

TITLE: GET STARTED AND GET CONNECTED

THEME ORIENTATION & TRANSITION PROGRAMS

(A Non-Refereed Workshop 1.5 hours)

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Deakin University has recently taken the innovative step of integrating the International Student Support team with Transition plus Sport and Recreation. The strategic thinking behind this bold move is based on strengthening the getting started phase of a student's journey with ongoing engagement throughout their time at the university.

As part of this new approach a number of new engaging events and programs have been designed to strengthen the getting started at university with the getting connected process. A feature of this initiative is the community partnerships that Deakin has developed with community organisations, local government and cultural groups.

A key platform of delivering this new way of thinking is to improve the digital presence for student engagement through video social media participation. A series of innovative approaches has been applied to Facebook, Instagram, Word Press and other social media platforms. This is also been monitoring and evaluated by Deakin University's social media team.

How the workshop will be presented

The workshop will provide practical examples of student engagement in the following events and programs:

- A Colour Run at the Waurn Ponds campus that was held as part of orientation program with 1,800 participants
- An International Cricket match between Deakin PHD students and asylum seekers that live within the local community
- An International student sailing program partnership with Royal Geelong Yacht Club
- Deakin My World Film Competition
- Deakin Worldly Challenge – Amazing Race around campus
- Deakin Bupa Games – A week of fun sports activities for International and domestic students

- Pako Fest – Cultural Festival

Within the workshop, time will be set aside for break out groups to share their stories of engagement, transition, orientation and the student journey within their universities.