



#WeAre
International



STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME 2020-22

UKCISA's student network
of global future leaders



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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.

The #WeAreInternational student ambassadors will be equipped with policy knowledge and leadership skills to lead change and influence dialogue through their own lived experience studying in the UK.

Click [here](https://bit.ly/2SSoPzY) (<https://bit.ly/2SSoPzY>) to apply for the programme and joining our online network is your opportunity connecting to the student network of emerging global talents and future leaders.

To be eligible, you must be aged 18 or above and be a current EU or overseas student studying in the UK who is graduating after June 2021. In your application you must demonstrate your drive and interest in keeping up-to-date with policy, interest in international education, and passion to create positive change for students.

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 education sector in the UK.

What activities are there in the programme?

This is an exciting opportunity for international students studying in the UK to join the current cohort of this programme, lead the award-winning #WeAreInternational campaign and help the UK deliver a world-class student experience for international students.

As a member of #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme, you will have access to

this unique platform for two academic years (until September 2022), as well as the following opportunities:

- Enhancing your personal development through training
- Mentoring sessions from education sector leaders
- Leading new projects and events, in order to inform policy and practice and contribute to high-level discussions such as UKCISA's Trustee Board, education sector committees and government consultations
- Taking part in senior meetings and exclusive events, such as the UKCISA Annual Conference
- Getting involved in social media campaigns

As a member of #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme, you will share these responsibilities as a group.

You will also be 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.

Following your participation in this programme, you will have the skills, knowledge and global network to be an influential student ambassador in the UK, and a future leader in your home country and beyond.

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 institution and national policy. Student representatives selected into this programme will represent other international students who have shared experience 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.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply you must meet the following criteria. Unfortunately, your application will not be accepted if you do not meet all the below criteria;

- You must be an overseas or EU student currently studying in the UK, graduating not before June 2021
- Be aged above 18 (on application closing 10 November 2020)

More about the types of candidates we are looking for

- You should be able to explain how you want to make change in international student experience and beyond through student representation and influencing policy
- You should have a drive 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 early to mid-study and already have examples of when you have demonstrated student representation skills or leadership
- You should have the drive 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 particularly welcome students from the following backgrounds
 - Current course of study: further education, foundation programme and PhD
 - Studying at an institution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Applying and becoming a #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Applications opens now and will close on Tuesday 10 November 2020. There are four phases to becoming a member of #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme, as outlined below.

Phase 1

Completing your online application

It will take you approximately 45-60 minutes to complete your online application, you cannot save and come back to it later, the whole application must be done at once. Included in the online application are a series of simple general personal information questions, so we can confirm you meet the criteria and that we

can contact you. There are two main questions on the themes of student representation and influencing policy.

Phase 2

Finalists take part in interviews online

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 on Wednesday 25 November 2020 (between 1-5pm).

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 group interview your application cannot be progressed. There will be some places on the reserves list at this stage.

Phase 3

The journey of #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme begins!

At the interview we will make our final decision on who will become members of #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 academic year (till September 2022).

Phase 4

#WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme members stay involved in the network for the long-term

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

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

How are applications reviewed?

Once the online application is closed, all applications will be sent to the selecting panel of #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme to be reviewed. This panel is made up of experts in international education sector, including UKCISA staff and members of board, 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 might take up to 10 working days, successful candidates will be informed for further interview instructions via emails, please check your spam/junk mailbox to avoid any missing emails from us.

I do not have any policy knowledge or leadership experience; do I still have a chance to be selected?

Yes, absolutely! The #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme is aimed at international students who already have policy knowledge and experience to some extent, but we also 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 you apply in order to be eligible to apply to the programme. We understand that you might be living outside the UK studying remotely due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, this won't 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 summer 2021, 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 to us, 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. They have made invaluable contributions and their hard work is highly regarded by colleagues across the education sector. The current cohort will complete their tenure in September 2021, so you will have one year overlap in this programme with them. [Read more about the current student ambassadors.](#)

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

Your application will not be eligible if you do not meet the age criteria. You must be aged above 18 when the applications close (10th November 2020). We cannot accept applications from anyone who does not meet the age criteria.

I am not available for the online interview on 25th November, what do I do?

Unfortunately, if you cannot attend the online interview on 25 November, then this will make you ineligible for the programme.

I have just graduated this autumn, can I apply?

Unfortunately not, the programme is only open to current students.

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

We are not planning to organise any in-person activities in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are monitoring the situation closely and are following the government guidance and hope to meet you in person safely in 2021 when circumstances allow.

What do I need to pay for?

When circumstances allow and we can all meet in person, UKCISA will cover all reasonable costs of travel, accommodation and meals for the 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

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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

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This role 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.

Anant Rangan

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As one of the first #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors, I have been involved in high level conversations that explore international students' deep-down desire and ambition. I worked with like-minded talented individuals and a dedicated professional team to enrich and better our fellows' experience day by day. We have had the fortune to share our stories to lift each other up in such a challenging period, through blog posts, videos, and one-to-one interactions. The road ahead is not easy, given that the current situation requiring us to stay vigilant at all times, we will travel it successfully when we're together.

Khoa Nguyen

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Being a student ambassador has been an amazing experience. Not only has it been fun working alongside a group of people with a common goal, but this role enables you to work on projects you are passionate about and introduces you to innovative ideas and solutions you hadn't previously considered.

A major highlight for me in this role, was having the opportunity to speak to UK University representatives on a panel at BUILA's Regional Interest Group during the Commonwealth African Summit, about my experiences studying in the UK, and future opportunities and challenges the UK will face in recruiting African students. This enabled me to understand what actions UK Universities have implemented or are trying to implement to better the international student experience.

This role has shown me the importance of including diverse international students in the brainstorming and decision-making processes regarding issues affecting international students. It is simply recalling your journey as an international student, pointing out the things that were good, and the aspects that were not, and brainstorming solutions in which they could be better. This is something I believe every international student already does, especially when discussing these issues with fellow international students, UKCISA just gives you the opportunity to effect change on a large scale and have these discussions on a bigger platform, so the next set of international students hopefully have it better and easier.

Adetoun Adebayo

HEAR FROM THE CURRENT STUDENT AMBASSADORS

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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

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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 immediate feedback on various policies, I have also been able to develop my voice for the enrichment of international student experience in the UK!

Nebu George

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The #WeAreInternational student ambassador programme is by far one of the highlights of my university experience. Not only did this programme allow me to meet sector leaders and been a part of very important conversations, it has also developed my confidence and leadership skills, and given me a whole new set of friends.

Michelle Jideofor

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As a new student to the UK studying the course of Global Mental Health, I was interested in understanding how universities across the UK could respond to the mental health needs of international students. This programme gave me a platform to raise student voice and bring awareness to the unique challenges of seeking mental healthcare as an international student. I've been able to discuss this topic at length with various stakeholders, in addition to improving my policy knowledge and how this could relate to mental health.

Parvathy Ramesh

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Joining this programme and UKCISA's Student Advisory Group has afforded me the opportunity to meet so many amazing individuals who are equally passionate about international education. As an ambassador I am able to collaborate with my wonderful peers to make real change and impact for future international students coming to the UK. As an international student, you are already an expert. So I would strongly encourage you to use what you already know to make a positive impact for other international students as an ambassador!

Katie Crabtree





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