

International Newsletter – Issue 1, 2025

From the Pro Vice-Chancellor, International, Mike Ferguson



Welcome to our first international newsletter of 2025.

The year has started very positively with an excellent first semester intake of students at both our regional and metro campuses. The regional commencing intake of 197 students is our highest ever international intake for our regional campuses, while our metro intake is double that of last year. A big thank you to everyone across the University that has helped to facilitate this outstanding result.

Our strategic priorities for 2025 include:

- Growing regional and metro campus load in line with trajectory targets
- Actively progressing the development of new transnational education ventures, with the intent to present at least one business case for formal consideration
- Developing an outbound mobility strategy for domestic students
- Securing a pathway with Government (under what is likely to be a capped system) for Charles Sturt to return its pre-pandemic levels of international load
- Creating greater whole-of-university alignment by developing holistic country and international partner engagement strategies

As many of you will be aware, our Melbourne campus received its first intake for 30 session and officially launched on 3 April 2025 with a ceremony led by the Vice-Chancellor and CEO of Navitas. A lot of work has been undertaken over recent months to drive enrolments – including large scale promotional activity in Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Bangladesh; the development of a new-value proposition linked to the University's sector leading graduate employment; the launch of new courses; and new scholarships. Based on 30 session outcomes, this seems to be paying off well, with the expectation now that this will continue to flow through into the upcoming 60 session.

For transnational education (TNE), we are now reaching a potentially exciting juncture as the considerable work undertaken over the last 15 months in identifying potential opportunities is starting to narrow in on a range of firmer possibilities. We have started work to develop business cases with the intent to finalise these by mid-year. In addition to creating new revenue streams, TNE also helps to build the university's brand and open the doors to other international

linkages and in-country opportunities. We'll keep you informed as to how this all develops.



Joseph Anthonyysz (CEO, Careers & Industry Division, Navitas), Reneé Leon (Vice-Chancellor, Charles Sturt University), Scott Jones (Group CEO, Navitas) and Mike Ferguson (Pro Vice-Chancellor, International, Charles Sturt University) at the Charles Sturt University Melbourne launch

With the recent federal election now behind us, we will shortly gain a sense as to the Government's intentions in relation to a more formal capping of international students. Rest assured that we will be actively engaging with Government on this matter to put forward the Charles Sturt case. As we know, international students make a vital contribution to our regional education delivery, providing much needed global perspectives in the classroom and delivering additional income that underpins our domestic delivery and research.



Andrew Knight (Navitas College Director, Charles Sturt University Sydney & Melbourne) and Mike Ferguson (Pro Vice-Chancellor, International) (front-centre) at a promotional event with education agents in Indonesia.



Just prior to Christmas, the Government did introduce a 'de-facto cap' of sorts through Ministerial Direction 111 which deprioritises visa processing after each institution reaches 80 per cent of its allocated new overseas student commencement (NOSC) number. For Charles Sturt, our allocated NOSC for 2025 is 1,000, which aligns well with our trajectory plans for this year. We will however need to secure increases to this for future years as we rebuild back to where we were prior to the pandemic.

Lastly, our international success is very much dependent on a whole of university collaborative approach. All of us have a role in supporting this important strategic objective, that directly underpins and positively contributes to our core regional education delivery. It's not just the big initiatives that make a difference, but the smaller simpler things too – such as putting ourselves in the shoes of an international student and offering a welcoming and supportive perspective. We're making some great progress across our International Strategy and I look forward to another positive year.

International enrolments

Despite challenges associated with government policy, Charles Sturt has welcomed 197 new international students across its regional campuses in Session 30, 2025, our largest ever regional intake. This represents an increase of 15.9 per cent compared to 2024 and is the result of extensive work with our faculties on course offerings, targeted international marketing and recruitment efforts, and outstanding processing of applications by our international admissions team.

Our most popular course for international students is the Bachelor of Nursing with 123 commencements, followed by the Bachelor of Information Technology (15 commencements), Bachelor of Dental Science (13 commencements) and Master of Agriculture (9 commencements).

