

SONA Vice President for Professional Development

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).

Purpose Of the SONA Vice President for Advocacy Role

In this voluntary role, work as part of the National SONA Executive team to Help plan and coordinate engaging and diverse competitions and events that enrich the student experience, foster a sense of community and provide opportunities for professional development.

Position Focus:

- Super Studio Design Competition: Work closely with the Institute to develop the competition theme, work with the creative directors to develop the brief, and host all National events e.g. Reading of the brief, design days, winner announcement and making recommendations for improvement.
- Beyond Uni Series: Coordinate the national online talk series as part of Beyond Uni and support the SONA representatives to design and run Beyond Uni events in their region.

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 fulfill this role for a 12-month term commencing in January 2025.
- Willing to dedicate 3-6 hours a week to SONA activities.

We will be holding a 2-day induction meeting in Melbourne in February 2025 – it is expected 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 Professional Development, 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. SONA aims to create a culture of camaraderie among students of the built environment. We do this by delivering events and competitions like Super Studio that are relevant, engaging and accessible to students within the built environment. How do you plan to help us achieve this, and what specific skills or experiences do you bring that will contribute to the success of Super Studio 2025?

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

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