

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



**FUTURE
THINKING.
UNLIMITED
POSSIBILITIES.**

The Academy



ONCE YOU HAD A CAREER FOR A LIFETIME. NOW YOU HAVE A LIFETIME OF CAREERS.

Change is the only constant, with our lives speeding up as time is becoming one of the most valuable commodities. New jobs will be created, others will disappear. By the time you graduate, new technology will have changed the career landscape beyond recognition.

For high achievers The Academy of Western Sydney University offers a wide range of personal and professional development opportunities and extension level academic studies that prepare you to thrive in the face of change. You will learn to anticipate, navigate and adapt, to think differently and be creative as an employee, an entrepreneur or an academic.

Where once a career followed a linear path, your future will follow several different directions and may take you places you haven't dreamed of because, right now, they don't even exist.

BE



READY.

You may think that the three biggest challenges facing the world today are the global pandemic, the associated economic slowdown and human-induced climate change. Alternatively, you may think that the biggest challenges we face are the perilous nature of democracy in parts of our world, rising tensions between the United States and China, or the challenges of free speech. Or do you think it is rising levels of inequality, the growing power of global tech giants, or the complexity of the social determinants of health?

We live in both an exciting and challenging time of transformation. We are witnessing some industries grow and be revolutionised, others shrivel, divide and merge. Politicians, business leaders, thought leaders, policy makers, researchers and educators are all working to turn vulnerable populations into resilient and vibrant communities.

With so much uncertainty and unpredictability, your education and experiences have never been more important. To assist you to thrive in this environment, your education must not only ensure deep learning, but skills such as creativity, adaptability and mistakability.

It is for this reason we established The Academy of Western Sydney University.

The Academy offers you opportunities to extend yourself in both formal academic experiences as well as co-curricular programs. These will assist you in both excelling academically as well as develop essential skills.

The program of The Academy includes the innovative Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking. This degree offers you the opportunity to work in a cross-disciplinary environment to develop advanced communication and analytical skills. Here you not only develop the skills to confront problems, but to actually help define them.

The Academy involvement also lets you develop your personal and professional skills: it does not matter if you are interested in confronting global challenges or to prepare for your first professional interview, these are fundamental skills to ensure you begin a vibrant and successful career. We work with you to develop professional and personal skills that increase your employment potential and develop your emotional intelligence.

The Academy also offers the Citizen Scholar program that develops your growth as an ethical and effective leader in your chosen communities. You will have opportunities to learn from internships and projects with a range of companies and community organisations across the professional spectrum.

The Academy of Western Sydney University offers you much more than a university degree. I encourage you to consider joining our community of citizen scholars, and develop your potential.

Professor James Arvanitakis
Pro Vice Chancellor (Engagement and Advancement)
and Founding Head of The Academy

Learn for life, not just a job.

In the important aspects of learning that make up The Academy, you will be encouraged to find your strengths, you will then be mentored and supported to build on them.

You will learn to think, visualise, anticipate, navigate and use change to open up a world of careers that right now might not even exist. You'll be 'future proof'.

Academic Excellence

- Several extension level units focusing on critical thinking and analysis, leadership, ethics, creativity, innovation and service learning
- Cross-disciplinary environment
- Events focusing on exposure to world-class research and researchers, teachers and experts.

Students from all disciplines discuss such issues as the ethics of citizenship, the changing nature of globalisation and how to deal with a world of uncertainty.

The complex natures of leadership, research, entrepreneurship, innovation and ethics are examined in academic workshops that go beyond the standard lecture/tutorial model, providing invaluable forums for intellectual exploration and expression.

Professional and Personal Development

- Professional development seminars and experiences, including communication skills, success planning and leadership workshops
- Internship opportunities
- Personalised career planning
- International and local conference attendance
- Innovation Labs – to help you push your ideas into reality.

A leader will only become a great leader if he or she is also skilled in emotional, psychological, social and inter-personal development. To build and enhance these qualities, you will be working in a cross-disciplinary context that will expose you to some of the University's world-class researchers in culture and society, engineering, human and biological sciences and environmental studies.

You will also be offered value-added workshops and seminars such as preparing for interviews, success and career planning, developing emotional intelligence and communication skills across cultures.

