

ECU's international student orientation: A model of collaboration, inclusiveness and student-informed planning.

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Edith Cowan University's International Student Support team was recently awarded a Carrick Award for Australian University Teaching for its program "ECU's International Student Orientation: a model of collaboration, inclusiveness and student-informed planning". The award was announced 4 October by the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, The Hon. Julie Bishop and the University will receive a \$25000 grant.

The program was recognised in the category 'First Year Experience' and the application was required to address four categories:

Criteria 1: Distinctiveness, coherence and clarity of purpose

Criteria 2: Influence on student learning and student engagement

Criteria 3: Breadth of impact

Criteria 4: Concern for equity and diversity.

A key feature of the program, and the award submission, was the application of quality- and business-framework principles to a major student-support initiative. This is an approach that has produced significant outcomes for both the planning and design of the orientation program. A key tenet has been the involvement of key university stakeholders, particularly students, in the planning and delivery of this function. Traditionally this event was managed from a top-down perspective: now the event is a model of collaboration and inclusiveness with student volunteers heavily involved in the planning and execution of the University's international orientation program. This is an empowering model that ECU International believes ensures a transition experience for new international students that is relevant, appropriate and generates a sense of student ownership.

In this presentation, staff from ECU International will provide an overview of their Carrick submission, including a focus on the process involved in preparing the submission, a review of key content features, and a reflection on the benefits of the process for staff and the institution. This presentation puts quality, education and student-support theory into a real case study with proven outcomes. This session is recommended to all international support practitioners: and may give insight into how others may highlight the best-practice in their programs.