

International Student of the Year 2022

At Western, we recognise the outstanding contributions that international students make to communities within the University and throughout NSW. This year, we're taking the opportunity to acknowledge our wonderful students by nominating two students for Study NSW's International Student of the Year Awards.

And we want to hear from you – our students!

Tell us how you are contributing to supporting the community, or other international students. This could be through supporting other students, your local neighbourhood or your ethnic community (or more!).

We will select **up to two students who will be recognised as Western Sydney University's International Students of the Year nominees.**

The selected students will each receive a **certificate and gift voucher** in acknowledgement of their contributions and will go on to represent Western Sydney University at the Study NSW **2022 International Student of the Year Awards.**

The winner of the NSW International Student of the Year Award will receive an official certificate of achievement and will become part of the Study NSW Awards Alumni Team.

How to apply

1. Confirm that you are eligible to apply
2. Consider how you have met the selection criteria and gather any supporting documentation
3. Contact two people to act as your referees. Each referee must provide contact details and a written recommendation (up to 200 words).
4. Submit your nomination, including written references by 2 referees and any supporting documentation. [Submit your nomination here \(au.cglink.me/2ih/s2003\)](https://au.cglink.me/2ih/s2003)

Key Dates

Date	Item
28 March 2022	Nominations for International Student of the Year open.
13 April 2022	Workshop: How to Improve Your Nomination Register: https://au.cglink.me/2ih/r41277
29 May 2022	Nominations close. Incomplete forms will not be considered. Nominations are shortlisted and provided to selection panel.
14 June 2022	Western Sydney University nominees announced. <i>Successful students will work with staff to refine application prior to submission to Study NSW.</i>
27 June 2022	Nominations submitted to Study NSW.
November 2022	NSW International Student of the Year winner announced.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to nominate yourself, you must:

- Be an international student (non-resident of Australia)
- Be a currently enrolled student at Western Sydney University; and
- Hold a valid visa for study in Australia; and
- Fully complete the nomination form (including two references); and
- Agree to have your nomination submitted to Study NSW, if you are successful.

Selection Criteria

Nominees should be an inspirational role model who can demonstrate an achievement or contribution that adds value to the community through:

- Touching the lives of others; or
- Participating in the community; or
- Connecting an ethnic or language community group with the broader NSW community; or
- Volunteering.

Your nomination will be assessed on the **impact you have made on the community** (this includes the international student community, ethnic community and the broader NSW community).

Nomination Form

Please submit your nomination form here: au.cglink.me/2ih/s2003

You can save this form and return to it later. You will need to provide 2 written references and the contact details of both referees to complete this form.

You will also be able to upload supporting documentation for your nomination (e.g. newspaper articles, testimonials, reports showing impact, etc.).

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I nominate someone else?

All nominations must be submitted by the student nominee. You can help other students on their nomination, but they must be the one to submit it.

Do I need to meet all the eligibility criteria?

Yes. If you are unsure whether you meet all the eligibility criteria, [contact us](#).

Do I need to meet all the selection criteria?

It is not a requirement that you meet each element of the selection criteria, though it may be beneficial to address more elements where possible. Ensure that your response includes details to show the importance of the work that you did and its impact.

Should I mention my academic achievements?

Academic achievements (such as your grades or marks on an assessment) are not considered for this award. You should avoid mentioning academic achievements, unless it is relevant to how you have helped other people.

How recent do my contributions need to be?

There is no strict time limit on your contributions, but more recent contributions (i.e., within the past 12 months) will be more convincing. Of course, if you have a longer history of supporting your community, feel free to outline this as well – just make sure you keep your response within the word limit.

Do I need supporting documentation?

It is optional to provide supporting documentation. If you have easy access supporting documentation, this can be helpful to further strengthen your nomination.

Some examples of supporting documentation include (but are not limited to) testimonials from people you helped or connected with, or articles on your work and/or its impacts.

Who should I ask to be my referees?

There are no restrictions on who your referees are – they could be someone who worked with you on your community contribution, a mentor or even a representative from another organisation.

Generally, you should consider someone who has worked closely with you and who will be able to provide **detail** on how you have met the selection criteria and why you should be selected as the International Student of the Year.

It may be helpful to make sure that the content of your referees' recommendations do not overlap significantly with each other to avoid repetition and so references can include more information.

I've been asked to be a referee. What should I write?

Congratulations on being asked to be a referee! Your recommendation will be closely considered when selecting the International Student(s) of the Year.

While what you write is up to you, it may be helpful to consider:

- How long you worked with the nominee and your relationship (e.g., supervisor, co-worker)
- How the nominee met the selection criteria (i.e.:
 - touched the lives of others,
 - participated in the community,
 - connected an ethnic or language community with the broader NSW community,
 - volunteered)
- If the nominee went above and beyond, you should include this, using examples where appropriate
- What the impact of the nominee's actions was on the affected community/communities
- Include relevant examples

Limit your recommendation to 200 words and do **not** use text formatting (e.g., **bold**, *italics*, [hyperlinks](#)), as these will not show up upon submission.

If you have other files/items which you think would be helpful and you want to refer to, provide it to the nominee to upload as supporting documentation.

Please note that a recommendation of “refer CV” (or similar) will not be considered.

Check List

	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>You must meet the eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be an international student (non-resident of Australia)• Be a currently enrolled student at Western Sydney University; and• Hold a valid visa for study in Australia; and• Fully complete the nomination form (including providing two referees); and• Agree to have your nomination submitted to Study NSW, if you are successful.• Currently enrolled at Western Sydney University
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Nominee details (that's you, the student):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile• Country of origin• City/Town of origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Two referees</p> <p>For each, the following must be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact details (all fields required):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Title and Full Name○ School/Institution○ Position○ Phone○ Mobile (if different)○ Email address• Written recommendation (up to 200 words)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Provide a short summary of your contributions to the community and the impact of your contribution.</p> <p>Recent achievements or contributions will be viewed favourably. Academic achievements are not considered.</p> <p>This must be between 200 – 500 words.</p>

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact us using the details below. We receive a range of enquiries, so please specify that your question is about the International Student of the Year Awards.

International Buddy Program

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