Community Engagement

- Community-engaged service learning opportunities
- Student-led, community-focused projects
- Applied leadership experience.

The Academy helps you to identify your passions and interests then connect and gain exposure with relevant organisations, locally and internationally.





**LEARN LOCAL,
ACT GLOBAL.
INTERNATIONAL
INTERNSHIPS,
EVENTS AND
OPPORTUNITIES.**



The Academy knows that you don't get to the top by standing still or exclusively sitting in a class room.

The understanding that real leadership is built on relationships, empathy and a wider experience of the world is what encourages The Academy to offer remarkable opportunities to participate in top-level conferences and volunteer programs, nationally and internationally.

Some recent events offered to The Academy's students, partly or fully funded by the University, include:

Tenth University Scholars Leadership Symposium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Emerging world leaders from 78 countries attended this international humanitarian leadership program. Students came together to learn about, explore, and address global issues concerning the plight of those living in extreme poverty.

Citizenship and Democracy Program in Partnership with Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Collaboratively we have developed a unique program in which our students work with South African peers to investigate what citizenship means in our world, and examine the intersection with democracy and systems of representation.

Green Materials and Sustainable Environment

Students travelled to Taiwan for an exciting and stimulating learning adventure at Tamkang University (TKU) in Tamsui. The two-week program was both academically and culturally rich – students were part of TKU's Summer Program which has a strong environmental focus on green materials and water technologies and included site visits to the Tamsui Harbour, Taipei Feitsui Reservoir, and Zhitan Purification Plant.

The program also included immersive cultural activities such as a traditional Tea Ceremony, Martial Arts, Gold Museum, Puppet Museum, Shimen Terraced Rice Paddy Fields, and the National Center for Traditional Arts.

The students studied and lived on campus with their Taiwanese peers which gave them a real cultural experience, an opportunity to learn basic Taiwanese Mandarin, and of course, try some bubble tea.

The program concluded with group presentations by Australian and Taiwanese students critically analysing environmental and sustainability challenges and opportunities, and connecting them to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Indian Cultural and Ecological Immersion Program

The Indian Immersion study tour is based in Lucknow and the rural communities of Uttar Pradesh at the foothills of the Himalayas. Students undertake cultural and ecological immersion tours including a farm stay, volunteer in the rural and tribal communities on water and health challenges and engage in official visits and workshops with the Centre for Environmental Education, UNU RCE Lucknow, Lucknow University and local schools.

In recent years, Academy students have also participated in and attended:

- International Student Energy Summit: Bali, Indonesia
- International Youth Leadership Conference: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- International Society of Political Psychology Summer Academy: Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- Nuremburg Moot Court, Germany
- Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations Conference: Sydney, Australia and Hong Kong, China
- CRCC International Internship Program for Engineering, China
- Kasetsart University Thai Immersion Program

Service learning and community engagement.

One of the strengths of The Academy is its focus on student community involvement, engagement and service learning, both locally and internationally.

This hands-on experience fosters strengths of humanity, empathy and teamwork, as well as facilitating the realisation of your dreams. By inviting your ideas and helping you put them into action, we open doors that very few universities can.

In partnership with several organisations, a wide range of opportunities are available for students. These community activities and events may include:

- Sydney Festival and Sydney Mardi Gras
- Undergraduate investigation providing critical information and recommendations to community partners
- 'Books in Homes', 'Fast Forward' and 'Pathways to Dreaming' school engagement initiatives
- Eco Youth Forum and the Y20 Youth Summit
- Student Ambassador Programs with corporations such as KPMG
- Global Voices, a non-profit organisation providing opportunities for young
- Australians to engage with international policy, both nationally and internationally
- A one-month social entrepreneurship program in India where students learn to build businesses that change lives.

Mentorship and Industry Connection.

The Academy partners with Industry Leaders to connect our students into mentor programs, enabling them to develop career goals, build their professional networks and encourage personal and professional growth.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I join The Academy?

The opportunities provided by The Academy will allow students to graduate with so much more than just their degree. They will be ahead of their peers in terms of professional, personal and academic experiences and will be ready to hit the ground running in terms of their career and plans for their future. The Academy has gained a reputation among industry employers and graduate recruiters whereby students graduating with 'The Academy Citizen Scholar' on their AHEGS will be looked upon favourably when trying to secure employment. The Academy also provides Learning Zones which are part member common rooms/social spaces and part study spaces at Kingswood, Parramatta, Hawkesbury, Bankstown and Campbelltown.

