



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GUIDE

2021 EDITION





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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Congratulations on joining UNSW and most importantly, CEVSOC welcomes you to our community! Our school of Civil & Environmental Engineering is ranked 1st in Australia and 8th in the world, so rest assured that you've made some good calls!

CEVSOC is the school affiliated student society dedicated to enhancing your experience at UNSW by providing opportunities for students to build friendships and gain insights from their peers. No matter what you're hoping to get out of university; whether it's making lifelong friends, learning more about your future career in the industry, or just straight up partying, we have you covered!

My biggest advice to you is to make the most of all the extracurricular opportunities UNSW has on offer and to lean into anything that interests you. Give yourself the chance to thrive and you might just surprise yourself. On that note, if you're interested in joining the CEVSOC Subcommittee to have a genuine impact on the student body, be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page!

I want to invite you all to our First and Second Year Orientation Camp held on May 14th - 16th, the weekend after the Term 1 exams. Camp is the best opportunity to meet new people in your cohort, gain some invaluable uni hacks from students at the tail end of their degree and to learn about the engineering industry, all while having an amazing weekend filled with challenges and parties.

The CEVSOC team and I can't wait to meet you at our events this year! In fact, why don't you join us at Welcoming Night in Week 1 to get to know the team, grab a free feed and meet other first-years who are just as excited to make new friends. To find out more, our Facebook page is the home of all our event details!

Christopher Wang
CEVSOC President 2021

SCHOOL'S ADDRESS

Welcome to the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UNSW. We appreciate your decision to join us and look forward to a long future of close involvement both during your studies and throughout your life. While the global situation has meant that there have been many challenges for everyone, we will chart our way through the upcoming years together.

You are joining the School as we outline a future vision of "Ethical Civil Infrastructure and Sustainable Environments". Civil and Environmental Engineering, as well as the many further disciplines within the School, play vital roles within broader society. We believe that our profession must provide and maintain infrastructure that is ethically and equitably considered for everyone while ensuring the sustainability of our shared environment. I ask that you help to grow this vision into action as professional leaders.

I hope that you are proud to be joining one of the premiere Schools of our type in the world. The School is ranked globally as 8th (ARWU), 11th (QS) and 14th (US News). We are ranked 5th in the world for Water Resources (ARWU) and 13th for Remote Sensing (ARWU). We could not achieve this recognition without the efforts of our leading staff and by attracting the best of the best students locally and globally. Each of us is privileged to have an opportunity to carry on this tradition of excellence.

During your time at UNSW, I would encourage you to become involved in as many of the opportunities presented to you as possible. In addition to being dutiful in your classes, of course, join student organisations, get to know your fellow students and staff, proactively engage in humanitarian and industrial activities and consider opportunities for interacting with research projects. To make the most of modern educational opportunity, there should be deep intellectual as well as experiential engagement. You may never again in your life have such an open flexible environment to explore your interests as you will during your time at UNSW. Please pause to experience all that you can.

For those joining us from abroad, know that we understand the deep strains that a global relocation implies particularly during our current worldwide situation. We appreciate the sacrifices required to be so far from family and support systems. We hope that your time at UNSW will be a positive life-changing experience and will do all that we can to help ensure that. We will endeavour to support you and we value your life-long membership in our community.

To close, let me say how proud I am that each of you has chosen to join us, thank you. Ultimately, our School's core mission is to educate and shape the future of our profession. You are why we do what we do and we look forward to undertaking our mission together.

Best,
Professor S. Travis Waller
Head of School, Civil and Environmental Engineering UNSW Sydney



CEVSOC 2021

Trimester 1

Speed Friending	Online Games Night	Diversity Podcast	Careers Fair	Escape Room	Amazing Race
Welcoming Night	A Guide to Your Thesis	CEVDevelopment			Blood Drive
					Diversity Podcast
WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6

Trimester 2

Welcoming Night	Coastal Walk	Cultural Social Night	Blood Drive	Engineering ESports Night 2	Diversity Podcast
		Written Skills Workshop	Excel Workshop		
WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6

