

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION DUTIES

12.1. Promote via publications, promotions and campaigns, an environment within the Association and on campus which is supportive of cultural diversity.

I did an interview with Arina Aizal on the *Connecting Cultures* radio show, where I highlighted the ongoing work OUSA is doing for international students regarding visa advocacy. Alongside this, I have been actively working on and promoting the Fees Free protest initiatives to ensure international and domestic student equity issues remain in the spotlight.

12.2. Organise and run events of specific interest and relevance to international students.

Because this month moved heavily into the examination period, we have not run further major events during this block. However, we are making sure to ramp up our event pipeline ahead of Semester 2. Multiple initiatives are currently in the works, including the Semester 2 International Welcome, International Orientation, and the highly anticipated Multicultural Ball. Furthermore, preliminary plans are officially in place with the International Office to collaborate on bringing back the International Cultural Expo.

12.3. Be a member of appropriate internal committees of the Association. Chair or co-chair weekly/bi-weekly meetings of the Otago International Students' Association (OISA), ensuring that all committee members are advised of meeting times, that the agenda is prepared and circulated beforehand and ensuring that the standing orders of the committee are adhered to.

As Co-President of the Otago International Students' Association, I have managed to organise a scheduled biweekly meeting with executives which started in Orientation Week, to familiarise all members of the executive with the expectations of Clubs Day and IFF, along with an outlook of the year. In last quarter, I have facilitated OISA executives' planning of the International Students' Meet and Greet which was held on 25 March 2026 from 5 pm to 7 pm.

As I write this report, my focus has shifted heavily toward the planning of the upcoming Multicultural Ball (MC Ball). I am actively bringing together our various cultural clubs, coordinating combined meetings to align our goals, foster collaboration, and formally lock in a unified timeline and date for the event.

12.4. Take direction from the Otago International Students' Association, on all matters relevant to international student members.

OISA is still in the process of finding a way for international students to be able to easily express their feedback and concerns about the way OISA – and OUSA – can deliver for them. My co-president, Adlina Yusoff, and I are working to support our executives to create memorable avenues for engagement. We continue to hold our regular OISA executive meetings on a biweekly basis; however, broader student conversations and feedback collection have slowed down recently on account of the impending examination season as students focus on their academic priorities.

12.5. Work on issues specific to international students at the University of Otago, including, but not limited to:

12.5.1. Academic issues within the University; and;

There are no major academic issues of note to report for this quarter. I have been attending scheduled internal committees within the University to establish a baseline presence, and I look forward to attending more of these institutional meetings soon to ensure the international student voice is well-represented.

12.5.2. Social and welfare related issues within the University and the wider Community.

OISA has recently identified that mental health support—specifically access to timely counselling and specialized therapy—is a growing problem for our international student cohort. Navigating a new country under academic pressure introduces distinct stressors, and we are currently in active discussions with the International Office to explore structural ways we can work together to make these vital welfare services more visible, culturally sensitive, and readily available to our international students.

12.6. Maintain a good working relationship to the Association Student Support Centre Manager and Advocates so that the opportunity to share information about academic and welfare issues of relevance to international students is available.

The Student Support Centre team remains incredibly supportive and excellent to work with. Fortunately, there have been no major crises or systemic issues this quarter that required me to formally escalate matters or bring pressing international student concerns to Dwaine's attention. We maintain an open-door policy for when issues inevitably arise.

12.7. Maintain a good working relationship with the International Office of the University, sharing information and ideas with them when appropriate.

I continue to maintain a very positive working relationship with Director International Jason Cushen. Things have been exceptionally packed for both of us recently, so I am currently trying to book a formal catch-up meeting with Jason, which we intend to sit down for immediately following the exam period.

On the operational side, I am working closely with Sam Mehrtens and the rest of the International Office staff to plan the Semester 2 Re-Orientation. A core focus of our current collaboration is working out the logistics to mutually bring back the International Cultural Expo as a cornerstone event for the second half of the year.

