

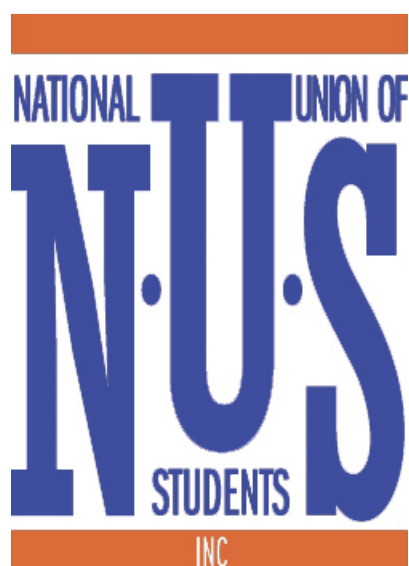
NUS – CAPA 2009 International Student Forum: Exploring Domestic-International Student Engagement

Date: 28, 29 & 30th June, 2009

Venue: Grand Buffet Hall
University of Melbourne, Parkville campus

Forum Program

This event is a combined effort of:



capa

NUS - CAPA 2009 International Student Forum: Exploring Domestic-International Student Engagement

AIM OF THE FORUM

The aim of this event is to hold a mid year forum for international student representatives from Australian Tertiary Institutions to explore the current international student experiences of social inclusion and student engagement with the communities in which they reside and study while pursuing their academic qualification in Australia. Through attending workshops, research presentations and panel sessions, the student attendees will draft a position paper identifying the needs of international students and the future direction of democratic international student representation in Australia based on the current domestic – international student engagement on campuses and engagement in the broader community. This work may be used by the peak student bodies in forming arguments in their submissions to the two major international student inquiries in 2009. In addition, at the forum, NUS and CAPA will seek to form a working group of representatives to explore the possible options for international student representation and make recommendations to NUS and CAPA National Annual Conferences in December 2009.

Day 1 : Sunday June 28

3.00pm Welcome

- Indigenous Welcome to Country
- NUS National General Secretary

3.30pm Introductions, icebreakers and campus sharing workshop

This workshop session will enable the participants to get to know one another and gather information on the structures and representation of international student representative bodies on each university campus. The students will be asked to present outlines of their student organization, the activities and events they run, both for international students only and in conjunction with domestic students and their representative opportunities on their campus within their university structure.

6.30pm Opening Dinner

Rydges Hotel on Swanston

701 Swanston Street

Carlton

The opening dinner will mark the new direction for international student representation in Australia. There will be an inspirational speaker invited to share experiences with the students.

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Day 2 : Monday June 29

9.30am **Welcome and Introductions**

9.45am **Forum Guest Speakers**

Dr Shanton Chang

Danny Ong

In the morning session, two researchers from University of Melbourne and Monash University will present findings from recent research into the international student experience.

This will highlight the social inclusion and how factors such as cultural and language differences can effect the way in which international students experience and engage with their university community and local students as well as the broader community.

The researchers will discuss the measures education providers and international students take to increase student engagement across the board to enhance international students experiences and sense of belonging and adaptation to their university and the broader community.

10.45am **Morning Tea**

11.15am **Morning Forum continued**

12.30pm **Lunch**

1.30pm **Community Engagement**

Cherry Grimwade

Team Leader Youth Policy and Programs

City of Melbourne

Cherry will outline the international student initiatives being delivered by the City of Melbourne, and will highlight some of the new programs that are being developed to enhance the experience of international students during their stay in Melbourne.

2.00pm **Forum - Current Student Representative Organisation Panel**

This session will allow the current student representative organisations to give a short presentation on their organizations member base, representative capability and primary activities such as events, lobbying, submission writing, and other roles the organization plays in the community and industry, both for international and local students.

The main aim of this forum is to inform the student representatives what current organizations do, who they represent, and where the gaps are in international student representation, where the gaps lie with international student and local student engagement in the representative structures and where the student engagement is successful.

Through this session, the students will be more equipped to engage in working with student organisations to sustain more effective representation of international students throughout Australia, and enhance current student engagement practices by being presented with different models and opportunities.

Panel members to include officers from the following representative organizations:

National Union of Students

Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations

Australian Federation of International Students

Federation of Indian Students in Australia

3.00pm Afternoon Tea

3.30pm Forum cont... Open Discussion

4.00pm Student Forum Issues Paper

This is a workshop to draft a preliminary issues paper for international student engagement in Australia that may be used for the proposed senate inquiry into international education and the proposed government roundtable on the international student experience in Australia.

The position paper as a policy platform will furthermore identify the current welfare and academic needs of international students, such as academic support or counseling or housing services, as well as other areas of international education such as ESOS Act and immigration policy.

7.00pm Dinner

Villa Romana

252 Lygon Street, Carlton

Delegates will be treated to a true Lygon Street Experience in Melbourne, with authentic Italian cuisine.

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Day 3 : Tuesday June 30

10.00am Keynote Speakers - Past International Student Leaders

1. Eugene Sebastian

2. Catherine Gomes

Through presentations on their experiences over the past 15 years as international students in Australia, three former national and state international student representatives will bring to the forum a recent history of international student representation in Australia.

The speakers will present the forum with examples of past achievements of international student representation in influencing the direction of the industry in Australia in shaping the legislation at national and state level, as well as at campus level academic and welfare support provided to international students.

In highlighting the past achievements and role of international student representation at the national level, this session will enable the participants to form ideas for it's future direction and the current role in Australia.

11.30am The ESOS Act – How This Legislation Has Created Rights For International Students.

Aristotle Paipetis

Principal Solicitor

Visa Lawyers Australia Pty Ltd

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Future Direction Workshop

Facilitator – Charlotte Long

University of Sydney SRC

The final session in this conference will be a workshop for all participants to use the information they were presented throughout the previous sessions to initiate discussion around how the future direction of international student representation may be based on the identification of the current issues and needs.

From this workshop, a working party will be formed to investigate the options put forward in the policy platform and workshop to work towards a national international student representation framework that incorporates and recognizes current representative organizations. The working group will also be tasked with directing NUS to make the required amendments to it's current structure to facilitate effective and democratic international student representation across Australia for undergraduate international students.

2.30 pm Afternoon Tea

3.00pm Workshop cont....

4.30pm Forum Evaluation and Close

Acknowledgements:

NUS and CAPA would like to sincerely thank the **University of Melbourne** for its generous support as the Primary Sponsor of this event. The **University of Melbourne** has contributed the venue and substantial in-kind support, without which, the event would not have been possible.

In addition, NUS and CAPA would like to thank **Medibank Private** for its support as a sponsor of the forum at the University of Melbourne. **Medibank Private** sponsorship of this event ensures that international student delegates are able to attend a higher quality, more enjoyable and rewarding event.

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