Trimester 3

Welcoming Night (Our 70th Birthday!)	Case Competition Opening	International Students Industry Night	Thesis and Professional Electives Night	Blood Drive	Diversity Podcast
			Cardno Cup	Case Competition Closing	
				AGM	
WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6

EVENTS CALENDAR

Women in Construction	Pub Crawl	Food For Thought	Careers Podcast	Camp
		ENGG2500 Workshop		
WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	HOLIDAYS

MECHSOC vs CEVSOC Trivia Night	10 Year Career Progression	Wear It Purple Day High Tea		
	Cruise	Food For Thought		
		ENGG1300 Workshop		
WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	HOLIDAYS

Halloween Party	Sustainable Engineers	Diversity Podcast		
	Industry Disciplines Night	Food For Thought		
		CVEN3202 Workshop		
WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	HOLIDAYS



GET INVOLVED!

FIRST YEAR CAMP

Are you a first or second year Civil, Environmental, Surveying or Flexible first year Engineering student? Need a fun social activity for the Term 1 holiday break? Missed out on CEVSOC's 2020 First Year Camp (#corona #cancelled)? Want to meet new people in your degree?

If you said YES! to any of the above, look no further than the UNSW Civil and Environmental Engineering Society's 2021 First and Second Year Camp! Sail into a fun, exciting, action-packed weekend where you can celebrate the end of first term in style. We'll equip you with all the must haves to successfully navigate through the stormy seas of your first and second years of university.

What to expect:

- An unforgettable weekend with heaps of new friends
- Fast-paced engineering team bonding challenges
- All your burning uni and industry questions answered
- Two wild themed parties
- And so much more...

Camp is a tried and tested method to help students, much like yourself, settle into university. Whether you're coming with a group of friends or none at all, we encourage you to attend regardless, you won't regret it!

WHEN: Friday 14/05 12PM – Sunday 16/05 (Term 1 Break)

WHERE: Camp Morisset, 30 Nentoura Rd, Morisset, NSW 2264

Scan the QR code to visit the event's Facebook page and get tickets now!





GET INVOLVED!

CEVBuddy PROGRAM

Don't know what to expect from university? Looking to make friends with like-minded engineering students? Do you wish you knew more about Sydney and all the great things it has to offer? Of course, you do! And you're not alone!

The CEVBuddy Program is back again in Term 1 2021! Running for the majority of the first term, you'll be matched with experienced students to guide you through the start of university life. Join your fellow first-year undergraduates in making connections, unforgettable memories and having great fun.

The CEVBuddy program is a peer mentoring program which runs in every Term 1 and 3, aiming to facilitate first-year students with their transition into university by pairing them with current students that are carefully selected and trained. It allows YOU to gain insight into your degrees as well as tips to tackle uni life through completing weekly checkpoints in addition to self-organised meetups.

The program provides a great opportunity for you to meet and form connections with current students as well as other first year students that are doing the same degrees in a casual and interactive way. We always receive positive feedback from the mentees, and on top of that the CEVBuddy Program was Highly Commended in Arc Club On Campus Activity of the Year 2019.

Scan the QR Code to register now! Or find out more at the event's Facebook page.



GET INVOLVED!

WELCOMING NIGHT

The first CEVSOC event of the year; come along to meet new people, make new friends, enjoy some board games, and most importantly, have some FREE beer and pizza on us! Welcoming Night will be hosted in Week 1 of the new term! Whether you're coming alone or with a group of friends, we warmly encourage all to attend!

Find out more at the event's Facebook page.



SPEED FRIENDING NIGHT

Can't make it to Welcoming Night in person? We've got you covered! Stay safe whilst still making friends, meeting new people, playing games and having fun. Online Speed Friending is our COVID safe and socially distanced version of Welcoming Night, also held in Week 1!

Find out more at the event's Facebook page.



CEVSPORTS

Every year, CEVSOC organises teams in various sports, such as Futsal and Otag. This is a great opportunity to get to know new people, make friends and stay active! Teams are mixed and open to all skill levels, so everybody is welcome. You might even get the chance to meet Simu Liu!

Find out more and register at the event's Facebook page.



