

International Newsletter – Issue 1, 2024

From the Pro Vice-Chancellor, International, Mike Ferguson



Welcome to our first tri-annual newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share important international updates and news, as well as opportunities and tips as to how you can get involved and support the University's international objectives.

The start of 2024 has seen some significant international developments, with our first intake of students at Charles Sturt University Sydney commencing in Session 30, together with the Vice-Chancellor's [recent announcement](#) that we will also be establishing a presence in Melbourne with Navitas by 2025. Both initiatives are important components of our International Strategy 2030, helping to build our international brand, support partnership development and improve our international ranking – with substantial flow on benefits to our regional campuses. The successful implementation of Charles Sturt University Sydney has very much been a whole of university effort and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that have contributed and to recognise your very substantial efforts.

Despite some significant visa related challenges (more on that later!), the international intake for Session 30 has generally been positive with similar commencement numbers for our regional campuses compared to last year and almost 70 commencements in Sydney – representing a very solid start, particularly when considered together with the very high level of interest we have seen across the market. Indeed, both Sydney and regional campus international commencements would have been substantially higher, were it not for some major policy shifts we have seen from the Australian Government following the release of the [Migration Strategy](#) just before Christmas. This has resulted in visa processing delays as well as some puzzling decision making.

Over recent months, the University has played a very active role in engaging with Government about the Migration Strategy – putting forward positive potential policy options, highlighting issues, and ensuring that a regional perspective is represented. This is likely to continue to be a focus throughout the first half of the year as the Government rolls out further Migration Strategy measures. If you'd like to read more on this subject, you might be interested in my opinion piece which was initially published in the Australian: [Beware the banana skins of the Migration Strategy - CSU News](#).

From an International Strategy perspective, areas of focus for 2024 include:

- Expanding our regional international course profile
- The ongoing successful delivery of both Sydney and Melbourne campuses
- Exploration of a potential new transnational education venture
- The development and bringing to life of international partnerships – with particular focus on expanding existing relationships and building new cohort pathways
- Enhancing our Study Abroad and student mobility offerings
- Diversifying our student recruitment and enhancing recruitment sophistication
- Improving international foundations by implementing the Edified Review recommendations, successfully completing the Admissions Improvement Project and improving end-to-end international student communications

Over the last 12 months, we have signed several new Memorandum of Understanding agreements with international partners and this provides a great opportunity for increased academic and research collaboration. We'll be providing more information about how you can become involved in these partnerships over coming months. Additionally, with many successful partnerships built based on personal relationships, we would love to hear from you (either to myself or Trent Pohlmann) if you have such relationships with international universities or organisations that you think have potential for broader collaboration.

Lastly, crucial to the success of our International Strategy is the quality of our international student experience. Let's make Charles Sturt the best possible place for our international students by putting ourselves in their shoes and going the extra mile to make them feel welcome and offer support – particularly during the first few weeks of semester when many of our international students are not only studying at university for the first time, but also adjusting to a new city and country, which is vastly different to their own. Even simple gestures like a smile or assisting an obviously lost student to find their next class can go a long way.

Overseas partner students

Did you know we have almost 2,000 students overseas with international partners? These students are studying Charles Sturt degrees at our partner universities in Cambodia, China and Hong Kong. See our [Partnerships](#) page to learn more.



International student support

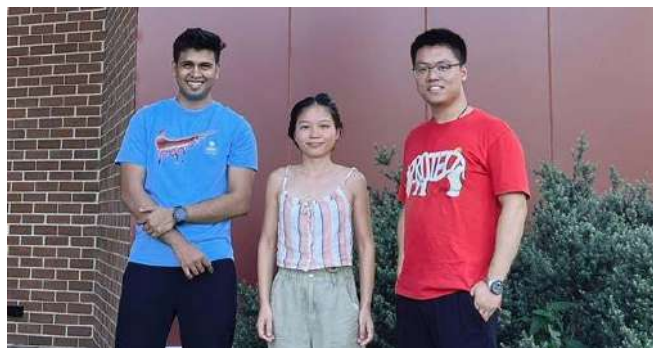
Following a successful orientation, the international support team recently hosted its 'catch up and chat' sessions on each of the campuses. In Bathurst, a staggering 104 international students attended – a record-breaking attendance! The events are designed to allow students to connect, share experiences and build a strong sense of community. Witnessing their success reinforces the importance and impact of our international support team.



In Port Macquarie, our students were treated to an engaging ocean awareness session led by the Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club. International students seized the opportunity to learn about water safety and indulge in an afternoon filled with lively sun games and a delicious meal.



The careers and skills team recently coordinated their second international mentoring program boasting an impressive turnout of 67 mentees paired with 9 dedicated mentors. To see all upcoming on-campus international events, please visit the [Charles Sturt student portal](#).



Finally, the value of international student support was also highlighted when our Bachelor of Nursing team hosted a mentimeter survey in week two. Over 50% of respondents selected the international support they received as the most helpful thing about commencing at Charles Sturt.

Australian School of Global Studies partnership

While in India with Education Minister Jason Clare in November, the Vice-Chancellor executed the University's agreement with the [Australian School of Global Studies \(ASGS\)](#). ASGS is an entity of the Education Centre of Australia (ECA), which also operates IT Masters (another partner of Charles Sturt).

Under the partnership, ASGS will deliver Diploma-level qualifications in India that provide a pathway into the second year of our Bachelor of Business Studies and Bachelor of Information Technology courses.

The first cohort of students will commence with ASGS in May, creating another new high-potential pathway via which international students can study with us.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Renée Leon with Mr Rajesh Singh, CEO of ECA India.

