

Melbourne Global Careers 2015 – A virtual international career fair for international students in Victoria

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In 2013, the City of Melbourne and Global Education Solutions began exploring the need in the Victorian higher education sector for an online career fair to enhance career development and employability among international students during their education journey in Australia.

Extensive consultation was conducted throughout 2014 and included exploration of the gaps in provision of adequate career advice and employment opportunities, the possibility of obtaining funding from education providers, government and industry organisations, the scope of the project, and capabilities of the virtual environment. All Victorian universities, peak organisations, university and industry career advice professionals, employers and employer groups and international student groups were consulted.

In mid 2014, eight Victorian universities and the Victorian government agreed to partner with GES and City of Melbourne in a pilot project, Melbourne Global Careers 2015. This presentation will outline the successes and challenges of the project, through a detailed discussion of the outcomes of the program, the profiles of student participants, and the outcomes for employers and sponsors.

The presentation will provide recommendations and information for organisations considering the use of the virtual environment to connect with international students, and the value in collaborating across the higher education sector, with government and with global organisations and industry on large projects.