CAREER



Careers & Employment

CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT CONTACTS

This is the place to get free career advice and planning. You can book an individual appointment to also help with applications, interviews and others!

☎ Telephone: +61 2 9385 5429

✉ Email: career@unsw.edu.au

🌐 Website: student.unsw.edu.au/international-student-careers



Student Development

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL (SDI)

Visit or contact for orientation, cultural mentors, and development programs chosen for international students.

☎ Telephone: +61 2 9385 4734

✉ Email: international.stuudent@unsw.edu.au



ARC

Welcome to Sydney! Arc-UNSW Student Life brings you the best of student life in Sydney, from trips and tours around our harbour city to seeing the sights beyond Sydney, hitting the slopes and exploring everything Australia has to offer.

Explore Sydney and beyond with Arc Goes To...

You can find out more about these events on their Facebook page "Arc - UNSW Student Life". Got questions? Email arcgoesto@arc.unsw.edu.au



ACYA

The Australia China Youth Association (ACYA) is a youth-administered NGO run for its members, by its members that works to actively provide an opportunity for Australian and Chinese youth to further understand each other's countries.

Anyone can join ACYA!

CAREER



CAREERS EXPO

The careers expo hosted by the UNSW Careers and Employment is an opportunity for current students to meet with industry representatives, discussing opportunities for internship and graduate employment.

Numerous companies will be in attendance, including those that are specific to civil and environmental engineering. The expo is a professional event thus it is important to prepare before attending as you want to make a lasting impression on the employment.

Find out more at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/expo>



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE UNIT

The International Student Experience Unit (ISEU) at UNSW Sydney, is the first point of contact for new arriving international students. They are always there to help with personalised advice and information about all aspects of university life, student visa, wellbeing, academic performance or if you need help but don't know where to go.

You can find them at Ground Floor, John Goodsell Building (F20), Kensington Campus, UNSW Australia

☎ Telephone: + 61 2 9385 4734



INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SEMINARS

The requirements for industrial training necessary for CVEN degrees can be confusing at best which is why UNSW Careers and Employment department hosts seminars to guide students through the process.

In these sessions, you will learn the necessary techniques to search for available internships and grow your network. These skills will lead to finding industrial training opportunities that will meet the required criteria.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS

TAO RICKY CHIU



Just a few years ago, I decided to leave my home country to study abroad in Australia. This decision was frankly the most rewarding experience of my life. I won't lie, the concept of studying abroad in a new country is somewhat petrifying. I didn't know what was ahead and I was unsure about how I was going to cope without the support of my family. Notwithstanding, it is well-known that life starts at the edge of our comfort zone and for me, this was more than the truth and shaped me into the person I am today.

People often refer to the university as a miniature of society, and it is inarguably right. Whilst your study life is intense and demanding, you should also find the time to explore and immerse yourself in different student societies. However, the majority of international students have never been involved in any society related activities, instead, hiding within their comfort zones. I do understand how much courage it has taken to leave our home countries. But why hinder your ability to fully embrace the foreign experiences, while millions don't even have the chance?

With more opportunities than ever, it is vital to step out of our comfort zone and make the first move. Besides with such unique identity, we shouldn't worry about fitting in, when we were born to stand out with flying colours.

By accomplishing it, bear in mind the following benefits:

1. Learning by getting involved
2. Build your potential
3. Rewards of self-discovery

If you have no clue where to start expanding and transforming your university experience, CEVSOC is the right place. By joining us, you will start enriching your overall uni-life by providing you with an outlet for stronger friendships, support networks, and opportunities for self-development. I highly urge you to make the move to make most of your time at UNSW and be rewarded with a bright future ahead. There is a whole world outside your comfort zone!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS

REBECCA ZHAO



Being an international student who can't be in Australia because of COVID-19 can be extremely depressing. You might feel very lonely after all your friends leave for their universities, but you need to study at home; or you might lose passion to study since you can't see any classmates in person. But don't feel too stressed because you aren't alone.

