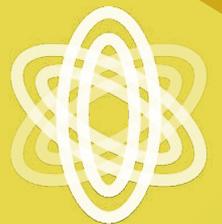


**#WeAre
International**

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME 2022-23

UKCISA's student network
of emerging global talent
and future leaders



#WeAreInternational

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UKCISA's student network of emerging global talents and future leaders

About the programme

Launched in November 2019, the **#WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme** is an education policy and leadership development scheme for exceptional individuals from around the world who are currently studying in the UK. Through this programme, UKCISA is helping to connect international students to an exciting network of emerging future leaders.

Our vision is to empower international students to be key partners in shaping a quality student experience and leading the **#WeAreInternational** campaign through influencing policy, so that we can develop an inclusive global student community and create the most global generation together.

#WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors will be equipped with policy knowledge and leadership skills to lead change and influence dialogue through their own lived experiences studying in the UK.

[**CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR THE PROGRAMME**](#)

Applications are open now and will close at **15:00 (UK time) on Wednesday 3 November 2021.**



Ambassador activities and responsibilities

As a member of the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme, you will join the current cohort and lead an award-winning campaign to help the UK deliver a world-class student experience for international students. Together you will share responsibility as a group to engage in the four main areas below.

1. Public Engagement

A large component of the programme, you will attend a range of events to engage with the public and education sector on the international student experience:

- Speaking at exclusive sector events such as conferences, fairs and forums to share your student insight as part of panel sessions and presentations. In particular, you will lead on delivering sessions for our annual student conference, UKCISA Fest.
- As the face of the #WeAreInternational campaign, you will be involved in preparing content such as videos, quotes, and blogs for our social media channels. There will be opportunities to also engage in Facebook Live Q&A sessions with current and prospective students.
- Occasionally you may be invited to an interview with the press about topical international student issues.

2. Policy influencing

In order to enhance your knowledge of international student policies and contribute to positive change, you will engage in many policy influencing activities:

- Leading exciting new projects and events to inform policy and practice, such as participating in working groups for specific topics of interest (e.g. employability and climate change).
- Contributing to high-level discussions and roundtable meetings as part of UKCISA's Board of Trustees, but also with education sector committees and in government consultations to include the international student voice.
- Familiarising yourself with existing policies and developing new ones, such as the International Student Charter.
- Engaging as a member of UKCISA's Student Advisory Group (SAG) – a subcommittee of the Board that provides UKCISA with the student voice and advises on major strategic decisions, projects and policies.

3. Learning and development

Throughout the programme you will have access to various sessions and resources from UKCISA and our partner organisations to help you become an influential leader:

- Enhancing your personal and professional development through training in areas such as public speaking, policy analysis, communications and campaigning.
- Engaging in mentoring sessions with education sector leaders to develop your policy knowledge and leadership skills.

4. Community outreach

As an emerging part of the #WeAreInternational campaign, you will also have the opportunity to engage directly with the wider international student community:

- Building networks with international student officers and representatives, cultural groups, and local communities to celebrate the achievements of international students, work on projects and identify issues.
- Creating resources for international students to take action at their institutions and feel empowered to make positive change.

Candidates we are looking for

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the programme, you must meet both criteria below. If you do not meet these criteria, unfortunately your application will not be accepted.

- You must be aged 18 or above when applications close on Wednesday 3 November 2021
- You must be an EU or overseas student currently studying at a UK education provider (either in the UK or remotely) and will graduate after June 2022

Qualities and experience

- You should be able to explain how you want to make change in the international student experience and beyond through student representation and influencing policy.
- You should have the motivation to acquire good knowledge about policy and how influencing policy happens.
- You should be willing to engage long-term with UKCISA and the #WeAreInternational campaign.
- You are likely to be in early to mid-study and already have examples of when you have demonstrated student representation skills or leadership.
- You should have the motivation to build strong networks and be committed to supporting the development of the institution you are studying at, UKCISA and the wider education sector in the UK.
- We welcome students from diverse backgrounds, particularly (but not limited to) those studying:
 - A further education, foundation or PhD course
 - At an institution in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland

What do we mean by student representation and influencing policy?

Student representation: as a student, you are encouraged to play a full part in the decision-making process of your education provider and national policy. Student representatives selected into this programme will represent other international students who have shared experiences from similar backgrounds. They will gather views about various aspects of the student experience, communicate this feedback to relevant staff members and committees, suggest solutions, and work together with the education sector to bring about change.

Influencing policy: encouraging changes to government or education sector policy through discussions, debate and shared ideas.

Becoming a #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

There are four phases to becoming a member of the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme as outlined below:

Phase 1

Completing your online application

In your application you must demonstrate your motivation and passion to create positive change for students, as well as your interest in international education, student experience and keeping up-to-date with policy. Through the application process, we will identify exceptional individuals who have the potential and passion in playing a significant role in student representation and influencing policy in the UK education sector.

Your online application will take you approximately 45-60 minutes to complete – please note that you cannot save and come back to it later, therefore we recommend that you prepare your application in Microsoft Word (or another word processor) and then copy/paste it into the relevant sections of the application.

