It is well documented that gaining an international experience can provide students with a fresh outlook, increase their employability in the global marketplace and help to develop their intercultural skills. Through our Alliance, over 500 students annually, from all disciplines, take part in real or virtual international learning and research experiences across our combined locations in Australia, Malaysia, Italy and the UK. Through targeted study abroad bursaries and tailored mobility programmes, our Alliance is breaking down a number of socioeconomic barriers faced by many students when considering whether to study abroad.

Undergraduates are able to choose from a wide range of course options and placement lengths. Opportunities also exist for postgraduate students from any discipline to access Alliance support in order to undertake short-term international research placements at their chosen campus. The depth of integration between our institutions has not only enabled students to access high quality study abroad opportunities, it has also created opportunities for the co-creation of a specialised double Masters degree offering advanced multidisciplinary training in the fields of politics and international studies, and journalism.

Gaining an international experience and developing new skills does not always require students to travel abroad. Our Alliance is developing a range of virtual international initiatives. For example, a new initiative is challenging student teams, across three campuses for three weeks, to work together virtually on an external industry project. Each team has a mentor from the host organisation and utilises secure online platforms designed to enable virtual groups to work together. Undergraduate students benefit from work experience in an international context, while developing employability skills such as project management, communication, teamwork and intercultural skills through being part of a multi-disciplinary international student team.

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