

Frequently Asked Questions

O-Week 2027: Organising Team

- **What is the direction of the program this year?**

The direction of the program will always remain the same, to ensure that the experiences of first years are as enriching as possible through the effort and dedication that is provided by the Yellow Shirts volunteers.

To achieve this, the Organising Team will build upon the changes made by the 2026 Organising Team who were continuing to adjust the program to an increasingly digital society, as well as other circumstances prevalent today. Specifically in 2027, the Organising Team should focus on balancing the importance of improving existing functions as well as improving and innovating new ideas to adapt to a new generation. First years in 2027 will have vastly different ways of communicating, understanding and approaching experiences than those from a decade ago. However in general, first years will ultimately seek the same types of needs and wants going into university. The goal of Yellow Shirts 2027 is to accommodate and prioritise these needs and wants, ensuring a holistic O-Week experience to all first-year students, whilst upholding the values of Arc and the Yellow Shirts Program. Additionally, the implementation of a hybridised O-Week will continue from the previous year, ensuring the provision of social, geographical and educational opportunities for first-year students can be achieved regardless of their location.

Executing this direction is not possible with the Organising Team alone, and thus a strong and diverse volunteer base must be recruited to support this. These volunteers will have the passion and commitment to serve and engage with first years, with a drive to go above and beyond their set responsibilities to ensure both first years and their fellow volunteers are supported. As the program continues to evolve and change, it is quintessential that the fundamental core of helping first years remains consistent, and thus all aspects of the program must have this focus in mind.

- **How will the volunteering program be structured?**

The 2027 Organising Team will consist of ten portfolios including the Coordinator. This means the program will be structured with up to twenty Squad Leaders, and hence up to twenty corresponding squads. The expected number of volunteers outside of the leadership team is approximately 160 (i.e., approximately 190 total volunteers).

- **What has changed since last year?**

There has been a mix of maintaining the portfolios from previous years with introducing new and exciting ones because of feedback from the 2026 program. Specifically, the “Tours & Sites” portfolio has been constructed to re-establish a dedicated “Sites” function within the Yellow Shirts program following the removal of the 2025 “Clubs & Sites” portfolio. The primary focus of this portfolio remains Tours and the orientation of first year students. However, the updated structure better distributes responsibilities across the Organising Team, while ensuring there is a point of contact between Arc Clubs and Yellow Shirts for key site-related duties required for the delivery of O-Week.

The “Transformation & Technologies” portfolio has been renamed to “Transformation” to better reflect the broader forward-facing vision of the role, encompassing the idea of modernisation and innovation as a whole. Since the portfolio’s establishment in 2025 after shifting digital elements from the 2024 Logistics & Technologies portfolio, the Transformation OT will continue to enhance O-Week and the Yellow Shirts program through technological initiatives. Transformation will work closely with the Training OT to redevelop training delivery methods and other OT to establish an online delivery of O-Week.

The “Development” side has been kept in “Recruitment & Development” to better spread out the responsibilities of that OT throughout their tenure. This OT will take on developmental programs such as band, dance, and others to be discussed, alongside the existing recruitment responsibilities, in addition to innovating new ways to develop internal volunteers to best prepare them for O-Week. In addition, the “Logistics & Automation” OT will now be responsible for overseeing the execution of all Social Squad Events (SSEs) to better balance responsibilities across the team.

Finally, without any overt changes to the portfolio, the “Wellbeing, Culture, and Community” portfolio will be renamed to the “Wellbeing and Community” portfolio to best reflect their role responsibilities.

Nb: some responsibilities of each portfolio have been changed to better identify the key individual who will be responsible for certain aspects of O-Week, to prevent additional confusion between Organising Team members. Further details will be in the individual portfolio outlines.

- **Will Organising Team members receive professional development?**

OT-specific training will be provided at the beginning of the program through a compulsory OT strategy day and separate OT training day, scheduled meetings, 1-on-1s, and training modules. Each Organising Team member will further receive valuable guidance and knowledge from a dedicated Arc Mentor throughout their Yellow Shirts experience. I encourage those wishing to apply for OT to pursue their role with the mindset to learn specific soft or hard skills which your Arc Mentor can assist you with. As with every year

in OT, there will be a continued growing emphasis for OT to gain a mix of soft and hard skills including public speaking, leadership, Excel, design, and more.

- **Are there any prerequisites to apply to be an Organising Team member?**

The only prerequisite is to be a current student and have had previous experience in the Yellow Shirts volunteering program. Whilst the Recruitment & Development and Training portfolio positions mention the preference for prior Squad Leading or Organising Team experience, this is simply a desirable criterion and *should not* limit prospective applicants if they have the passion to apply for these portfolios.

- **The written application asks for two portfolio preferences; however I am only interested in one portfolio. What should I do?**

Several candidates may potentially apply for the same portfolio; hence the intention of a second preference is to ensure that outstanding applicants whom have missed out on their top preference may be assigned to an alternative portfolio that they are passionate about – without the need for me to chase up individuals afterwards.

The choice of portfolio does not have to fall within each of these two preferences, though will be our main means of evaluating applicants, thus I strongly advise you to choose the two portfolios you feel strongest about - whether by skill and experience, or growth and development.

If you are only interested in applying for one portfolio, please still state your second preference, but clearly mention your desire to focus on your choice of portfolio. This however, will not guarantee you a position in your sole portfolio of choice.

- **Some portfolio Role Outlines state that they require or do not require certain availability or office times. What does this mean?**

The Yellow Shirts program supports volunteer development and understands the importance of career development and opportunities. Utmost commitment is expected in an Organising Team position, but some portfolios are more suited to be worked on outside of office hours. Other portfolios, which may involve more liaising during business hours, can be difficult to complete if undertaking full-time work or an internship.

Nevertheless, please do apply for the portfolios that you are passionate about, as you will do your best work in those portfolios. These guidelines are intended to give you a better idea of what the position entails and what the commitment level would be, rather than being strict requirements. Note that these do *not* reflect the difficulty or quantum of work you would be required to do in the role, but the nature of the role itself. The portfolios are intended to have an even spread of work and compulsory training days remain compulsory regardless of role.

- **What is the commitment like?**

You may notice the key indicating levels of commitment on a month-to-month basis. These should be taken as an estimated comparative indication, and while useful as a general guide, they should not be used as a full determination. Please also note a “low” level of commitment means there will be a lower commitment for the OT’s specific portfolio, but the expectation is that they use this to assist other OT and in general areas of the program.

- **What is meant by a hybridised O-Week, is it going to be online?**

As it stands currently, we intend O-Week to be as operational as previous years, with a full in-person presence. However, given the increasing presence of social media and technology, we wish to accommodate the changing landscape of how First Years receive information and communicate. In addition, a number of students may be unable to physically attend O-Week or may not be able to participate in certain events/activities. We wish to take advantage of the new the digital mediums available to us to engage students online. In doing so, we hope to achieve our goal of orienting and immersing all incoming students to UNSW, not just the ones physically able to attend.

If you are interested in applying to be an Organising Team member for 2027, please have a read through of the “*General Role Outline*” for application details, as well as the appropriate portfolio’s Role Outline for more information.

If you have further questions, feel free to email me at ag.wang@arc.unsw.edu.au or privately message me.