12.8. Work in conjunction with the Finance and Strategy Officer and the Clubs Development Officer and the Clubs and Societies Representative to ensure the affiliation and support of international student groups.

No new international student club affiliations have been officially confirmed or finalized this quarter. However, I have recently established strong initial connections with the Bangladeshi Students' Association (BDSA) and am assisting them as they navigate their structural foundations.

12.9. Maintain a good working relationship with the Administrative Vice-President, proactively bringing issues relevant to international students to their attention, and meeting with them on a weekly basis.

Kamesha is an awesome AVP and we love her! She is an incredibly busy person, yet she constantly bothers to check in on me and the progress of my portfolio whenever we cross paths.

I deeply appreciate her hard work, dedication, and grounded leadership style. There have been no major international student emergencies this quarter requiring formal escalation to her.

12.10. Maintain a good working relationship with the Dunedin City Council

Adlina and I are currently finalizing times to sit down for a coffee meeting with Santashree Mishra from Study Dunedin to catch up, deliver our latest orientation feedback, and align on upcoming city-wide international student initiatives.

12.11. Sit on the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA) as a member and maintain and fulfil the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding held between Association and NZISA.

Ibuki is amazing and doing an incredible job leading the national body. NZISA has officially re-incorporated, which is a massive milestone. I wish them the absolute best of luck as they continue their national advocacy framework.

12.12. Perform the general duties of all Executive Officers.

I have performed the general duties of all Executive Officers. More details are provided in Part 2.

12.13. Where practical, work not less than ten hours per week.

My hours are somewhat down this quarter on account of the heavy exam season. Additionally, I have had to navigate a few mental health challenge episodes here and there over the last few weeks. I am working my way through the recovery process and managing my workload as best as possible—I appreciate the executive's understanding and support as I navigate this.

PART TWO: GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

3. General Duties of all Executive Officers

3.1. The appointed term for all OUSA Executive Officers shall commence from the 1st of January and will terminate on the 31st of December of that same year.

Roger on this, thanks.

3.2. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are expected to assist as volunteers for OUSA events and functions, including, but not limited to:

3.2.1. Assisting at the OUSA Tent City and other activities during Summer School, Orientation and Re-Orientation; and;

I was able to assist at the Tent City on two of three days – one day during which I only attended the Tent City but wasn't able to participate as I was heading for the International Students' Welcome of which I was co-emceeing.

3.2.2. Assisting with elections and referenda where appropriate.

Have given a list of Questions where needed to Flynn, the political representative, as he plans the Council By-Election Panel.

3.3. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers attend Executive meetings.

Apart from one Executive Meeting which clashed owing to the DVC External Engagement meeting on Internationalisation, I have attended all the Executive Meetings as required.

3.4. Where reasonable, all Executive Officers are to be available for national conferences, national and local campaigns, Executive training sessions and Executive planning sessions.

No national conferences or local campaigns have been of note as needed. I should also note that I will be attending the Ramadan Bazar organised by the Otago Malaysian Students' Association (OMSA), which I have been rendering some guidance on.

3.5. All Executive officers shall:

3.5.1. Keep up to date with the Finance and Strategy Officer's Executive budget, bringing to the Finance and Strategy Officer any spending proposals, keeping track of their spending and ensuring they do not exceed budgeted expenditure;

Have not had to make any spending in OUSA capacity so I haven't been bugging Troy as much.

3.5.2. Educate themselves on needs and experiences relevant to historically marginalised demographic groups including intersectionality and promote and encourage all demographics to participate, where relevant, in clubs, societies, committees and OUSA events;

I am working hard every day to understand more about the various communities that make our Dunedin diverse and welcoming, and also working hard to raise the voice of the international student community as an equity group in Executive Meetings and Committee meetings within the University.

3.5.3. Act in accordance with and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi while exercising their duties;

I reiterate my commitment to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all OUSA and non-OUSA work particularly because I'm a tangata Tiriti. Having taken PUBH204 (Hauora Māori) and now taking PUBH304 (Rangahau Hauora Māori), I can say for certain that my understanding of Te Tiriti and our commitment to overcome inequities in healthcare (and education in the case of OUSA) is front and centre of what I do.

