



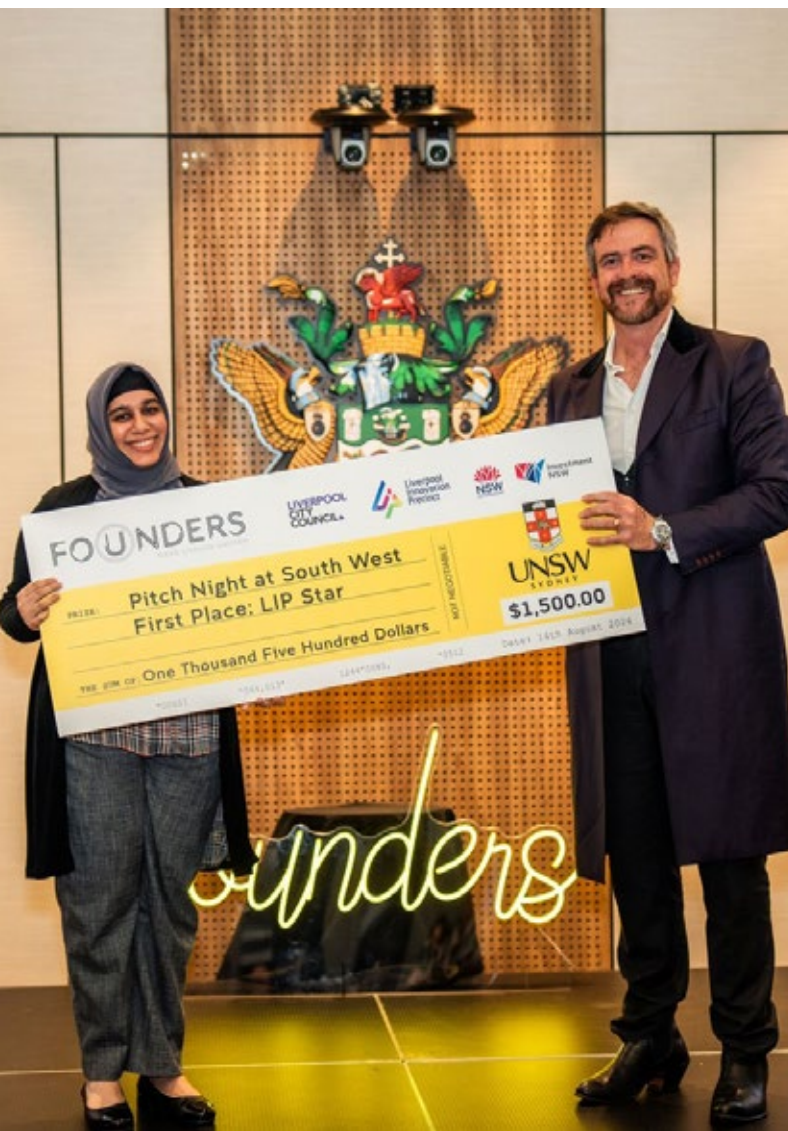
# Strategic Alliances and Initiatives

Global outlook, Local expertise

## 2024 Highlights

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## UNSW Strategy and Greater Sydney Project

We are particularly proud that we have been able to contribute to the development of the new 10 year UNSW strategy 'Progress for All'. In addition, this year we have continued our focus on expanding the University's presence in Greater Sydney to improve access to our world-class education and research and align with local community needs. As a considerable proportion of our students and staff live in the Greater Sydney area, and it is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW, this work has never been timelier. UNSW has a shared state-of-the-art Innovation Hub in Parramatta to support University activities in Western Sydney. During the year over 40 UNSW classes were run at the space.

