

## Position Description: Special Representatives, ACU National Student Association (ACUNSA)

### ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

---

Mission Statement: *Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.*

At ACU we pride ourselves on offering a welcoming environment for everyone. At the same time, we are a university committed to standing for something clear. We stand up for people in need and causes that matter. ACU's Mission is central to the University and informs every area – integrating the dignity of the human person, the common good, and ethical and social justice considerations into our core activities of student learning and teaching, research, and service.

We know that our people make us a university like no other. It's your values, action and passion that makes the difference. Whatever role you may play in our organisation: it's what you do that defines who we are.

In order to be agents of change in the world, we all need to see life through the eyes of others. We believe that our role as a university is to inspire and equip people to make a difference – and that means cultivating their ability to act and think empathetically.

Student engagement, leadership and service are integral to ACU's Mission and identity and student leaders play a crucial role in implementing the Mission of the University and promoting the social, intellectual, cultural, and spiritual welfare of their fellow students and informing University strategy and processes.

### DEFINITIONS

---

**Executive** means the ACU National Student Association President (ACUNSA), an Indigenous Students' Representative, a Postgraduate Students' Representative, an International Students' representative and an Online Students' representative; the Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of ACUNSA.

**Council** means the governing body ACUNSA elected by Students of the University to manage the affairs of ACUNSA, consisting of a President, the Presidents of the Campus Student Associations (CSA), an Indigenous Students' Representative, a Postgraduate Students' Representative, an International Students' representative and an Online Students' representative.

**Association** means ACUNSA as a body.

### ABOUT ACU STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

---

Each campus has a Campus Student Association (CSA) which is governed by [Statute 9](#) and its Constitution. CSAs provide advocacy, support, and social activity for all students on their campus.

Coordination at a national level is achieved through the [Australian Catholic University National Student Association \(ACUNSA\)](#) comprising the President of ACUNSA, the Campus Student Association Presidents and an Indigenous, International, Postgraduate and Online student representative.

ACUNSA and the Campus Student Associations are supported by the Student Life Unit of the Student Experience Directorate. Student Life oversees the student associations' training, planning, and the financial and risk management of the associations' programs, events and activities.

ACUNSA and the Campus Student Associations work closely with the Student Life Unit and specifically the National Manager Student Life, the Student Life Coordinator, and the Student Life Officers on each Campus.

### POSITION PURPOSE

---

The ACUNSA Special Representatives are responsible for assisting the Council by bringing to Council's attention matters of concern and relevance for their respective constituencies. The three representative positions are: First Peoples Students' Representative, International Students' Representative, Postgraduate Students' Representative and Online Students' Representative.

## **STIPEND**

---

ACUNSA Special Representatives receive an annual stipend which is equivalent to 30% of the Research Training Program Stipend base level (indexed annually). In 2024 the stipend is \$9,250.

**NB:** The stipend is not a salary or a wage: the President is not paid for the hours worked. Rather the stipend is provided in recognition of the workload of the role which includes regular attendance at meetings and events across the University.

## **TRAVEL**

---

This role requires some travel to other campuses approximately once per year.

## **EXPECTED HOURS OF COMMITMENT**

---

The ACUNSA Special Representatives can expect to devote at least 5 - 7 hours per week to this role. Students should consider this very carefully when nominating for election.

## **POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

---

The Special Representatives' duties are as follows:

1. Work with ACU student and staff stakeholders to achieve the objectives of ACUNSA:
  - i. To further the mission and identity of the University
  - ii. To facilitate and encourage the student experience at ACU
  - iii. To advocate for and represent students by assisting in the communication of issues raised by students to the University and liaise with University staff as required on behalf of students.
  
2. Represent the constituents and the University in a manner that fosters and champions a culture of belonging, respect and collaboration by always acting in a manner that fosters and champions a culture of belonging, respect and collaboration by:
  - i. Consulting widely with the constituency about student issues and activities.
  - ii. Reporting to the Association on matters affecting their respective constituencies.
  - iii. Where appropriate, representing the Association at events pertaining to their office.
  - iv. Participate in University committees where required and suggest nominations of appropriate students for committees in consultation with ACUNSA and the Student Experience Directorate.
  - v. Attending major University functions as appropriate (e.g., Graduation, Opening and Closing Liturgies) or other significant University or Campus activities.
  
