

THE ROLE OF THE FIRST NATIONS OFFICER



Honoraria \$793.19 per month

Purpose

You are the Guild's lead student representative for First Nations matters. Working with the Vice President Social Responsibility (VPSR), you coordinate First Nations Department Representatives, support the First Nations Department to run effectively, and turn student feedback into culturally safe programs, advocacy and improvements across ECU's campuses. You help First Nations clubs to affiliate, develop and deliver value. You operate within the Constitution, Standing Orders and the First Nations Department Policy, and you are accountable to the Senate.

What the key duties involve day to day

Coordinate First Nations Department Representatives

- Be the first point of contact for Department Reps: circulate agendas, papers and dates; support attendance and preparation for Department meetings.
- Track attendance and engagement; prompt debriefs after events in collaboration with the Events & Marketing Team to capture issues, outcomes and follow-ups for the VPSR and Senate reports.

Assist the VPSR to organise and run the First Nations Department

- Help plan the annual Department calendar; schedule meetings in collaboration with the General Secretary; draft agendas aligned to the Annual Department Plan.
- Contribute to the Annual Department Plan and Budget; provide updates on delivery, risks and wins to the VPSR for Secretariat/Senate reporting.

Develop First Nations activities, campaigns and student engagement

- Co-design and deliver a balanced, inclusive program: O-Week activations, Clubs Carnival, on-campus mixers, low-cost daytime events, collaboration events with other Departments, and flagship events.
- Plan and run campaigns or pop-ups on community-building and student life ensuring WHS, risk and accessibility are addressed.

Support First Nations Department clubs

- Guide clubs through affiliation in line with the Affiliation Policy.
- Support clubs to develop and grow.

Evidence, student voice and feedback loops

- Gather feedback via post-event surveys, quick polls, stall chats and club check-ins; map themes by campus, cohort and event type (cost, timing, accessibility, safety, inclusivity, vendor quality).
- Use evidence to refine the annual program and inform submissions or proposals led by the VPSR (e.g., facilities usage, activation needs).
- Close the loop by sharing outcomes and improvements through Department channels and Guild communications.
- Contribute to quarterly and annual reporting.

Recruitment, continuation and compliance for Department Representatives

- Support the VPSR with recruitment and selection per the First Nations Department Policy.

What a typical week can look like (varies by period)

- Prep and run one First Nations Department meeting or rep roundtable; produce minutes/action lists.
- Coordinate with 1–2 reps on a specific project (e.g., yarning circle, culturally safe study skills workshop); collect debriefs and escalate actions.
- Draft or review a First Nations club affiliation/funding request; coordinate with events/finance teams on logistics or acquittals.
- Progress an initiative (e.g., cultural protocols guide for student events): align comms, book space, arrange cultural elements, complete risk/WHS checklist, liaise with relevant University First Nations unit.
- Update the VPSR for Secretariat/Senate reporting.
- Student engagement: answer rep/club queries; run a short pulse survey on a current issue.

Time commitment and expectations

- Peak periods: O-Week and starts of semesters, key campaign windows (e.g., Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week), Clubs Fest, policy consultations, end-of-year transitions and rep recruitment.
- Steady part-time workload; some evenings/weekends for meetings or events. Plan around your assessments and communicate availability early.

What success looks like

- A fully staffed, well-supported network of First Nations Representatives with strong attendance at Department and University forums, producing useful debriefs that feed Guild advocacy.
- A clear annual program of culturally safe activities with solid attendance, positive feedback and compliant delivery (e.g., increased participation by First Nations students, improved visibility of First Nations culture and spaces, strengthened mentoring/peer networks).
- Timely club affiliations, fair funding decisions and smooth event logistics and acquittals; visible collaboration between First Nations clubs and other Departments.
- Evidence-based improvements recorded (e.g., clearer cultural protocol guidance for events, better access to culturally safe study and community spaces, improved support for placements, enhanced recognition across campus).
- Organised records, action logs and on-time contributions to Senate/Secretariat reports.

Support and training you'll receive

- Operational team support across events, finance, marketing & communications, compliance and administration to handle day-to-day delivery.
- Governance, WHS, finance and risk training; templates for agendas, minutes, budgets, grant criteria, event run-sheets, and risk assessments.
- Published Department Policy and the Affiliation Policy to guide decisions and establish event planning procedures and practices.

Boundaries and good practice

- Work within the Constitution, Standing Orders and Department Policies; respect financial delegations and approval thresholds.
- Ensure appointments and processes for student reps and clubs follow the relevant policies; document decisions and keep records organised.
- Declare conflicts (e.g., involvement with a club you fund) and recuse as needed; maintain confidentiality for committee papers and student information.
- Provide written reports to the Vice President and to each scheduled Senate meeting; implement Senate directions and keep action logs up to date.

Prerequisites

A Candidate for the First Nations Officer position must be identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.