As part of the focus on Greater Sydney, UNSW Founders has expanded their activities into Liverpool through the Health Tech Entrepreneurship Program. This successful program offers a dedicated entrepreneurship program for community to build entrepreneurial skills to found and create companies. During [Pitch Night at South West](#) in August, six teams pitched their innovative solutions to address key societal challenges, with first place going to My Special Needs Dental Home, founded by Zanab Malik. During the second pitch night held in November, fourteen teams pitched their health, wellbeing and disability related ideas in front of a crowd of 120 attendees. Women-led startups took centre stage, with four out of five winners being from female-led teams. If you have ideas for how UNSW can create valuable impact in Greater Sydney, please reach out via [greatersydney@unsw.edu.au](mailto:greatersydney@unsw.edu.au).

## TEDI- London Graduation

It has been a milestone year with the [graduation of the first cohort of students from The Engineering and Design Institute \(TEDI-London\)](#), a higher education provider founded by the PLuS Alliance in 2021 to help address the global shortage of engineers. This was a pinch me moment for our team, as we had helped grow this little hatchling idea from a concept into a fully-fledged institution, and to see the first cohort of students graduate felt like a very tangible representation of the impact we can make.

The vestment worn by the graduates featured a custom design by UNSW PhD student Jane Cameron. She chose the Black Darter dragonfly species as her inspiration for the pattern. The institute hosts cross-disciplinary summer and winter residential programs, which UNSW students can join. We would like to thank our colleagues in Work Integrated Learning team for their hard work in managing this program.

For more information, please visit: [tedi-london.ac.uk](http://tedi-london.ac.uk)



## Wind up of NUW Alliance and transition of the Sydney Quantum Academy

At the other end of the spectrum, we proceeded with the wind up of the [NUW Alliance](#) (a partnership between UNSW, The University of Newcastle, the University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University). After six years of impact the NUW Alliance Board decided to dissolve the formal support structures of the Alliance. This decision aligns with our team's, [Alliance Framework](#), and we were able to implement Stage 4 the "Wrap Up and Close Out" phase as the NUW Alliance's vision had been fully realised.

The collaboration mechanisms and approaches pioneered by the Alliance have now moved to a business-as-usual approach between the partners. It is never the intention to hold onto our Alliances forever, we want to foster them and watch them grow to succeed in their objectives, before closing them out or transitioning them, enabling us to take on the next strategic challenge in our portfolio. We are immensely proud of the work that the NUW Alliance achieved during its six years, including providing an education-led response following the COVID-19 pandemic and the creation of the successful Commonwealth-funded Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy.

We are also happy to report that since April 2024 the [Sydney Quantum Academy \(SQA\)](#) has found a new home in the Faculty of Engineering and will continue to do its important work

building Australia's quantum economy through collaboration with academia, industry, and government. As SQA has particular relevance to the Faculties of Science and Engineering and is not a university-wide initiative, the decision to hand it over to the Engineering faculty was consistent with our team's strategic purpose. During our time managing SQA, we collaborated with key business units and colleagues to provide opportunities to UNSW academics and students including scholarships, fellowships and PhD experiences and this work remains ongoing within the university with more exciting things to come.





## International Universities Climate Alliance

The inaugural Global Thematic Dialogue Series hosted by the International Universities Climate Alliance (IUCA) brought together educators, student leaders, researchers, professional staff and early career researchers to discuss key climate themes being faced by the higher education sector globally. The Series attracted 563 registrations from 177 universities and organisations across nearly 50 countries. Series speakers also represented a regionally diverse and multi-disciplinary field of subject matter expertise. The online series considered three topics; interdisciplinary collaboration and multidisciplinary partnerships for climate action within higher education; perspectives on operationalising and actioning the reduction of Scope 3 emissions within the supply chain of universities; and global youth perspectives on climate education and exploring opportunities to integrate youth perspectives into decision-making. Next year the IUCA will explore climate and health and will seek to advance the conversation around climate and human rights at the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit. The Summit will be delivered in collaboration with global partners UN Human Rights, Oxford University, Right Here Right Now Climate Alliance and with universities around the world. Keep an eye on the [universitiesforclimate.org](https://universitiesforclimate.org) website for more initiatives to be announced soon.