3. Work with ACU student and staff stakeholders to achieve the objectives of ACUNSA by:
  - i. Attending all meetings of the Association.
  - ii. Working collaboratively with other members of the Executive to achieve the Association's objectives.

4. Ensure the internal management of the Association is cohesive and effective by being accountable and taking executive responsibility for:
  - i. Actively contributing to the planning, development, and implementation of the strategic and operational plans of the Association.
  - ii. Communicating events and information of the Association and of the University including the Student Life unit to students, where appropriate.
  
5. Be accountable to the University and the Membership for the sound financial management of the ACUNSA and good stewardship of resources.
  
6. At all times, act lawfully, with integrity and uphold the internal processes and vision of the Association and the Mission of the University.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

---

The ACUNSA Special Representatives must be an enrolled ACU student at the time of nomination, election and during the course of the term of office.

### The following characteristics would contribute to success in the role of ACUNSA Special Representative Officers:

- Clear understanding of, and engagement with, the University’s Mission
- Acts with integrity
- Organised and hardworking
- Enthusiastic and proactive
- Collaborative
- Able to consult effectively with students, staff, and University stakeholders
- Able to manage competing priorities
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Able to effectively coordinate a team of peers and achieve agreed outcomes
- Leadership ability and experience
- Willingness to work collaboratively with the Student Life Unit to achieve ACUNSA outcomes.

## KEY RELATIONSHIPS

University Officer	Role and Relationship	Student roles affected
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)	Responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of the University in partnership with the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor’s Advisory Committee.  Provides guidance to ACUNSA to further the mission of the university.  The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) reports to the Vice-Chancellor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACUNSA President</li> <li>• ACUNSA Representatives</li> <li>• CSA Presidents</li> </ul>
Director, Student Experience	Leads the professional support services and engagement activities for students which are delivered across the University, including Access and Disability, Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACUNSA President</li> </ul>

	<p>Service, Careers and Employability, Counselling, Student Accommodation, Safeguarding and Student Safety, Transition, Medical Centres, and Student Life.</p> <p>Provides guidance to ACUNSA to further the mission of the university.</p> <p>The Director, Student Experience reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACUNSA Representatives</li> <li>• CSA Presidents</li> </ul>
Associate Director, Student Experience	<p>Supports the Director, Student Experience in leading the professional support services and engagement activities for students which are delivered across the University.</p> <p>Leads the Student Life and Transition teams, including the programs associated with student leadership, orientation, students on committees and mentoring.</p> <p>Provides guidance to ACUNSA to further the mission of the university.</p> <p>The Associate Director, Student Experience reports to the Director, Student Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACUNSA President</li> <li>• ACUNSA Representatives</li> <li>• CSA Presidents</li> <li>• CSA Executives</li> <li>• Special Officers</li> </ul>
National Manager Student Life	<p>Supports the Associate Director, Student Experience.</p> <p>Advises ACUNSA on strategies and the development of operational plans and to achieve their objectives.</p> <p>Supports ACUNSA's professional and personal development as leaders and representatives.</p> <p>Leads the team that aims to develop a rich, enjoyable, and diverse campus culture that engages students, staff, and the wider community in a vibrant and dynamic campus life.</p> <p>The National Manager Student Life reports to the Associate Director Student Experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACUNSA President</li> <li>• ACUNSA Representatives</li> <li>• CSA Presidents</li> <li>• CSA Executives</li> <li>• Special Officers</li> </ul>
Student Life Coordinator	<p>Responsible for the development and training of community leaders, including ACUNSA and CSA leaders.</p> <p>Provides role-specific training and advice on strategic and administrative matters.</p> <p>The Student Life Coordinator reports to the National Manager, Student Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACUNSA President</li> <li>• ACUNSA Representatives</li> <li>• CSA Presidents</li> <li>• CSA Executives</li> <li>• Special Officers</li> <li>• Councillors</li> </ul>
Student Life Officer	<p>Responsible for the delivery of campus-specific programs, events, activities, and services.</p> <p>Provides guidance, logistical advice and daily on-the-ground support.</p> <p>The Student Life Officer reports to the National Manager, Student Life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA Presidents</li> <li>• CSA Executives</li> <li>• Campus Councils</li> <li>• Local membership</li> </ul>