



11 September 2023

Week 7, Semester 2

It's Week 7 and our mid-semester break is approaching! This week, learn how to update your electoral details for the upcoming referendum and join our campus celebrations for National Biodiversity Month.

What you need to know this week

What role does the University play in the Voice to Parliament?

[Find out how the University of Sydney is facilitating conversations around the upcoming referendum](#) and how you can get involved.



Celebrating National Biodiversity Month

September is National Biodiversity Month in Australia, providing an opportunity to [promote the unique diversity of our ecosystem and our crucial role in protecting it](#).



University of Sydney Union's Festival of Creativity

Learn new skills and feel inspired by performances, workshops, networking opportunities and more at the [Festival of Creativity this 18–22 September](#).



Update your electoral details to vote in the referendum on 14 October

The Voice to Parliament referendum will be held on Saturday 14 October 2023. Voting in the referendum is your democratic right and an opportunity to have your views represented. You can check your electoral enrolment, make sure that your details are up to date or enrol for the first time by visiting the Australian Electoral Commission website.

Notices

- On 20 September we will be conducting a test exercise of our mass messaging system, which we use to communicate with students and staff in the event of an emergency. The message will be sent from +61 439 799 520. We would also like to remind students to [keep your contact details up to date in Sydney Student](#).
 - On-campus polling for the 2023 Annual Elections for the Students' Representative Council (SRC) will be held on 19, 20 and 21 September 2023. All University of Sydney students enrolled in undergraduate degrees or diplomas and other non-degree students are eligible to vote. [A list of elections and polling locations are available on the SRC website](#).
 - If you have a disability, medical condition, or carer responsibilities (temporary or ongoing) which may disadvantage you in your formal examinations, you may be eligible for reasonable adjustments. To be approved for adjustments in your Semester 2 formal exams, you will need to book a consultation appointment and be registered with Inclusion and Disability Services (IDS) by Wednesday 4 October. [Please see the IDS webpage for further information about the registration process](#).
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Free events at USYD

12 September | USU Speaker Series: The Voice Referendum

[Hear from Associate Professor Rick Macourt](#), a queer descendant of the Gumbaynggirr peoples, as he discusses the history and significance of the Voice to Parliament. This enlightening talk will

19 September | 2023 Dr Charles Perkins Oration

[Come and celebrate the life and work of one of our most impactful alumni, Dr Charles Perkins](#). Presented by the DVC-ISS and ABC, this year's keynote speaker is Arrente and Kalkadoon woman Rachel Perkins, an

21 September | Threads of Life: Biodiversity

This multidisciplinary event posits biodiversity as a critical global issue, explores how we can work together to unravel its complexities, and provides an opportunity to [contribute to the conversation about](#)

be followed by a Q&A session.

Australian director, producer, and screenwriter.

[safeguarding our planet's natural heritage.](#)

What's happening on campus?

11–15 September | Research Week

Are you considering upskilling or changing careers? [Join us at Research Week](#), on now until 15 September. Explore your postgraduate study options at the University of Sydney with webinars, drop-in sessions and one-on-one course advice.



From 13 September | SUDS presents: Blithe Spirit

Come enjoy what has been described as "an improbable farce in three acts". Featuring comedy and ghosts, [catch this hilariously absurd supernatural play by Noel Coward](#) at The Cellar Theatre, with tickets starting from just \$3.



Blithe Spirit graphics credit: Amelia Vogelsang

21 September | Sydney Ideas: Leaders on leaders

[Hear from two pioneering USYD alumni changing the game in news and media](#): Zara Seidler, co-founder of Australia's fastest growing social-first news service, The Daily Aus; and Phoebe Saintilan, founder of new media tech company Missing Perspectives.



October | Science Careers Month 2023

Leverage your STEM skills, engage with specialists from different industries, and build a robust professional network through panel

discussions, workshops, and networking events at [Science Careers Month this October](#).



21 October | Someday Soon 2023: second release tickets

[Second release tickets are now live for Someday Soon Music Festival](#). There's also still time for USYD students to [join the official Someday Soon promoter team for the event](#) and receive discounted tickets – simply register online by 14 October.



