

Flinders University Alumni Network Toolkit

An alumni network can be based on a shared area of study, interest, location or cultural activity.

They can be a point of connection and support if you are returning home to an interstate or international location, or, moving there for the first time. Through the shared experience of studying at Flinders, a 'location' network provides a professional and social network outside of Adelaide.

A network can be an opportunity to provide professional development opportunities for members wanting to continue learning for life and developing both knowledge and connections.

They help to maintain a close connection with the University and its activities by fostering wider community engagement and promoting access to its facilities, research and other networks.

Alumni networks can support the University philanthropically by raising funds for scholarships, research and special projects.

How to set up a network

1. **Contact the Alumni Relations team** via alumni@flinders.edu.au to share your interest in setting up an alumni network and the focus of that network. Your enquiry will be directed to the most relevant member of our team to support you.
2. If relevant, **find an academic or professional staff champion** within the University for the network to ensure an ongoing connection with the study area, sporting group etc. or someone who travels regularly to an interstate or overseas location regularly to represent Flinders. Our Alumni Team can also assist in making this connection.
3. Work with the University to **establish the interest for your alumni network** and identify the volunteers who could be involved in its development and growth.
4. Consider creating **Terms of Reference** for the network.

What makes a great network?

- Strong leadership.
- A group of volunteers who cover a wide cross-section of the graduate community and are both patient and positive, and who have the time to invest in coordinating activities.
- An inclusive culture with good communication.
- Encouragement of participation from fellow graduates.
- The development of a mission and a plan for the network across a 12-month period.
- Quality events and activities, rather than quantity.
- Considering how to include current students within the network to ensure a smooth 'student to alumni' transition and working together to support each cohort.

How Alumni Relations can support your network

- Meet with interested graduates to scope the potential of a new network and discuss the focus and types of proposed activities for the network.
- Access to lists of relevant graduates via location, degrees, Colleges, year of enrolment or special interest groups.
- Provide administrative and logistical support to establish and coordinate the network.
- Promote the development, establishment and activities of alumni networks to a broad alumni base through the monthly alumni eNewsletter and other Flinders communication channels.
- Support ongoing network related activities and events.