



UNIVERSITY of CANTERBURY  
**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Ākonga tū, ākonga ora



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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# WHO IS THE UCSA



The UCSA is Te Rōpū Ākonga o Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury Students' Association. Established in 1894, the UCSA is a not-for-profit organisation with charity status. Fifteen elected student representatives govern the UCSA with the support and guidance of external advisors via an Advisory Board. There are up to nine Advisory Board members, who collectively have a responsibility to provide advice on the service, commercial activities and affairs of the Association. The UCSA employs around 300 full-time, part-time and casual employees who report through our Chief Executive.

The UCSA operates several other facilities spread around the campus, including the Collective Cafe at Dovedale Campus and Nuts & Bolts in the Engineering Building. In the Undercroft, there are multiple cafes/food outlets – Café 1894, Chiltons, Otto, Oishii and the Undercroft Foodcourt. The UCSA also operates two bars – the Foundry and Bentleys in Haere-roa, which encompasses the Venue and Catering area.

There are two early childhood centres – Ilam Early Learning Centre at Dovedale and Montana Early Learning Centre on the corner of Ilam Road and Montana Avenue. The UCSA provides non-academic advice and support, a subsidised Dental Service, and social comment and entertainment by way of UCSA's magazine, CANTA. We also manage and deliver huge events like Orientation and Tea Party as well as supporting over 170 affiliated clubs on campus.

This diversity reflects the many services that students have initiated to ensure that the university experience for students at Canterbury is all that it can be.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*After a year of hard work by my reliable team of 15 Executives, elected by you, I am proud to deliver my President's Report for 2025.*

*This year's Executive worked across advocacy, governance, events, and student representation to ensure that the student voice remained strong, credible, and influential within the University of Canterbury and beyond.*

## EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES AND IMPROVEMENTS

The UCSA Executive ran several special initiatives in 2025 through a separate pool of funding, allowing us to respond directly to student needs and gaps not otherwise covered by operational budgets.

This year, we funded Ramadan Care Packages for students who were fasting while studying late on campus, helping them replenish after long days during a demanding academic period.

We also funded and supported a Wāhine Moot Competition, which played an important role in building confidence, skills, and representation among aspiring women lawyers at UC.

Finally, we invested in new podcasting equipment, which will be housed in the Room of Requirement and available for student use in 2026, expanding opportunities for student media, storytelling, and creative projects.

Alongside these initiatives, the Executive focused on improving internal systems and continuity.

This included better documentation of Executive portfolios, clearer handover processes, and improved alignment between advocacy priorities and governance work, ensuring that student issues raised at the grassroots level were able to flow through to University decision-making forums.

## TERM 1

Term 1 focused on onboarding, relationship-building, and setting clear advocacy priorities. Executives engaged early with students through Orientation, feedback sessions, and advisory spaces, while also establishing productive working relationships with University staff and governance bodies.

## TERM 2 AND TERM 3

Term 2 and Term 3 were the most advocacy-heavy periods of the year. The Executive was deeply involved in submissions, policy discussions, and ongoing negotiations with the University on issues such as parking access, study space availability, and student wellbeing.

These terms also saw strong engagement with national student organisations, ensuring UC students were represented in wider tertiary conversations.

## TERM 4

Term 4 was focused on consolidation and continuity. The Executive worked to ensure that key advocacy projects were documented, progressed as far as possible, and clearly handed over for future Executives where work remained ongoing. This term also involved reflection on what worked well and where improvements could be made in future years.

## ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Advocacy remained the core focus of the UCSA Executive in 2025. Throughout the year, the Executive gathered student feedback, met regularly with University decision-makers, and developed formal submissions and proposals to advance student interests.

Key advocacy areas included parking, where affordability and availability remain ongoing concerns; study space, particularly during peak assessment periods; and the continued development and strengthening of advisory groups to ensure diverse student voices are meaningfully represented. The Executive also contributed to broader policy discussions affecting students at both an institutional and national level.

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATION AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

The UCSA Executive continued to play an active role in national student representation, including engagement with the New Zealand International Students' Association (NZISA), Te Akatoki, and wider national student voice initiatives. These connections ensured that UC students' perspectives were included in national advocacy efforts, particularly on issues affecting international students, equity groups, and the future of tertiary education in Aotearoa.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED.