Let's create a world worth living in



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Charles Sturt University Sydney

After an immense amount of work over the last 12 months, our first cohort of students completed orientation in February and have commenced their studies at our new Sydney campus.



We are operating Charles Sturt University Sydney in partnership with Navitas and encourage colleagues, when in Sydney, to visit the campus for a look around. The courses currently being delivered are the Bachelor of Accounting, Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of IT, Master of Professional Accounting (Professional Practice) and Master of Professional IT.

The official opening of Charles Sturt University Sydney will occur next month with Charles Sturt Vice-Chancellor Renée Leon and Navitas CEO Scott Jones in attendance.

Staff can learn more about the campus on our dedicated website [here](#). While currently operating on a reduced footprint, at full capacity our Sydney campus will cover five floors of new teaching and learning facilities in its North Sydney building.



We are also excited to be complementing our Sydney metropolitan presence with a new Melbourne campus, again in partnership with Navitas, as announced by the Vice-Chancellor in What's New.

New international partnerships

Last year, the International office [announced](#) several new partnerships with higher education institutions in India providing for dual and joint degrees, student exchange programs, research collaboration, and professional development and overseas exchange opportunities for academic staff.

We have continued to pursue collaborative opportunities, and since our India mission are pleased to announce that we have entered a number of new partnerships.

Our newest international partners include Daffodil International University and Varendra University in Bangladesh; Lovely Professional University and Parul University in India; Xiangnan University in China; and Lampung University in Indonesia.



Charles Sturt and Daffodil University representatives in Sydney for the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

We'd like to sincerely thank our academic colleagues in the schools and faculties for their support in creating these new linkages, including through joint meetings, curriculum assessments and identifying their existing international relationships for expansion.

We would love to hear from anyone (either to Mike Ferguson or Trent Pohlmann) if they have any such relationships with international universities or organisations that they think have potential for broader collaboration.

INFORMATION SESSION – NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Please join us on **3 May at 1:00pm** for an online session about developing new international partnerships, recent new partner activities, and to ask questions about growing your existing international relationships. Teams link [here](#). Please contact Trent Pohlmann if you have any questions.

Hong Kong partners visit

A University delegation travelled to Hong Kong in February to meet with our transnational education partners Ming Hua Theological College and HKU SPACE. Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Education Professor John McDonald; Director, Global Engagement Eleanor Mitchell and Partner Manager Amy Toon conducted strategic partnership meetings and site visits. A key milestone was the celebration of 35 years of partnership with our colleagues at HKU SPACE for the delivery of courses in information studies.

In addition to the partner meetings, training sessions were conducted with our Hong Kong education agents to promote our allied health courses. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy are top priorities for Hong Kong students headed to Australia for higher education.



Charles Sturt representatives in Hong Kong meeting with education partners.

Learning abroad

The Charles Sturt Global team have been meeting new and future students across our campus footprint since the start of term and are pleased to see lots of interest from students across all subject areas.

We would like to work with schools to explore how we can offer a global experience in every course and welcome any innovative ideas you may have, and can link staff with overseas partners interested in developing Collaborative Online International Learning projects that could be embedded into courses.

More than 200 students participated in outbound learning abroad programs in 2023, which included a semester abroad, faculty-led programs, WPL, short-term study and research.

Three Charles Sturt University undergraduate students have been awarded a prestigious New Colombo Plan Scholarship to study and intern in the Indo-Pacific region in 2024, fully-funded. The 2024 round awarded 150 undergraduate students

Australia-wide with support for up to 19 months of study, internships, mentorships and language training. The successful Charles Sturt recipients were:

- Chelsea Williams – Bachelor of Social Work – to undertake studies in Japan.
- Rose Chamberlain – Bachelor of Science – to undertake studies and complete 2 environmental conservation internships in Palau.
- Natalie Mullins – Bachelor of Science – to undertake studies and a 6-month internship in Malaysia



New Colombo Plan 2024 Scholarship recipients Chelsea Williams, Rose Chamberlain and Natalie Mullins.

Applications for nominations for the 2025 NCP Scholarship round will be opening soon and we ask staff to help us let students know about this life-changing opportunity. Charles Sturt Global will be hosting information sessions for staff following the release of the 2025 NCP Mobility Program Guidelines.

The School of Policing Studies recently hosted its second Criminal Justice International Summer School at Port Macquarie in December 2023, with 25 students plus staff from universities in England, Wales, Canada, Singapore and Charles Sturt attending. Feedback from participants was excellent, with the Justice of Institute of Canada reporting that "our experience with you and your school was life changing!".

The Global team and school are now developing a customised study tour to Canberra for 25 students from Singapore University of Social Sciences later this year.

In 2024, Charles Sturt Global is focussing on international business development opportunities with overseas universities, with a particular focus on customised short-term programs and summer schools. The team will be contacting faculties and schools to seek your input into program development.

Let's create a world worth living in



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Samantha Ambridge, Manager, Charles Sturt Global, will be travelling to New Orleans at the end of May to promote partnership and learning abroad opportunities at Charles Sturt. Please reach out if there are any overseas institutions that you would like her to meet with.

International marketing and recruitment

The international marketing and recruitment team have visited Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Kenya and Philippines in recent months as part of a strategy to target new and emerging markets.

Some new initiatives for 2024 will be to enhance our presence in newer markets – Mongolia, Kenya, Philippines, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, UAE, Bhutan and South Korea – and bring more diversity to the student recruitment efforts.

In Session 30, the University welcomed 184 new students from 28 countries to our regional campuses; and 111 new students from 33 countries into online studies.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Geeta Bhatia as our new Regional Manager, South Asia. Geeta will be based in New Delhi India and be focusing on student recruitment activities for India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh.