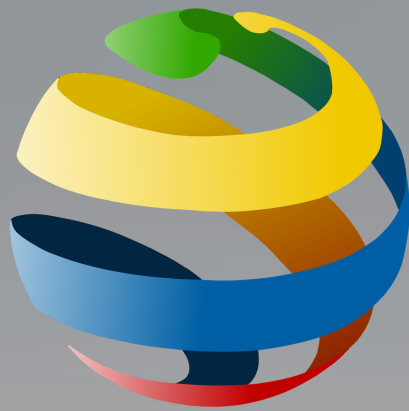


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MONASH INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SOCIETY  
INSPIRING FUTURE WORLD LEADERS



2020  
ANNUAL  
REVIEW

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# CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME	3
STATISTICS	4
GLOBAL MUN PROGRAM	6
MONASH MODEL UNITED NATIONS	8
ACADEMIC EVENTS	10
CAREERS SERIES	12
TOWARDS INCLUSIVE PEACE	13
DIPLOMAT EVENTS	14
U.S. ELECTION LIVE-STREAM	15
OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS	16
PIVOT	18
ATLAS	19
SOCIAL EVENTS	20
CHANGES FOR 2021	21
EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION	22



# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

*"We might have been under lockdown and curfew. But we have never been busier"*

When we commenced our term in November 2019, we did not expect to experience a year of lockdowns imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant rapid alteration to our plans for 2020 in a short space.

Even so, 2020 has been our busiest year since MIAS was established. Our resilient committee demonstrated dedication during such trying times, expanding our online base and holding more events than ever.

This year we adopted a new mantra to steer us through online events - geography is no longer the limits. Our audiences and our speakers came from all corners of the globe, with technology a conduit to connect us all.

This mantra led to collaborations with universities and institutions in countries such as Switzerland and Afghanistan, do Model UN events with students in North America, Asia and Europe, and have speakers from all inhabited continents.

We continued to engage our members and unlike most other clubs, our membership and online presence did not decline. For these efforts we were fortunate to be named Monash Club of the Year and I was fortunate to be named Monash Office Bearer of the Year.

2021 will be a year of recovery and returning to in-person activities. MIAS is ready and equipped to do this.

I personally want to thank all those involved in MIAS for 2020. We look forward to collaboration with you again in 2021 through our various programs.

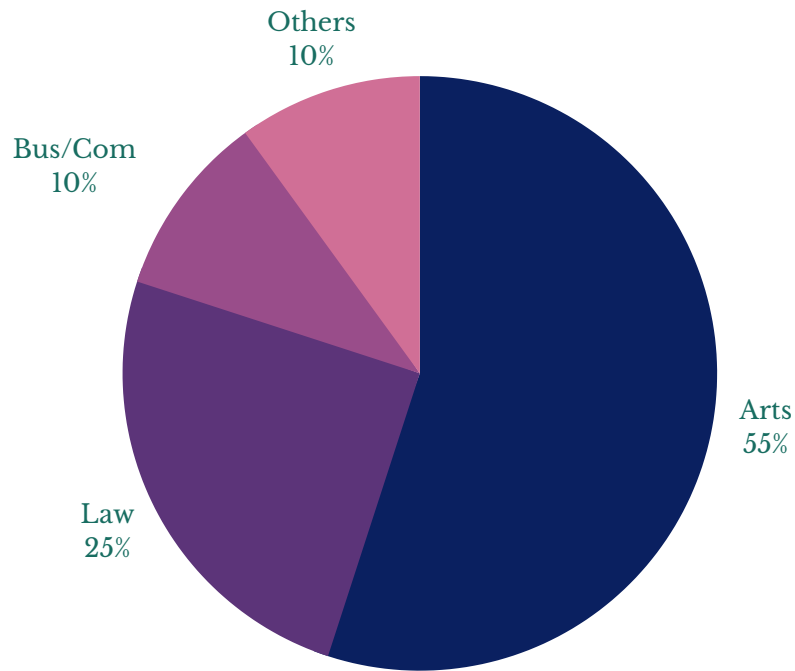
- Ryan Attard  
President (2020)