## ONGOING AND FUTURE ADVOCACY

Several advocacy pieces initiated or progressed in 2025 will continue into future Executive terms. These include ongoing work on parking solutions, improvements to study spaces, the strengthening of advisory and representative structures, and continued engagement in national student advocacy. Clear handover documentation has been prepared to support continuity and momentum.

## CLOSING

I am incredibly proud of the work undertaken by the 2025 UCSA Executive. This group demonstrated commitment, professionalism, and a genuine desire to improve the student experience at UC. Their work has laid strong foundations for future Executives, and I am confident that the initiatives, advocacy, and systems developed this year will continue to benefit students well beyond 2025.

Thank you to all students who engaged with us throughout the year and trusted us to represent your voices.



**LUC MACKAY**  
Tumuaki | President



### BACK ROW L-R

MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE ANELIZ GARDNER FREGOSO | MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE SHIVAM KUMAR | MĀNGAI PASIRIKA PACIFIC REPRESENTATIVE TUMARU MATAIO  
TUMUAKI PRESIDENT LUC MACKAY | MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BETH DAWSON | TE AKATOKI REP TĀMATI CUNNINGHAM

### MIDDLE ROW L-R

MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE PRIKS THAKUR | TUMUAKI TUARUA PĀHEKOHEKO VP ENGAGEMENT JHARMANE CATOLICO | MĀNGAI TAURITE ME TE ORANGA EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE NIKHITA RICHES  
MĀNGAI TĀURA POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE OLIVIA WELSH | MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE MARCUS DIETHER CULANAG

### FRONT ROW L-R

MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE AMIR ROJALI | MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE CATHLEEN WANG | TUMUAKI TUARUA AKORANGA VP ACADEMIC JENRO FORTICH

### RESIGNATIONS

MĀNGAI WHAKAHAERE GENERAL EXECUTIVE WINNIE CHEN

# GOVERNANCE

## ADVISORY BOARD

The UCSA Advisory Board advises the Executive Committee and Chief Executive on UCSA activities and issues with particular focus on strategic governance and commercial decision-making. Unlike a traditional board, the UCSA Advisory Board acts in a solely advisory capacity.

The board is made up of up to six external professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds, depending on the needs of the organisation.

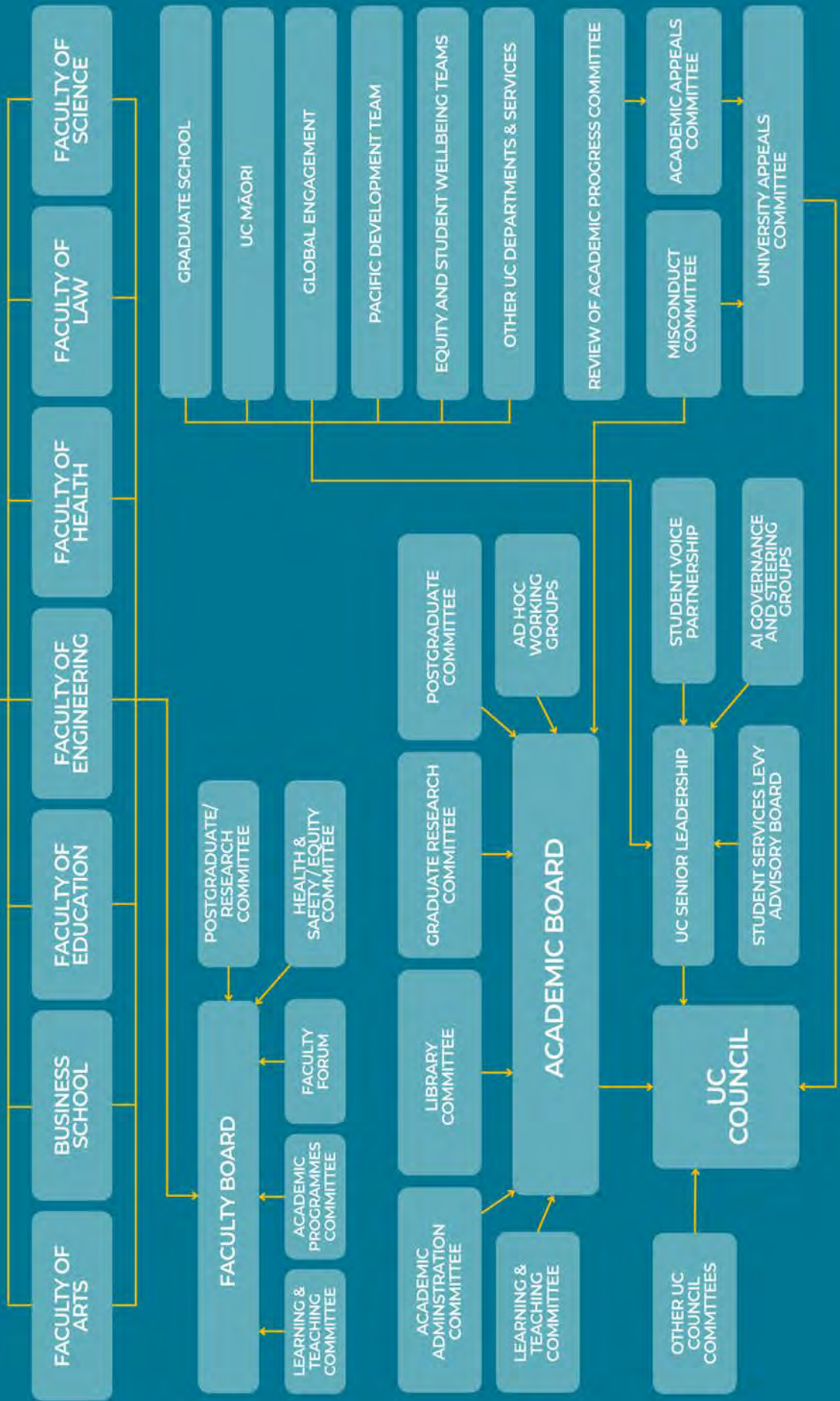
## CURRENT EXTERNAL BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