A series of simple personal information questions are included in the online application for us to confirm that you meet the criteria and we can contact you. There are two main questions on the themes of student representation and influencing policy.

If you have any questions about the online application process after reading this document, please contact us at WeAreInternational@ukcisa.org.uk before the application deadline.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR THE PROGRAMME](#)

Applications are open now and will close at **15:00 (UK time) on Wednesday 3 November 2021**.

Phase 2

Finalists take part in online interviews

At this stage we will let you know if you have been shortlisted or not. If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to **online interviews from 13:00-17:00 (UK time) on Wednesday 1 December 2021**.

At the interview, you will present your policy vision and explain your student representation experience to a panel of experts. Unfortunately, if you cannot attend the interviews, your application cannot be progressed. There will be some places on the reserves list at this stage.

Phase 3

Joining the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme!

After the interviews, we will make our final decision on who will become new members of the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme. Once confirmed, you will be expected to prepare to take part in training and development sessions, senior meetings and visits to leading organisations in the education sector, as well as exclusive events throughout the next two calendar years (from **January 2022 to December 2023**).

Phase 4

Long term involvement

You will be part of the #WeAreInternational network of education sector leaders and global talents, and will continue to be connected to professional development and learning opportunities locally, nationally and internationally.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How are applications reviewed?

Once applications close, all applications will be sent to the selection panel of the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme to be reviewed. This panel is made up of experts in the international education sector, including the current #WeAreInternational student ambassadors, UKCISA staff and members of the Board of Trustees, key figures and representatives from education sector organisations, and UKCISA member institutions. They will bring together a wealth of expertise in policy development and student representation to identify the most suitable candidates for this year's programme.

The application review process may take up to 10 working days; successful candidates will receive further interview instructions via emails, therefore please check your spam/junk mailbox to avoid missing any emails from us.

I do not have any policy knowledge or leadership experience, do I still have a chance of being selected?

Yes, absolutely! We want to attract students who are willing to learn and lead, even if they do not have any policy knowledge or leadership experience.

Through your online application and the selection process, you will be expected to either demonstrate your existing policy knowledge and leadership experience, or indicate your ability, potential and interest to develop policy knowledge and leadership skills.

Do I have to live in the UK at the time of applying?

You must be studying at a UK education provider at the time of your application in order to be eligible to apply for the programme. We understand that you might be living outside the UK studying remotely due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, but this will not affect your eligibility.

I just came to the UK this year as a first-year student, can I still apply?

Yes, of course! We welcome all current international students to apply for this programme. Your fresh perspectives as a new international student in the UK will be invaluable for us to take into consideration during future policy-making processes.

This is my final year and I will graduate in June/July 2022, can I still apply?

Yes, absolutely! We welcome all current international students to apply for this programme. We recognise

the wisdom and experience that final year students can bring, and we would love for you to stay engaged with us after graduation as alumni.

Who are the current student ambassadors and when are they going to complete this programme?

We appointed 10 exceptional individuals as the first cohort of this programme in early 2020, and 12 more as the second cohort in December 2020. They have made invaluable contributions and their hard work is highly regarded by colleagues across the education sector. As the first cohort will complete their tenure in December 2021, you will have a one-year overlap in this programme with the second cohort throughout 2022. You can read more about the [current student ambassadors here](#).

I do not meet the age requirement, can I still apply?

Your application will not be eligible if you do not meet the age requirement. You must be aged 18 or above when applications close on Wednesday 3 November 2021. We cannot accept applications from anyone who does not meet the age requirement.

I am not available for the online interview on Wednesday 1 December, what do I do?

Unfortunately, if you cannot attend the online interviews from 13:00-17:00 (UK time) on Wednesday 1 December then this will make you ineligible for the programme.

I have just graduated this autumn 2021, can I apply?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible. The programme is only open to current students.

Are there any in-person activities for the programme next year?

We are monitoring the Covid-19 situation closely and are following government guidance. We hope to meet you in person safely in 2022 when circumstances allow.

What do I need to pay for?

We will not ask you to pay for any fees. When circumstances allow and we can all meet in person, UKCISA will cover all reasonable costs of travel, accommodation and meals for events and activities included in the programme. If there are things you would like to buy or consume outside the programme, for example, then you would be responsible for these costs.

HEAR FROM THE CURRENT STUDENT AMBASSADORS

If you have any questions for the current student ambassadors or would like to hear more about their experiences on the programme, please join our Facebook Live Q&A event on Monday 18 October. [Check out the UKCISA Facebook page here.](#)



“ The student ambassador programme has been a great learning experience so far. We’ve been involved in a number of Learning and Development sessions that have helped me improve and develop skills in policy analysis, productive teamwork, public speaking and writing for impact... to name just a few! It’s also provided me with a unique platform to voice my opinion and drive change for causes I am passionate about.