# KEY STATISTICS

*2020 was our busiest year, with over 40 events held during the academic year.*

MEMBERSHIP BY FACULTY



# 72

## GUEST SPEAKERS

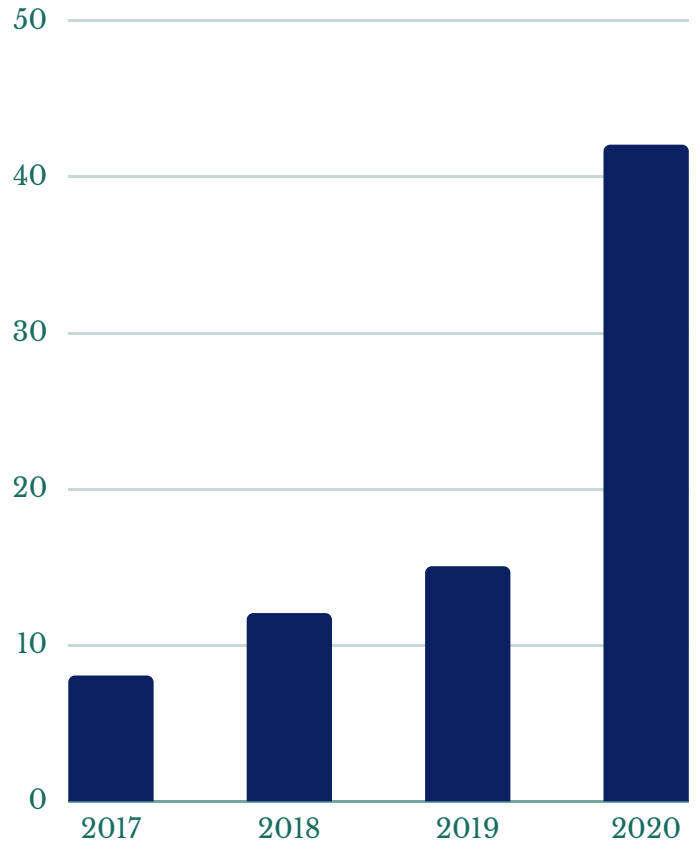
Our guest speakers are experts in various fields and called in from every continent.

# 40+

## EVENTS

Our events were held mainly using Zoom and other video conferencing technology.

EVENTS HELD





# "MIAS HASN'T LET THE PANDEMIC STOP THEM FROM OFFERING PHENOMENAL EVENT OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS..."

*Monash Clubs & Societies*  
*3 October 2020*

# 70

COUNTRIES REACHES

Our speakers, attendees and program participants spanned from most inhabited continents.

# 800

AVERAGE DAILY REACHES

MIAS mainly has used Facebook to engage with our members and advertise our events and programs.

# GLOBAL MUN PROGRAM

*COVID-19 meant that the 2020 Global MUN Program was cancelled at last minute. But plans are underway for a COVID-19-friendly program.*

Students representing Monash University and MIAS were to attend the Harvard World Model United Nations (WorldMUN) in Tokyo and the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN) in New York. In this, the eighth running of this program, students would have headed overseas in March/April to compete with fellow students from around the world. Students were selected in August 2019 and had been training from September 2019.

Due to COVID-19, additional precautions were taken in risk assessment. However, due to travel restrictions and the high risk to students, both conferences were cancelled at short notice. MIAS provided assistance with individual refunds and other mitigation work.

MIAS still received awards for the two conferences, albeit they were both cancelled. These were due to the position papers of our delegates which were deemed to be of the highest standard. Students also had the opportunity to still meet high-ranking diplomats in January 2020 and via Zoom in April.

MIAS has now moved efforts to planning for the 2021 program which will be COVID-19 friendly. An online conference will be attended in semester 1 and in semester 2 an in-person international or inter-state conference will be attended. This is subject to COVID-19 restrictions and risk assessments in around April 2021.

We are grateful to all the Global MUN sponsors and supporters for their assistance in 2020 and in the entirety of the program.





# MONASH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

*This year's MUNash conference was run online, with students participating from interstate and overseas, while also having 16 guest presenters.*

Planning for the 2020 Monash University Model United Nations Conference (MUNash) started in hope of an in-person conference for September 2020. However, the second Victorian lockdowns meant this was impossible and operations shifted online.