1. Fiona James - year appointed 2018
2. Jo de Joux - year appointed 2018
3. Hamish Cochrane - year appointed 2023
4. Warren Poh - year appointed 2024

The President, Vice-President - Engagement and Vice-President - Academic also sit on the board, providing governance and academic updates to the board. The Chief Executive sits in attendance and provides operational insight to the board.



# UCSA EXECUTIVE



# STUDENT REPRESENTATION

## ACADEMIC PRIORITIES 2025

- Monitor the Generative AI guidelines
- Advocate for the reform of the Special Consideration Process so that it is fit for purpose and is appropriate for students
- Continue to advocate for study spaces on campus
- Improve the quality of academic feedback provided to students
- Review the Class Rep System
- Develop stronger relationships with Academic Clubs
- Monitor the Work Integrated Learning policy and advocate for better standards
- Build on academic representation of the wider student population

## CLASS REPS 2025

	FACULTY	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	WHOLE YEAR
REPS BY FACULTY	Arts	139	129	9
	Business	97	110	2
	Education	2	4	32
	Engineering	93	108	28
	Health	28	26	3
	Law	53	30	36
	Science	136	125	9
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>119</b>

		SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	WHOLE YEAR
2025	Individual courses with at least one rep	317	311	55
	Total number of courses running	951	953	232
	% of representation	33	33	24

The total number of class representatives increased by just over 31%, rising from 908 in 2024 to 1,191 in 2025.

# STUDENT REPRESENTATION

## THE KEY ISSUES CLASS REPS TOLD US ABOUT IN 2025:



## DEDICATED FEEDBACK SESSIONS

Based on engagement data from previous years, the UCSA Exec paused the Advisory Groups and trialled a new approach to student engagement. Eight targeted sessions were held, including Talanoa Mai for Pacific students, Wānanga Mai in collaboration with Te Akatoki for taura Māori, and dedicated Equity and Postgraduate sessions. Engagement more than doubled compared with the previous Advisory Groups, resulting in more representative feedback to inform our conversations with UC.

## TE AKATOKI

Te Akatoki Māori Students' Association is an independent body dedicated to supporting and advocating for taura Māori at the University of Canterbury.

Since the introduction of pay equity for the Te Akatoki Executive in 2023—funded through the Student Services Levy with the support of the UCSA Executive—the 2025 Executive have continued to strengthen their relationship with Te Akatoki. Over the past year, collaboration between UCSA Faculty Representatives and Te Akatoki Academic Representatives has increased, with representatives regularly attending meetings together to ensure a unified approach to academic support.

The UCSA Finance Team has continued to provide ongoing assistance to Te Akatoki, particularly in relation to financial planning and budgetary processes.

