Blended Learning: A new approach to Peer Mentor Training

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• 25 ‘transition in’ Peer Mentoring Programs, run across faculties, schools and departments

• In 2017, approximately 1200 trained Mentors supported over 4300 commencing students through transition into university life

• 35 training sessions – Face-2-Face workshop
Why change to a Blended Learning Training package?

• To enhance inclusion and accessibility
• Allow for more flexibility regarding completion
• To enable students to prepare for face-to-face workshop (using reflective activities online)
• To cater to different learning styles
• Reduce staff time & cost spent on delivering PM Training face-to-face (from 6 hours to 3 hours)
Method of Development

- Re-designing the training content: Online, F2F workshop and how the two components work together
- Finding a developer!
- Working with Students as Partners
- Testing and Focus groups
- A pilot program
- Evaluations
- Review and updates
Students As Partners

• An initiative from the Educational Delivery Services department (PVCE)

• Recruitment

• 4 Students As Partners – Skills and Responsibilities

• Benefits & Challenges
Online Technologies

• Moodle
  ✓ Students are familiar with this tool
  ✓ Tech support available
  ✓ Resource HUB
• Smart Sparrow
  ✓ Training
  ✓ Interactive tools
• Trello
  ✓ Project Management Software (To do lists, Shows stages team is up to, etc.)
• Videos
• Animations
Welcome Animation
Central Peer Mentor Blended Learning Training Package

• Logins
  ✓ Mentor access
  ✓ Coordinator access
  ✓ Access given 2 weeks prior to F2F workshop
• Online Component – 1hr
  ✓ Needs to be completed prior to F2F workshop
  ✓ Mentor needs to select their specific Mentoring program
  ✓ Forum + 4 Modules
  ✓ Resource HUB
  ✓ 1 year access
• Face-to-Face workshop – 3hrs
  ✓ Tailored in response to Mentors’ online answer
  ✓ Interactive – focusing on communication & facilitation skills, role plays
  ✓ Co-facilitators – students
  ✓ Evaluations – paper form
• Mentoring Program Specific training/information session
Benefits and Feedback

• Helpful to be able to check online responses before training
• Peer Mentoring program coordinators have online access so can ensure their students have enrolled and can review responses
• Resource HUB
• Reduced training time and cost

Facilitator Feedback

• “Online materials were really useful.”
• “The training was fun and not too long.”
• “The interactive activities helped me learn.”
• “Good to be able to see other Mentors’ responses in the forums.”

Mentor Feedback
Challenges & Considerations

• Are learning objectives still being met?
• Which is the best platform to use?
• Are you able to be involved in the development?
• Time schedules and university calendar
• Ongoing support
What’s next?

- Review and update online training in response to evaluations
- Senior Mentor online training refresher course
- Peer Mentoring Program specific information sections
- Additional optional courses – MHFA, ALLY
- Digital badging – All mentors across the university will receive recognition for completing the standardised Mentor training
Questions?

Peers4Peers Network

Contact Details

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