Run by our Co-Secretaries-General Dean Antos and Charlotte Jones, the conference involved over 120 participants from around the Asia-Pacific region. The online platform made the conference more accessible to a wider audience, making this the biggest MUNash to date.

The conference opened with addresses from 14 speakers, including former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet. The closing address was delivered by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd AC.

Six committees were run during the conference, each involving matters of geo-political importance, along with various crises that would randomly arise. Students also had the chance to attend skills sessions during the conference.

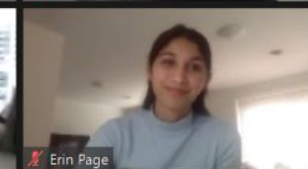
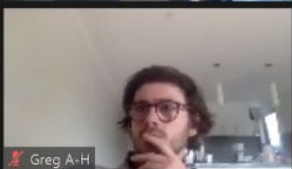
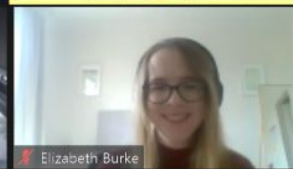
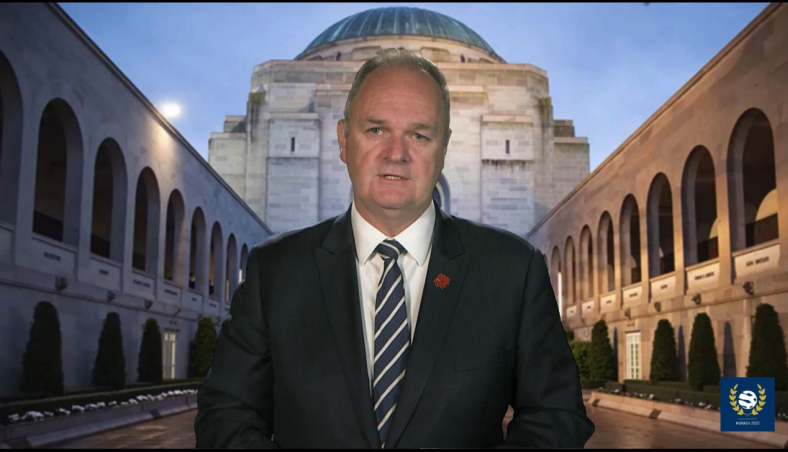
More details on MUNash 2020 can be found in our MUNash review.







MUNASH 2020



# ACADEMIC EVENTS

*We are at our highest point in academic events since our inception, hosting a plethora of speakers from a wide-range of fields and countries.*

MIAS in 2020 sought to diversify our programs and event offerings to students. Plans were re-evaluated when COVID-19 lockdowns were enforced and in-person events were cancelled.

The Committee operated under the mantra of no longer being bound by geography. This meant organising speaking events with professionals from interstate and around the world. It was this planning, quick action, and tireless effort that led to MIAS holding the most events in club history.

While we could not continue our internships and put a hold on our mentoring program, we hosted diplomats from every major continent, professionals from STEM fields, humanitarians, and career diplomats who provided wise advice.

The diversity of the events allowed MIAS to also diversify memberships, with members coming from more disciplines.

We are grateful to every speaker we hosted this year and look forward to collaborating again in 2021.



# ALTHOUGH ONLINE, WE DIVERSIFIED OUR EVENTS

# 2,156

TICKET REGISTRATIONS

Using Eventbrite we had in excess of 2,156 people register for our events.

# 30,000

AUDIENCE REACH PER 90 DAYS

Measured in Q4 2020, our events reached over 30,000 people on social media.



# CAREERS SERIES

*MIAS collaborated with MIRSA to bring together 25 professionals to discuss careers in international relations.*

In collaboration with the Masters of International Relations Student Association (MIRSA), MIAS hosted a series of careers-based events in early-October. With five Zoom conferences over two weeks, MIAS and MIRSA members were able to hear from experts in diplomacy, policy, and academia.

