The McCusker Centre for Citizenship at The University of Western Australia is the first of its kind in Australia.

The Centre was established in October 2015 with a generous endowment from the McCusker Charitable Foundation.

Since its award-winning internship program was launched, the Centre has forged partnerships with more than 250 not-for-profit, community and government organisations, including the public sector.

The Centre's contribution to the community reaches beyond greater metropolitan Perth to regional, national, and international communities.

OUR VISION
To foster caring, connected and socially-engaged citizens who actively contribute to the wellbeing of their communities.

OUR PURPOSE
To create and foster community-minded thinkers and leaders.

To inspire students and the UWA community, and the broader Western Australian community to become active, life-long contributors to our local, regional and global communities – and in the process, encourage and support others to do likewise.

To promote awareness about challenging social issues in our communities - and the contribution citizens can make in addressing them.
MATTHEW BRYAN
Legal Aid WA

UWA Business Law student Matthew Bryan researched and summarised case law for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) disputes and built a database for solicitors and disability advocates.

“Ultimately, I hope that my internship project will help people with disabilities to receive the funding that they need to lead included, happy and meaningful lives,” Mr Bryan said.

“The NDIS is a developing area of law and a reliable database of case law can be invaluable,” NDIS Appeals (Civil Law Division) Solicitor and internship supervisor Margaret Irvine said.

“This is a practical resource which can be of great assistance in matters.”

“The staff at the Ombudsman WA are so dedicated to their tasks. They showed me that there are people in government who really care about the people they serve.”

Intern Matthew Bryan
Proposing ways the Department of Education could engage young people to be “upstanders not bystanders” in the face of bullying was a rewarding experience for intern Daniel Chuah.

The UWA Commerce student provided a series of creative ideas for consideration in the next stage of the Department’s No Voice, No Violence campaign.

“Through this internship, I have a better understanding of my abilities as an individual upstander in creating a safe and inclusive community, and different ways I can lend a helping hand to a victim who is being bullied or treated violently,” Mr Chuah said.

UWA Political Science student Jamieson Kay completed a research project to identify the best practice for facilitating and communicating staff training via the Health Department’s online intranet.

Ms Kay liaised with various departments and stakeholders in order to come up with a concept and project plan.

She also worked on graphic design for the final version of the Department of Health’s new intranet and created a project proposal for the task.

“By collaborating with the Communications Team and key stakeholders, I was able to create a product that is currently being developed for use within the Department.”

Department of Health Senior Organisational Development Consultant Tony Brown said Ms Kay provided an “excellent pitch” and received “very positive feedback” for her proposal.
The research project Lucy Craske worked on during her internship at the State Library of WA had an impressive global reach.

The UWA Economics and Management student worked with fellow intern Katherine McKinnon to research the role of social services in a library setting.

They specifically looked at how to best integrate social work concepts, practices (and potentially social workers themselves), into the State Library of WA’s ecosystem.

State Library of WA Human Resources Manager and intern supervisor Nadine Redmond said the literature review report would be used to inform the review and development of the State Library’s service delivery models.

"Michelle is motivated and adaptable, so the internship experience for the State Records Office WA at this unprecedented time has ended up being excellent,” intern supervisor Gerard Foley said.