As a third-year international student spending a whole year studying overseas, I totally understand the feeling of losing track of life when everything changed dramatically around the world. Here are some things that I found really helped me stay connected with uni life:

1. Check student emails and UNSW websites regularly

The student email is the best way for your course coordinators to communicate with you, they will post all the important messages related to your course in the email. You might also receive job or internship opportunities in the email as well. Some extracurricular activities are posted on

different UNSW websites as well. For example, from the UNSW engineering website (engineering.unsw.edu.au), you can find information about uni events and how to get involved. You can also find programs designed for helping international students from student.unsw.edu.au/idevelopment.

2. Join the Arc and follow your favourite societies' Facebook pages

Society events have mostly been moved online so everyone can join! I participated in many interesting events held by CEVSOC when I was a subcommittee there, such as online escape room and networking events with leading Engineering companies. I made new friends and gained valuable advice from the industry representatives.

3. Join local Learning Centre

I noticed several local learning centres have been open for international students studying overseas. You can apply to study there and meet new friends from your own countries. Detailed information can be found in your student email!

4. Start planning your future

You can have so much fun when you first start university, as there are fewer study loads than high school and more interesting events happening all around. But finding internships and jobs is not easy, the earlier you start planning your career, the less pain you will feel when you graduate. You can start with being serious about your grades, joining networking events, and getting to know more companies. Here's a quote was given by a friend of mine: 'Study hard, play harder, just don't waste your time!' It's a challenging time for all of us, but we'll get through it as long as we have faith! I hope to meet you guys in person on campus as soon as possible!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS

OWEN LEE



Let's be real, most of you that are reading this are seeking tips for how to make the most out of uni (or just trying to survive uni). As an international student, I can relate to your struggles on a spiritual level. Yes, starting a new life in a completely new environment sucks, big time. Moving out from your family, making new friends, experiencing cultural shock etc., none of these are easy. Therefore, it's alright to get home sick, it's ok to feel lost sometimes. Trust me, things will only get better over time. I was one of you a few years ago, barely had any friends, doubting myself, struggling with uni work.

After I joined CEVSOC, I was opened up to many opportunities, being a subcommittee member, then a committee member as well as First Year Camp coordinator. These experiences helped me grow as a person and throughout my journey in CEVSOC, I have also made a few close friends that I still hangout with nowadays. Being a part of CEVSOC is hands down the best decision I have made throughout my time at uni. Therefore, my **top advice would be getting involved in the uni community.** UNSW has provided many opportunities for students to get involved such as

clubs and societies, Arc volunteering, Cultural Mentor Program and so on. Taking the first step is always the most challenging thing to do, but once you've taken the first step, the rest will be easier.

That brings to **tip #2: Step out of your comfort zone and actively seek for opportunities.**

Opportunity doesn't come to you every day. Once it knocks, don't be afraid to seize it. If you have already made a decision to study abroad, there's no reason for you to stay within your comfort zone. If you struggle to make friends, approach someone in the tute and start a conversation, or attend uni events and get active within the community.

Make friends with people from a diverse background, blend in the Australian culture. At the end of the day, you will find uni life much more enjoyable.

Tip #3: It's ok to fail. I'm not talking about failing a subject here, but life in general (for you should definitely be worrying about passing because failing one subject will cost you heaps). During the 4+ years of your uni life, don't be afraid of failure as long as you know how to get up after you fall and reflect the mistakes you've made. There's nothing for a student to lose. If you don't get into your desired club/society, try another society to build up your experience and while waiting for the applications to open again. I only got accepted as a subcommittee member for CEVSOC after the second time I applied, yet I am still here providing some tips to you.

Tip #4: COME TO FIRST YEAR CAMP. Bear in mind uni isn't just about study, developing soft skills and making connections are just equally important as getting good grades. If you ever feel lost and need some advice, feel free to hit me up, I'm always happy to have a chat!

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES TESTIMONIALS

VARSHA SIVAGURUNATHA



Hi! I'm Varsha, a current PhD student at UNSW working in the water research centre. I graduated in 2019, with a bachelors in environmental engineering.

