

20 NATIONAL
23 VOLUNTEERING
CONFERENCE
THE FUTURE IS NOW

D3: Student volunteering

Recognising our Volunteers

National Volunteer Conference

Canberra

13 February 2023

Presenter: Michelle Gillard, Western Sydney University





- **English Conversation Groups (ECG)** is a **peer-to-peer** program that provides a relaxed environment for students from a non-English speaking background to practice their **conversational English**.
- Weekly **1-hour** conversational English groups – available On Campus and/or Online
- Open to **all students**

- **MATES Mentoring Program** is a **peer-to-peer** mentoring program teaming new students with a more experienced student. Mentors hold weekly group mentoring sessions for an hour, Each group consists of 1 mentor and up to 6 mentees.
- Mentors share their own **experiences**, increasing new students understanding of support, **normalise** the use of wellbeing services and are a friendly face when needed.
- Open to **all new students**



Why Utilise Student Volunteers?

- Students are more likely to be open with their peers
- They are motivated by seeing and hearing another student's success stories
- A peer can normalise their feelings
- Our students are looking for opportunities to build their leadership skills and be involved at the University



Why do volunteers join the program?

Help new students settle in at University	1	93	75%
To gain experience that I can add to my resume	5	51	41%
To share knowledge and experience of being a new student	2	71	57%
To meet new people /make friends	6	43	35%
To improve my skills in communication and leadership	4	62	50%
To be more involved at University	3	63	51%
To increase my self confidence	7	41	33%



To gain experience that I can add to my resume

- Certificate / Award

Certificate of Appreciation

- Improvement: Mentors are able to track through our automated checklist that they are meeting the requirements for the certificate of appreciation.

Outstanding Mentor Award (improved)

- Previously: Nominated by mentees or staff
- Now: Introduction of Self nomination, varying pathways that recognises the different types of involvement

Mentor of the Year Award (new)

- Chosen from the Outstanding Mentor Award recipients
- Judging panel
- Finalist attend a student gala. Winner receives a trophy

To gain experience that I can add to my resume

Referee

- Upon request,
Change - we actively promote the steps they need to take for us to be a good referee

Letter of Service (new)

- *Upon request - automation currently being worked on*

Workshop: Including Your Volunteer Experience in Your Resume (re-vamped)

- Tailored to our volunteers, Interactive
- Collaboration with the Careers team

To Meet People & Make New Friends



Off campus activities



Celebration

To Meet People & Make New Friends



Networking Opportunities

Recognition: Embedded into the Curriculum

SUBJECT: BEHV 3026 Service Learning (new)

- MATES recognised as a placement provider for this unit (Introduced Spring 2022)

TESOL Internship

- ECG recognised as voluntary tutoring (10 hours) in the placement component (60 hours) of TESOL internship

To Improve My Skills in Communication & Leadership – Invitation to Leadership Programs

Raising Integrity through Peer Leadership

- Focus on Academic Integrity
- Once modules complete receive "Peer Champ" badge – can be displayed on LinkedIn

LEAD Program (Lead, Engage, Aspire, Develop)

- Personal invitation to join program to build on their leadership skills

Paid roles within MATES

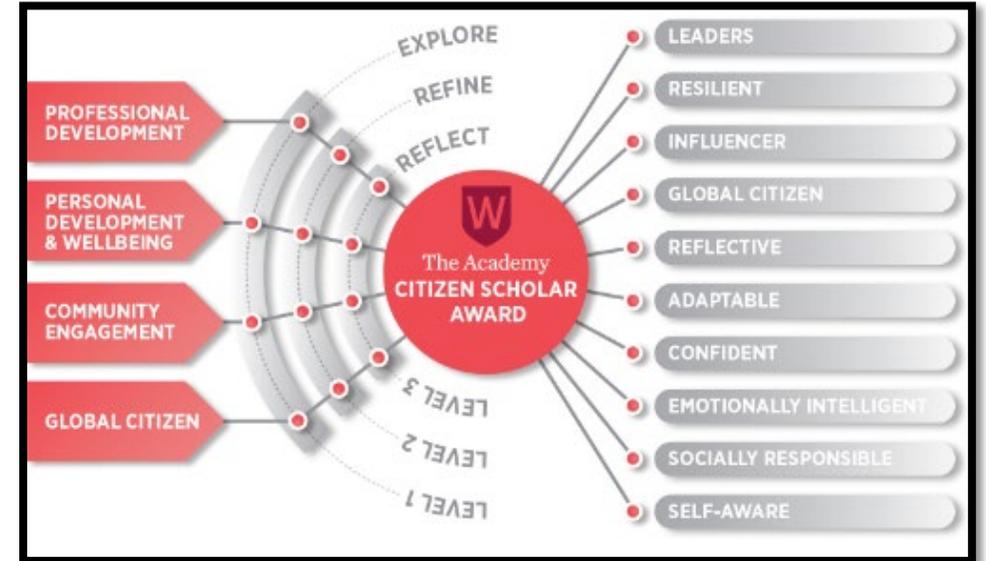
- Students must be a volunteer with the MATES program to be considered for a paid Senior Mentor role

Recognition from Other Leadership Programs



Member of LEAD?

Your time with MATES can earn you points with LEAD.



Are you a member of the academy that is working towards the Citizen Scholar Award?

Your time with MATES can contribute to the points you earn in the community engagement strand.