The first of these events focused on careers in IR and opportunities for graduates. This was followed by a postgraduate studies session. The following week saw an electives night for undergraduate students, along with further careers sessions with prominent experts and junior diplomats.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the following speakers:

- Jacob Goldschlager, Political/Economic Advisor, US Consulate
- Lisa Akorli, Political/Economic Officer, US Consulate
- Bec Shrimpton, Senior Adviser (Major Powers) to the Foreign Minister
- Kate Purcell, Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Lachlan Hunter, United Nations Association of Australia
- Kym Sara, Senior Student Recruitment Coordinator, Monash University
- Bill Flanik, Director of Masters of International Relations Program, Monash University
- Leanne Close, Head Counter-Terrorism Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute
- Daria Impiombato, Research Intern, Australian Strategic Policy Institute
- Pip Robertson, Equality and Inclusion Officer, Wateraid
- Sophie Qin, Policy Officer, DFAT
- Kate Sutton, founding Director, Humanitarian Advisory Group
- Associate Professor Ben Wellings, Monash University
- Dr Tom Chodor, Monash University
- Liam McFadzean-Lodge, Melbourne Hub Manager of the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership
- Mahalia Stamford, Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC)
- Tasman Bain, Policy adviser at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Co-Founder of Meri Toksave
- Susan Coles, Deputy State Director of the Victorian Office for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Careers



## Fair III



# TOWARDS INCLUSIVE PEACE

*MIAS collaborated with the Monash GPS and APT in six debates which saw Australian and Afghan students debate about human rights and gender in the Afghan peace talks.*

From April to October, MIAS in conjunction with Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre (Monash GPS) and Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT) held the *Towards Inclusive Peace* debate series. This saw six rounds of Monash students debating via Zoom with counterparts in Afghanistan.

Each debate was moderated by a different chair and adjudicated by a notable expert in the relevant fields. These includes: Dr Sharman Stone, Paul Foley, Alison Davidian, Geoffrey Tooth, Wahidullah Waissi, and Amy Haddad. The debate captured the attention of both the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Debaters were also guided by the wise advice of experts in the field, including Dr Alexandra Phelan, Dr Jenna Sapiano, Assoc. Prof. Susan Harris Rimmer, Sitarah Mohammadi, Dr Sarah Hewitt, Yasmin Chilmeran, and Betty Barkha.

Topics included the role of women in the peace talks, inclusivity in civil society, the impact of COVID-19, and assurances of human rights.

We extend our gratitude to Professor Jacqui True for all her efforts in starting this program, and to Ajmal Raymar for his assistance in Afghanistan.



# DIPLOMAT EVENTS

*MIAS continued to welcome diplomats from around the world, hosting high commissioners and ambassadors from every inhabited continent.*

MIAS hosted a plethora of diplomats in 2020, starting with in-person events and shifting to Zoom round tables in April.

This year we hosted diplomats either to/from: Ireland; European Union; United States; United Nations; The Philippines; Argentina; Afghanistan; New Zealand; Fiji; Nigeria; Japan; United Kingdom; Russia; France; Indonesia; and Italy.

MIAS also hosted the Ambassadors for Regional Health Security, and Counter-Terrorism for roundtable events. During our careers panel, MIAS also hosted career diplomats from DFAT and the U.S. Consulate.

We are grateful to everyone who spoke at our events in 2020.

# 15

COUNTRIES

Diplomats representing 15 countries were hosted at our events

# 47

DIPLOMATS

MIAS hosted 43 Australian and international diplomats in 2020.



# U.S. ELECTION LIVE-STREAM

*MIAS members along with academics and experts hosted a live U.S. election podcast which ran for around eight hours.*

On 4 November, MIAS committee members hosted a live-stream analysis of the U.S. Presidential Election. This included state calls, along with an analysis of candidate policies and position.

The event included a variety of guests, including: The Hon. Bob Carr, former Foreign Minister; Prof. Jacqui True, Director of Monash GPS; Dana Debeauvoir, Travis County Clerk; Mike Mitchell, U.S. Consulate Melbourne; and Chad Van Estrop, Geelong Advertiser.

Over the eight hours, hosts engaged with the audience and answered questions about the logistics and organisation of the election.

Pre-recorded segments and info videos were also shown to inform the audience about the U.S. electoral system, key swing states, and other important information.

MIAS is grateful to all participants and guests who volunteered their time for the live-stream.