Additionally, an external project manager was contracted by the UCSA to support Te Akatoki in meeting compliance and governance requirements. This role has included establishing operational systems, such as improved IT infrastructure and financial management processes.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

## CE REPORT

2025 was a year of momentum and change for the UCSA. I'm proud of how our people and our student Executive navigated an ever changing environment, staying grounded in our purpose of supporting students to succeed and belong.

We began the year by progressing a comprehensive Constitution review to ensure alignment with the new Incorporated Societies Act. Updating our Constitution strengthens UCSA's governance, ensuring we remain transparent, compliant, and genuinely student-focused, delivering stronger outcomes for all members.

January also marked the implementation of our new organisational structure, bringing our work together across six integrated teams. This change means we can better support UCSA Clubs, Student Leaders, and Student Advocacy and Welfare, as well as improve how we communicate and engage with students and the wider community.

Alongside this, we strengthened our organisation-wide approach to health and safety, lifting visibility, accountability, and consistency across every UCSA site.

Financially, the year brought both highs and lows. ORI 2025 performed strongly, with excellent student turnout and a solid financial result. Later in the year, more challenging commercial conditions required us to revise our financial forecasts and tighten spending controls. I greatly appreciated the Advisory Board's guidance as we developed a five-year plan to support long-term stability.

Despite the pressures we faced, our focus stayed firmly on students. We delivered a packed calendar of events, including ORI, Tea Party, the Matariki Market, the Supremes and Tohu Kahurangi | Blues Awards, and a range of cultural activations. We also supported a record number of Class Reps, strengthening your academic voice across UC.

I want to acknowledge our partners across the University of Canterbury. Our ability to deliver for students relies on open, constructive, and collaborative relationships. This year reaffirmed the strength and value of those partnerships, and I look forward to continuing to build on them.

I am deeply grateful to our UCSA staff, who demonstrated professionalism, compassion, and adaptability in an ever-changing environment. Their commitment enabled us to navigate a complex year while continuing to deliver meaningful experiences and support for students.

I also want to acknowledge our 2025 student Executive for their contribution and care for their peers. Together, we have strengthened the organisation and set a confident direction for 2026.

## CATE SEXTON

Manahautū | Chief Executive



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE

## ADVOCACY AND WELFARE

In 2025, demand for Advocacy & Welfare continued its steady rise, reflecting both student population growth, our campaigns showing the relevancy of our offers, and the increasing complexity of challenges students experience.

### ADVOCACY SUPPORT

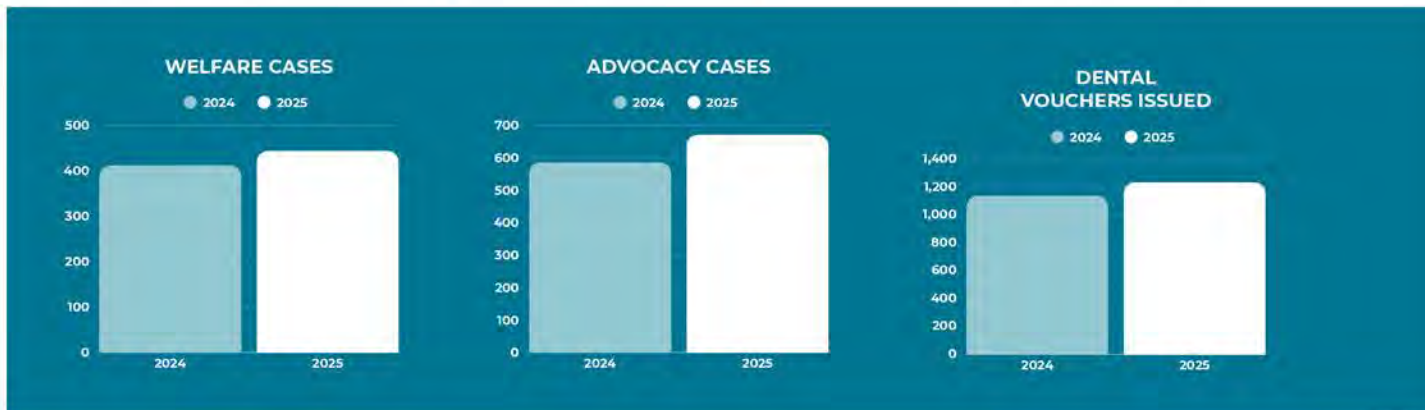
Advocacy remained a core pillar of student support, with June–July once again marking the peak of demand, aligning with exam results and the start of Semester 2. The biggest growth areas were:

