Involvement in extra-curricular activities facilitated by former students encourages intercultural communication, sustains student engagement and promotes positive academic outcomes

By
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About UOW College
University of Wollongong campus
1 hour south of Sydney

www.uowcollege.edu.au
UOW College courses

English language programs
- English for Tertiary Studies
- English + Uni
- Academic skills
- General English

Academic programs
- Diploma of IT and Business
- Foundation Studies
- STEP to UOW
- UAP

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Our Students

International students:
- Many nationalities
- Inadequate English language
- Low confidence levels
- Unfamiliar with new surrounds

Domestic students:
- Lower academic achievement
- Low SES background
- Illness/disability
- Mature age

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Student engagement at UOW College

Non-tertiary study experiences
Disadvantaged life experiences
Unfamiliar language and cultural experiences

UOW College
Graduate Qualities

Inclusive teaching
Interactive classes
Relevant assessment practices
Student Relations
Sports/Games
Cultural celebrations
Conversation-related L1 assistance
Orientation activities
Learning resources
Information sessions
Cooking classes

University environment
Successful university experience
Successful future
www.uowcollege.edu.au

Student Relations Coordinators (SRCs)

• Ex-students of the College, now studying at the University of Wollongong.
• Key nationality and/or language groups at the College.
• Organise activities for students.
• Comprehensive knowledge of the workings and support systems available at the College and University.
• Limited counselling and advice to students.

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Calendar of events

Information sessions

- Information/University communications systems tutorials
- Living in Wollongong
- Safety
- Travel
- Shopping
- Money
- Accommodation
Sports & Games

Cooking classes
Key events

Facebook

- Daily update of activities
- Promotion of the program
- Community
- Effective way of communicating with students
Mobile Phone App

http://www.uowcollege.edu.au/mobile

www.uowcollege.edu.au

Mobile Phone App

www.uowcollege.edu.au
Counselling / Mentoring

- Intervention: Academically at risk students
- Transition to university from the College
- Acclimatisation: New internationals

Results

The College provides enough student activities

- “It’s terrific. It has improved engagement. It’s fun and enjoyment for students and probably helps them in their class work as well.” – Dr Henry Lee, Academic Program Manager.
- “I have seen how participating in the lunchtime activities really improves the international students’ confidence when they are required to participate in class discussions etc. They are more comfortable taking a stand and are happy to work with students from different backgrounds” - Teacher comment.
Conclusion

• Strategic decision by College management
• Informed by student feedback
• Continuous evaluation of the program
• Sustained student community:
  – SRCs

Questions

Thank you
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