How do I join The Academy?

There are various ways to become a member of The Academy.

New commencing students:

- Membership is automatically granted to:
 - Students enrolled in an Advanced Degree/ Deans Scholars Degree
 - Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking (BALCT).
- Students with an ATAR of 90+, who are not studying an Advanced Degree, will receive an invitation to join The Academy prior to the start of the academic year.

Current Western Sydney University students:

- Invitations to join The Academy are sent to undergraduate students who:
- Achieved a GPA of 5.5 in the preceding semester, and
 - Have at least 50 credit points remaining on their undergraduate degree
 - Students must maintain a GPA of 5.5 to remain a member of The Academy.

Are The Academy activities and opportunities compulsory?

No. All members of The Academy have a choice to opt-in to participate in the events, workshops and opportunities that interest them.

Does joining The Academy change my course status?

No. Joining The Academy does not change your degree status.

What is the Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking?

The Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking (BALCT) is a unique degree that students with an ATAR of 85+ (for new students) or a GPA of 5.0+ (for continuing students) can take concurrently with their other degrees.

The BALCT offers a unique multi-disciplinary opportunity to our future leaders, WSU students, who want to gain knowledge and learn from hands-on experiences about leadership, ethics, research abilities, innovation, creativity, critical and design thinking. By enrolling in the BALCT degree, you will get the chance to work with high achieving students from various disciplines across the university. This multi-discipline environment, truly mimics a work environment and students find their learning experience stimulating and engaging.

How many credit points do I need to complete the BALCT degree?

For students enrolled in eligible degrees at WSU, The Academy recognises 160 credit points from their degree as advanced standing in the BALCT degree. This means that in the BALCT, students have to complete only 8 units to graduate from the BALCT as well as their other degree.

What is the ATAR cut-off for the BALCT?

This course is made available to high-achieving students only. To be eligible for admission to the BALCT a student must attain a minimum ATAR of 85.

Is the BALCT compulsory for Academy members?

This degree is not compulsory, but we encourage students who desire the intellectual and professional challenge, and who are looking to 'stand-out' from their peers, to enrol in the program.

What is the Citizen Scholar Program and how do I join?

The Citizen Scholar Award is designed to enable students to graduate as active and engaged citizens as well as life-long learners. The program covers personal wellbeing, professional development, community engagement and global citizenship. Students have been involved in programs such as the Reading Ambassador Program, SDSN Youth Network and internships with local not for profit organisations such as St Vincent de Paul Society, Cancer Council and Western Sydney Community Forum.

This hands-on experience fosters strengths of humanity, empathy and teamwork, as well as facilitating the realisation of your dreams.

The Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking degree.

The pace of rapid change now and in the future means that by the time students graduate, their traditional jobs may no longer exist. New roles, as yet unimagined, will be the prestige opportunities in the workplace.

However, a graduate will still require sound knowledge of his or her chosen field of study at the same time as potential employers seek evidence of agile, flexible and creative thinking. It is this combination of skills that will ensure success in a volatile and competitive job market.

A new degree for a new world

The Academy's focus on academic rigour, professional and personal development and community engagement provides the perfect base upon which to build this innovative degree.

The Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking (BALCT) is not a stand-alone degree, instead it is designed to be undertaken in combination with any bachelor degree. Enrolling in the BALCT guarantees entry to The Academy.

It focuses on developing ethical leadership, creativity and innovation, capacity to deal with complexities, as well as relationship and critical thinking skills. These characteristics and aptitudes are what the employers of tomorrow will be seeking in graduates.

BALCT proficiencies

- Agile, flexible thinking: Adopting and anticipating change and innovation
- 'Mistakeability': Learning and taking direction from one's mistakes and errors
- Aesthetics: Appreciating the importance of both functionality and beauty
- New literacies: Not just strong reading, writing and advocacy skills, but understanding literacy within the ever-changing technological environment
- Working in teams: Co-operative relationship skills across disciplines, cultures and experiences
- Creativity and entrepreneurship: Innovation, creative and critical thinking, systems thinking and risk taking
- People-centred thinking: Placing people and their needs at the centre of your work
- Blank canvas innovation: Being able to start and develop the innovation and creativity process with minimal resources
- Ethical leadership: Building a frame of reference in which to reflect on moral and confronting challenges and understanding that leadership is a process.

