

Absolutely. I think I've been the most useful in International Office committees this quarter than I've ever been, suggesting a couple topics that have made it onto the agenda in subsequent meetings.

In terms of international student support, the last event we did was in Q3, and so have not had much to work with for this quarter. However, I still regularly see Sam and Dan, as well as Simone, and catch up with them when we can.

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 thankfully.

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.

Done! We have not met on a weekly basis due to us being incredibly busy with exams and everything, but we see each other in the bullpen often enough that we are usually caught up with what we're doing.

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

Yes! Santashree and Antony are absolutely wonderful.

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.

OUSA work has slowed down as expected, so I am doing less than 10 hours for this quarter. However, my average remains above 10 hours thanks to IFF in Q1.

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. Wow that is very soon.

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.

All done!

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

Yup.

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.

Not applicable this quarter.

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.

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. Many AGMs this quarter!

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

Yes, done, as always.

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. A bit of a devastating quarter for climate news unfortunately. I'm currently following COP30 closely for any good news.

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

Dropped many things for Good with Amy W, awesome initiative, good fun!

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 Group

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

Lecture Recording Policy

It's the final stretch for the universal lecture recordings policy we've been advocating for 2 years now. It was just an idea 2 years ago, I'm very proud of how much it's progressed. I remember Tim Cooper long ago saying it takes the university 2 years to install a new sign. Considering this policy is slightly more involved and a little bit more contentious than a sign, I think we've done a good job.

OISA

OISA has been officially handed over to the new generation! They seem incredibly motivated and competent, I'm sure they are going to do a great job. I'll no doubt still be involved in the association in one way or another next year, but it's exciting to finally be on the attending side of their events again.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

Two years, I can hardly believe it! I've learned so much here at OUSA, and met so many lovely, passionate, and intelligent people. I am incredibly grateful. I'm gonna miss all of you.

If I could, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Thank you everyone, much love to you all, keep in touch! :)