

Student Engagement Strategy

Student engagement can be defined as participation or involvement in academic or extracurricular activities which lead to high quality learning¹. La Trobe University has made a commitment to enhancing the quality of student engagement through the Strategic Plan (2008-2012). As an area of priority, a unit has been created within the portfolio of the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Equity and Student Services to contribute to the planning and implementation of programs, activities and strategies that build a vibrant, formative and engaging university experience.

Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Performance Indicators
Improve opportunities for student enrichment and engagement to enable students to be active and engaged citizens	Develop and implement the Infinity Leadership Program and Student Leaders Program	Infinity program launched Feb 2009. Student Leaders program launched 2009	Increased student participation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International or local voluntary /community work • Student mentoring and leadership programs • For credit Work Integrated Learning
	Participate in Curriculum Task Force program of renewal	August 08- ongoing	Level of curriculum based programs for Work Integrated Learning and Service Integrated Learning opportunities
	Collaborate with faculties and Careers and Employment to identify opportunities for Work Integrated Learning for credit	August 08- ongoing	
	Collaborate with faculties and community partners to develop opportunities for Service Integrated Learning for credit	August 08- ongoing	

Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Performance Indicators
Create opportunities for first year students successfully transition into University life	Collate relevant data to identify areas of priority to improve the first year experience	Ongoing	Improved reporting on issues impacting on retention and student success
	Develop and implement the Advantage Program, Bendigo and evaluate potential expansion across campuses	May 08- Oct 08	Level of participation plus qualitative feedback. Tracking of progress/success rates of participants
	Provide a web 'portal' for first year students consolidating relevant resources, information and support services	To be launched for semester 1/ 09	Number of hits on webpages
	Enhance overall awareness of first year transition issues with establishment of reference group and symposium	August- December 08	Level of participation of staff in reference group and symposium
	Establish Peer Mentoring toolkit and support the implementation of new Peer Mentoring programs within faculties	July- December 08	Number of Peer mentoring programs established in faculties
	Review Orientation week programs to ensure relevance and suitability of activities	August 08- March 09	Number of first year students attending orientation. O'week evaluation forms

Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Performance Indicators
Improve La Trobe University's internal knowledge of and capabilities for enhancing student engagement	Establish University-wide Student Engagement and Advisory Committee and conduct regular meetings	June 08- ongoing	Establishment of committee
	Implement a Staff Symposium on Student Engagement featuring guest speakers and best practice	July 09	Level of participation from staff and qualitative feedback
	Launch Student Engagement Webpage for staff and students to highlight current activities, share resources, reports and best practice	July 08- ongoing	Number of hits on webpages, plus feedback

	<p>Develop program on the 'Student Voice' and ensure relevant data is collected and compiled for reports on retention, the student experience, course quality and graduate outcomes</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Implementation of student focus groups/summit series and level of participation</p> <p>Increased response rates to AUSSE, GDS/CEQ, Student Services Survey, SET</p> <p>Ways in which reports are used for curriculum, budget and other planning processes</p>
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¹ Coates, H. (2006). *Student Engagement in Campus-based and Online Education*. New York: Routledge.