

## **Co-curricular Student Engagement and Development**

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The development of students in the co-curricular space is an area of growing interest in Australian universities. QUT has extended the role of support services to encompass student engagement and development, which aims to develop student capacities and citizenship through purposeful engagement with the campus community.

Mindful that the level to which a student will engage with opportunities while at university is dependent on a range of factors, QUT has provided a suite of scaffolded opportunities for students to engage with university life, complementary to academia, aiming for an overall accessible, appropriate, and personalised approach.

We have implemented a campus life program which aims to develop student capacities through service to and engagement with their communities. We will share two examples of engagement activities and opportunities which contribute to student development. Firstly, the tiered progression of orientation volunteers through the 'Connect' program, and secondly, the targeted social orientation of first years.

The targeted social orientation of commencing students has led to an increase in engagement with co-curricular programs, and resulted in more students applying to volunteer to get involved further. We've had success in the Connect program, having invested time and resources into our volunteers who in turn invest their time and resources into a larger group. Through this program, QUT engaged approximately half of all commencing students in Semester 1, 2014. Through this student centred approach, we are beginning to see a shift in expectations, and are hopeful for a culture shift, towards one of engaged students leaving a legacy that inspires new leaders.

### **Key Words**

Scaffolded opportunities

Student Development

Student Leadership

Student centred approach