

Join a Job Club- a collaborative approach that enhances student outcomes and employability

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Non-Refereed Workshop (abstract and interactive workshop 60-90 minutes including questions) Workshop Objectives

The workshop will demonstrate the approach used to introduce international students to part time work while they are living in Melbourne and studying at Victoria University. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to assume student roles and “Join a Job Club” and “look for work” in an interactive setting. They will hear about the effectiveness of collaboration between International Student Support and Career Development and Employment and will discuss how to achieve best practice in terms of student outcomes and employability.

Background

Most international students are keen to find work when they arrive in Melbourne. They know that it will help their finances and relieve some of the financial pressure from their parents. They know it will improve their English and help them gain knowledge about working in Australia. They are hoping they will find a job related to their degree, even if it is voluntary work.

The Job Club Process

Job Clubs at Victoria University are designed to help students learn how to build networks, prepare for an interview and find work. Victoria University fosters a collaboration that encourages best practice in student outcomes and employability.

- The International Student Adviser works with the International Careers Coordinator to assist international students before they commence their studies.
- An orientation workshop introduces the importance of work and outlines the type of work available, how to find a job and where to look for work. Students receive an information sheet that includes employment advice written by students for other students.
- Samples of resumes are provided that are suitable for hospitality and customer service roles.
- In addition students can then choose to attend a Job Club. This is a unique program where “students help students find work.” At the Job Club students share what they know already and talk about where to look for work. They check each other’s resumes and give each other mock interviews. They share any pitfalls they have learnt, encourage each other when they struggle to find work, and celebrate when someone else gets a job.

Feedback and Follow up

The program has proven very successful with positive feedback from participants. Here is just one response:

“Hello Yvonne,

I've got news that might just actually thrill you. I got in (to) the International City Ambassador Program of the City of Melbourne. I'm now commencing the induction and training with Tourism Melbourne and I was really happy and proud about it. The program runs for 6 months (from Dec 2014 - June 2015). As well I am applying for the different volunteering activities of the city. I am keeping myself busy by volunteering in Event Workforce (not sure if you've heard about them). They usually handle big activities in Melbourne like the Colour Run, Steresonic and a lot more. Every time I get these opportunities, I usually remember you and my co-students in the Job Club and how the session really helped me in getting around looking for jobs and volunteering opportunities in Melbourne.

*Thank you so much for your help and will keep you posted with my updates. =)
Crystal”*

Because of the success of the Job Clubs, the International Student Adviser organised a seminar for all international students. Those who attended heard how five international students found their part time jobs after attending a Job Club. The panellists confidently gave advice to those attending and then answered questions very professionally. The experience was motivating and inspiring for all.