

## SONA Vice President for Advocacy

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### About The Institute

The Australian Institute of Architects (The Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia, representing more than 14,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute works to improve our built environment by promoting quality, responsible and sustainable design, promoting the architectural profession and being the public voice for architecture.

### About SONA

The Student Organised for Architecture (SONA) is the official student body of the Australian Institute of Architects. SONA aims to foster a culture of community, leadership and collaboration between students for the advancement of architecture. This is achieved by bringing together students from across Australia to participate in national and local events, to advocate for students and to offer opportunities for professional development.

### About the National SONA committee

The national SONA committee comprises the National SONA executive team (3 SONA Vice Presidents) and SONA representatives from each state and territory (approximately 24).

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### Purpose Of the SONA Vice President for Advocacy Role

In this voluntary role, work as part of the National SONA Executive team to champion the interests and concerns of the student body through advocacy efforts, researching, formulating, and promoting initiatives for students.

### Position Focus:

- SONA Annual Survey: Analyse the SONA Annual Survey, delving into critical insights into student sentiments and concerns.
- SONA Positions: Craft and advocate for SONA's official stances on pressing student issues through research and engagement.
- Networking & Outreach: Establish and strengthen relationships with external student bodies and represent SONA and participate on Institute committees, like EmAGN, International Chapter Council, & National Sustainability Committee, to actively connect students with valuable opportunities, resources, and networks for personal and professional growth. Contribute to coordinating the Sustainability Snacks program with the EmAGN President.

### Responsibilities:

- Play a role in supporting the execution of SONA's strategic plan.
- Offer guidance and support to SONA representatives, fostering regular communication and check-ins to ensure their success.
- Collaborate with the SONA Executive team to design and lead the SONA Bootcamp, serving as an orientation session to welcome new SONA Representatives and provide them with a comprehensive understanding of SONA's goals, values, and upcoming initiatives.

- Contribute to the enhancement of strategies for SONA representative engagement. Additionally, provide advice and assistance in developing training and guidance resources for SONA representatives.
- Offer a student perspective to The Institute on matters related to membership renewals and recruitment strategies. Work in collaboration with The Institute to develop messaging and marketing materials that effectively highlight the benefits of joining SONA.

### Eligibility

The SONA Representative must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have a minimum of one year's experience as a SONA Representative in any year
- At the time of application and commencement of the role, be a current and financial SONA member.
- At the time of application and commencement of the role, be enrolled to study architecture or a related course.
- You can fulfil this role for a 12-month term commencing in January 2026.
- Willing to dedicate 3-6 hours a week to SONA activities.

We will be holding a 2-day induction meeting in Melbourne in February 2026 – it is expected that SONA Vice Presidents will be available to attend in person. This is anticipated to take place at a date to be confirmed in the first 2 weeks of February.

### How to apply

SONA Executive positions are nationally elected positions by SONA members. Apply online with your responses to the questions below:

1. SONA aims to advance the interests of students within the built environment. What specifically interests you about taking on the role of SONA Vice President for advocacy, and how do you envision your contributions aligning with SONA's goals?
2. As a student of the built environment, what issues matter most to you, and how would you plan to use this role as a platform to address these issues?
3. Can you provide an example from your past experiences where you successfully advocated for a cause or addressed an issue? What strategies did you employ, and what outcomes did you achieve? If you don't have any experience, how would you go about addressing a student issue at your university?

Applications should declare if they have plans to reside overseas or have applied to reside overseas in the year, they take office.

### [Apply Now](#)