

## **Working with student volunteers in a community setting**

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The City of Melbourne has a strong culture throughout the organisation of including volunteers in programs. There are 9 universities campuses as well as a large number of private and foundation colleges located in the local government area and international students make up a significant proportion of visitors to the city for study, employment and leisure. Over half of the residential population are students and one fifth are international students.

There is a paucity in work experience opportunities for international students that are either related to their course of study or provide students with valuable exposure to Australian workplaces. The main barriers for international students to finding either post graduate work or work during their studies include limited networking opportunities, and understanding of Australian workplace culture and rights, employer expectations and communication skills.

The City of Melbourne's *International Student Strategy 2013-17 - A Great Place to Study* includes a framework of ongoing and innovative events and programs that welcome, advise and connect with students. This session will outline how the City of Melbourne has developed volunteer and employment opportunities for international students through these programs and will detail how we work with volunteers and how students benefit through the volunteer opportunities.