- Academic Progress and Special Consideration cases
- A continued rise in Appeals, often linked to students navigating processes without support early on
- Ongoing high demand for help with Concerns/Complaints

WELFARE SUPPORT	NUMBER OF CASES
UCSA Foodbank	171
Hardship Grants	86
Subsidised Dental Grant	17
Dental Voucher Scheme issuing	1,236
Mickle Fund Loan	17

Across all advocacy and welfare categories, 2025 saw:

- Consistently high demand for Foodbank and Hardship Grants
- Advocacy continues to be the fastest-growing service area, while welfare usage remains shaped by the cost-of-living pressures facing students.



## A&W GIVEAWAYS



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE CONTINUED.

## CLUBS

2025 was a strong year for Clubs, with consistently high engagement and a wide range of activity across our student community. Clubs remain a major contributor to student life, and our focus this year was on providing clear, practical support so they could operate safely and confidently.



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Activity stayed high throughout the year, with AGMs, cultural celebrations, workshops, competitions, social events, and multiple large-scale showcases.
- Clubs Day continued to be a major engagement moment on campus, and Haere-roa saw heavy club usage throughout the year.



## DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

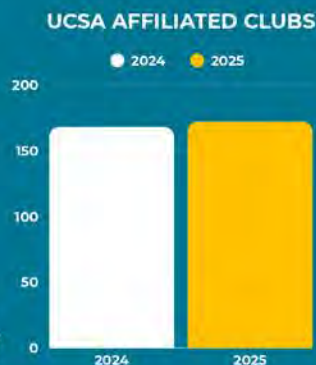
In 2025, we grew the Clubs Team to 3 staff members, made up of our Clubs Development Manager and two Clubs Coordinators. This has meant we can provide more consistent, proactive support to clubs.

### Our focus areas included:

- Clear guidance on governance, constitutions, and best-practice processes
- Support with risk management and event planning during particularly busy periods
- Strengthening grant applications and helping clubs plan realistic budgets
- Mediation and problem-solving for executive teams navigating internal challenges
- Addressing conduct or operational issues early, with an emphasis on learning and improvement

## CLUB GRANTS

Funding supported:



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE CONTINUED.

## EVENTS

2025 was a big year for UCSA Events, with campus alive across Orientation, Tea Party, cohort welcomes, and a full calendar of gigs, markets, and community activities. Students engaged strongly across the programme, and the year highlighted just how central shared experiences are to student life at UC.

2025 delivered major highlights. Orientation had some of our strongest engagement in years, the Tea Party sold out again, and cohort-based events such as the International Welcome and postgraduate programmes continued to grow. The student feedback we gathered throughout the year reinforced that events play an important role in helping students connect with each other and with the wider campus community.



Best Orientation Initiative

# ORI'25

ORI '25 set a really positive start to the year, with a broad mix of events that made campus feel lively and welcoming right from day one. Free daytime activities, cohort welcomes, and R17 concerts all saw strong engagement, and the overall programme created plenty of opportunities for students to find their people, explore clubs, or just settle into the year at their own pace. ORI '25 also won the Best Orientation Initiative for 2025 across Australia and New Zealand at the SEN Awards.

400+

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WELCOMED

15,000

ORI TICKETS SOLD



3

WEEKS

19

EVENTS

26,157

TOTAL ATTENDEES

## ORI AT A GLANCE





# STUDENT EXPERIENCE CONTINUED.

## RE-ORI

RE ORI '25 delivered a steady mid year boost to campus life, with a mix of daytime events that were well attended and evening gigs that landed more modestly. Both Après Ski Party and Sideline Social were well executed, and even with some softer attendance figures, the overall programme still offered good variety and created solid touchpoints for students coming back into Semester 2.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' EVENTS

International engagement continued throughout the year with a range of touchpoints designed to help students settle in and build community. Alongside the major ORI welcome events, UCSA delivered additional International Check-ins, expanded mid-year due to demand, and offered free immigration advice sessions, which consistently booked out. The Christchurch Daycation gave new students a relaxed introduction to the city, while the weekly English Café run by Advocacy and Welfare provided an ongoing space for conversation and connection.

