

## More than just a degree

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In the competitive employment market employers are looking for talent well beyond the direct skill and knowledge a graduate can bring to the role. At Monash University developing a broad and positive student experience is a commitment shared across its community and activity is reported through a committee structure directly to the vice chancellor. Case studies will be shared within this paper demonstrating the collaborative work to broaden students' experience, and the many personal and professional rewards voiced by the students involved in the various programs and opportunities.

Student success in international education is critical for both students and their University. The preparedness for gaining quality employment across the globe requires Universities to address many aspects of academic and non-academic delivery. Obtaining 'more than just a degree' is to leverage off the rich opportunities available at the University and differentiate your ability with a leading edge when facing the workforce. An increasing number of international students are embracing this and through a supportive University environment they explore and practise various skills for both personal and professional growth.

Through growing engagement and volunteering, international students at Monash University reap the benefits of the opportunities available to them throughout the year. Case studies will focus on the programs delivered through the International Student Support (ISS) office, including Peer Mentor program (offering extensive training), teams assisting new students during pre-departure (in home country), on arrival, during registration, orientation, late arrival and settling in. Language and cultural exchange programs, where learning occurs directly between peers - developing language skills and culture awareness.

Strong working relationships and support also exists between the ISS staff and the International Student Association representatives. Working in student associations brings many varied and valuable skills including working in committees, event management, financial management, building relationships across the University, communication and negotiation skills, greater awareness of the University structures and processes, and much more.

Students also gain paid casual employment assisting in the ISS office.

Individual student success is felt and measured by the experiences gained through meaningful contribution and involvement beyond the course itself. The feedback from students engaged in the various volunteering and paid roles shows the importance of a broader experience while at University. Students report feeling valued and being a part of the University, able to make positive and important contribution, receive broader training and learn new skills & practise them safely, broaden engagement and relationships with different students and staff, develop skills in leadership, improve communication, presentation, organising events, explore their interests and abilities more broadly, receive formal acknowledgement and recognition provided by the University for their contribution and participation.