**Election**  
2020

# OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS

*Besides a plethora of diplomats, MIAS hosted other experts and academics, covering a wide range of topics.*

MIAS also hosted various other experts and former politicians, including:

- The Hon. Bob Carr, former Premier of NSW and former Foreign Minister
- Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO, former First Lady of Timor-Leste
- Jean Dunn PSM, former Ambassador
- Prof. Simon Jackman, CEO of the U.S. Studies Centre
- Siamak Sam Loni, MIAS Founder and Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- Dr Rachel Bitecofer, Political Scientist
- Amanda O'Brien, DFAT

# 1,000+

PARTICIPANTS

MIAS events collectively had over 1,000 participants.

# 72+

HOURS OF EVENTS

All MIAS events collectively spanned over 72 hours.







Geoff Tooth

Recording

Total non-video participants: 2



# PIVOT

*The flagship publication of MIAS continued to grow and expand operation in 2020.*

Established in May 2018, Pivot, the publication of MIAS, continued its expansion in 2020. This commenced with a larger writers team the publication of more articles on the Pivot website.

In 2020, 66 articles were published from around 20 different authors. These ranged from the U.S.-Iran tensions in January, to discussions on COVID-19, and finally an analysis of the U.S. election and the Joe Biden victory.

With 2021 approaching, Pivot will continue to publish articles on a wide range of topics, while continuing to consolidate current resources.

# 10,500+

READERS

Pivot has had over 10,500 readers over 2020.

# 70+

COUNTRIES

Our readership is spread over more than 70 countries.



PIVOT

A MIAS PUBLICATION

HOME

ABOUT US +

CATEGORIES +

CONTACT US +

MIAS



## GROWING UP DURING WORLD WAR II | MY NANNU'S STORY

2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. As members of Generation Z, we cannot fathom to understand what life was like for those who suffered through the bombings, food rationing, and constant fear – and hopefully we will never have ...

DECEMBER 26, 2020  
[RYAN ATTARD](#)

CONTINUE READING

# ATLAS

*In 2020, MIAS rebranded the 'Mr. Worldwide' radio show into 'Atlas', relaunched on podcast streaming services in August.*

2020 witnessed the relaunch of the MIAS podcast/radio show as 'Atlas'. Originally launched as 'Mr. Worldwide' in 2018, Atlas has now shifted into interviewing experts and focussing episodes on a wide variety of topics.

Although launched in the second-half of 2020, Atlas still interviewed various experts, recently hosting our U.S. election coverage, doing a special episode for RUOK Day, and hosting a series on COVID-19 with Bridi Rice and Melissa Conley-Tyler.