Simran Mahajan

“ Being part of the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador programme is a truly inspiring experience. It is impossible not to relate to my fellow ambassadors’ stories and experiences or to be proud by their achievements so far. UKCISA also offers training to further develop our leadership and team working skills as well as opportunities to join the conversations on international student matters and policy for, which I have a particular interest on student wellbeing. The programme makes me feel empowered about what we can achieve when working together towards making international students be part of a supportive community in the UK.



Claudia Yanez



“ Being a #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador has enabled me to meet other passionate students from around the world. Working with these students and experts within the sector, I have been able to advance an important cause: employment prospects for international students in the UK.

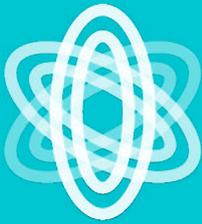
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HEAR FROM THE CURRENT STUDENT AMBASSADORS



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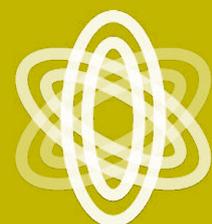
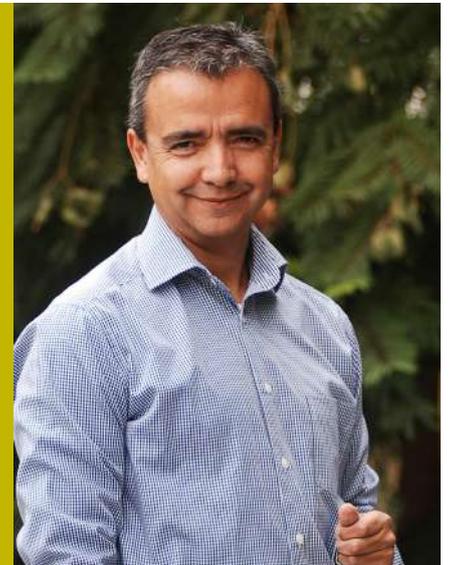
Being a student ambassador with UKCISA for just less than a year has opened me to opportunities that I would not have received otherwise. I have already been exposed to various organizations that work towards supporting international students. The programme covers all aspects ranging from academics to well-being. The whole journey has been really empowering for me, and has helped me develop a new level of confidence. Through the year, I attended a lot of training sessions that taught me skills like building trusted relationships, writing and communicating with impact, and policy making. Moreover, it also helped me work on projects at my own university. The student ambassador cohorts consist of students with very diverse backgrounds which helped in widening my social connections. Further, it enabled me to communicate with different people across the UK and the globe. It also gave me the opportunity to put forward ideas and help the community. This programme for me is very positive and I would not hesitate in recommending it for other students to experience as well.



Melody Sequeira

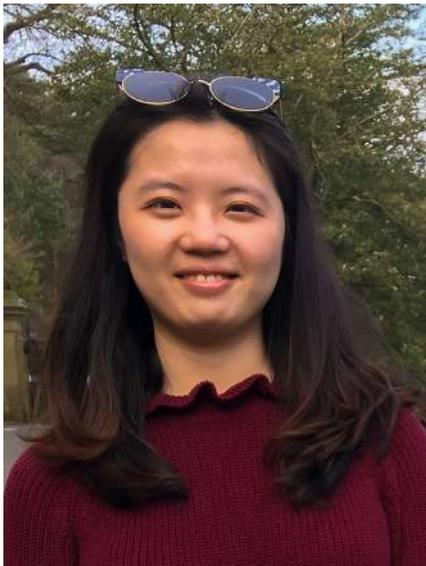
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Being part of UKCISA as an International Student Ambassador has been a very rewarding experience. During this first year I have had the chance to meet amazing people from all over the world, brilliant students that feel very passionate about making a difference and collaborating with others. I have also had the chance to speak at high-profile nationwide education events, where we have presented the work we do at UKCISA. In my case, I also talked about the role and contribution that international students can make to tackle the climate crisis, which is my area of professional development and passion as well. Finally, we have closely worked with outstanding professionals from UKCISA and participated in dozens of training sessions, workshops and meetings with various organisations, aimed at shaping policy and improving students' experience while in the UK; all of which have substantially enriched my own experience as an international student. Highly recommended!



Juan Ramon Candia

HEAR FROM THE CURRENT STUDENT AMBASSADORS



“ Being a student ambassador is a way to share my lived experience and to respond to the policymaking for international students. This experience is not only about sharing my story as an international student but about proactive participation in driving more positive changes for the international student community in the UK.

Yunyan Li

“ I joined the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Program with one thing in mind: Employability! Through this program, I have met and worked with influential, passionate, and inspiring individuals in higher education sector working to achieve this goal of better employability for international students. From being able to influence their conversations and campaigns and providing student perspectives on various policies, I have also been able to develop my voice, our voices, as powerful drivers for change for the enrichment of international student experience in the UK!

Nebu George



“ The #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador programme sensitised me for the existing troubles of international students. I have been astonished over and over again by how many struggle with the same difficulties, but also by how many services and people are out there to support you. The programme equipped me with the knowledge to help myself as well as others to successfully navigate academia in the UK.

Daniel Haid



**#WeAre
International**

www.weareinternational.org.uk

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