Online, we have seen 105 new international commencements. Our most population online programs for international students are the Master of Education, Graduate Diploma of Paramedicine (Critical Care) and Graduate Certificate in Customs Administration.

Outbound study abroad

More than 200 domestic students participated in international experiences over the last year across a broad range of discipline and countries. If academic staff would like to learn more about outbound opportunities available for their domestic students, please get in touch with the Charles Sturt Global team at csuglobal@csu.edu.au. Some highlights for outbound student mobility include:

- **UK** – A/Prof Jane Garner and Dr Simon Wakeling accompanied 20 Information Studies and Librarianship students to the UK for a 9-day program to gain a deeper understanding of how various world class information agencies function to service their clientele and work to protect the cultural heritage of a major international country. This was our most popular overseas program with over 70 applications for the 20 places available.
- **Fiji** – A/Prof Matt Winslade accompanied a group of 15 Education students to Fiji in October for 4 weeks. This program, aligned with the United Nations sustainable development goals, was designed to provide Charles Sturt Health and Physical Education students with the opportunity to live and work in an authentic pacific island setting.
- **Nepal** – Dr Kiprono Langat led a group of 9 Education students to Kathmandu for 3 weeks where they were assigned to a Nepali teacher and taught at government schools associated with the Kathmandu University.
- **Cambodia** – Dr Jenny Bond and a group of 7 Environmental Science, Science, and Agricultural Science students travelled to Phnom Penh for a 3-week program focussing on key sustainable development issues such as wildlife trafficking and conservation, smallholder agriculture, sustainable tourism, rural development, and cultural heritage.
- **Vanuatu** – Jacob Grevell and Hannah Stack travelled with 16 Paramedicine students for placements in Port Vila to enhance their critical care and paramedic skills, whilst increasing their cultural competency in a Pacific Island setting.
- **USA** – Tegan Brown travelled with 10 Paramedical Science students to Louisiana for 4-weeks to undertake placements with Arcadian Ambulance, gaining first-hand experience of working alongside US paramedics.
- **Thailand & India** – 44 Veterinary Science students undertook placements at Worldwide Veterinary Services (WVS) animal shelter and clinics under the supervision of WVS veterinary staff at their international training centres in either Chiang Mai or Goa. The programs included spay clinics (dogs and cats), population control and rabies vaccination programs.
- **Singapore** – Adrian Davis and 12 students travelled to Singapore for a 2-week program hosted by the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SuSS). This program was for postgraduate students from policing, security, border force and the wider investigation disciplines to immerse themselves in understanding the context, security and investigative structures of Singapore.

- **Palau & Malaysia** – 3 students spent a semester at non-partner universities in Palau and Malaysia to complete their New Colombo Plan (NCP) scholarship programs, with 3 more students awarded NCP scholarships to study in the Indo-Pacific region in the 2025 round in Fiji.
- **Medicine** – 8 Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine) / Doctor of Medicine students undertook an overseas medical elective over summer, the first cohort of fourth-year medical students to have this opportunity. Destinations included India, Japan, Malta, Nepal, South Africa and the UK.
- **Other** – an additional 55 students participated in independent international work integrated learning experiences (placements or volunteering experiences).

Inbound study abroad

Charles Sturt has been delighted to host a number of recent inbound international delegations to our campuses. If academic staff would like to learn more about inbound opportunities available for overseas university colleagues or their students, please get in touch with the Charles Sturt Global team at csuglobal@csu.edu.au. Some highlights for inbound student mobility include:

- **University of Kentucky, USA** – 2 Kentucky students spent 8 weeks at our Bathurst campus undergoing teaching placements at local Bathurst schools, in conjunction with our School of Education.
- **Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore** – 30 students and 1 staff member spent a week in Canberra for a Policing study tour, hosted by AGSPS.
- **Lakehead University, Canada** – 10 students and a staff member from Lakehead University came to Sydney, Bathurst and Dubbo for a 10-day Diversity and Inclusion study tour.
- **Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association** – 8 professionals from across Southeast Asia travelled to Wagga for a 1-week Future-Fit Farming and Financing in Australia program, which included attending the Digital Agrifood Summit.
- **Tianjin University of Commerce (TUC), China** – hosted by the School of Business, 11 students and 1 staff member from TUC travelled to Port Macquarie for a 2-week Business and Finance Summer School.