Furthermore, as an international representative, I am working on a way to introduce Māori culture to our international student community. I am working to see whether I can hold a meeting with Te Rōpū Māori Tumuaki so that we can find a way to see how we can get Māori involvement into some OISA or International Office events. The waiata that the international office did to welcome the international students has already been the first step, and we can do more now that we have a huge number of international students in the city.

3.5.4. Where reasonable, attend events hosted by clubs related to historically marginalised demographic groups;

None at this juncture. Please see 3.5.3 where I said I intended to reach out to Tumuaki Te Rōpū Māori to see how we can approach this.

3.5.5. Prioritise sustainability and minimization of environmental impacts in all aspects of their role and keep up to date with environmental issues;

All my minutes, notes and documents are drafted online, and managed online. I am happy that I have never had the need to do any printing for my role at this point of time. I've not used Generative AI in my work, and I hope that counts. All OISA communications are promoted on our Instagram and Facebook channels.

3.5.6. Every quarter undertake five hours of voluntary service which contributes to the local community.

While I was unable to complete this earlier in the quarter, I am locked in to attend an upcoming tree-planting volunteer session organized by the Social Impact Studio in the coming weeks alongside my OISA executives to fulfill this requirement.

3.5.7. Regularly check and respond to all communications.

To the best of my ability I have sought to check my emails on a daily basis and responded as promptly as possible.

PART THREE: ATTENDANCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUSA AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

OUSA:

- Election Review Subcommittee
- Constitutional Review Committee

University:

- Vice Chancellor's Staff and Student Advisory Group
- Distance Learning Advisory Committee
- Internationalisation Committee
- Health Science Internationalisation Committee
- Commerce Internationalisation Committee

External:

- Study Dunedin Advisory Board

PART FOUR: GOALS AND YOUR PROGRESS

More Cultural Club Collaboration & The Multicultural Ball

Part of my core election promises included facilitating deeper, more sustainable collaborations between our cultural clubs. A massive driver of this goal is the **Multicultural Ball**, which has officially been locked in for **25 July 2026** at the **Otago Business School**.

We have made fantastic operational headway on this front: the financial quotes are out, and the participating cultural clubs have collectively finalized the ticket pricing structure. I need to call and schedule a meeting with Nikki shortly to finalize venue logistics and administrative details. This project serves as our premier collaborative anchor, and I am leveraging the momentum from planning the MC Ball to build stronger, long-term connections across all cultural clubs. I plan to expand on these networks further during the upcoming Affiliated Clubs Meeting, which I will be attending alongside Ella, the Clubs and Societies Representative.

OISA & International Orientation

OISA shifted toward a smaller-scale event system last year, but unfortunately, a number of those events were not delivered adequately due to logistical hurdles—resulting in cancelled karaoke nights and stalled board game initiatives. This year, I am actively shifting our organizational focus toward embedding strong advocacy directly into our social schedule.

While OISA still values targeted, smaller-scale social spaces, we intend to position our executive team out in the field to scale the association into an undeniably welcoming, highly visible, and safe space for international students. A major focus moving forward is the **Semester 2 International Orientation** and Welcome seminar. These upcoming programs will act as essential touchpoints to capture student feedback and integrate incoming students seamlessly into campus life.

Media & Mentorship Progress

Our planned student podcasts have hit a temporary delay because our executives have been incredibly busy balancing academic demands and exam preparation. However, I am continuously pushing the team to kickstart production as soon as humanly possible, as it remains an excellent medium for student skill development and community building.

Concurrently, we are stepping up our social media footprint with the support of the OISA media representative to ensure our advocacy updates reach the wider student body. My personal outreach and mentorship work with the new presidents of our cultural clubs—specifically the Indian Students' Association and OMSA—continues to thrive. By offering strategic guidance on event scaling and structural planning, OISA is acting as an advisory anchor, ensuring we actively train and empower the next generation of campus leaders.

PART FIVE: GENERAL

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