

Mentor Benefits: International Student Mentor Perceptions of Interaction Opportunities from Broad-Scale Mentoring Program
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Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, operates a large-scale opt-out group mentor program that links almost all new to course, first year, undergraduate students with a mentor. The Curtin student population is highly diverse, with a large percentage of international students. International students are, however, underrepresented as mentors in the mentor program.

This paper compares qualitative evaluation data received from both international and domestic student mentors in sem 1, 2012 and sem 1, 2013. A review of broad categories of the perceived benefits of mentoring indicates that international student mentors place value on the social and interactive opportunities embedded in the mentor program model.

Interviews with current international student mentors were undertaken in support of this discussion, with a focus on the opportunities for mentors to interact with a diverse range of students, and the importance that the mentors place on this interaction.

This paper will inform recruitment advertising strategies for attracting a higher percentage of international student mentors to the program, and provide evidence of how the international student experience can be enhanced by providing a group mentor program which provides opportunities for interaction between diverse groups of students.

Key Words

International students, mentor, interaction, internationalisation