## Poverty and Inequality Partnership

The Poverty and Inequality Partnership in Australia (the Partnership) led by UNSW and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) in collaboration with community service organisations and philanthropists, stands at the forefront of poverty and inequality research and data. The Partnership provides robust research to drive policies that can address poverty and inequality more effectively and help advance economic and social prosperity for all. This year, UNSW in partnership with ACOSS released two reports: [Inequality in Australia 2024](#) and [Material Deprivation in Australia](#), which together show that wealth inequality has continued to increase over the past 20 years. We would like to acknowledge our colleagues in the Social Policy Research Centre at UNSW who carried out this important research and our partners at ACOSS for their hard work and advocacy.

The Partnership also launched its new game-changing short course, [Understanding Poverty, Inequality and Social Disadvantage in Australia](#), exploring the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality from a unique Australian policy perspective. We encourage people working in social policy or with an interest in advocacy for social change in Australia to take this course. The Partnership was also proud to contribute to the annual UNSW Founders, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Challenge event 2024, which focused on reducing growing wealth inequality by tackling the issue of achieving sustainable urban housing for all. For further access to reports and resources, please visit the [Poverty and Inequality website](#).



## Security and Defence PLuS advances security collaboration

[Security & Defence PLuS](#), an academic partnership advancing research, education, and policy in the spirit of the AUKUS agreement, joined partners in Washington D.C. to host the [Future Security Forum](#). At the Forum, former Australian Defence Force Brigadier, Dr Ian Langford, outlined how Security & Defence PLuS will harness the expertise of PLuS partners UNSW, King's College London, and Arizona State University, and the higher education sectors of all three countries to address global security challenges.

The day's keynote speech was delivered by Australian Ambassador to the United States and Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Building on the portfolio of Security and Defence courses offered by our PLuS partners, UNSW released the first of its online short courses under the Security and Defence PLuS banner this year including, [International Criminal Justice](#), [Systems Thinking for a Complex World](#), and [Conflict in the Indo-Pacific](#).

[Subscribe](#) to hear about upcoming Security & Defence PLuS events, educational offerings, and opportunities.



## SPHERE collaborating for translational research

Maridulu Budyari Gumal, [The Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise \(SPHERE\)](#) is a collaboration between leading experts in health, research and education sectors, including UNSW. SPHERE aims to develop new and innovative ways to deliver better healthcare for communities in NSW. SPHERE's focus on meaningful community engagement and translating research into real-world outcomes exemplifies its commitment to improving health equity and quality of care. During the year, SPHERE provided evidence-based recommendations to the Australian Senate Inquiry into Menopause and Perimenopause which addressed critical issues impacting women's health.

SPHERE also funded research exploring how smart technologies can support older Australians to age at home safely and independently. The results of the initial research were unveiled at the Parliamentary Forum, *Building a technology-enhanced care economy*, held in November. SPHERE also supported the submission of 13 applications comprising a total of 68 individual projects to the NHMRC Collaborations in Health Services Research Grant. As one of the 11 NHMRC-accredited RTCs, SPHERE stands out for its continued commitment to working collaboratively to improve patient outcomes. [Read more about SPHERE's impact.](#)

## UNSW hosts roundtable in Beijing for University Social Responsibility Network

Driven by the question: “How to reshape higher education systems and give full play to the role of higher education institutions, especially universities?”, the [University Social Responsibility Network \(USRN\)](#) hosted higher education researchers, policymakers, and administrators from all over the world to discuss the issue of higher education change and sustainable development. Attendees were invited to share research and practical experience, and to provide insights for the transformation of higher education and the achievement of sustainable development under the theme: Educational Transformation and Sustainable Development.

As a highlight session on Day 1 of the International USR Summit in Beijing, Dr Maree Higgins and Associate Professor Fengshi Wu hosted a Roundtable discussion, on the topic of “*Decolonial Approaches to University Social Responsibility: Equity, Engagement and Justice.*”



**We wish you a happy holidays and a wonderful start to 2025!**

Visit the [Strategic Alliances and Initiatives website](#) to stay up-to-date.