Become a student member of the Student Appeals Panel

Applications to join the Student Appeals Panel, the pool of students and staff who decide on appeals against academic decisions and misconduct, are open until Friday 13 October. The panel provides an opportunity for students to participate in deciding the appeal outcomes of fellow students. Find out if you're eligible to join the Student Appeals Panel and how to apply.

Study and career development opportunities

Contribute to language learning at the Language Toolkit Workshop

Do you love languages and want to share your resources and tips with new learners? Come along to the Student Life Grant-supported Language Toolkit Workshop this Friday 15 September and help create digital beginner guides for USYD languages. [Learn more about the Language Toolkit Workshop and sign up](#) by completing a form online.

Supplement your undergraduate degree with a Master of Management

Acquire practical business and industry experience with our Master of Management or Master of Management (CEMS) degree, ranked #1 in Australia. Attend an upcoming webinar on Tuesday 19

September at 6:30 pm to [find out more about the Master of Management entry requirements, application process, scholarships, and graduate opportunities.](#)

Do you need financial support to assist you while studying?

[Applications for advertised bursaries are now open](#) until Friday 22 September. Available for both undergraduate and postgraduate domestic students, the bursaries provide financial support for specific challenges or circumstances, with assistance ranging from \$500 to \$5000. For more information, [submit a financial support enquiry via the Services Portal](#).

Work with leading academics in our world-class facilities this summer

The [Charles Perkins Centre Summer Scholarship program](#) provides a unique opportunity for students to develop research skills, gain experience and contribute to finding real-world solutions through eight weeks of paid work. The program is open to all USYD undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students. Applications are open now and close at 11:59 pm on Monday 25 September.

Learn directly from consultants at the Strategy Academy Masterclass

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Strategy Academy Masterclass teaches students how to creatively solve business challenges and deliver results. Accelerate your development through interactive workshops and a real-world case study, and gain insight into life as a consultant at BCG. [Apply online to attend the Strategy Academy Masterclass](#) event in Sydney on 13 October. Applications close Friday 29 September.

Study media and diplomacy in India as part of your degree

[Study media and diplomacy with a two-week in-country program at O.P. Jindal Global University, India.](#) Go inside the biggest media houses of India to meet with editors and journalists, see the offices of the Australian High Commission, learn about our diplomatic role in the region, and gain insights into the cultural diversity of the Asia Pacific. Applications close Sunday 8 October.

Health and wellbeing

Share your story with Being Herd by batyr Australia

Being Herd is a free workshop on 23–24 September hosted by mental health organisation batyr, and aims to help young people shape difficult experiences into an empowering story. Workshops are available in both online and in-person formats, featuring a small group of participants and including members of the batyr team to facilitate the conversation. Head to the batyr website to [find out more about the Being Herd workshop and express your interest in participating.](#)

We've signed up to the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative

1 in 5 people in Australia have a disability and it's estimated that 80–85% of these are invisible. [The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative](#) provides a simple tool for people with non-visible disabilities to voluntarily share they may need a helping hand in public spaces by wearing a sunflower lanyard. We're rolling out training that's available to all USYD staff, and [sunflower lanyards are available for free from Inclusion and Disability Services](#).

R U OK? Day 2023: A conversation can change a life

R U OK? Day is this Thursday 14 September, empowering and inspiring all of us to have regular, meaningful conversations to connect with and support anyone who might be going through a difficult time. This year's theme is *here to really hear*. [See what's happening on campus to mark R U OK? Day 2023](#), and explore resources to help you confidently navigate a conversation with someone who might be struggling.

Social shoutout

Check out this incredible miniature watercolour painting of the University of Sydney's iconic quadrangle landscape by [@b.ar.f](#).

We love to see what you get up to during semester, so tag [@sydney_uni](#) or [#usyd](#) for your chance to be featured.

Don't forget to join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [WeChat](#) to stay up to date on the latest news and events.



Student resources

[Student website](#) | [Canvas](#) | [myUni](#) | [Sydney Student](#) | [Key dates](#) | [Student life, wellbeing and support](#)

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We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all. [Learn more.](#)

Please add university.communications@sydney.edu.au to your address book or senders safe list to make sure you continue to see our emails in the future.

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