Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I host a short term visiting research student from an overseas institution at UNSW?

There are two programs that facilitate the admission of overseas visiting research students.

a) Practicum Exchange Program. This is an exchange program open to students from partner universities. Information on the program is available here.

b) International Visiting Research Student Program. This program is open to students from non-partner universities. Fees apply. Information on the program is available here.

2. Why do overseas students need to come through a formal program?

UNSW is responsible for the safety of visiting students, thus has liability if they are injured on campus. To ensure students are covered by the university insurance for any incidents relating to UNSW activities (e.g. an accident in a lab, a fall in an office etc.) they need to be enrolled as a student. Enrolment also allows students to be eligible to apply for a student visa for entry into Australia.


3. I have seen that there is an Occupational Trainee Visa (Subclass 442). Can my student apply for this visa?

No. UNSW does not sponsor this visa. Please contact your HR representative for details.

4. Can I host a graduate or visiting academic through the Practicum Exchange Program?

The Practicum Exchange Program is for students from partner institutions only. Visiting academics and postdoctoral research fellows are administered through UNSW HR. Please contact your faculty HR consultant for the policy and procedure on visiting academics.

5. Why do students from non-partner universities have to pay fees?

The Australian Government’s Higher Education Provider Guidelines state that fees must be charged to overseas students, unless they are here as part of a formal exchange program which offers reciprocity to Australian students. Breaches of the guidelines can result in severe penalties for UNSW.

6. The student can’t pay the International Visiting Research Student Program fees and is from a non-partner university. What are the options?

a) The student can apply for a scholarship through various funding bodies, several of which provide funding for tuition fees. Examples include their home institutions, Government bodies (e.g. Science without Borders for Brazilian students), Faculties and Schools, Research grants etc.

b) The Study Abroad Office also have some scholarships available for incoming students to assist in covering tuition fees.

c) The supervisor can request for an agreement to be established. This request must go through an internal UNSW approval process and may take several months to establish. Evidence of outbound demand to the institution should be demonstrated. Not all requests are approved. Further information can be found here.
Short Term Research Visit Pathways to UNSW

Enquiry to come to UNSW for short term research visits

- Student
  - Partner
    - Practicum Exchange Program
      - practicum@unsw.edu.au
  - Non Partner
    - Scholarship
      - Fulbright
        - Practicum Exchange Program
          - practicum@unsw.edu.au
      - China Scholarship Council
      - OTHER
        - e.g. Post Graduate Science without Borders - Brazil
      - UNSW, Faculty or school scholarship
      - Endeavour
      - Self-funded
    - No Scholarship
      - UNSW HR
        - Staff

Visiting International Research Student
studyabroad @unsw.edu.au

SDI Sponsored Student Contract
ausaidstudent @unsw.edu.au

Visiting International Research Student
studyabroad @unsw.edu.au

E.g. Post Graduate Science without Borders - Brazil
studyabroad @unsw.edu.au