

East meets west in the SLAMS room: Evolution of student mentor program

Costa Englezos

RMIT School of Accounting and Law, Level 15, 239 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic 3000 costa.englezos@rmit.edu.au

At the start of 2003 a student mentoring program of 25 second year students was established for Accounting students within the RMIT Business Portfolio. In 2004 the program grew to 80 students to meet the needs of new students across the whole Business Portfolio. Till the middle of 2005 the program was only really achieving 3 of the 4 F's of its stated objectives:

1. – Facilitating Friendship
2. – Finding Your Way Around the Campus
3. – Frequently Asked Questions

– These are very much only initial transitional issues.

By the end of semester 1 2005 we had found a way to achieve our fourth F : Finding Your Feet as a University Student.

The Mentor Program evolved a new means of staying relevant beyond week 3 of semester and meeting students' on-going needs – the SLAMS program was established – Student Learning Advisor Mentors.

Over 100 students with a Distinction or High Distinction across 9 major courses volunteered 2 hours per week of free tutoring and study skills advice to students new to those courses.

With half of the SLAMS being international students, not only are international students being 'mentored' by domestic students, we now have an arena where domestic students are being mentored by international students!