Armed with these BALCT skills and proficiencies, tomorrow's Academy graduates will be able to respond to and build on constantly changing environments. They will think from multiple perspectives, see (and create) opportunities and bring creative, cooperative, empathetic and ethical leadership to their future role in the workplace – even if that role is, as yet, unimagined.





Access world-class opportunities. Connect with industry leaders. Become an active and engaged global citizen. Volunteer locally and internationally.

Travel Far. Go Further.



Take our word for it.

Qisthy Kodarusman

BACHELOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
(DEAN'S SCHOLAR)

Vice Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship;
Academy-funded delegate for University
Scholars Leadership Symposium in Hanoi,
Vietnam – August 2016

'Coming straight out of the HSC with a high ATAR, the choice of any University was in my hands. What attracted me to Western Sydney University was the amount of opportunity. As a high-achieving student and aspiring future leader, the plethora of possibilities I could undertake at this university would encourage and foster my growth and development.

My course is exceptional. As a degree of the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, in our first year, it is required to take some core Arts units. These core Arts units are taken by students from a wide range of degrees which is important for establishing friendships and networks later on.

I believe the highlight of my degree is the Dean's Scholars program in conjunction with membership of The Academy. The Academy program is extremely unique and innovative because it provides leverage for high-achieving students. This creates a platform for future leaders to interact as well as enhance and develop leadership skills and networks.

Being able to attend the University Scholars' Leadership Symposium in Hanoi, Vietnam instilled in me a new sense of motivation and confidence. I felt as if my eyes were opened to the amount of change I could make in the world.

This learning journey, the students I bonded with, as well as an emotionally-charged talk by my humanitarian idol Geraldine Cox at the conference, only solidified my belief in children and education as the pathway in which I can attempt to make a difference in the world.

But what I took most out of the Symposium was the networks and friendships I made. Not only from across the world, but in particular with future Western Sydney University-graduate leaders.

These networks and friendships are pivotal for us as young future leaders, because as a collective, the amount of difference we can make in the world will be astounding'.



Andrew Phong

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS
(INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS)

New Colombo Plan Mobility Scholarship Internship – Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; The Akanksha Foundation, Mumbai India; CPA Congress Sydney Delegate; Humanitarian Affairs University Scholar's Leadership Symposium, Hanoi, Vietnam (Delegate and Representative from The Academy); The Academy Representative at 'GenerationYou' Sydney Conference; The Academy speaker at The Daily Telegraph's Go West Mentorship Program Gala Dinner; Lead Engage Leadership Program (In Progress); The Academy's Citizen Scholar Award (In Progress); Go Global Student Ambassador (Ongoing); National Student Leadership Forum Delegate, Canberra 2017.

'From addressing Chinese diplomats in Fujian on bilateral relations, debating international trade in the Asia-Pacific with the Australian Consul-General during my internship in Mumbai, to addressing the Prime Minister at a Gala Dinner, The Academy at Western Sydney University has provided me with endless opportunities.

Coming from one of the most disadvantaged suburbs in NSW and being the first within my family to attend university, The Daily Telegraph's Go West Mentorship Program presented itself as an invaluable opportunity.



Being able to learn from established individuals, leaders at the pinnacle of their respective fields, people who have done the hard yards to get to where they are. Having this wealth of knowledge and experience in my corner has the potential to really take my learning and career to the next level.

The University Scholars' Leadership Symposium was an experience like no other. From all over the world, 700 of the world's brightest talents, united for a week of social revolution, with the hope for a better world.

The experience gave me a glimpse of the potential of what could be achieved with initiative and collaborative effort. It was through such interactions, that allowed for the establishment of what I am sure will be lifelong friendships.

As an aspiring social entrepreneur, I am now inspired to make a real difference through my own journey.

All of this would not have been made possible without the continued support and guidance from The Academy at Western Sydney University. I would confidently recommend and encourage future students to attend this transformational experience'.





**IN THE FUTURE,
IT WON'T BE ABOUT
WHAT YOU KNOW,
IT WILL BE ABOUT
HOW YOU THINK.**

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