As an international student in Australia, it was initially very daunting. A new university experience in a new country, it took some time for me to find my place, and find a sense of belonging. Joining university societies really helped with that! Cevsoc was one of the first societies I joined, and meeting people there, going to their events, and eventually being a part of the executive committee really helped me broaden my experiences and step out of my comfort zone. I made great friends along the way, who I still am close to to this day! It was really fun, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it!

I think a big part of me doing a PhD is allowing myself to seize any opportunity I had during my undergraduate at UNSW. UNSW has so many clubs and societies, volunteering opportunities, friendly professors and easy to approach people that I would honestly recommend to everyone that to make the full use of the university experience, don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. And talk - to everyone you meet, make genuine connections, and utilise any and all opportunity that comes your way. It truly makes an amazing university experience, and you will make memories you will remember forever.

If anyone's interested in the research space, and are thinking about doing a PhD, I would recommend getting to know your professors and having a chat to them, which will really help later on when deciding on a supervisor. Choosing the courses that interest you as a professional elective in your fourth year also is really helpful!

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES TESTIMONIALS

REHNUMA TARANNUM



Welcome to all the international first-year students.

Not too long ago, I left my home to come and study in Australia at UNSW. The past few years have been challenging, fun and taught me a lot. It helped me grow as a person and along the way I have met a few amazing people who are my friends now.

I was asked to talk about my experience as an international student and give a few tips for the incoming first years.

My first tips would be to get involved and get to know the opportunities that are available to you. You can get involved in sports, join a society or learn something new. In my second year, I joined the Civil and Environmental Engineering Society (CEVSOC) and Cultural Mentoring program at Student Development International as a Cultural Mentor. These programs have helped me make new friends and connections at university and in Australia.

Attending the First Year Camp organized by CEVSOC is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from your cohort. These are the people with whom you will be doing numerous group assignments and last-minute cramming for a quiz. Knowing people with whom you are doing your degree will greatly help you in the future.

When you are here, try moving out of your comfort zone and try something new. Often when international students come to study abroad, they tend to mix with people from the same cultural background as them. I would highly recommend getting to know more people from a different background than yourself. It will open you up to new cultures, make you more knowledgeable and more culturally aware.

International students often feel homesick, find it difficult to adjust to the new lifestyle or have difficulty in coping with the new education system. If you are facing any difficulty, reach out. Don't keep it to yourself. Over time it might get worse and make it more difficult for you.

Lastly, be persistent and patient. You made a big decision when you chose to study in a different country. Not everything will be easy and smooth. But remember not to give up. If you did not get the part-time job you applied for, don't be upset. Apply again! Each time you do it, you improve. Try to be positive with the challenges you face as people thrive in hardship. Make the most of the time you are at university.

Don't do things just because your friends are doing it. Do things that you truly enjoy doing and that make you happy. Your time at university can be the best time of your life if you do it right!

Hoping you have an amazing university journey!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' TIPS

Join as many volunteering and societies as you can, 1st year is your best chance to upgrade your resume, literally just join anything.
- Nicholas Leo Ardiyanto

Don't stress, eat well and sleep well.
- Louisz Wesley

Join cultural societies, meet some new faces and make some new connections.
- Thiha Htoo Zaw

Take your time to adapt to Australia's pace of living, don't force it.
- Anonymous

Educate yourself on being professional. This will benefit you when joining societies and getting other opportunities.
- Michael Elbert Partadinata

Society events is where I found the easiest place to look for friends with the same interest as you.
- Ava Tan



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' TIPS

I would encourage all first-year students to try out the societies, as there are great opportunities to open yourself to more colourful university life.
- JC Wong

Learn how to cook and make sure to frequently check up on woolies/coles weekly catalogues. You will thank me for saving some bucks in your bank account.
- Michael Elbert Partadinata

My theory is if you wanna get a good WAM, you got to get used to the way of living in Sydney first.
- Anonymous

Motivate yourselves to attend classes and lectures in the first year.
- Thiha Htoo Zaw

Don't be afraid to ask for help! Everyone is always more than willing to help one another.
- Ava Tan

Pay attention to and join clubs & societies that you may be interested in, this helps you get used to the life in university.
- MinBing Fan



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LOCATION