## EQUITY EVENTS

Equity-focused events were a steady part of the 2025 calendar, helping create welcoming spaces for a wide range of student communities. Key moments included Christchurch Pride Month events such as Pride Night, Colourfest, and the Rainbow Lunch, all of which brought strong visibility and engagement across campus. ORI also featured the well-attended Rainbow Welcome, offering an early connection point for queer students and allies. Together, these events contributed to a more inclusive and supportive environment throughout the year.

## POSTGRAD EVENTS

Postgraduate events continued to build momentum in 2025, with a consistent mix of PG Café sessions, PG Lounge drop-ins, and seasonal gatherings creating regular opportunities for postgrad and mature students to connect. Attendance was steady across the year, and events like the Mid-Winter and End-of-Year lunches were particularly well received. Strong collaboration between the PG Rep and the Events Team helped shape formats that worked, while feedback highlighted the ongoing need to keep strengthening communication channels, especially for domestic postgrads.

# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

The UCSA has had a great year expanding our communications platforms and how we engage with you, our students.

## IMPROVEMENTS

- Built a *UCSA dedicated website page for SSL funding*. This clearly shows how the UCSA uses the student services levy, supporting our commitment to transparency with our students.
- Termly Exec wrap-ups, where we let you know how our Executive have been advocating for you behind closed doors.
- Doing feedback surveys via Instagram question boxes and quizzes to make it easier and faster for you to tell us what can be better at UC.

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



## CANTA STUDENT MEDIA

### AOTEAROA STUDENT PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Canta entered the ASPA Awards for 2025 and received a 3rd place award in the Creative Writing category, for 'scaled' by Print Editor 2025, Ella Sage. 3<sup>rd</sup> place award was also received for the Best Centrefold category with works completed by 2025 Cantá Designer, Rebecca Staal. There were also recognitions for several other pieces, which, whilst not placing, left a lasting impact on student media.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE STATS

Canta's website received 29,000 views last year, with 44,000 page views. Cantá's most viewed articles in 2025 on the website were "Rally moves to Matariki, students escorted out by security and police", written by Ella Sage (she/they) and Heidi Slade (she/her), with 541 views, and "From Coffee Crashes to Caffeine Clarity: UC Student Wins Big with Startup PIQ", written By Isla Melton (she/her), with 342 views.

Canta released 19 podcast episodes in 2025, with 3 video podcasts. Podcast listening numbers for 2025 increased substantially.



**24K**  
MAGAZINES PRINTED

**12**  
ISSUES

**29K**  
WEBSITE VIEWS

**1.1M**  
TIKTOK VIEWS IN 2025

# RETAIL STATS

## MOST POPULAR ITEMS



SUSHI



PIES & SAVOURIES



COFFEES



## OTTO – PIZZA & CHICKEN BAR REBRAND



## TOP BEERS SOLD AT FOUNDRY 2025

EXPORT ULTRA



4,348  
JUGS SOLD

TUATARA  
HAZY PALE ALE



3,841  
PINTS SOLD

EXPORT



4,263  
JUGS SOLD

# COMMERCIAL REPORT

## EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

### Montana ELC

2025 has been a steady and productive year for Montana, with a strong focus on strengthening quality education and care, enhancing teaching practice, and maintaining a safe and inclusive learning environment. Occupancy has remained consistently high, with up to 40% of our roll being the children of UC students, reflecting our important role within the university community.

### Ilam ELC

In 2025, Ilam ELC continued to provide high-quality early childhood education, supporting the needs of both the wider community and University of Canterbury students. We maintained strong enrolments.

## HAERE-ROA VENUE & CATERING

Haere-roa hosted several large-scale bookings, including the Hydrogen Symposium, Forest & Rural Fire Conference, HIRECON, Canterbury Grants (Rātā Foundation), and the LSAANZ Conference, alongside significant internal university events such as UC Welcome Day and UC Open Day.

The venue also successfully delivered major cultural, academic, and community events, reflecting the flexibility and scale of the facility. Repeat bookings remained strong, demonstrating client satisfaction and confidence in Haere-roa as a premium campus venue.

In 2025, off campus, the UCSA supported the Healthy School Lunches programme and catered at Te Wanaga O Aotearoa, Christchurch Adventure Park, Unihall and Ilam Apartments.



## KA ORA KA AKO | HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES PROGRAMME



**7** SCHOOLS SUPPORTED



**324,650**  
SCHOOL LUNCHES DELIVERED