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.
The research project Lucy Craske worked on during her McCusker Centre for Citizenship internship at the State Library of WA had an impressive global reach.

“The most rewarding aspect of my internship has been the high level of contact I’ve had with key stakeholders, not just at the State Library, but globally,” the UWA Economics and Management student said.

Ms Craske worked with fellow intern Katherine McKinnon to research the role of social services in a library setting – looking specifically at how to best integrate social work concepts, practices (and potentially social workers themselves), into the State Library of WA’s ecosystem.

“The potential reach of our recommendations is very exciting,” she said.

State Library of WA 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.

“A number of libraries globally have seen improvements in outcomes for their staff, patrons and their wider community, particularly regarding tackling systemic issues such as homelessness.”

Ms Redmond said she would recommend the McCusker Centre for Citizenship internship program.

“I’ve spoken to so many incredibly inspiring members of staff here at the Library who have given me an invaluable insight into the amazing work they do for our community, and had the opportunity to contact people doing similar work in the Eastern States and North America.”
During his internship at the Community Arts Network WA (CAN WA), Mauricio Rodriguez was tasked with developing the Multicultural Arts Portal (MAP) - an online portal connecting culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) artists and communities with arts and cultural organisations in WA.

When his 100-hour internship ended in late 2018, CAN WA General Manager Monica Kane offered him a Project Coordinator role to “take the project to the next critical stage”.

In September 2019, Mr Rodriguez joined WA Minister for Culture and the Arts David Templeman MLA on stage at the Heath Ledger Theatre to officially launch the completed MAP.

Mr Rodriguez, who grew up in Mexico and recently graduated from UWA with a Masters of Business Information and Logistics Management, said the opportunity to coordinate the MAP was “one of the greatest privileges” of his professional career.

“Diversity and inclusion in the workplace is something very positive, and it makes us stronger,” he said.
ANNA NORMANN
Perth Festival

After completing her internship at Perth Festival through the McCusker Centre for Citizenship in 2017, Master of Social Research Methods graduate Anna Normann was quickly offered a full-time role.

Ms Normann has worked as a Sponsorship Coordinator within the Festival’s Fundraising Team since her graduation from UWA in 2018.

“These are not your standard interns,” Perth Festival Head of People and Culture Jessica Blackwell said.

“The interns that we have taken on to date have had a clear passion for making the world a better place and have applied this interest to their research projects.

"The recommendations and findings they have provided Perth Festival with have been insightful and meaningful.”

ALEXANDRA LYONS
Perth Festival

UWA Master of Professional Engineering student Alexandra Lyons conducted an environmental sustainability audit for the Perth Festival.

“Perth Festival is seeking to reduce the impact of carbon emissions on our climate.”
Intern supervisor Jessica Blackwell

Ms Lyons provided estimations of the Festival’s carbon footprint, made recommendations on how they could reduce emissions associated with the Festival, and produced an ‘emissions calculator’ to help future Perth Festival programmers understand the carbon footprint of various decisions and operation choices.

“By understanding where the bulk of our emissions are coming from, we can make informed actions to start reducing them,” she said.