# 10,500+

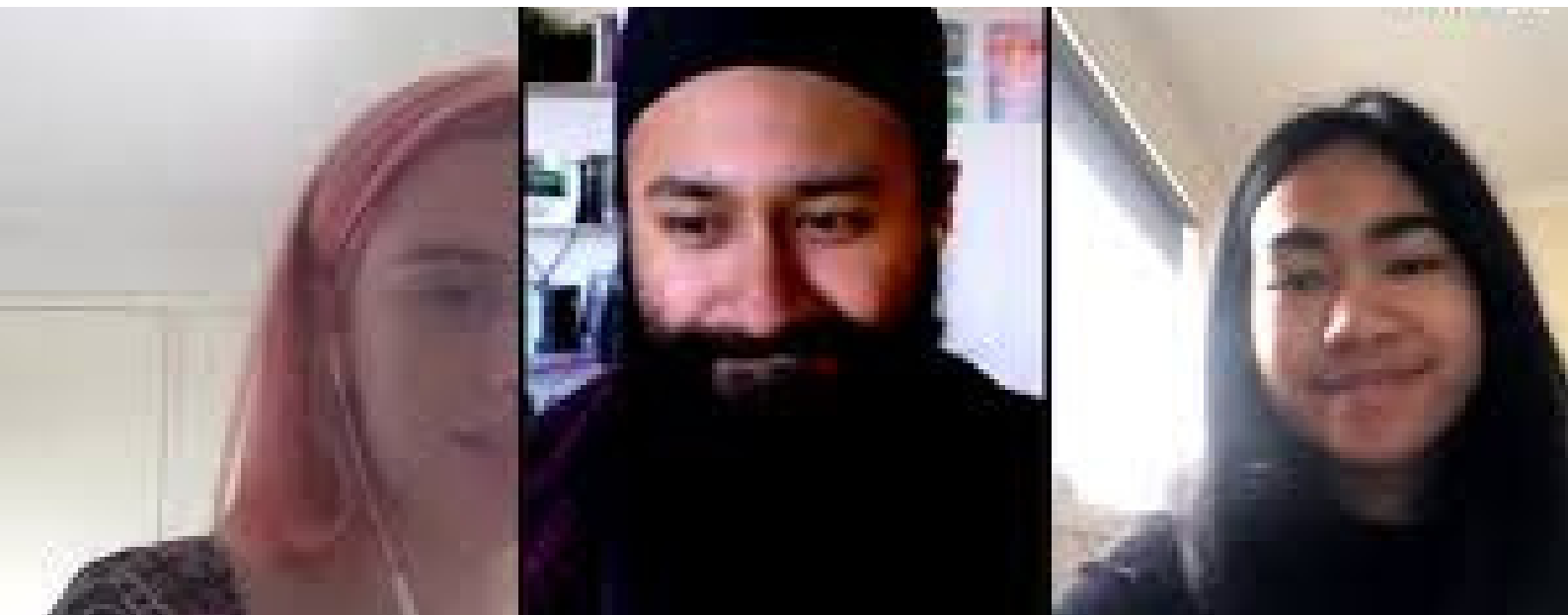
LIVE VIEWERS

Pivot has had over 10,500 readers over 2020.

# 70+

GUESTS

Our readership is spread over more than 70 countries.



# SOCIAL EVENTS

*Although 2020 meant we could not do as many social events, online alternatives were trialed and quite successful.*

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that no social events were hosted in-person in 2020. Instead, online forums were utilised to ensure our members could still interact with each other.

Utilising Zoom, we hosted 'Coffee and Chill' sessions, often inviting guests such as Karim Al-Ansary and U.S. Consul General Mike Kleine. Our annual trivia night was also moved online.

In October, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations with a social gathering online, which included participants receiving individual parcels.



# CHANGES FOR 2021

*The 2020 Committee has enacted constitutional changes to ensure MIAS remains stable and continues to grow.*

The MIAS Committee in 2020 sought to solidify the processes underpinning our organisation and management.

In late-2020, the Committee voted on the following changes which will come into force in 2021:

- Creation of a second Academic Officer; and
- Creation of a First Year Officer.

These changes will be finalised by the new committee at the 2021 Ordinary General Meeting in March.

MIAS also created the following constitutional schedules to assist in MIAS' organisation, including but not limited to:

- Pivot schedule;
- Global MUN schedule;
- MUNash schedule;
- Marketing Team schedule;
- Assistant Treasurer schedule.

These changes will ensure that MIAS continues to operate in a stable manner for many years to come.



# EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

This has been an extremely unprecedented year and there are key people and organisations MIAS would like to thank.

The MIAS Committee would like to thank every guest at our events for volunteering your valuable time. We know that this has gone a long way to helping us inspire future world leaders.

We would like to thank Monash Clubs & Societies, Monash Abroad, the Chancellery, and the Faculties of Arts, Law, and the Business School for providing valuable assistance during 2020.

We also express our gratitude to all those involved in MIAS in 2020:

- Ryan Attard - President
- Hamah Hosen - Vice President
- Ben Peters-Wisniak - Treasurer
- Sabaina Abdullah - Secretary
- Pravind Easwaran - Academic Officer
- Imogen Kane - Socials Officer
- Tiana Sixsmith - Former Socials Officer
- Georgia Potter - Communications Officer
- Charlotte Jones - MUN Officer/MUNash Secretary General
- Dean Antos - MUN Officer/MUNash Secretary General
- Winuri De Alwis - Sponsorships Officer
- Jakob Cobby - Assistant Treasurer
- Sonali De Silva and Filip Markoski - Pivot Editors-In-Chief
- Louisa Chiem, Joseph Lew, Arshiya Merchant, Phoebeanca Luong - Marketing Team

Special thanks also goes to our Pivot writers for their work in 2020.



**SEE**

**YOU**

**IN**

**2021**