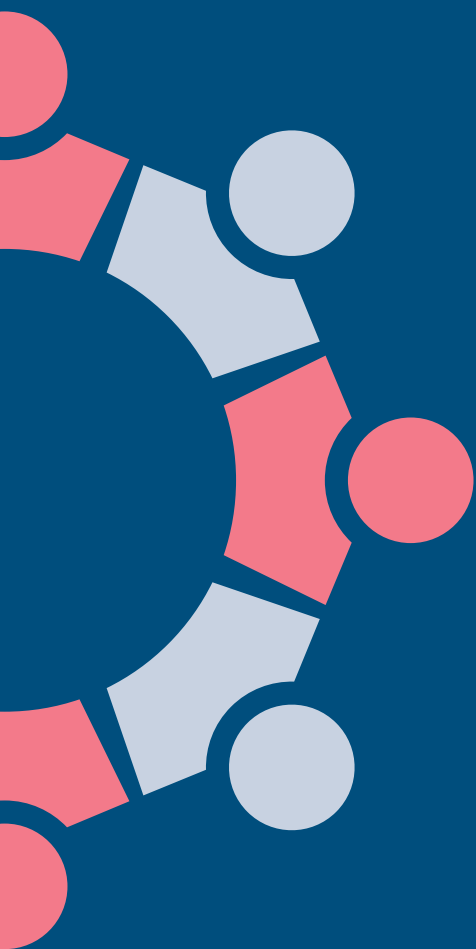




Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Student Advisory Panel position description: Co-chair



TEQSA

STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is calling for Expressions of Interest for the role of co-chair of the Student Advisory Panel. This lived experience panel will provide TEQSA with advice, feedback and suggestions regarding emerging and enduring sector-wide risks to student experience and the quality of Australia's higher education sector.

Who we are

TEQSA is the national regulator of higher education in Australia, an independent agency that was established under the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011](#) (TEQSA Act).

We protect the interests of students and the reputation and standing of Australian higher education.

Our approach to quality assurance and regulation is:

- standards-based, risk-reflective and transparent
- positioned to promote and facilitate a culture of effective self-assurance as an integral part of a provider's operations
- only intervening to the extent necessary to achieve our regulatory purpose
- based on a model of regulatory partnerships, with individual providers and the sector overall.

In addition to the TEQSA Act, we ensure higher education providers comply with:

- the [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#) (Threshold Standards)
- the [Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000](#) (ESOS Act) and associated instruments (ESOS Framework).

All providers are expected to comply with the Threshold Standards to manage their higher education activities and risks. This includes for matters such as the adequacy of facilities, staffing levels, support services, and academic and corporate governance.

All providers who deliver higher education to overseas students studying in Australia, including English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and Foundation Programs, are expected to comply with the ESOS Framework.

The Student Advisory Panel

In November 2025, TEQSA CEO Dr Mary Russell announced the formation of the Student Advisory Panel.

The Student Advisory Panel will deliver advice, feedback and suggestions to TEQSA in relation to:

- identifying emerging or enduring sector-wide risks to compliance with the Threshold Standards
- educative materials for the sector and key stakeholders that respond to enduring or emerging sector-wide risks.

The Student Advisory Panel will provide advice only and will not be involved in regulatory operations or decision making.

The Student Advisory Panel will be made up of 8 to 10 students, including a co-chair, with lived experience of Australian higher education. We're expanding the voices we already engage, beyond elected student representatives. In determining the final membership, TEQSA will balance a range of factors to support representation from different ages, genders, demographics, and communities across Australia. At least one member of the panel will be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student.

The panel will meet 4 times a year, with 2 meetings held in TEQSA's Melbourne office, and 2 meetings held remotely. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered for the meetings in Melbourne.

Members will be appointed for a one-year term and invited to express interest in extending their term for a second year at the conclusion of the first year.

The role

The Student Advisory Panel will be chaired by 2 co-chairs. The co-chairs are appointed by TEQSA. The co-chairs will be:

- a postgraduate student with lived experience of higher education in Australia who has:
 - > a minimum of 9 months' experience of postgraduate study in Australia at the time of application
 - > the expectation of being enrolled in postgraduate study for the duration of their term as co-chair
- a staff member from TEQSA of Assistant Director level or above.

Responsibilities of the co-chairs include:

- supporting the Student Advisory Panel to undertake its work, including finalising a code of conduct for the panel
- chairing meetings
- working collaboratively with the panel and TEQSA staff to set priorities for the panel
- taking advice from members of the panel
- supporting the development of advice regarding emerging or enduring sector-wide risks by the panel
- arranging workshops or convening working groups within the panel as needed
- overseeing the production of the panel's deliverables.

The Student Advisory Panel will report to the TEQSA Executive Leadership Team and the TEQSA Commission.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking a postgraduate student interested in co-chairing the panel who has:

- a minimum of 9 months' experience of postgraduate study at the time of expressing interest
- the expectation of being enrolled in postgraduate study for the duration of their term as co-chair.

In addition, applicants for the role of co-chair should have the following attributes:

- an interest in upholding the quality of higher education in Australia
- the ability to reflect on and share their lived experience of higher education
- strong verbal and written communication skills
- strong skills in active listening
- developed, or an interest in developing, skills in leading groups
- skills in transmitting knowledge, skills and ideas to others
- skills in analysing, generating and transmitting solutions to unpredictable and sometimes complex problems.

TEQSA particularly welcomes Expressions of Interest from:

- students from regional and remote areas, or who are using a University Study Hub to undertake their studies
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- international students
- first in family students
- students with lived experience of disability, mental health and/or neurodivergence
- LGBTQI+ students
- students over the age of 21 or have returned to study after a break of 7 years or more
- part-time students.