International WIL agreements

We would like to remind colleagues that under our Delegations and Authorisations Policy, any international agreements require the approval of the Pro Vice-Chancellor, International. If you are planning to execute a WIL agreement with an overseas organisation or university, please ensure you consult with the Charles Sturt Global team.



Students from Tianjin University of Commerce visiting Charles Sturt University Sydney prior to making their way to Port Macquarie

International alumni events

The University has hosted events for our overseas based alumni in Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong and India recently. Further events are planned for China this quarter. It is always energising to reconnect with our amazing alumni, and share insights and updates on activities occurring at Charles Sturt.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made these events so special. If any staff are travelling internationally, and may be able to connect with our international alumni or partners, please get in touch at ogep@csu.edu.au.



Dr Jeff McCormick (left), Associate Head (Animal and Agricultural Sciences), School of Agriculture, Veterinary and Environmental Science, with alumni in Port Moresby

Trade mission to Thailand and Cambodia

The University was selected to participate in Austrade's recent Future Skills Mission in Bangkok and Phnom Penh. Trent Pohlmann, Head, International Partnership Development, represented Charles Sturt, which was among 18 higher education and vocational education institutions participating.

The event included workshops, and meetings with government, regulators and local universities. The University was also represented on a panel session to discuss opportunities to support workforce development in Cambodia.

As the future of work continues to evolve, Australia and Charles Sturt are well-positioned to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in a dynamic global workforce, given our leadership in career preparation and academic readiness.



Trent Pohlmann participating in a skills panel session in Cambodia

New international partnerships

The University has been delighted to enter a number of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) recently. A sincere thank you to our academic and research areas who have led and supported the work required to get these established. MOUs most recently executed with overseas organisations include:

- **Metropolitan College (Greece)** – exploring opportunities for student exchange, course articulations, joint workshops, research collaboration and transnational education.
- **GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (India)** – led by our Research portfolio, this partnership is focused on collaborative research projects, programs and activities; staff and student opportunities; and knowledge exchange in the agriculture discipline.
- **Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute** – led by our Gulbali team, this partnership aims to strengthen ties between the organisations to support joint research and development opportunities related to food security in Bangladesh.
- **Tashenev University (Kazakhstan)** – exploring opportunities for course articulations, student exchange and transnational education.
- **Southeastern Kenya University** – this relationship will focus on collaborative research in agriculture and related disciplines in continental Africa.

- **Universitas Brawijaya (Indonesia)** – led by our School of Information and Communication Studies, this partnership is focused on student mobility opportunities in undergraduate and postgraduate communications.
- **Northwest University (South Africa)** – this partnership facilitates bilateral exchanges with our Gulbali team in agriculture, water and fishery disciplines.
- **Atma Jaya University (Indonesia)** – to facilitate postgraduate student mobility and research collaboration in the communication discipline, led by our School of Information and Communication Studies.
- **Lovely Professional University (LPU) (India)** – the University has executed an agreement where LPU students will articulate to Charles Sturt to complete the final 2 years of their agriculture degrees.
- **Narxoz University (Kazakhstan)** – a general partnership currently exploring a range of opportunities including articulations, student and staff exchanges, and research collaboration.
- **Parul University (India)** – focused on course articulations in business and IT. We currently have 2 students from Parul studying with us to complete their degrees.



Prof Neena Mitter (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research) with Dr Manmohan Singh Chauhan (Vice-Chancellor, GB Pant University) after executing a joint MOU in India.

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

The International team is delighted that our Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) is now CRICOS-registered, meaning we can accept on-campus international students. Marketing and recruitment efforts are underway with the first batch of international students commencing this course is Session 30, 2026. Applications are already being received and we encourage you to take a look at our digital course snapshot [here](#).